

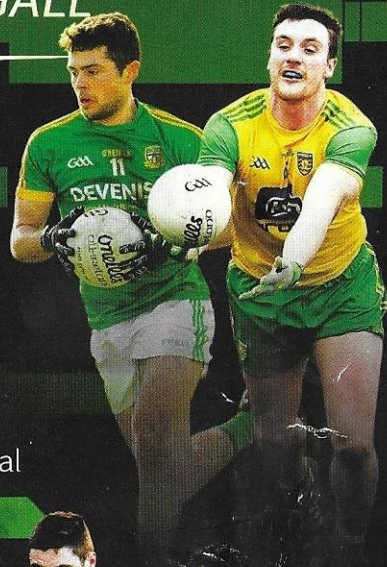
Márta 30 2019

Páirc an Chrócaigh, Áth Cliath



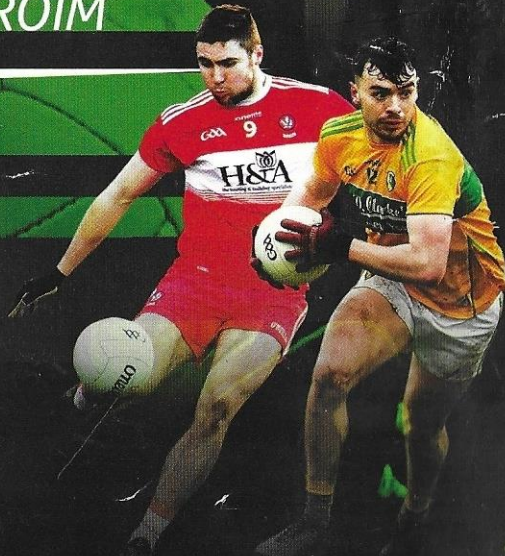
Allianz Football League Roinn 2 Final

# AN MHÍ v DÚN NA nGALL



Allianz Football League Roinn 4 Final

# DOIRE v LIATROIM



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ALLIANZ GAA FOOTBALL LEAGUE ROINN 4 FINAL

3.00 pm

Derry v Leitrim

AN RÉITEOIR: Brendan Cawley (Cill Dara)

LINESMEN: David Gough (An Mhí) (STANDBY REF), David Murnane (Corcaigh)

SIDELINE OFFICIAL: Fintan Pierce (Uíbh Fhailí)

UMPIRES: Paddy McDermott, Jonathon Farrell, Matthew Redmond, Donal O'Keeffe  
In the event of a draw, extra-time and Winner on the Day will be played.



Brendan Cawley (Cill Dara)

The Sarsfields clubman is back on duty at Croke Park after 13 months when he blew the whistle for the AIB Club Intermediate Final. This year the Lily White official handled three matches in the Allianz League including Leitrim's Round 1 tie with Wexford. Derry haven't come under his jurisdiction since he joined the inter-county panel in 2015.

ALLIANZ GAA FOOTBALL LEAGUE ROINN 2 FINAL

5.00 pm

Meath v Donegal

AN RÉITEOIR: Derek O'Mahoney (Tiobraid Árann)

LINESMEN: Ciarán Branagan (An Dún) (STANDBY REF), Eamonn O'Grady (Liatroim)

SIDELINE OFFICIAL: Declan Corcoran (Maigh Eo)

UMPIRES: Stan Barlow, Liam Barrett, Peter Macken, Evan Barrett  
In the event of a draw, extra-time and Winner on the Day will be played.



Derek O'Mahoney (Tiobraid Árann)

The Ardfinnan clubman has been a member of the inter-county panel since 2011 and two years ago refereed the Allianz League Division 2 Final between Galway and Kildare. Last weekend O'Mahoney was the man-in-the-middle for Mayo's Round 7 match against Monaghan while his most recent Kerry assignment was versus Kildare last August.

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# CLÁR AN LAE

14:38	DOIRE AMACH AR AN BPÁIRC
14:40	LIATROIM AMACH AR AN BPÁIRC
14:45	Oifigigh an chluiche amach ar an bpáirc
14:50	Toss Followed by football presentation to referee
15:00	Tús an chluiche
15:37°	Leath-am
15:38°	RESPECT Exhibition Go Games
15:52°	Tús an dara leath
16:30°	Críoch an chluiche
16:32°	Presentation of the cup
<i>If Doire v Liatroim goes to extra-time, See Clár an Lae B</i>	
16:40	AN MHÍ AMACH AR AN BPÁIRC
16:42	DÚN NA nGALL AMACH AR AN BPÁIRC
16:45	Oifigigh an chluiche amach ar an bpáirc
16:50	Toss followed by football presentation to referee
16:58	Amhrán na bhFiann
17:00	Tús an chluiche
17:37	Leath-am
17:38°	RESPECT Exhibition Go Games
17:52	Tús an dara leath
18:30	Críoch an chluiche
18:32°	Presentation of the cup
° depending on 'added time'	

## CLÁR AN LAE B

If Doire v Liatroim goes to extra-time

-- Phase 1 of extra-time (2 Periods of 10mins) --

16:39	Coin toss
16:40	Start of extra-time 1st half
16:51°	End of extra-time 1st half
Teams remain on the pitch	
16:55	Start of extra-time 2nd half
17:06°	End of extra-time 2nd half
°° If result is known, the Roinn 2 Final will throw in at 17:30 °°	

-- If still level, Phase 2 of extra-time (2 Periods of 5mins) --

Teams remain on the pitch	
17:10	Start of extra-time 1st half
17:15°	End of extra-time 1st half
Teams Remain on the Pitch	
17:20	Start of extra-time 2nd half
17:25°	End of extra-time 2nd half
°° If result is known, the Roinn 2 Final will throw in at 17:50 °°	

-- If Still level, Phase 3 (Penalties) --

17:29	Penalty takers register with the referee and coin toss
17:30	Penalty Taking Competition
°° The AFL 2 Final will throw in at 18:00 °°	

# RÉAMHFHOCAL ÓN UACTARÁN



Is cúis mhór áthais dom fáilte a chur roimh cách go Páirc an Chrócaigh inniu le haghaidh chluichí ceannais na Sraitheanna Allianz.

Ba mhaith liom fáilte faoi leith a chur roimh na himreoirí agus roimh an lucht féachana ó na contaetha atá ag glacadh páirte – An Mhí, Dún na nGall, Doire agus Liatroim.

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you all to Croke Park this evening for the special occasion that is the staging of the Allianz League Division and 2 and 4 finals – games we are looking forward to.

In addition to the promotion tickets already secured by all four competing counties here today, there is also the matter of coveted silverware as a reward for the four impressive and promising Allianz League campaigns that augur well for the remainder of 2019 and beyond.

It is no exaggeration to say that the rise in Leitrim's fortunes has been one of the stories of the GAA season to date and the journey has not reached its destination just yet.

The improvement has been eye-catching and has booked the county a first visit to headquarters since 2006 – something that has been warmly welcomed by the county's passionate and dedicated support base.

Derry's campaign has been one based on efficiency and determination to get back up the ranks, yielding a 100% run through the group games and leaving them poised for a tilt at the title outright today.

Afterwards, both Donegal and Meath will look to crown their strong campaigns with a title when the Division 2 honours are placed on the line.

Donegal oversaw an automatic return to the top flight with their strong showing over Kildare last weekend, and Meath sealed the deal with a home success over Fermanagh to

ensure Division 1 football in 2020 for the first time in 13 years.

All told, the Allianz Leagues have offered up huge entertainment and plenty of food for thought. The trial rules used will be assessed in the coming weeks and months and it will be interesting to see if some of the open and high scoring football we have witnessed in recent weeks stays with us as the remainder of the season unfolds.

I would like to wish the four competing counties every success and I acknowledge the work of the coaches and backroom teams in preparing them to the standards they have reached.

A word of acknowledgement also to our match officials whose role cannot be overstated and should not be overlooked.

The experimental rules end this weekend, but I reiterate our commitment to ensuring that Gaelic football is the best game and spectacle it can be and I look forward to the conversation and process ahead.

As ever, a special word of thanks to our competition sponsors Allianz. Their continued creative support of our football and hurling leagues stretches back 27 years and helps the competition to go from strength to strength and what a weekend we have in store with football and hurling titles all up for grabs in a 24 hour period.

Finally, our thanks also to TG4 for their outstanding coverage of our games.

Go raibh maith agaibh go léir agus bainigí sult as na cluichí.

Seán Ó hÓráin  
Uachtarán  
Cumann Lúthchleas Gael





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## MESSAGE FROM THE SPONSOR



On behalf of my 1,600 Irish Allianz colleagues, I would like to extend a warm welcome to all who have travelled from Derry, Leitrim, Meath and Donegal in support of their teams in today's Allianz Football League Division 2 and 4 Finals.

Both Leitrim and Derry have secured promotion to Division 3 after five rounds, having won all of their games. This will be Leitrim's first appearance in Croke Park since 2006 when they lost the Tommy Murphy Cup final to Louth. The Ulster side ran out comfortable 2-16 to 1-12 winners the last time both teams met but with honours at stake today, we should see a much closer and competitive game this afternoon.

Donegal have booked a return to Division 1 at the first attempt after being relegated last year, while Meath will return to the top tier for the first time since 2006. Both teams met in Round 2 of this year's campaign when Donegal won by 1-13 to 0-14 in Ballybofey. Meath led by 0-8 to 0-7 at half-time but a goal from Caolan McGonagle in the 59th minute proved crucial for Declan Bonner's men. Today's final is nicely poised to be just as close and entertaining as the last meeting of both teams.

