

Cumann Lúthchleas Gael Thiobraid Árann



**FBD**  
INSURANCE



# Craobh Chluiche Iomána Thiobraid Árann 2021

ATH-IMIRT



*Stáid Semple, Dúrlas Éile*  
*Dé Domhnaigh, 28ú Samhain 2021*

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

*Julie Deaton*  
Runaí

Luach:  
**€3**



MY STADIUM SEAT

# MARK GREAT MOMENTS

A black and white photograph of a Gaelic football player in action. The player is wearing a helmet and a jersey with 'DIRE' visible. He is holding a hurley (stick) and has just struck a ball, which is captured in mid-air. Several other hands and hurleys are visible in the background, suggesting a competitive game.

## Every Name Matters

We're inviting every friend, fan and legend of Semple Stadium to place their name on a seat, to celebrate their club, county and community and the sporting history and spirit they're so proud of.

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# Fáilte ón gCathaoirleach

**B**A MHAITH LIOM fáilte a chuir roimh gach éinne inniu go Stáid Semple i gcóir craobh iománaíocht Thiobraid Árann. On behalf of Tipperary County Board, it is my privilege to welcome you all to the replay of our County Senior Hurling Final. My only wish for today is that we have a game that provides as much excitement and entertainment as the drawn final two weeks ago.

*When both teams look back at the drawn game, they will both feel they have aspects of their game on which they can improve and it is the team which improves the most that will claim victory.*

*The drawn game was an outstanding contest and a great advertisement for the game of hurling in Tipperary. There are so many household names on both squads that we are sure to have a game of similar standard today. Thurles Sarsfields will feel that having made a great start to the game they didn't capitalise on their dominance and drive on for victory. Loughmore-Castleiney will be inspired by their victory in the Senior Football Final and feel if they can be more efficient with possession, they will claim the honours.*

*We wish both Clubs, their players and management teams the very best of luck today and hope they enjoy the occasion. Best wishes to our match referee John McCormack and his officials for today's game.*

*We thank our sponsors FBD for their continued support of our championships.*

*Finally, I hope you the spectators enjoy the day and the game reflects all that is best in Tipperary Hurling.*

## SEOSAMH Ó CINNÉIDE

*Cathaoirleach, Chontae Thiobráid Árann*



**COVER PHOTOGRAPH** – Generations . . . Darragh McCormack and Ollie Sweeney join their dads Aidan of Thurles Sarsfields and Evan of Loughmore Castleiney in the pre-match parade behind the Moycarkey Pipe Band.

[Photo: Eamonn McGee]

## Buíochas

We hope you enjoy reading today's programme. It has been produced with the assistance of Tim Floyd (County Secretary), Tom Maher (Assistant County Secretary), Jonathan Cullen (PRO) and the officials of Loughmore-Castleiney and Thurles Sarsfields. Many thanks to Seamus O'Doherty and Noel Dundon for articles. A special thanks to photographers Eamonn McGee and Bridget Delaney.

GER CORBETT (Programme Editor)

## ~ CLÁR AN LAE ~

<b>2.53pm</b>	<b>Loughmore-Castleiney</b> amach ar an Páirc
<b>2.55pm</b>	<b>Thurles Sarsfields</b> amach ar an Páirc
<b>3.10pm</b>	Pre-match parade led by the <b>SeanTreacy Pipe Band</b>
<b>3.14pm</b>	Amhrán na bhFiann
<b>3.15pm</b>	Tús an cluiche
<b>3.48pm</b>	Leath-am Presentation Liam Ó Donnchú – “The Voice of Semples Stadium”
<b>3.58pm</b>	Tús an dara leath
<b>4.30pm</b>	Críoch an chluiche
<b>4.40pm</b>	Presentation of the <b>Dan Breen Cup</b> to the winning captain by Seosamh Ó Cinnéide, Cathaoirleach an Chontae, followed by the presentation of the “Man of the Match” award (sponsored by John Quirke Jewellers, Cahir)

**Reminder: MATCH TO FINISH ON THE DAY – Extra Time and Penalties if required**

## ~ Meet the Match Officials ~



Referee John McCormack (centre) photographed with his Umpires (l.-r.): Adrian Crosse, John Hadnett, Pat McCormack, Paul Ryan – all from Knockavilla/Donaskeigh Kickhams.

### **JOHN McCORMACK** (Knockavilla/Donaskeigh Kickhams)

Prior to taking up refereeing, I played at all levels in both hurling and football with my club Knockavilla/Donaskeigh Kickhams. I completed the referee course in October 2011 and began referring in 2012 with juvenile games in West Tipperary. I refereed the Tipperary Senior Hurling Final in 2013 and the Munster Minor Hurling final the same year, having been invited onto the Munster Referee panel. In 2014 I joined the National Referee Supplementary Panel and since then I have refereed Munster U-21 Hurling Championship, Munster Waterford Crystal games, Fitzgibbon Cup, Dean Ryan, Harty Cup, County Hurling U-21 Final, County Minor Hurling Final, West Senior Hurling Finals and numerous other

games in Tipperary. In 2018 I refereed my second Tipperary Senior Hurling Final.

*Advice to Young referees:* Surround yourself with people you can trust to make decisions, something I have been very lucky with since I began refereeing. Today I am joined by the same team of officials who began umpiring with me.

*Standby Ref:* Tom Loughnane  
(Gortnahoe/Glengoole)

*Linesman:* Alan Tierney (Shannon Rovers)

*4th Official:* Sean Lonergan (Moyle Rovers)

*Umpires:* Pat McCormack, Adrian Crosse,  
Paul Ryan, John Hadnett (all Knockavilla/  
Donaskeigh Kickhams).

# FBD INSURANCE - PROUDLY SUPPORTING TIPPERARY HURLING

On behalf of FBD Insurance, Ireland's local Irish insurer,  
I would like to welcome you all to Semple Stadium.

We are proud to be the sponsor of the Tipperary GAA Club Championships. With 34 branches across the country we are dedicated to supporting our local communities and so we are delighted and privileged to have the opportunity to partner with Tipperary GAA on this exciting journey which culminates in today's final replay.

FBD Insurance is the largest Irish owned Insurance company in the market and has local branch offices in Thurles, Clonmel and Nenagh with over fifty years' experience providing a wide range of insurance cover for cars, homes, farms, shops and a broad range of general business.