2019 marks the 27th year of our support of communities through the Allianz Leagues, making it one of the longest standing sporting sponsorships in Ireland. Over the past 27 years we have witnessed the competition grow from strength to strength, year on year, and we are privileged and honoured to have played a supporting role in the success that is the Allianz Leagues.

This Allianz Football League season has set an exciting narrative for the upcoming championship – we've seen new players rise through the ranks, new and returning

managers at the helm and some upsets to the traditional pecking order along the way.

Through our new and exciting brand campaign, Allianz Ireland want to recognise people whose courage brought major changes both for themselves and Irish society. Football epitomises courage, so it is both timely and appropriate that we can use our long-standing association with the GAA as a platform to bring that shared value to life today when we reward the courage of many with their first inter-county silverware of the year.

This weekend is not the conclusion of our partnership with the GAA for the year. There's the Allianz Football League Division 3 final to conclude but also at grassroots level through our 26 year-long sponsorship of Allianz Cumann na mBunscol finals where the stars of tomorrow get their first chance to shine.

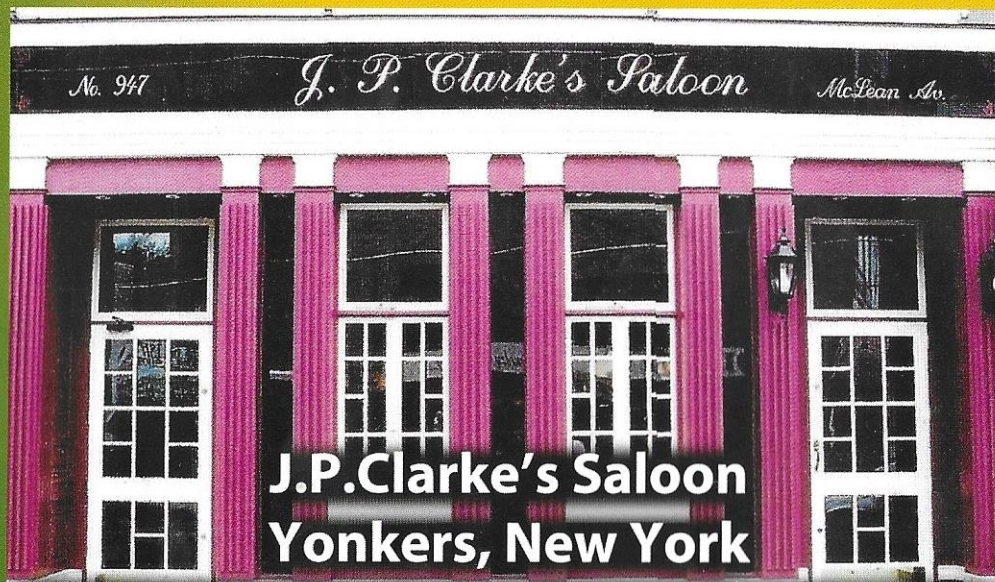
I would like to take this opportunity to wish the squads and management of Derry, Leitrim, Meath and Donegal the very best of luck this afternoon and for the season ahead, and to thank you, the supporters, for your attendance. Enjoy the action.

Go raibh maith agaibh,

Seán McGrath  
CEO Allianz Ireland







**J.P. Clarke's Saloon  
Yonkers, New York**

**Leitrim GAA main sponsor 2019 - 2021**



Lisa Sorohan, Ryan O'Neill and Sharon Redican modelling the new Leitrim jersey along with Seamus and Caitriona Clarke, proprietors of J P Clarke's Saloon at the unveiling of the new jersey in New York last December.

By Cian O'Connell

## A MEMORABLE OCCASION FOR ALL

There was relief in the cool Carrick-on-Shannon air. A fifth straight Allianz Football League Division 4 win had been pocketed, promotion secured so a feelgood factor swept on to the pitch.

Families and supporters gathered on the Avantcard Páirc Seán Mac Diarmada pitch to salute a significant achievement.

During the past decade Leitrim had frequently wondered about the possibility of attaining Division 3 status so to accomplish that mission with a victory over London brought plenty of pride and satisfaction.

Terry Hyland steered his native Cavan to exciting league days and on the grass Leitrim well-wishers stopped to acknowledge his work. Since being appointed in the west Hyland has repeatedly spoken about facilitating players, believing that Leitrim simply needed to believe.

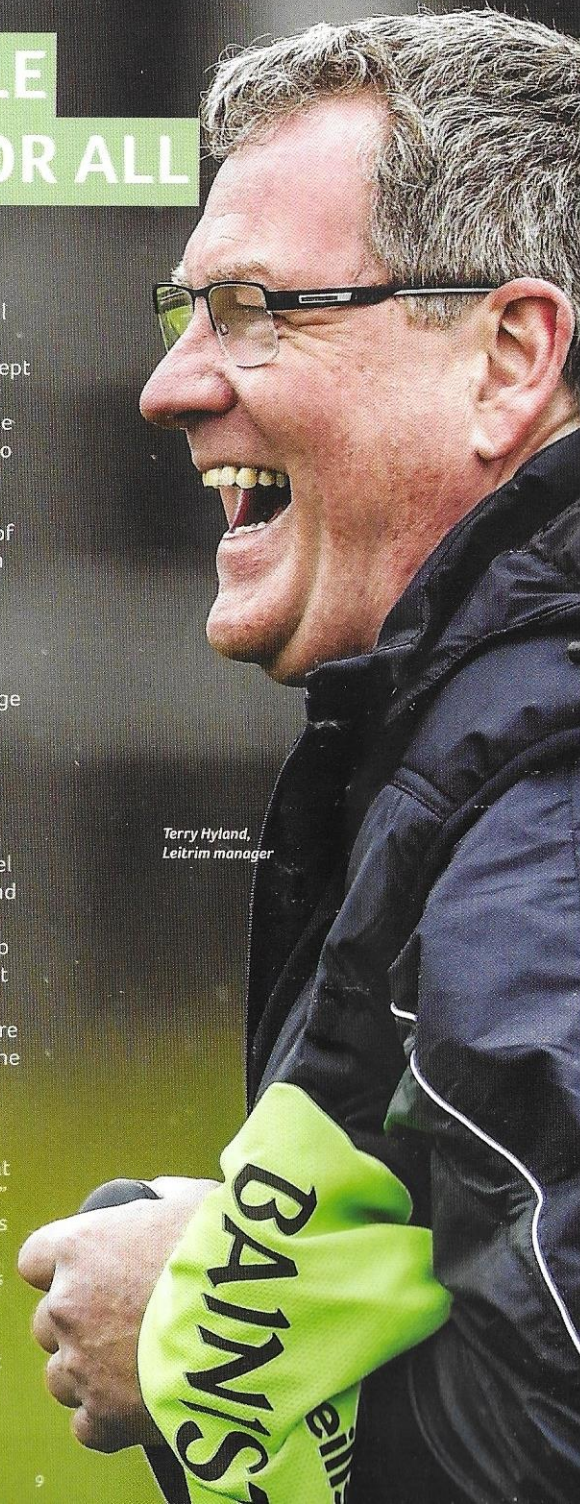
The Leitrim manager always felt that Leitrim could make progress. "I did, but I feel there is a lot more potential in them," Hyland remarks.

"There is an awful lot more in that group if they are willing to open up and go for it. At the end of the day we got through a league where we won games by a point where before the performances mightn't have matched the result.

"Even against London the performance probably didn't match the result, but what that means is we have an awful lot more that we can do. Yet we are still achieving results."

Winning six matches from seven ensures Leitrim head for GAA headquarters this afternoon heartened. Acquiring good habits under Hyland's direction has assisted them, but he is adamant that it is the panel, who deserve the plaudits for earning this day out at the Jones' Road venue.

"It is themselves, the group drives it."



Terry Hyland,  
Leitrim manager





*Leitrim players celebrating qualification for today's final after their victory over London*

Hyland stresses. "I am what I call a facilitator. The group has been driving itself all through the league and in training sessions.

"Probably the best session we had was the Wednesday before the London game which was probably the worst game we had in the league so far, but we still got the result. That is what it is about."

That Leitrim have been able to summon positive results in difficult circumstances is precisely why Hyland is so encouraged and enthusiastic about his current project.

Initially against London in front of an expectant home crowd Leitrim were struggling to convert chances, but they kept plugging away. While Leitrim only managed 1-9 from 27 shots in that game, crucially it was still enough. A refusal to wilt has been a constant theme in 2019.

"I'm delighted for the lads, they have put in a lot of work over the last couple of months so I'm delighted they got across the line," Hyland added about earning a top-two finish.

"Let it be shaky as it was at times. The

goal was the decisive factor as far as the London game was concerned, but I think we created a lot of opportunities we didn't finish off. Nerves seem to come into it more than anything else."

Ultimately it is about improving and trying to leave Leitrim in a better place for Hyland. Already one objective has been realised, but now they enter the next stage. A Croke Park appearance against an able Derry outfit, who carry a flawless 2019 record into today's fixture, is another good test ahead of the championship.

"We have a relatively young squad," Hyland states. "A lot of young lads have come in, they have to learn from the thing as it goes on to see where they can step in to contribute and they can."

Leitrim's blend of youth and experience is dovetailing nicely. Five years ago a Connacht Minor League triumph was a positive sign for Leitrim and a degree of expectation surrounded that crop at U21 level in 2017.