Best of luck to **Loughmore-Castleiney** and **Thurles Sarsfields** in today's Dan Breen Cup replay.

*Michael Berkery*

Chairman, FBD Trust

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advice, talk to our team today.**

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**FBD Clonmel: (052) 6126537**



# 'Twud be easier to win the Lotto

By: NOEL DUNDON  
(Tipperary Star)



**W**HEN the pulse finally slowed down after the drawn FBD Insurance county senior hurling final two weeks ago and when the reality of more of the same to come finally dawned, there was much anticipation and forward looking at the prospects of the replay.

Loughmore-Castleiney and Thurles Sarsfields had to do it all again, but in the meantime, there was the little matter of the county senior football final to contend with – for Loughmore-Castleiney, not for Thurles Sarsfields!!

And, the notion of predicting an outcome of the replay could not be contemplated until after the football had been decided. They left it late to win it, but what a manner

to do so – Loughmore-Castleiney are the masters of the comeback; the epitome of don't panic; and the classic example of a side which can apply the coup-de-gras, as soon as you turn your back.

Commercials are the latest team to find that out – as if they didn't already know it. Sarsfields know it going back many years and can list many a disappointing evening licking their wounds while the men from out the road scurried away with the silverware – it's what makes the rivalry between them so keen and so healthy.

So, where does the scenario rest now? Loughmore-Castleiney have their county title and will not suffer the same fate as last year when both deciders ended in devastating defeats. Can they repeat their double winning feat of a few years ago? Or, will the hurling title evade them again?

Whatever the outcome, Loughmore-Castleiney will be off to Ennis next Sunday for the Munster Club football championship – no rest for the wicked, you might say.

But, let's address today's game first.

You would imagine that confidence will be soaring in the camp having won the football; you could picture the scene as they ready themselves in the dressingroom and emphasise the opportunity to make history again; you can just imagine the focus and the attention to detail they will have gone

*John McGrath of Loughmore-Castleiney closes in on Thurles Sarsfields' Michael Cahill during the County Senior Hurling Final drawn game. [Photo: Eamonn McGee]*



# than decide a winner in this one

through in the last week as they attempt to get a decent tune out of their players again.

But, all of those factors count for little until they actually cross the white lines. And, waiting at the other side of the Sean Treacy Pipe Band for the parade will be Denis Maher and his Sarsfields team mates.

“So, calling this one is as hard as calling the drawn game then? Absolutely.”

The Blues were not happy with their performance in the drawn game. Sure, they started in a whirlwind; put scores on the board and looked to be coasting. But, they allowed Loughmore-Castleiney back into the game, and lost the final three quarters of the match – how many times will you survive in a game by doing that? But, survive they did and they will be happy with the character they showed to stay in the game - remember it was Loughmore-Castleiney who had to come from behind to force the draw.

Sarsfields have had twice as long to ready themselves for the replay than Loughmore- Castleiney have had – this will surely be to their advantage and could be a deciding factor. It is hard to see Sarsfields being beaten if they manage to boss the game for longer than they did in the drawn game. But, that’s a hell of a task against their great rivals.

So, calling this one is as hard as calling the drawn game then? Absolutely. The plusses on one side, balance out the minus’ on the other side; the positives pour cold water on the negatives; the flip side of the coin, no more enlightening than the other.

As you read this piece before the

game, quietly ask yourself who will win. Then, by tea time this evening, see if you are correct. Be honest now!!

As an aside, the sporting nature of both our senior county finals has been exemplary – not a stray fist, boot or hurley fired in any direction. What a tribute that is to both teams – let’s hope we have more of the same this afternoon.

Whatever way the balance falls, it has been a magnificent championship. So, here’s to all the players, mentors, officials, club officers, supporters and Boards who have been involved in contributing to a brilliant year.

Enjoy the game.



*Loughmore-Castleiney’s Evan Sweeney attempts to get through the challenge of Seosamh Ryan (Thurles Sarsfields) during the drawn final. [Photo: Eamonn McGee]*

# LOUGHMORE-CASTLEINEY GAA CLUB TRAINING FUND



**Support our players County Final preparations**

You can donate via the club bank account IE80 BOFI 9044 5629 1729 81  
or contact any club officer

**Thank you to all those who have donated to the Loughmore-Castleiney Training Fund 2021. Below is a list of Donors as of the 23/11/2021.**

**Please note the updated list will be on the Club's website and will be updated frequently.**

## **TRAINING FUND 2021 – BUSINESSES:**

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Noel Ryan's Pub

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Anonymous c/o Noel McGrath, Breda O'Connell, Brendan Meagher, Catherine McGrath, Conor & Peggy Evisiton, Conor & Siobhán Meade, Dan Egan, Eamon & Claire Connolly, Joe Ryan, John Brennan Gurteen, John Fogarty-Cobbs, John Moloughney, John Nessbitt, Joseph Nyland, Leona Doyle, Michael Brennan, Michael Connolly, Michael Kearney, Oisín & Sean Casey, Pat & Louise Cormack, Pat Cullen, Peter Nyland, Pat McGrath, Richard McGrath, Stephen Shorley, Tim Connolly Agri Contractor, Timmy Cullen & Family, Tom Foy, Tom McGrath (K), Tommy Gleeson, Tommy Larkin, Willie Evisiton, Ailbe Egan, John Egan, Jim Gleeson, Seamie Bohan, James Corrigan, Sheila Hallinan, Michael McGrath, Paddy Hennessy, Dominic Moore, Peter Maher, Paul Brennan, Tommy Ormond, Tom Maher Kilcoke, Jim Geehan, Nially Cormack, Tom Cullen, Philip and Noel Kennedy.



# Draws and replays

By: SEAMUS O'DOHERTY

**T**HE FIRST county senior hurling final of 1887 was played at Borrissleigh and Thurles beat North Tipp by 0-3 to 0-0. With so many finals played since then, it is amazing how few draws there have been.