Mark Plunkett, Dean McGovern, Ryan

O'Rourke, Cónor Cullen, and Pierce Dolan were all beginning to emerge, but a Galway team flecked with current senior inter-county stars prevailed following a freakish game at Tuam Stadium.

Galway led by 19 points before a gritty Leitrim rally cut the gap to four, but the maroon and white team prevailed.

Seán Andy Ó Ceallaigh, Seán Kelly, Peter Cooke, Michael Daly, Cillian McDauid, Cein D'arcy, and Antaine Ó Laoi have all featured prominently for Galway in Division 1, while Dylan McHugh and Colin Brady were part of the Corofn panel that retained the AIB All-Ireland Club Championship on St Patrick's Day.

A promising Leitrim crop came close to taking a prized scalp, but talent was being crafted to put alongside the established figures. Emlyn Mulligan, the splendid Leitrim forward, has enjoyed some sweet moments and endured demanding defeats too.

When Leitrim survived a tricky tussle against New York in Gaelic Park last May Mulligan reckoned the team could evolve

further in the league. Mulligan is well placed to assess how far Leitrim have travelled in recent months. "The draw was favourable too with the games we had at home and the games we had away," Mulligan admits.

"It was massive to get Wexford and Antrim at home, especially. We knew if we sneaked one or two wins away that we had a great chance. Thankfully it is great to be here now."

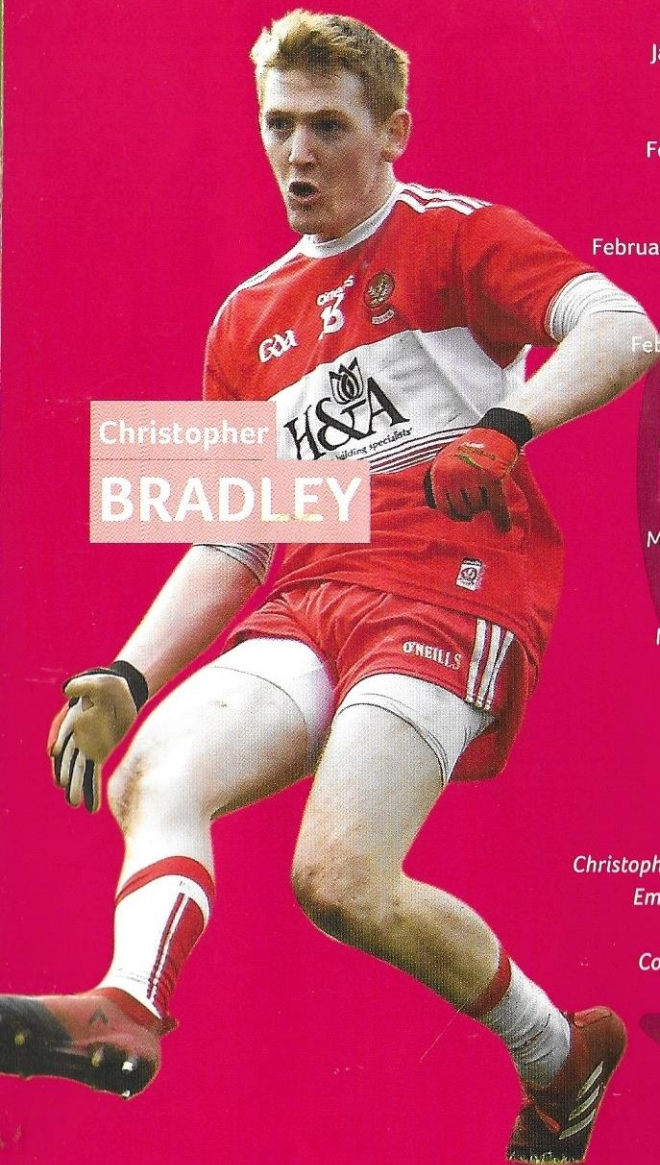
Football matters deeply in Leitrim with Mulligan acknowledging how relevant it is for the county to perform in the capital. "To be representing Leitrim in Croke Park is huge," Mulligan comments. "We aren't going to fill it out, but any person in Leitrim that can get an opportunity to be there will be there. I think it is going to be such a memorable occasion for us all.

"It is coming towards the end for me, I'm 31 now, I'm not getting any younger, I'm not going to get too many more opportunities so it is something I will cherish. I'm really, really looking forward to it."





# Paths to **DERRY**



Christopher  
**BRADLEY**

January 27 – **DERRY 1-10 ANTRIM 1-9**  
(Corrigan Park)

February 3 – **DERRY 0-19 LONDON 1-9**  
(Ballinascreen)

February 10 – **DERRY 2-12 WATERFORD 1-8**  
(Fraher Field)

February 24 – **DERRY 2-8 WICKLOW 0-9**  
(Maghera)

March 3 – **DERRY 0-13 LIMERICK 1-5**  
(Gaelic Grounds)

March 16 – **DERRY 2-16 LEITRIM 1-12**  
(Celtic Park)

March 23 – **Derry 3-21 Wexford 4-16**  
(Bellaghy)

**Total Scored** 10-99 (129)

**Total Conceded** 9-68 (95)

### Scorers

Christopher Bradley 1-22, Shane McGuigan 4-11,  
Emmett Bradley 0-13, Ciarán McFaul 0-11,  
Ryan Bell 0-11, Enda Lynn 1-6,  
Conor McAtamney 0-5, Karl McKaigue 1-2,  
Benny Heron 1-2, Conor Doherty 0-4,  
Ryan Dougan 1-1, Patrick Coney 0-3,  
Niall Toner 0-3, Paul McNeill 1-0,  
Pádraig Cassidy 0-2, Niall Keenan 0-2,  
Michael McEvoy 0-1.



# THE FINAL **LEITRIM**

January 27 – **LEITRIM 3-15 WEXFORD 0-11**  
(Avantcard Páirc Seán Mac Diarmada)

February 3 – **LEITRIM 1-16 WICKLOW 1-12**  
(Joule Park)

February 10 – **LEITRIM 0-14 ANTRIM 1-10**  
(Avantcard Páirc Seán Mac Diarmada)

February 23 – **LEITRIM 0-12 LIMERICK 0-11**  
(Kilmallock)

March 3 – **LEITRIM 1-9 LONDON 0-7**  
(Avantcard Páirc Seán Mac Diarmada)

March 16 – **DERRY 2-16 LEITRIM 1-12**  
(Celtic Park)

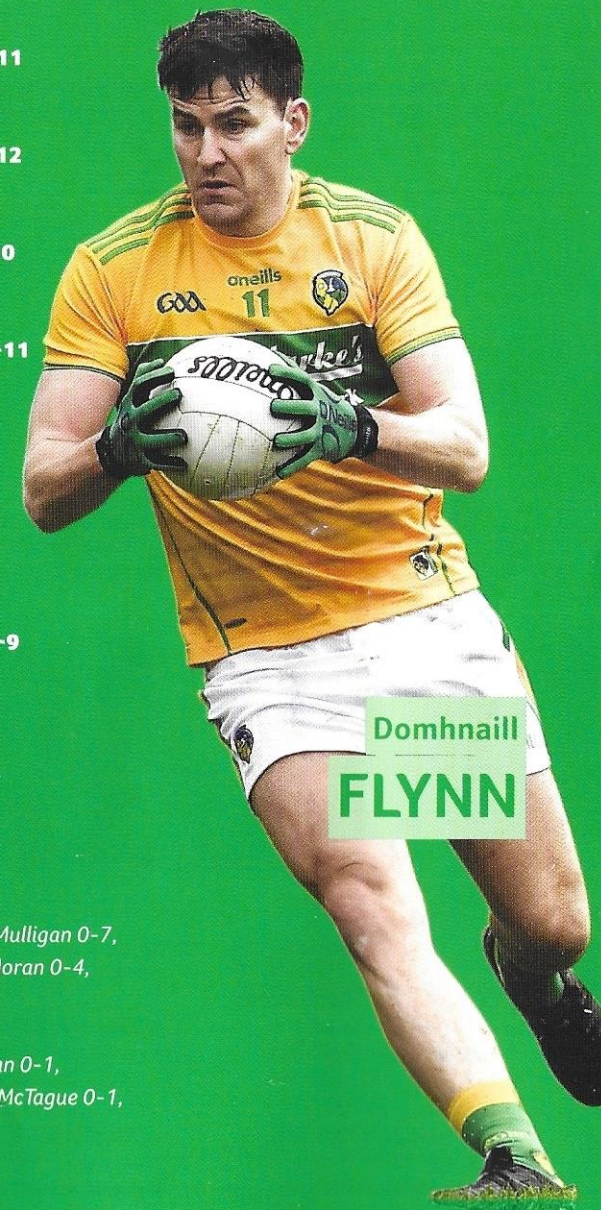
March 24 – **LEITRIM 1-20 WATERFORD 2-9**  
(Avantcard Páirc Seán Mac Diarmada)

**Total Scored** 7-98 (119)

**Total Conceded** 6-76 (94)

### Scorers

Ryan O'Rourke 4-22, Domhnaill Flynn 0-13,  
Darragh Rooney 1-6, Ray Mulvey 0-8,  
Gary Plunkett 1-5, Shane Moran 0-7, Emlin Mulligan 0-7,  
Evan Sweeney 0-6, Jack Hestlin 0-4, Damien Moran 0-4,  
Shane Quinn 1-1, Cillian McGloin 0-2,  
Paddy Maguire 0-2, Mark Plunkett 0-2,  
Conor Cullen 0-2, Eoin Ward 0-1, Pearce Dolan 0-1,  
Dean McGovern 0-1, Aidan Flynn 0-1, Fergal McTague 0-1,  
Cathal McCauley 0-1, Niall Brady 0-1.



Domhnaill  
**FLYNN**



1 Tomás Ó Maolaon  
**THOMAS MALLON**  
*An Lúb*

2 Cearúil Mac Taidgh  
**KARL McKAIGUE**  
*Sleacht Néil*

3 Breandán Mac Ruairí  
**BRENDAN ROGERS**  
*Sleacht Néil*

4 Pól Mac Néill  
**PAUL McNEILL**  
*Sleacht Néil*

5 Micheál Mac Mac Fhíobhúí  
**MICHAEL McEVOY**  
*Maichre Fíolra*

6 Criostóir Mac Taidgh (C.)  
**CHRISTOPHER McKAIGUE**  
*Sleacht Néil*

7 Néill Ó Cianan  
**NIALL KEENAN**  
*Seanmullach*

8 Pádraig Ó Caiside  
**PÁDRAIG CASSIDY**  
*Sleacht Néil*

9 Conchúr Mac an Tiompánaigh  
**CONOR McATAMNEY**  
*Suitreach*

10 Eiméid Ó Brolcháin  
**EMMETT BRADLEY**  
*An Ghleann*

11 Éanna Ó Loinn  
**ENDA LYNN**  
*Grianloch*

12 Conchúr Ó Dochairtaigh  
**CONOR DOHERTY**  
*Droichead Nua*

13 Seán Mag Uigainn  
**SHANE McGUIGAN**  
*Sleacht Néil*

14 Rian Mac Giolla Mhaoil  
**RYAN BELL**  
*Baile an Doire*

15 Criostóir Ó Brolcháin  
**CHRISTOPHER BRADLEY**  
*Sleacht Néil*

1 Cathal Mac Bhrain  
**CATHAL McCRANN**  
*Gortleitreach*

2 Aodhán Ó Floinn  
**AIDAN FLYNN**  
*Gaeil Liatroma*

3 Micheál Mac Mhaoinigh (C.)  
**MICHEAL McWEENEY**  
*Naomh Muire Cill Tochairt*

4 Páidí Mag Uidhir  
**PADDY MAGUIRE**  
*Naomh Bríd - Baile Átha Cliath*

5 Seán Mac Mhaonaigh  
**SEÁN McWEENEY**  
*Achadh na Síleann*

6 Seán Ó Cuinn  
**SHANE QUINN**  
*Maothail*

7 Reamoinn Ó Maoilmhiaigh  
**RAYMOND MULVEY**  
*Naomh Muire Cill Tochairt*

8 Marc Ó Pluincéid  
**MARK PLUNKETT**  
*Achadh an Mhuilinn*

9 Seán Ó Moráin  
**SHANE MORAN**  
*Seán Ó hEislin, Béal an Átha Móir*

10 Dean Mag Samhráin  
**DEAN McGOVERN**  
*Seán Ó hEislin, Béal an Átha Móir*

11 Emlín Ó Maolagáin  
**EMLYN MULLIGAN**  
*Gaeil na Meilge*

12 Domhnaill Ó Floinn  
**DOMHNAILL FLYNN**  
*Maothail*

13 Darragh Ó Ruanaidh  
**DARRAGH ROONEY**  
*Gaeil na Meilge*

14 Eabhán Mac Suibhne  
**EVAN SWEENEY**  
*Gleann an Chairthe/Cluainín*

15 Rian Ó Ruairc  
**RYAN O'ROURKE**  
*Naomh Caillin, Fionach*

# DOIRE

ROGHNÓIRÍ - Damian McErdain (Bainisteoir), Killian Conlon, Clárán Meenagh, Gavin McGeehan



## FIR IONAIÐ

16. Beirheart Mac Fionnlaídh

**BEN McKINLESS**  
*Baile an Doire*

17. Eoghn Ó Concheannáin

**EOGHAN CONCANNON**  
*Baile Stíl*

18. Pádraig Ó Cuana

**PATRICK CONEY**  
*An Lub*

19. Rian Ó Duagáin

**RYAN DOUGAN**  
*An Ghleann*

20. Beirheart Ó hEairín

**BENNY HERON**  
*Baile na Scrine*

21. Conchúr Ó Maolchallann

**CONOR MULHOLLAND**  
*Leamhaigh*

22. Eamon Mac an Ghoill

**EAMON MCGILL**  
*Leamhaigh*

23. Pádraig Mac Gruagáin

**PÁDRAIG MCGROGAN**  
*Droichead Nua*

24. Seán Ó Coínn

**SEÁN F. QUINN**  
*Suitreach*

25. Iasán Mac Concharraige

**JASON ROCKS**  
*An Lúb*

26. Néill Ó Tomhnair

**NIALL TONER**  
*Leamhaigh*

# LIATROIM

Terry Hyland (Bainisteoir), Gary Donoghue, Pádraig McGourty, Jason O'Reilly - ROGHNÓIRÍ



## FIR IONAIÐ

16. Diarmuid Mac Thighearnain  
**DIARMUID McKIERNAN**  
*Gaeil na hAilne*

17. Conchúr Mac Raghnaill  
**CONOR REYNOLDS**  
*Eanach Dubh*

18. Garraí Ó Pluincéid  
**GARY PLUNKETT**  
*Achadh an Mhuilinn*

19. Conchúr Ó Cuilinn  
**CONOR CULLEN**  
*Achadh na Síleann*

20. Oisín Ó Madáin  
**OISÍN MADDEN**  
*Maothail*

21. Piarais Ó Dúláin  
**PEARCE DOLAN**  
*Achadh an Mhuilinn*

22. Caillian Mac Giolla Eoin  
**CILLIAN MCGLOIN**  
*Gaeil na Meilge*

23. Damian Ó Móráin  
**DAMIAN MORAN**  
*Barr na Cúile*

24. Seán Ó hEislin  
**JACK HESLIN**  
*Gortleitreach*

25. Néill Ó Brádaigh  
**NIALL BRADY**  
*Gleann an Chairthe/Cluainín*

26. Garraí Mac Raghnaill  
**GARY REYNOLDS**  
*Carraig Aláinn*



# AN BÓTHAR A THAISTEAL SIAD

Ócáidí a bhí lán de theannas de ghnáth iad na cluichí ina gcasann foirne a bhíonn ar bharr an tábla ar a chéile. Fós ní raibh rian de sin ar aghaidheanna Damian McErlain ná Terry Hyland nuair a thosaigh an imirt idir Doire agus Liatroim i mbabhta 6 de Shraith Náisiúnta Peile Allianz ar Pháirc na gCeilteach coicís ó shin.

Bhí cúis mhaith leis – beag beann ar ché acu a mbeadh an bua acu an lá sin, bhí sé cinntithe ag a gcuid peileadóirí sna 5 bhabhta a himrúidh roimhe sin go raibh an t-ardú céime tuillte acu agus go mba iad a d’imreodh a chéile sa chluiche ceannais anseo inniu.

De na foirne ar fad a bhí san iomaíocht sna ceithre ranna i Sraith Allianz na bliana seo is ag Doire amháin atá sé le maíomh gur bhuaigh siad gach cluiche a d’imirt siad sna réamhbhabhtaí agus bliain tar éis dóibh a bheith dícháilithe as Roinn 3 (áit nár bhuaigh siad ach dhá chluiche anuraidh), tá siad ar ais i bPáirc an Chrócaigh.

Ní baileach go raibh an bainisteoir McErlain chomh mór ar a chomórd i bhfíor-thús shraithe na bliana seo nuair a bhí Aontroim ar chomhscór leo i mBabhta 1 agus gan fanta ach nóimead ar Pháirc Uí Chorrágáin, ach chinntigh scór a fuair Pádraig Cassidy lena dhorn bua cúilín do Dhoire (1-10-1-9).

Ba é an cluiche idir foirne an lae inniu i mBabhta 6 (2-16, 1-12) an t-aon cheann atá cailte ag Liatroim i mbliana, ach dála a leath-bhádóir bhí athraithe go leor déanta ag Hyland ar a fhoireann féin an lá sin agus gan é ag iarraidh lígean le aon rún roimh chluiche an lae inniu.

Is é Ryan O’Rourke príomhscórálaí Liatroma sa gcomórtas go dtí seo agus an 2-7 a fuair sé in aghaidh Loch Garman i gCora Droma Rúisc i mbabhta 1 ar an eacht scórala is mó a rinne peileadóir in aon cheann de na ceithre ranna i mbliana.

Má bhí a fhios againn faoin am ar

chríochnaigh Babhta 5 i Roinn 4 cé a bheadh sa gcluiche ceannais sin anseo inniu, ba scéal eile ar fad a bhí i gceist i Roinn 2, áit a raibh seans de chineál éigin ag 5 chontae ar an gcluiche ceannais a bhaint amach nuair a caitheadh isteach an liathróid i gcluichí an Domhnaigh seo caite.

Ach le fírinne, ainneoin a gcliseadh in aghaidh Dhún na nGall ar Pháirc Mhic Cumhaill, i mBabhta 2, nuair a bhí na Conallaigh agus Cill Dara chun cinn orthu ó thaobh pointí sraithe, a luaithe agus a tháinig Babhta 3 agus a mbua ar Ard Mhacha (2-13, 0-13) chuaigh Co. na Mí chuig barr an tábla, áit ar fhan siad.