This year's finalists have been involved in county final replays previously, so a second outing for the 2021 title is in their heritage. Strictly speaking, the 2020 decider between Kiladangan and Loughmore-Castleiney finished level, but extra time was played and produced a result on the day. The 1895 decider also finished level, 1-6 each, but Tubberadora beat Suir View by 3-9 to 2-7 after extra time. The full list of county final draws and replays is-

- 1930 Toomevara 5-5, Boherlahan 6-2. *Replay:* Toomevara 4-1, Boherlahan 1-0.
- 1945 Thurles Sarsfields 4-4, Roscrea 3-7. *Replay:* Thurles Sarsfields 1-4, Roscrea 1-0.
- 1965 Thurles Sarsfields 2-7, Carrick Davins 3-4. *Replay:* Thurles Sarsfields 3-11, Carrick Davins 2-7.
- 1975 Moneygall 3-9, Kilruane MacDonaghs 3-9. *Replay:* Moneygall 3-13, Kilruane MacDonaghs 0-5.
- 1977 Kilruane MacDonaghs 1-11 Borris-Ileigh 2-8. *Replay:* Kilruane MacDonaghs 1-5, Borris-Ileigh 0-5.
- 1982 Moycarkey -Borris 3-9 Roscrea 1-15. *Replay:* Moycarkey Borris 2-12 roscrea 0-11.
- 1988 Loughmore-Castleiney 1-6, Borris-Ileigh 0-9. *Replay:* Loughmore Castleiney 2-7, Borris-Ileigh 1-8.
- 1992 Toomevara 0-11, Thurles Sarsfields 1-8. *Replay:* Toomevara 0-12, Thurles Sarsfields 1-6.
- 2002 Mullinahone 0-14, Thurles Sarsfields 0-14. *Replay:* Mullinahone 2-10, Thurles Sarsfields 1-11.
- 2021 Thurles Sarsfields 2-17, Loughmore Castleiney 0-23.



Noel McGrath (Loughmore/Castleiney) and David Corbett (Thurles Sarsfields) tussle for possession during the drawn game

[Photo: Bridget Delaney]

# Fágaigí slán ag Liam

That voice that is immediately recognised all over Munster and much of Ireland and has witnessed the excitement, the passion and the sheer joy of hurling's greatest days will no longer boom to the four corners of this magnificent venue.

LIAM Ó DONNCHÚ has been part and parcel of this cultural jewel for as long as any of us can remember. Sadly he has decided to step down, there will definitely be a widespread sense of loss among the patrons of the old field . . . .

I'VE WORKED with Liam for forty years on the G.A.A. Yearbook, Lár na Páirce, the Memorabilia Fair, on all things relating to the G.A.A. He has always been an outstanding friend and the most knowledgeable person I know on G.A.A. matters. If he hasn't the answer immediately he will have it soon. I value his opinions as much as his knowledge. They are always measured, never rash, mostly accurate and never regretted.

His workrate is outstanding and the four books, *Tom Semple, Semple Stadium* and *Thurles Sarsfields 1 & 2*, he has produced in the past five years, are a tribute to his scholarship and his knowledge of the history of the G.A.A. in Thurles. If you want a picture he has accumulated a major collection and if he hasn't got what you want, he knows where it's to be found. He is deserving of the highest recognition.

– SEAMUS J. KING

NA SHUÍ faoi dhíon an árdáin i dtranglam teicneolaíochta, glór an tslua ag briseadh ina rabhartach mór thimpeall air, caithfidh nach fuil a bhí ina fhéithe ach cruach! Le dhá scór bliain nach mór, threoraigh Liam eachtraí Stáid Semple ar laethanta a raibh breis is caoga míle duine i láthair agus ar ndóigh, laethanta nach raibh ach dornán beag ann. Ach ghlac sé an cúram agus an aire céanna le gach ócáid, bíodh sí beag ná mór.

Bhí sé rí-shoiléir i gcónaí go raibh muinín thar cuimse ag foireann an staid as a chumas riaracháin is cumarsáide. Braithfidimid uainn anois é. Ag gabháil buíochais dó féin agus dá theaghlach dílis, guímid gach rath is sonas orthu ar fad. Bí deimhin de, nuair a thabharfar chun chuimhne laethanta órga Stáid Semple go mbeidh tús áite ag Liam Ó Donnchú agus an sain ghuth sin a mhairfidh inar nintinn go deo.

– SEAMUS Ó DUBHAGÁIN

L IAM Ó DONNCHÚ was a man who never sought the limelight in anything he did. He has made an enormous contribution, not just to Semple Stadium, but to the GAA in general.

He uses a seanfhocal regularly which I think actually sums him up perfectly – ‘Molann an obair an fear’ – deeds rather than words epitomise the man, and I think that is as good a description of Liam Ó Donnchú as you could find.

His work in Semple Stadium stands as a tribute to him and as a man who was in charge of the public address, he never claimed the spotlight. Instead, he did his work to the very highest standard and to the best interest of Semple Stadium and the GAA.

– CON HOGAN (Chairman of Semple Stadium Management Committee)

L IAM was the voice of Semple Stadium for many years, his clear well modulated voice relayed the relevant information in an excellent manner. People listened. The fact that he was equally fluent in Irish was impressive. He was an important part of match day in the ‘Field of Dreams’.

When paying tribute to GAA people who had passed away, Liam was particularly well prepared. That meant a lot to relatives.

Liam was the best stadium announcer in GAA. Wishing him the best in the future.

Tiobraid Árann Abú.

– LIZ HOWARD (Former PRO of the Tipperary County GAA Board)

Continued  
on page 21



# Past master

**S**UPPORTERS with long memories will recall the 2002 semi-final meeting at Templemore, which saw current selector Eamonn Walsh scoring all three goals in Sarsfields' 3-13 to 4-7 victory. The player was not listed on the match programme, so his appearance at full forward came as a surprise to many.



Eamonn Walsh

Castleiney substitute Pat McGrath who scored 2-1 was older) while another publi-

cation dubbed him "the ageless wonder". Eamonn scored his trio between the 8th and 53rd minutes of the game. There was no happy ending though, because Mullinahone beat Sarsfields in the county final replay.

According to one newspaper's match report he was "the second oldest player on the pitch", (Loughmore -

# From the ARCHIVES

By: SEAMUS O'DOHERTY



Pat McGrath

# Attendances

**I**T WILL be interesting to see how today's attendance will compare with the drawn figure of 6,362. In 2002, the Mullinahone v Thurles Sarsfields drawn game drew 9,900 spectators to Semple Stadium and the replay hosted 10,905. Ten years earlier, Toomevara and Thurles Sarsfields attracted 8,000 approx spectators for the drawn game and 8,600 for the replay.