Mickey Newman agus Ethan Devine a scórail na cúil an lá sin ar Pháirc Tailtin áit a raibh nóimead ciúinis i gcuimhne ar laoch mór na Mí agus cara de mo chuid Frankie Byrne a bhí tar éis bháis. Ba é Frankie, trócaire air, an duine ab fhaide a mhair de fhoireann na Mí a bhuaigh Corn Mhic Guidhir don chéad uair i 1949.

Chuir an bua sin ar Ard Mhacha foireann Andy McEntee ar ais ar an mbóthar díreach arís agus chríochnaigh siad obair na sraithe le buanna ar Chorcaigh, Tiobraid Árann, Cill Dara, an Clár agus Fear Manach.

D’fhag sin ar ais i Roinn 1 iad don chéad uair ó 2006.

Mheasfá gur cleas den chineál ceanna a

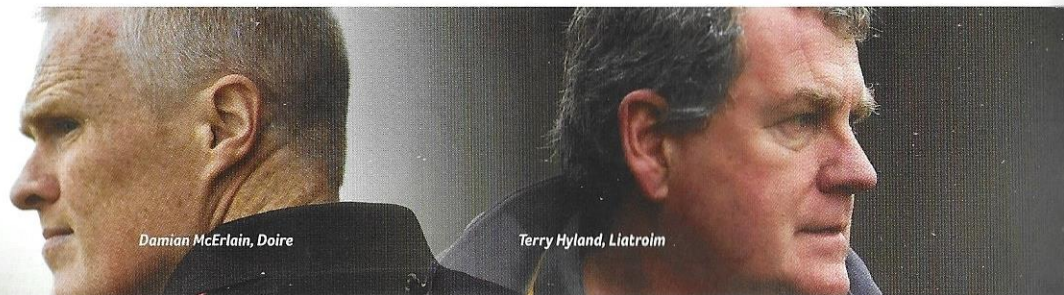
dhéanadh bua siúd a fuair Dún na nGall ar fhir na Mí le foireann Declan Bonner, ach a mhalairt glan a tharla – cliseadh 5 chúilín in aghaidh Thiobraid Árann ar Pháirc Semple sa mbabhta dar gcionn agus an bua ag Fear Manach orthu de chúil i mBabhta 4 i Leitir Ceanainn.

Tráthnóna an Domhnaigh an 24ú Feabhra ba ghaire de bhun tábla Roinn 2 a bhí Dún na nGall ná a bhí siad dá bharr agus agus péire de na foirne a bhí os a cionn fós le n-imirt acu.

I mBealach Féich in aghaidh Ard Mhacha, facthas Michael Murphy ar an bpáirc don chéad uair i mbliana agus san uair an chloig imeartha a rinne sé mar ionadaí choinnigh Mac Uí Mhurchú seansanna a fhoirne ar an lá inniu beo.

Corcaigh an chéad dúshlán eile – Ar Pháirc Uí Rinn fuair Dún nan Gall 1-19, an scór ab airde go dtí sin i mbliana acu agus sháraigh siad é de chúilín Dé Domhnaigh seo caite in aghaidh Chill Dara. Bliain tar éis do chomhscór in aghaidh Mhaigh Eo iad a fhágáil taobh leis an dícháiliú as Roinn 1 bhí na Conallaigh ar ais.

Tá an ceathrar bainisteoir atá againn inniu ag iarraidh comórtais a bhuachan le foirne nach bhfuileadar ina gceannas ach le téarma réasúnta gearr – Andy McEntee 2½ bliain, Declan Bonner agus Damian McErlain 1½ agus Terry Hyland ó mhí Lúnasa seo caite.



Damian McErlain, Doire

Terry Hyland, Liatroim



Andy McEntee, An Mhí

Declan Bonner, Dún na nGall

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TEANNAS

tension

RIAN DE SIN

no sign of that

BHÍ CÚIS MHAITH LEIS

there was good reason

Your link to the language [www.gaeilge.ie](http://www.gaeilge.ie)

BEAG BEAN

no matter

LE MAÍOMH

to boast

ÓCÁID

occasion



1 Andriú Ó Colgáin  
**ANDREW COLGAN**  
*Domhnach Mór Cill Dhéagláin*

2 Séamus Ó Maoiléimhin  
**SEAMUS LAVIN**  
*Naomh Peadar Dún Bóinne*

3 Conchúr Mac Giolla  
**CONOR MCGILL**  
*Rath Tó*

4 Seán Ó Gallachóir  
**SHANE GALLAGHER**  
*Gaeil Baile Shiomóin*

5 Seosamh Mac on tSaoi  
**JAMES McENTEE**  
*Currach Átha*

6 Dónall Mac Eochagáin (J.C.)  
**DONAL KEOGAN**  
*Rath Coinnig*

7 Rónán Ó Riain  
**RONAN RYAN**  
*Druim Samhraidh*

8 Briain Ó Mantáin (J.C.)  
**BRYAN MENTON**  
*Domhnach Mór Cill Dhéagláin*

9 Seán Mac on tSaoi  
**SHANE McENTEE**  
*Naomh Peadar Dún Bóinne*

10 Cillian Ó Súilleabháin  
**CILLIAN O'SULLIVAN**  
*Magh nAilbhe*

11 Beirheart Ó Braonáin  
**BEN BRENNAN**  
*Naomh Colmcille*

12 Briain Mac Mathúna  
**BRYAN McMAHON**  
*Rath Tó*

13 Barra Dairdis  
**BARRY DARDIS**  
*Druim Samhraidh*

14 Mícheál Nuaman  
**MICHAEL NEWMAN**  
*Cill Maigneann*

15 Tomás Ó Raghallaigh  
**THOMAS O'REILLY**  
*Bhulf Tón*

1 Seán Ó Peatáin  
**SHAUN PATTON**  
*Naomh Adhamhnáin*

2 Pádraig Mac Craith  
**PADDY McGRATH**  
*Ard an Ratha*

3 Breandán Mac Cumhaill  
**BRENDAN McCOLE**  
*Naomh Náille*

4 Eoghan Bán Ó Gallchóir  
**EOGHAN BĀN GALLAGHEI**  
*Na Cealla Beaga*

5 Dáire O Baoill  
**DAIRE Ó BAOILL**  
*Gaoth Dobhair*

6 Leo Mac Giolla Uain  
**LEO McLOONE**  
*Naomh Conaill*

7 Riain Mac Aodha  
**RYAN McHUGH**  
*Cill Chartha*

8 Aodh Mac Pháidín  
**HUGH McFADDEN**  
*Na Cealla Beaga*

9 Mícheál Ó Longáin  
**MICHAEL LANGAN**  
*Naomh Mícheál*

10 Néill Ó Domhnaill  
**NIALL O'DONNELL**  
*Naomh Adhamhnáin*

11 Iasán Mac Aoidh  
**JASON McGEE**  
*Cloch Cheann Fhaola*

12 Caolan Mac Congail  
**CAOLAN McGONAGLE**  
*Buncrannacha*

13 Oisín Ó Galláin  
**OISÍN GALLEN**  
*Seán Mac Cumhaill*

14 Mícheál Ó Murchú (C.)  
**MICHAEL MURPHY**  
*Glenn tSuilí*

15 Séamus Ó Braonáin  
**JAMIE BRENNAN**  
*Bun Dobhráin*

# AN MHÍ

ROGHNÓIRÍ - Andy McEntee (Bainisteoir), Donal Curtis, Finlan Murtagh, Gerry Cooney, Colm Nally



## FIR IONAIÐ

- Marcas Ó Braonáin  
**MARCUS BRENNAN**  
*Ó Mathúna*
- Mícheál de Búrca  
**MICHAEL BURKE**  
*Maigh Dearmhaí*
- Adam Ó Flannagáin  
**ADAM FLANAGAN**  
*Cluain Ioraird*

- Gabhan Mac Aodha  
**GAVIN McCOY**  
*Naomh Peadar Dún Bóinne*
- Graham Ó Raghallaigh  
**GRAHAM REILLY**  
*Naomh Colmcille*
- Seán Ó Raghallaigh  
**SEÁN REILLY**  
*Maolach*
- Dáire Caimpion  
**DARRAGH CAMPION**  
*Scrín*

- Éatan Ó Daimhín  
**ETHAN DEVINE**  
*Na Fianna*
- Séamus Ó Caoinleáin  
**JAMES CONLON**  
*Naomh Colmcille*
- Tomás Mag Shamhráin  
**THOMAS McGOVERN**  
*Domhnach Mór Cill Dhéagláin*
- Pádraic Ó hEarnáin  
**PÁDRAIC HARNAN**  
*Magh nAilbhe*

# DÚN NA nGALL

Deaglán Mac Cháimhstí (Bainisteoir), Carl de Léis, Pól Mac Congail - ROGHNÓIRÍ



## FIR IONAIÐ

- Pól Ó Durcáin  
**PAUL DURCAN**  
*Baile Buadáin, Naomh Éanna*
- Caolán Mac an Bháird  
**CAOLAN WARD**  
*Naomh Adhamhnáin*
- Néill Mac Aoidh  
**NEIL McGEE**  
*Gaoth Dobhair*
- Stiofán Mac Meanman  
**STEPHEN McMENAMIN**  
*Aodh Rua, Cúil na nCuirridín*

- Éamonn Ó Dochartaigh  
**EAMONN DOHERTY**  
*Naomh Adhamhnáin*
- Eoin Mac Aodha  
**EWIN McHUGH**  
*Cill Chartha*
- Ciarán Mac Thomais  
**CIARÁN THOMPSON**  
*Naomh Conaill*
- Pól Ó Braonáin  
**PAUL BRENNAN**  
*Bun Dobhráin*