The match programmes had a dual purpose as they were used as a shield from the sun at the FBD Insurance County SHC Final on Sunday, November 14th at Semple Stadium. [Photo: Bridget Delaney]

# Joining the great



Loughmore-Castleiney's Joey Hennessy and goalkeeper Aidan McGrath combine to deny Thurles Sarsfields' captain Denis Maher his hat-trick of goals.

[Photo: Eamonn McGee]

**D**URING the first half of the drawn final, a long range pointed free by Loughmore-Castleiney goalkeeper Aidan McGrath hardly raised an eyebrow. However, with that stroke he became only the second goalkeeper to score in a county final since the Dan Breen Cup was first played for in 1931 – all of ninety years ago.

Aidan played at right half back and also scored a point from a free against Thurles Sarsfields in 2014, the only previous final meeting between the clubs. His achievement two weeks ago links him to Tony

Reddan, whose point from a '65' against Holycross-Ballycahill on October 3rd 1948, had stood in isolation since then. Reddan's point was scored twenty minutes into that final at Nenagh.

Neither Lorrha nor Holycross-Ballycahill had previously won the county title, but the game went in favour of the Mid champions, who captained by Francis Maher, won by 4-10 to 2-4, in front of a 12,000 attendance. Aidan won't mind sharing his recent feat with the late Tony, the Team of the Century and Millenium goalkeeper.

## NEUTRAL VIEW

"I THINK Thurles Sarsfields have more room for improvement and I expect to see that from them today. The influence of Ronan Maher and Paddy Creedon is vital for Thurles, so they need to be on the ball more often this time. John McGrath has been scoring freely for Loughmore-Castleiney and Thurles Sarsfields must reduce his contribution from frees and general play. I am looking forward to the midfield battle, where Stephen Cahill and Ciaran Connolly could play a key role for their teams. I think Thurles will need to have more variety in their puck out, create more space up front and perhaps use Billy McCarthy earlier than last day. If they can reduce the free count it might help to tilt the game in their favour".

– (Enda Keane, CJ Kickhams Mullinahone)





*Best wishes to Loughmore-Castleiney  
in both County finals  
from Michael and Staff*



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# Loughmore-Castleiney



The Loughmore-Castleiney team who drew with Thurles Sarsfields

Back row (l-r.): Martin Meagher, Diarmuid Meagher, Micheál McGrath, Tommy Maher, Lorcan Egan, Antony Ryan, Ciaran Connolly, Liam Treacy, Conor Ryan, Edmond Connolly, Joey Hennessy, Daragh McCahey, Ciaran McCormack, Shane Hennessy, John Ryan, Cian Hennessy, Denis Breireton, Eamonn Connolly. Front row (l-r.): Diarmuid Meagher, Henry Maher, Brian McGrath, Tomás 'Mossy' McGrath, Liam McGrath, Liam McSweeney, Aidan McGrath, Willie Eviston, John McGrath, Noel McGrath, Conor Meagher, John Meagher, Niall Molony, Martin O'Connell, Ciaran McGrath. Children: Ollie and Charlie Sweeney.

(Photo: Eamonn McGee)

# Loughmore-Castleiney



Dathanna: Glas agus Dearg



16. MICHEÁL McGRATH M. Mac Craith	19. CIARAN McCORMACK C. Mac Cormaic	22. CIAN HENNESSY C. Ó hAonasa	25. HENRY MAHER A. Ó Meachair	28. DARAGH McCAHEY D. Mac Cahey
17. JOHN RYAN S. Ó Riain	20. CIARAN McGRATH C. Mac Craith	23. SHANE HENNESSY S. Ó hAonasa	26. DINNY BRERETON D. Bréartún	29. NIALL MOLONY N. Ó Maolomhnaigh
18. CONOR McGRATH C. Mac Craith	21. ANTONY RYAN A. Ó Riain	24. ED MEAGHER E. Ó Meachair	27. EAMON CONNOLLY E. Ó Conghaile	30. DAVID KENNEDY D. Ó Cinnéide

## ROGHNÓIRÍ

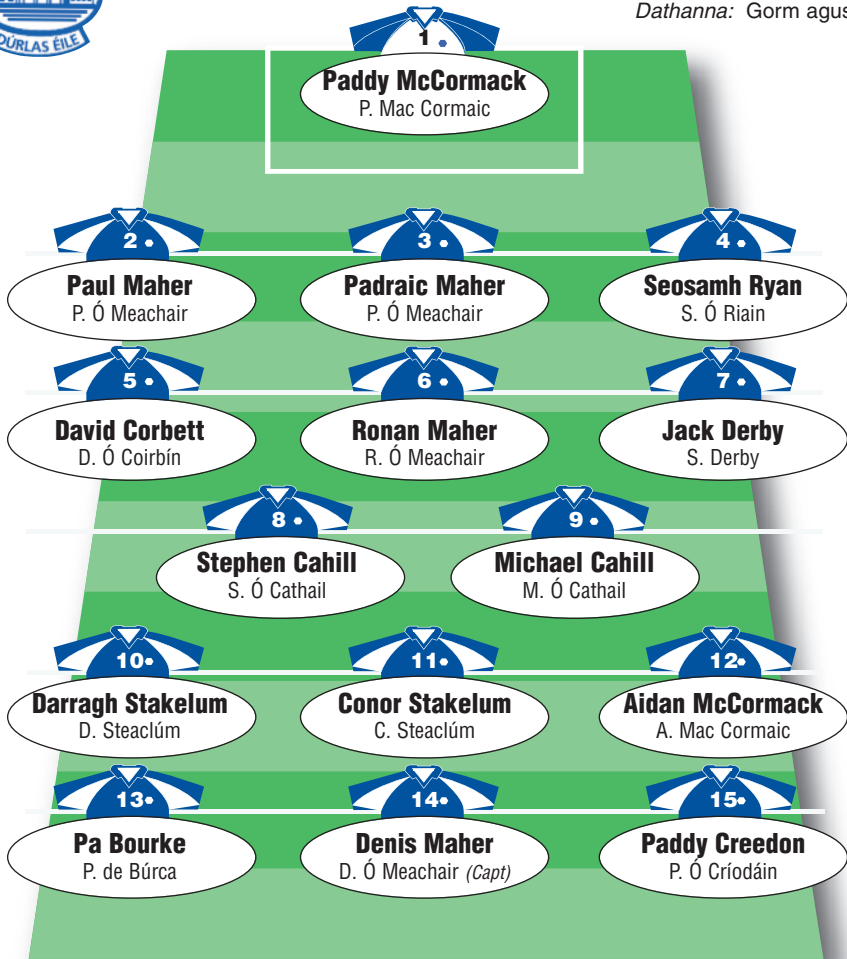
Manager: Frankie McGrath Selectors: Maureen Connolly, Eugene Stapleton, Taffy McGrath, Michael Dempsey  
 Coach: Eamon Sweeney Physio: Cathy Doran S&C: Murtagh Brennan  
 Kit Man: Dick Egan Hurley Carriers: Pat McGrath, Mick McGrath





# Thurles Sarsfields

Dathanna: Gorm agus Bán



16. <b>KEVIN BRACKEN</b> C. Ó Breacáin	19. <b>KIERAN MOLONEY</b> C. Ó Maolomhnaigh	22. <b>KIERAN COSTELLO</b> C. Mac Coisteala	25. <b>HARRY FITZGIBBON</b> A. Mac Giobúin	28. <b>JAMES ARMSTRONG</b> S. Ó Labhraí Tréan
17. <b>PA DUNNE</b> P. Ó Doinn	20. <b>EOIN PURCELL</b> E. Ó Puirseíl	23. <b>STEPHEN MAHER</b> S. Ó Meachair	26. <b>BILLY McCARTHY</b> B. Mac Cárthaigh	
18. <b>CATHAL MOLONEY</b> C. Ó Maolomhnaigh	21. <b>SEANIE BUTLER</b> S. de Buitléir	24. <b>CONOR LANIGAN</b> C. Ó Lonagáin	27. <b>CIAN STAKELUM</b> C. Steaclúm	

## ROGHNÓIRÍ

Manager: Mark Dowling Selectors: Brendan Carroll, Eamon Walsh, Liam Egan Coach: Luke Jordan  
Physio: Mick Clohessy Medic: Dr Paul Ryan Kit Man: John Stakelum Hurlie Carriers: Johnny Cahill, Paul Lanigan

# Thurles Sarsfields



*The Thurles Sarsfields team who drew with Loughmore-Castleiney*

*Back row (l.-r.): Cian Stakelum, Conor Stakelum, Denis Maher (Capt), Billy McCarthy, Declan Ryan, Padraic Maher, Ronan Maher, Paddy Creedon, Kevin Bracken, Jack Derby, David Corbett, Kieran Costello, Eoin Purcell, Seosamh Ryan, Pa Dunne, Michael Cahill. Front row (l.-r.): Pa Bourke, Conor Lanigan, James Armstrong, Aidan McCormack, Darragh Stakelum, Stephen Cahill, Paddy McCormack, Harry Fitzgibbon, Paul Maher, Seanie Butler, Cathal Moloney, Stephen Maher, Kieran Moloney. Mascot: Darragh McCormack.*

[Photo: Eamonn McGee]

## Decade of glory

**T**HE clubs which qualified for the semi-finals over the past ten championships (2011-2020) show a high level of consistency. The annual quartet of teams are listed below as champions, runners-up and semi-final losers, with the third named club having lost to the champions -

2011 **Drom-Inch**, Clonoulty-Rossmore, Mullinahone, Thurles Sarsfields

2012 **Thurles Sarsfields**, Drom-Inch, Éire Óg Annacarty-Donohill, Loughmore-Castleiney

2013 **Loughmore-Castleiney**, Nenagh Éire Óg, Borris-Ileigh, Kiladangan

2014 **Thurles Sarsfields**, Loughmore-Castleiney, Templederry, Mullinahone

2015 **Thurles Sarsfields**, Nenagh Éire Óg, Kilruane MacDonaghs, Drom-Inch

2016 **Thurles Sarsfields**, Kiladangan, Clonoulty-Rossmore, Killenaula.

2017 **Thurles Sarsfields**, Borris-Ileigh, Éire Óg Annacarty-Donohill, Drom-Inch

2018 **Clonoulty-Rossmore**, Nenagh Éire Óg, Toomevara, Thurles Sarsfields

2019 **Borris-Ileigh**, Kiladangan, Kilruane MacDonaghs, Nenagh Éire Óg

2020 **Kiladangan**, Loughmore-Castleiney, Drom-Inch, Nenagh Éire Óg.



*Billy McCarthy (Thurles Sarsfields) is surrounded by Loughmore-Castleiney players Joey Hennessy and Lorcan Egan during the drawn game.*

[Photo: Bridget Delaney]



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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

## *Fágaigí slán ag Liam*

**W**ITH Liam on the P.A. I always felt safe as he was so meticulous and his attention to detail was exceptional. He took pride in being the “Voice of Semple Stadium” and he preserved the dignity and cultural aspect of the role with every word and phrase he spoke.

His love for Semple Stadium, Thurles and Tipperary was unquestionable and yet he showed all teams the same respect regardless of their county or place. Mile buíochas Liam a chara.

– TADHG DE FLÓID

**P**EOPLÉ often forget that Liam was a very valuable hurler for the Blues in his day and an outstanding clubman who served as chairman for many years. In Semple Stadium he earned the right to be termed the ‘Voice of Semple Stadium’, and Tipperary really. He is a very hard act to follow because he was so clear and concise in his contributions and everybody would listen intently to what he had to say.

Of course, Liam is a mind of information on all matters GAA and I really enjoyed my time working with him when he was secretary of the Yearbook committee. He had information on all facets of the GAA and any time I'd be researching an article and needed help, he would be my first port of call. He is a very approachable and genuine fella and that is why he is so well got and so many people have such time for him.

– JOHN COSTIGAN (Former Tipp hurler and County Board Chairman)

**I**THINK the greatest compliment we can pay Liam is to say that throughout all the years we took him for granted. We visit other stadia and events and we hear PA announcers all the time, but Liam contributed so much to make the Semple Stadium experience so unique.