- Mairtín Ó Raghallaigh  
**MARTIN O'REILLY**  
*Seán Mac Cumhaill*
- Odhran Mac Phaidín Ó Fearraigh  
**ODHRAN McFADDEN FERRY**  
*Gaoth Dobhair*
- Proinsias Mac Fhlóinn  
**FRANK McGLYNN**  
*Glenn Fhinne*





# Paths to **MEATH**

January 27 – **MEATH 0-15 TIPPERARY 1-8**  
(Páirc Tailteann)

February 3 – **DONEGAL 1-13 MEATH 0-14**  
(Páirc Seán Mac Cumhaill)

February 10 – **MEATH 2-13 ARMAGH 0-13**  
(Páirc Tailteann)

February 23 – **MEATH 2-12 CORK 1-9**  
(Páirc Uí Rinn)

March 3 – **MEATH 1-9 KILDARE 1-8**  
(Páirc Tailteann)

March 16 – **MEATH 1-12 CLARE 1-7**  
(Cusack Park)

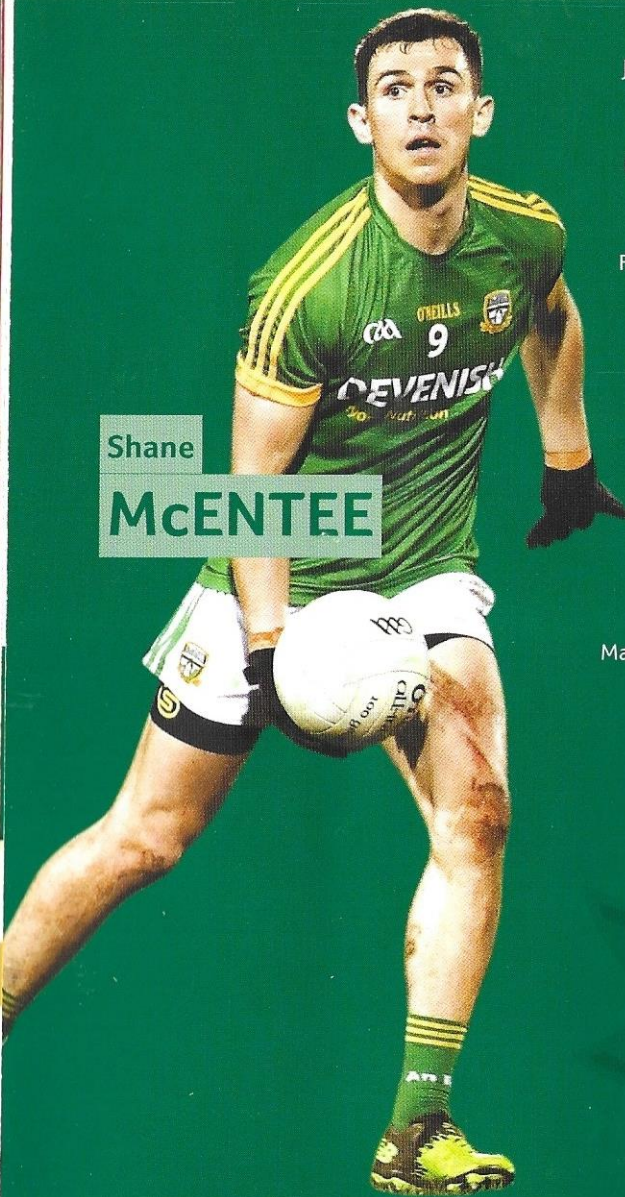
March 24 – **MEATH 2-12 FERMANAGH 0-11**  
(Páirc Tailteann)

**Total Scored 8-87** (111)  
**Total Conceded 5-69** (84)

### Scorers

Mickey Newman 1-28, Barry Dardis 3-4,  
Cillian O'Sullivan 0-11, Ben Brennan 0-9,  
James McEntee 1-5, Thomas O'Reilly 0-7,  
Darragh Campion 0-7, Bryan Menton 0-5,  
Graham Reilly 1-2, Ethan Devine 1-2,  
Shane McEntee 0-4, Gavin McCoy 1-0,  
Niall Kane 0-2, James Conlon 0-1.

Shane  
**McENTEE**



# THE FINAL **DONEGAL**

January 27 – **DONEGAL 0-16 CLARE 0-13**  
(Cusack Park)

February 3 – **DONEGAL 1-13 MEATH 0-14**  
(Páirc Seán Mac Cumhaill)

February 10 – **TIPPERARY 3-9 DONEGAL 0-13**  
(Semple Stadium)

February 24 – **FERMANAGH 0-13 DONEGAL 0-10**  
(O'Donnell Park)

March 2 – **DONEGAL 1-9 ARMAGH 0-11**  
(Páirc Seán Mac Cumhaill)

March 16 – **DONEGAL 1-19 CORK 1-12**  
(Páirc Uí Rinn)

March 24 – **DONEGAL 1-20 KILDARE 0-10**  
(Ballyshannon)

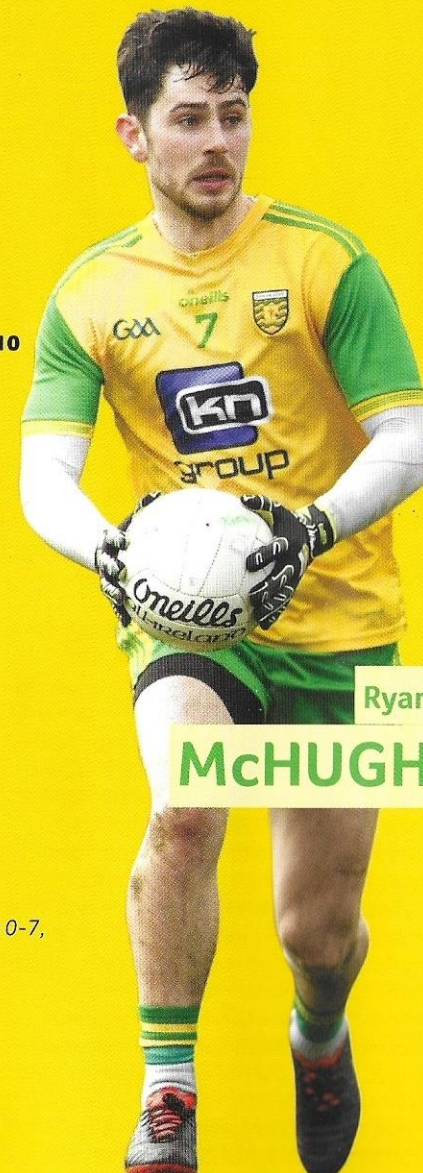
**Total Scored 4-100** (112)  
**Total Conceded 4-82** (94)

### Scorers

Michael Langan 0-17, Jamie Brennan 2-11,  
Michael Murphy 1-12, Ciarán Thompson 0-14,  
Niall O'Donnell 0-12, Oisín Gallen 0-9, Jason McGee 0-7,  
Ryan McHugh 0-5, Caolan McGonagle 1-2,  
Hugh McFadden 0-3, Daire Ó Baoill 0-3,  
Eoghan Bán Gallagher 0-2, Martin O'Reilly 0-1,  
Eoin McHugh 0-1, Caolan Ward 0-1.

Ryan

**McHUGH**





By John Harrington

## DIFFERENT PATHS SAME DESTINATION

Donegal and Meath have both arrived at the same destination for today's Allianz Football League Division 2 Final in Croke Park, but it feels like both teams are at different stages of their respective journeys.

For a talented young Donegal team that underscored their potential by winning the Ulster Championship last year, a spring spent in Division 2 after last year's relegation from Division 1 was meant to be a temporary bump in the road.

And even if they clattered through a couple of unexpected pot-holes along the way, they've ended up justifying their short odds to make a swift return to the top flight which is where you sense they belong.

After 12 years of trying and failing to get out of Division 2 in the league, few would have confidently said the same of Meath at the start of this campaign.

So, their presence in today's final and the promotion that goes with it feels like a more significant corner turned in their recent history.

For many of their players it'll be the first time to play a senior game in Croke Park, and for most of them the first time they'll contest a match there with silverware on the line.

"I'd a good chat with Barry Dardis after the game (last Sunday's win over Fermanagh) and we were on the same minor team and were lucky enough to get a few games out in Croke Park," reflected Meath midfielder Shane McEntee earlier this week.

"Then he had an All-Ireland Colleges Final there with St Pat's and as young lads you think, 'This is the norm, this is all we're brought up with.'

"And then you're seven years later and for a lot of us it's our first time back there, certainly with Meath anyway.

"So that's going to be a challenge and it's

special. It's where you want to be and we'd like to think we're going to keep building and try to be here on a more regular basis and not have that big gap."

Meath as a county look like they have solid foundations on which to build now thanks to overhauled underage structures that are starting to produce a steady supply of talented footballers.

McEntee expressed his hope that if the senior county footballers can keep making short term gains then the county's renaissance as a real force in the game will be further accelerated.

Donegal's Stephen McMenamin also spoke at the same Allianz League Finals promotion event and the tone of what he had to say reflected the fact that these two teams are at different points in their journey.

Whereas McEntee expressed a desire to 'keep building', McMenamin made it clear that Donegal believe they're adding the finishing touches to their own reconstruction since the Jim McGuinness era rather than in the midst of a rebuild.

He didn't mind admitting their main aim this year is "to get to an All-Ireland Final", and made it clear he believed they could do just that.