When there would be a minute silence before a Munster Final, with 45,000 people packed in, you could hear a pin drop. And, that was because Liam would just set the tone with his tribute to the deceased. That sense of respect filtered through to the attendance and that was a great gift which Liam possessed.

He has been part and parcel of Semple Stadium for as long as I can remember and he has been central to what makes our stadium so special. His voice was distinctive and unique and he will be missed greatly.

– KEN HOGAN (Former Tipperary hurling All-Star, All-Ireland medalist and Manager)

*Best of luck to Loughmore/Castleiney  
in the replay of the County Hurling Final*



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# All-Star launch

By: SEAMUS O'DOHERTY

**T**HE recent launch of *"All-Star Gazing"* written by Eileen and Moira Dunne – daughters of the Journalist and Broadcaster, the late Mick Dunne, and based largely on his extensive notes – has been heralded as the definitive book about the long running Awards scheme.

The idea to formalise the scheme, was brought to reality by the four leading GAA Journalists of the time – Mick Dunne (*The Irish Press*), Paddy Downey (*The Irish Times*), Pdraig Puirseal (*The Irish Press*) and John D. Hickey (*The Irish Independent*). The book provides, inter alia, the history of the scheme, contributions from one hundred Award winners, all teams in both codes since the beginning in 1971 and its golden gem, a list of every player ever nominated for an All-Star Award. The book is supported by PwC, who are current sponsors of the All-Stars Scheme.

There was great anticipation throughout Tipperary before the first hurling team was announced, as the Premier county had won the Munster and All-Ireland titles. On October 10th 1971, a representative from Photographic PR Services in Dublin took several photographs of Tadhg O'Connor and Francis Loughnane at Semple Stadium, after they had beaten Borris-Ileigh in the county quarter final. This was a giveaway that both were going to be All-Stars.

On October 19th, the national newspapers carried photographs of the hurling team, which included four Tipperary players, along with a citation detailing why they were chosen.

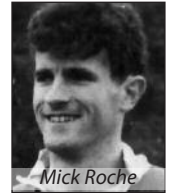
**Tadhg O'Connor** (Roscrea) was selected at right half back and his citation read – "For



Tadhg O'Connor

*captaining Tipperary in their capture of the All Ireland championship. His qualities of leadership and great-hearted spirit were repeatedly in evidence throughout the season."*

**Mick Roche** (Carrick Davins) was chosen at centre back and his citation said – "For his memorable performances as one of the hurling perfectionists of his era, his true brilliance comes to the surface when the competition is at its hottest."



Mick Roche



Francis Loughnane

**Francis Loughnane** (Roscrea) was the right half forward and his citation read – "For his quick incisive forward play. His scoring ability was one of the factors enabling his county to become All Ireland champions in 1971."

**Michael 'Babs' Keating** (Ballybacon Grange) was the centre forward, although his Tipp games were in the full forward line and his citation said – "For his exemplary performance in recovering his county team place and then becoming the inspiration of his team's many fine achievements during the year."



Michael Keating

'Babs' was also chosen as Texaco Hurler of the Year for 1971, with his impressive scoring returns, a major contributory factor to his selection. Fifty years later, these men will always be remembered with appreciation, as Tipperary's first Carrolls Hurling All-Stars.

**EXTRA PANEL MEMBERS – Loughmore-Castleiney – (31) Martin O'Connell, (32) Martin Meagher, (33) Diarmuid Meagher, (34) Conor Ryan.**

*Best of luck to Loughmore/Castleiney*



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*Best of luck to Loughmore/Castleiney*

# The Cottage

Shop and Tea Rooms







Some young Thurles Sarsfields fans eagerly await the drawn game to begin. From left: Grace Broderick, Emma Griffin, Katie Ryan, Amelie Nuvoloni, Eva Barrett, Lilly Purcell, Bronagh Fleming. [Photos: Eamonn McGee]



ABOVE:  
Thurles Sarsfields captain Denis Maher moves away from Loughmore-Castleiney's Joey Hennessy during the drawn final.

[Photo: Bridget Delaney]

LEFT:  
Loughmore-Castleiney diehards James and Marie Quinn and Lee Danagher at the County Hurling Final drawn game.

[Photos: Eamonn McGee]

# *Hat-trick for Tiobráid Árann in 2020 All-Ireland Scór Sinsear Final*

The long awaited 2020 All-Ireland Scór Sinsear Final took to the stage in the magnificent Connacht Air Dome on Saturday, November 20th 2021.

Tipperary were proudly represented by five wonderful acts from across the county and Tipperary led the way at the end of the competition with no fewer than three All-Ireland's returning to the Premier County.

**Right: An Caisleán Nua Rince Foirne** flawless performance saw them crowned All-Ireland Champions.

Front row (l.-r.): Veronica McNamara, Sinéad Grant, Caelainn McGrath, Kayleigh O'Brien. Back row (l.-r.): Pat Teehan (Leinster Council), Chloe Hennebry, Aoife Leahy, Tom Murray (National Scór Chairman) Eimear O'Connor, Sarah English and John Murphy (Connacht Council).



**Left: Noel Joyce of JK Brackens** captured his fourth All-Ireland Medal in the Aithriseoireacht (Recitation) competition. Left to right: Tom Murray (National Scór Chairman), Pat Teehan (Leinster Council Chairman), Noel Joyce, John Murphy (Connacht Council).

**Right: Tulach Sheasta, Newport's Nuachleas** made no mistake in retaining their All-Ireland Trophy.

Their hilarious production of 'Lisdoonvara Here I come' left the slua mór laughing long into the evening.

Front: Carol O'Hora, Tom McCabe, Lil O'Grady, Mary Browne. Back: Pat Teehan (Leinster Co), John Tuohy, Paudie Kennedy, Tom Murray (National Scór Chairman), Cathriona O'Brien, Paraic Kennedy and John Murphy (Connacht Chairman).



# Holding firm



*Antigen hurling team who played Clover Meats in the 1969 All-Ireland Factory Final at Kilkenny Standing (l.-r.): D. Kennedy, P. Dynan, J. Shanahan, T. Carroll, J. Maloney, T. Murphy, J. Carroll, F. Regan, J. Carroll, P. Treacy, D. Fairbrother, M. Shanahan. Front row: K. Moloney, S. Hogan, M. Moloney, J. Cunningham, W. O'Reilly, P. McGrath, T. O'Connor, B. Maher, J. Spooner, M. Hogan, Liam Phelan, J. Delaney.*

By: SEAMUS O'DOHERTY



**M**ANY of Tipperary's hurlers enjoyed their involvement with club and county, but other important outings were in the popular Inter-Firm or Factory Leagues, as they were variously named.

Tipperary was well represented in these competitions over the years. One of the more unusual aspects to this competition, which often dragged into the following year and always depended on a gap in the fixtures calendar to arrange the games, was a Munster final between two companies from the same town.

It happened previously in the 1960s, but fifty years ago, on January 30th 1971, the 1969 Munster final of this competition was played at St Cronan's Park, Roscrea. The

venue was appropriate because the opposing teams were Antigen Ltd and Roscrea Bacon Co., both then thriving companies in the town. These, along with Roscrea Meat Products, who lost two All-Ireland finals (1963 and 1967) as Munster champions, enhanced the hurling culture in the town.

It added intrigue to the day that most of the Roscrea senior hurling team, three in a row winners in Tipp the previous October, were involved. The last Saturday of January 1971 was cold, with freezing fog adding to the challenge of the day. John Moloney came from Bansha to referee and had no problems with two committed but sporting teams.

The Roscrea Bacon Co. who had won the 1965 All-Ireland final, beating Clover Meats in the final with a team that included Tipp legend John 'Mackey' McKenna, started as favourites. This was because they seemed to have the greater firepower, with Donie Moloney, Francis Loughnane, Joe Tynan, Roger Ryan, Willie Stapleton, Jackie Hannon,

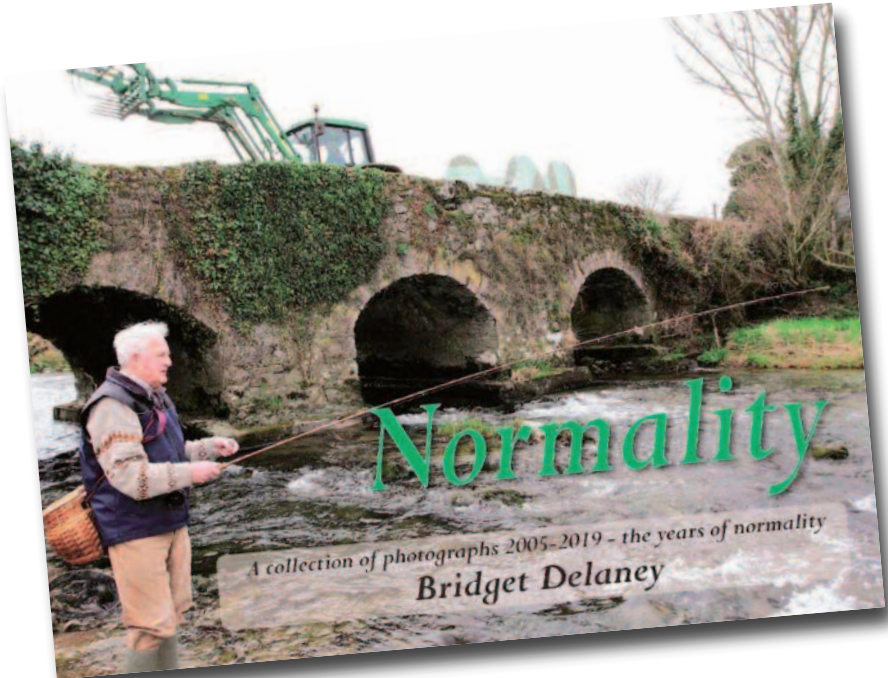
while Kieran Carey and Patsy Rowland anchored their defence. They had beaten Waterford Glass a week earlier and this was definitely an advantage.

Antigen, who had beaten the previous year's champions, Golden Vale, Charleville en route, included Tadhg Murphy, Mick Hogan, Brendan Maher, Tadhg O'Connor, Pat Dynan, Willie O'Reilly and Joe Cunningham, along with Toomevara's attacking duo Pat McGrath the captain and Dan Kennedy.

The blue and white Bacon Co led at half-time by 1-7 to 1-4, with Francis Loughnane and Joe Cunningham scoring the respective goals. The second half was a ding-dong struggle but Antigen, in their white jerseys

with red trim, turned it around, helped by Pat McGrath's goal and edged to victory by 2-9 to 1-11.

Unfortunately, Clover Meats beat Antigen by 3-10 to 3-9 in the All-Ireland final at Nowlan Park on Saturday, April 3rd, 1971. The scorers that day were Pat McGrath 2-1, Tadhg O'Connor and Joe Cunningham 0-3 each, Dan Kennedy 1-0, Pat Dynan and Jackie Shanahan 0-1 each. The Bacon Co. players were disappointed then but returned and beat Grannagh Paper Mills by 5-9 to 2-5 in the All-Ireland final at Nowlan Park on April 22nd 1972. Many people who were involved during their playing careers recall the competition with great fondness.



This 257 page book contains photographs from Bridget Delaney's archive 2005-2019 ,which features life on Irish soil before Covid times. GAA gets much exposure as does other sports and every day life events. There are nearly 1,600 photos featured and the images should stand the test of time. 'Normality' was launched by Donie Nealon at Reidy's, Newtown, Nenagh and is retailing at €25 and available in shops around North Tipperary while stocks last.



# Annual Memorabilia Fair



**Sunday, December 5, 2021** (12-4 pm)

**THE DOME, SEMPLE STADIUM**

*(Entry-Gate beside Teagasc-Opposite Greyhound Stadium)*

This G.A.A. Memorabilia Fair will give you a chance to browse and search a large selection of match programmes, club histories, hurling, football, camogie and handball publications as well as other G.A.A. material in the pleasant and spacious surroundings of the **The Dome, Semple Stadium, Thurles, Co. Tipperary**.

Collectors and sellers are cordially invited to attend this event, where it is hoped they will find plenty of material to interest them.