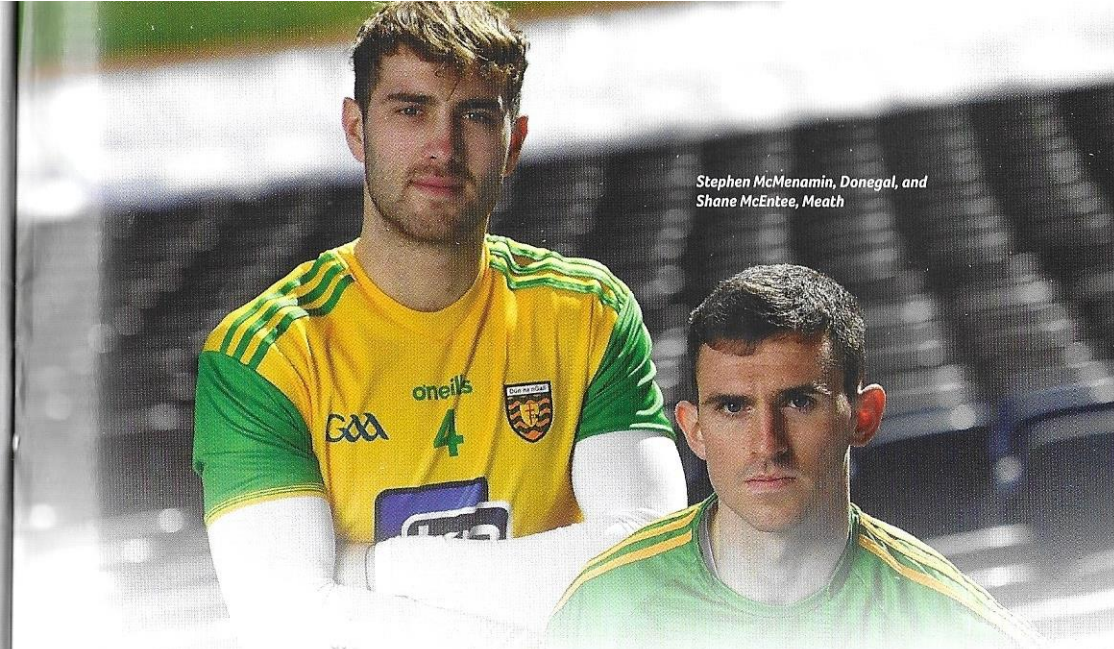
"At the moment, yes I do," said McMenamin.

"The strength and depth we have in the team, no man's place in the team is secure.

"Compared to other years where you sort of knew the team but this year you're looking over your shoulder and nobody is safe at the minute."

The appointment of former Mayo manager Stephen Rochford as team coach this year said a lot about Donegal manager Declan Bonner's ambition for his team.

If you want to bridge the gap that Dublin



Stephen McMenamin, Donegal, and  
Shane McEntee, Meath

have opened up on the chasing pack then no better person to bring into the set-up than the man who has gotten closer than anyone else to knocking Jim Gavin's team from their pedestal in the last four years.

As soon as Rochford's name was brought up in conversation on Monday, McMenamin couldn't disguise his enthusiasm for the impact the Mayo-man has made since joining Bonner's management team.

"Training has been better, having him in there," said McMenamin. "His technique, his ball-skills, your kicking, your hand passing, everything has to be better with him.

"It's not good enough to just go to training, turn up. He wants you to be performing the best you can and I think he gets the best out of everyone at training.

"100% it's definitely making a difference."

Meath might still be building block by block and Donegal putting the finishing touches to their project, but don't expect the Royals to come to Croke Park today happy to be there and fulfilled by the promotion that's already in the bag.

The manner in which they were beaten by Donegal earlier in the campaign grated because it was the latest in a long line of honourable performances against top teams that fell short of the win they wanted and, arguably, deserved.

Last year's one-point All-Ireland Qualifier defeat to Tyrone is stand-out in that regard, and Meath players like McEntee know that if they're to take the next step in their development then they need to start taking a few big scalps.

"Definitely," said McEntee. "I think we are probably still getting over it (last year's defeat to Tyrone) because we still use it as a reference point that that's the level of performance we have to get to in order to be in any way competitive and we have to be better than that again if we want to win games.

"At the end of the day, it's not much good having moral victories and saying 'Jesus, we put in a great shift against Tyrone but we didn't win.' So, it's still referred to, similarly Donegal in the championship the year before, it was a very similar story, a one-point defeat when we felt we could have won the game.

"I think that was one of the things we said going up to Ballybofey this year, that it's not enough to get a moral victory and ultimately, that's all we got in the end."

Today's final provides the perfect opportunity for a measure of revenge and will tell us a lot about just how far down the road this Meath team is in their journey back to the big time.





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success to Leitrim GAA  
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## FINALS 2008-2018

	DIVISION 2		DIVISION 4	
2008	Westmeath 0-15	Dublin 0-10	Offaly 2-13	Tipperary 0-12
2009	Cork 1-14	Monaghan 0-12	Sligo 1-12	Antrim 1-10
2010	Armagh 0-17	Down 1-12	Limerick 1-16	Waterford 1-14
2011	Donegal 2-11	Laois 0-16	Longford 2-11	Roscommon 1-8
2012	Kildare 0-16	Tyrone 0-11	Wicklow 2-16	Fermanagh 1-11
2013	Derry 1-18	Westmeath 0-15	Limerick 0-16	Offaly 1-11
2014	Monaghan 1-16	Donegal 1-10	Tipperary 1-16	Clare 1-15
2015	Roscommon 1-17	Down 0-15	Offaly 4-16	Longford 1-12
2016	Tyrone 1-17	Cavan 0-15	Louth 3-12	Antrim 1-14
2017	Galway 0-18	Kildare 0-16	Westmeath 2-24	Wexford 2-11
2018	Roscommon 4-16	Cavan 4-12	Laois 0-15	Carlow 0-11

## EXTRA-TIME AND FINISHING GAMES ON THE DAY

Allianz League games that finish level after normal playing times will be completed as follows:

### PHASE 1:

Proceed to extra-time as provided for in T.O Cuid II (two periods of ten minutes each way)

### PHASE 2:

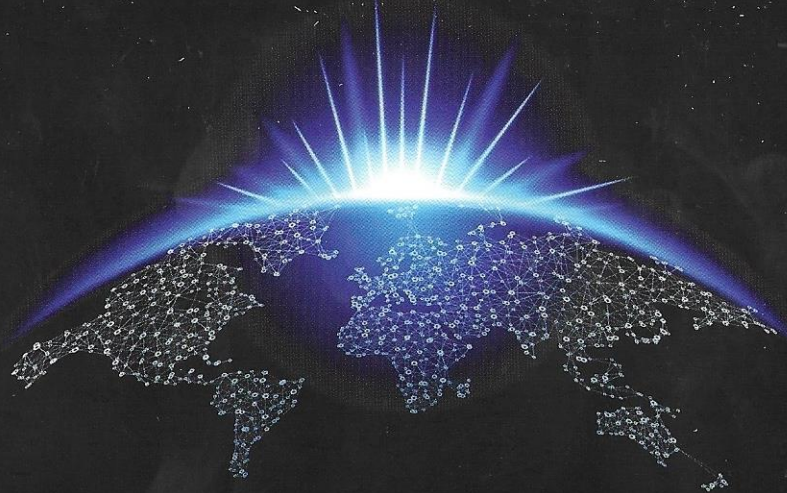
If teams are still level, an additional two periods of five minutes each way will be played.

### PHASE 3:(PENALTY KICKS/PUCKS)

If still level, a "penalty competition" to decide the outcome:

- Penalties will be taken for goals only.
- The Referee shall choose the end at which the penalty kicks/pucks will be taken.
- Each team shall register five penalty takers, a goal keeper and a substitute goal keeper with the referee and indicate in which order the penalty takers will take their penalties.
- The Referee shall toss a coin in the presence of the two captains to see which team will have the option of going first.
- Only players who are on the field of play at the end of Phase 2 (i.e. end of 2nd Phase of extra-time), shall be allowed to be registered as a penalty taker or goalkeeper.
- Both teams will take five penalty kicks/pucks which are taken alternately by the teams. The game is awarded to whichever team scores more of their five penalty kicks/pucks.
- If, after both teams have taken five penalty kicks/pucks and both teams have scored the same number of goals, the penalty competition will continue in sudden death format.





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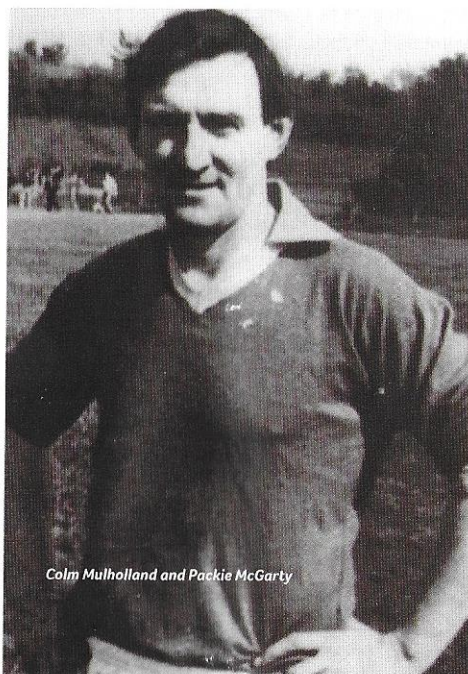
 Conradh  
na Gaelige

**Gael Linn**



By Dermot McPeake

# THE DAY COLM MULHOLLAND MET PACKIE MCGARTY



Colm Mulholland and Packie McGarty

In Derry GAA, there will only ever be one Colm Mulholland. And in Leitrim there will only ever be one Packie McGarty. And when the two great men first crossed swords on a playing field, it made for a story that is still being told 60 years later.