**Sales positions, free of charge** may be booked in advance by contacting the organisers before December 4th.

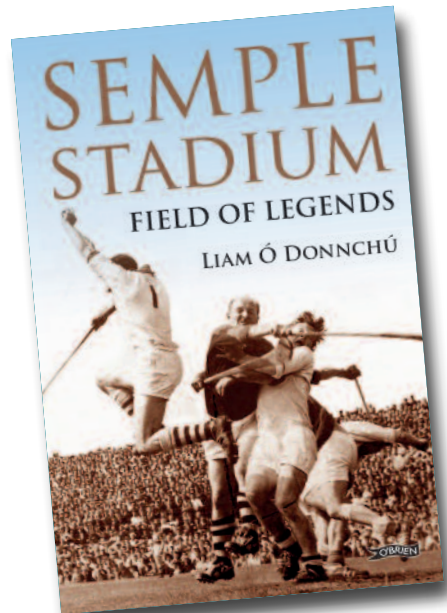
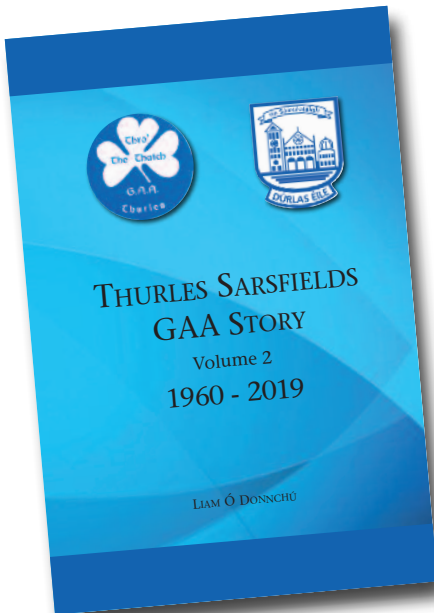
**Admission for all will be €5**, with accompanied children free. The venue will have disabled access, facilities for teas and coffees etc. It is located within a five minute walk from Thurles Railway Station.

*For further information contact:- Seamus J. King, 087-2246245 (seamusjking@gmail.com) or Liam Ó Donnchú 086-6036547 (liam.odonnchu.oifigeach@gaa.ie)*

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# National Féile celebrations

By: JONATHAN CULLEN (Tipperary PRO)

ON Thursday 28th October, National Féile na nGael took place in Tipperary. Organized by Tipperary Coiste na nÓg we used four venues to play round games and semi-finals with two groups of three in each venue. After all played each other in each group, the top team qualified for cup semi-final, 2nd team to Shield semi-final and 3rd team to plate semi-final.

In Division 1 Group 1 in Holycross, we had Dúrlas Óg, St Vincent's (Dublin) and James Stephens (Kilkenny). In Group 2 we had JK Brackens, Barntown (Wexford) and Ballygunner (Waterford).

James Stephens and Ballygunner qualified for Cup semi-final with Ballygunner coming out on top on a score of 2-10 to 1-10. St Vincent's and JK Brackens qualified for Shield semi-final with St Vincent's coming out on top 0-9 to 0-7. Dúrlas Óg and Barntown played in Plate semi-final with Barntown coming out on top 1-7 to 0-3.

In Division 1 in Moneygall, we had Arravale Rvs, Moanleen (Limerick) and Clonlara (Clare). In Group 2 we had Ballina, Middleton (Cork) and Clarinbridge (Galway).

Clarinbridge and Monaleen qualified for the Cup semi-final with Clarinbridge coming out on top 0-13 to 0-5. Ballina and Clonlara qualified for Shield semi-final with Ballina winners by 1-9 to 2-5. In the Plate semi-final Middleton beat Arravale Rvs by 0-8 to 1-4.

We started our Division 1 Finals with the Plate final in DMP Middleton v Barntown. Result Middleton 1-8, Barntown 1-5.

We then moved to Semple Stadium for our Division 1 Shield final. After a very exciting game St Vincent's got the better of Ballina 4-7 to 1-6.

Our Division 1 Cup final Clarinbridge v Ballygunner turned out to be a cracker with great young hurling talent on both teams. Clarinbridge came out on top 3-13 to 1-4.

In Division 2 in Borrisoleigh – Group 1 Roscrea, Nass (Kildare) and Bredagh (Down). Group 2 Borris-Ileigh, The Harps (Laois) and Cashel.

Nass and The Harps qualified for the Cup semi-final with The Harps winning 4-9 to 1-3. Bredagh and Cashel qualified for Shield semi-final with Bredagh having a very narrow win 1-3 to 1-2. Roscrea and Borris-Ileigh



GAA President Larry McCarthy unveiled a plaque marking the 50th anniversary of Féile na nGael at the entrance to Semple Stadium.



played Plate semi-final with Roscrea coming out on top 2-6 to 1-5.

In Division 2 in Littleton – Group 1 we had Mullinahone, Raharney (Westmeath) and Drumcullen/ Seir Kieran (Offaly). Group 2 St Mary's Clonmel, Erin's Own/Lavey (Derry) and Oisins GAC Glenariffe (Antrim).

In the Cup semi-final Oisins beat Raharney 2-10 to 0-1. In the Shield semi-final Mullinahone beat St Mary's 1-8 to 0-7. In the plate semi-final Erin's Own beat Drumcullen 2-3 to 0-4. Our Division 2 Plate final between Roscrea and Erin Own/Lavey was a very tight affair with Roscrea winning on a score of 1-6 to 0-6. In Division 2 Shield final Mullinahone won over Bredagh by a score of 1-10 to 1-2. In Division 2 Cup final Oisins GAC defeated The Harps in a very exciting game 2-6 to 1-6.

Well done to our Tipperary teams. We preformed very well considering all visiting team were winners of their County Féile Finals. Winning two All-Ireland Féile titles out of six was a great achievement.

All presentations were made in Semple Stadium by our GAA President Larry McCarthy.

A lot of work and planning went into organising this event by both Tiobraid Árann Coiste na nÓg and our host clubs as was evident by the excellent manner the event went off on the day. It was a massive event and it showcased Tipperary Coiste na nÓg in a very positive way all over the country – for that I thank everyone who was involved.

To our referees and our field caretakers a massive thank you, only for your cooperation and hard work we could not have run National Féile so successfully.

To coincide with the finals taking place in Semple Stadium, a plaque commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of Féile na nGael and commemorating its founding in 1971 by Séamus Ó Riain, Tomás Ó Baróid and Éamonn de Stafort was unveiled by Uachtarán Labhrás Mac Cártaigh at the entrance to the stadium.



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