It was the occasion of the National League semi-final of 1959. Derry's centre half-back, Colm Mulholland, made his way across the Croke Park pitch, keenly eyeing up his opponent.

As he approached the legendary Leitrim man, Colm stretched out his hand towards the star who had once been selected to play Railway Cup at just 20 years of age.

"You are Packie McGarty," he said. "I

know you and it is an honour for me to mark you. You don't know me. My name is Colm Mulholland, and by the end of this game, you will be sorry you ever heard my name."

Colm Mulholland was a man who displayed his trademark flamboyance both on and off the field. Captain of the Lavey team that won the Derry senior championship in 1954, Mulholland pioneered a defensive clearance, which took the form of an overhead kick, when in a tight spot. "He could kick the ball as far back over his head as most men could kick it facing frontways," said one contemporary.

Captain of Derry minors in 1947, Mulholland played at midfield on the Derry Junior team that won the 1950 Ulster

Championship, before being deployed in forward positions for most of his senior inter-county career until 1958. The historic year of '58, the same year that Packie McGarty was carried jubilantly from the pitch by his fellow Leitrim men following the Connacht final versus Galway.

The fact that Leitrim had lost the game makes the instinctive celebration of the county's greatest ever player all the more remarkable. It marked the end of a sequence of games that saw Leitrim lose four Connacht finals in-a-row to a wondrous Galway team.

"My medals are easy kept" shrugged the Leitrim star during an Irish Independent interview in 2015. "I'm as well known for not winning medals as winning them," he added, recalling the period. Ulster final defeats against Cavan (1955) and Tyrone (1957) saw Colm Mulholland travel on a similar road to that famous 1959 meeting between the two men.

It was the great Leitrim writer John McGahern who perhaps summed up what men like Colm Mulholland and Packie McGarty stand for when he wrote 'The local and the individual were more powerful than any Irish identity.'

How true that is. The names McGarty and Mulholland have now passed through two generations and will no doubt breach a third. "It's nice to look back but there's also a sad tinge to it, in a way," said Colm Mulholland recently, still vibrant and smiling.

"The man above is the boss," said McGarty. "We had great matches, ran Galway close. It was my ambition to win with Leitrim but I didn't achieve it. God gave me a good life and a good playing career. That's it."

Derry's Colm Mulholland. Leitrim's Packie McGarty. Two men who remind us that life is not all about the medals that you win, rather it's about the stories that you leave behind.



Connacht Railway Cup semi-finalists 1959



Derry - Ulster Senior Football Champions 1958



Veterans of Derry and Leitrim  
Tommy Barber, Mick O'Flynn and Colm Mulholland



# CROKE PARK SAFETY AND GENERAL INFORMATION

## REGULATIONS Páirc an Chrócaigh

- All persons entering this ground are admitted only subject to the following Rules (which are designated to protect the Health and Safety of all entrants to the ground). Entry to the ground shall be deemed to constitute unqualified acceptance of all of these Rules.
- The management reserves the right of admission.
- The instructions of the stewards must be obeyed at all times.
- All persons entering the ground agree to be searched by a member of the Garda Síochána.
- Every person (including infants) entering the ground must have a ticket.
- The following are not permitted:
- 6.1 Entry upon the pitch or engaging in conduct that causes or is likely to cause injury or harm to, or otherwise interferes with, disrupts, hinders, or distracts a person playing in, refereeing or otherwise having a role in a match at this ground.
- 6.2 Any unauthorised contact with the boundary wall surrounding the pitch or incursion on to the pitch. Any such unauthorised contact or incursion constitutes a trespass to property.
- 6.3 The climbing of floodlights or other pylons, stands or other buildings. Such behavior constitutes a trespass to property.
- 6.4 Throwing of objects onto the pitch.
- 6.5 Remaining or loitering in any gangway or aisle.
- 6.6 Behaving in an offensive or indecent manner.
- 6.7 Bringing of alcohol into the ground.
- 6.8 Bringing into the ground of fireworks, smoke canisters, bottles, glasses, cans, flags, banners, poles, distress signals, laser pointers and similar articles or containers, including anything which could or might be used as a weapon.
- 6.9 Excessive noise such as that from the use of radio sets or other appliances and behaviour likely to cause confusion or nuisance of any kind including foul or abusive language.
- If a person commits a trespass, reasonable force may be used to prevent, restrain or terminate any trespass.
- Where a person is in breach of any of these rules, or where the management believes that a person constitutes a source of danger to others, or to the ground, such person may be refused entry or ejected from the ground, and reasonable force may be used for that purpose.

## Safety and General Information

Supporters are asked to respect the fact that they are entering and leaving the stadium through residential areas.



### Safety Notice

In the interests of safety, patrons will not be allowed to enter the playing area after the games.



The policy to prohibit such encroachment in the future has been taken on the advice and promptings of the safety authorities, namely the Gardai, Dublin City Council, Fire Brigade and the HSE. The full co-operation of supporters is requested to avoid serious injury and to ensure that games can be enjoyed without resource to fencing or avoidable obstructions to seeing action from all vantage points. Together we can ensure that the Croke Park experience is both enjoyable and safe, particularly for the young and vulnerable.

### Smoking Policy

Croke Park now operates a No Smoking policy except in designated areas of the ground.



### Medical Assistance

First Aid Centres are located in the following areas:

Davin Stand/Cusack Stand Level 3:	Section 313
Hogan Stand Level 3:	Section 333
Cusack Stand Level 7:	Section 702
Davin/Cusack Stand Level 7:	Section 724
Dineen/Hill 16 Cusack Side:	Section A
Medical Centre:	Hogan Players Tunnel



### Lost Children

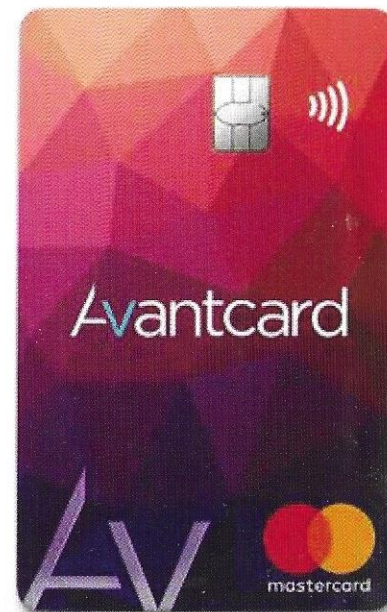
Lost children will be brought to the above First Aid Centres.



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## Best of luck to Leitrim GAA in the league final.

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# 'Real leader' Murphy hailed for final surge

DONEGAL

1-17

MEATH

1-15

Conor McKeon

ALL-IRELAND SENIOR 2: FINAL

CONSENSUS from the participating managers in Saturday night's Division 2 league final over the scale of Michael Murphy's influence on Donegal's two-point victory was unanimous.

"He's just a real leader," gushed Murphy's own manager Declan Bonner after a powerful exhibition of ball-winning, free-taking and play-making from Donegal's totem in Croke Park.

"He brings so much to the group in terms of that leadership quality, the experience and just the quality.

"I thought his second-half performance was outstanding."

Andy McEntee, meanwhile, came at the same subject from a slightly different angle.

"He was a huge factor," agreed the Meath manager. "He's a target man. He's very influential in a lot of areas." Asked to elaborate, McEntee didn't hesitate.

"He's just very influential all over the field. We get a guy who gets two yellow cards and I think the bould Michael gets booked and gets ticked on maybe three or four occasions?"

"Is that possible? Maybe I'm wrong. Maybe I'm exaggerating. But I doubt it."

It was the only gripe McEntee had about an evening of realisation for Meath that for all their undeniable

progress this spring the steps up are much steeper from here.

For the Royals, the trophy on offer on Saturday night felt less important than the need to measure themselves against a possible All-Ireland contender in Croke Park.

In what was an ultra-competitive Division 2, six wins, one defeat and – at long last – promotion, made an unqualified success of Meath's league campaign.

"But," as McEntee explained, "we needed to find out could we come to Croke Park and could we perform."

"In the end, we weren't strong enough to finish the game off."

After a fluid first half on Saturday night in which Meath thrived, Donegal struggled and Murphy just about broke even in his duel with Conor McGILL, the complexion changed beyond recognition in the second.

## Restrain

Into a stiff and direct wind, Donegal played only in spurts in the first half and required the addition of Neil McGee to restrain Mickey Newman.

Yet they hammered and chiselled at a five-point half-time deficit until Murphy put Jamie Brennan in for a brilliant goal in the 57th minute.

That was the first time Donegal led the match but the entire second half felt as though it was just a preamble to that inevitability.

Between them, Murphy, Brennan and the livewire 18-year-old Oisín Gallen scored 1-13 of Donegal's tally on Saturday night.

Brennan's goal – a sumptuous team move and an early contender for goal of the year – was his third in three



weeks. Similarly, it was the second time Gallen had contributed four points from play in just six days.

"He still has a lot of learning to do," Bonner stressed.

"But he's playing up front along with the likes of Michael and that's been great for him to be quite honest. Michael's influence all over the team has been very important."

If that wasn't cause enough for optimism about Donegal's attacking potential as summer looms, Paddy McBreeary took part in the warm-up, his first appearance as part of their match-day panel since rupturing his cruciate last June.

Meath led by eight points at one stage in the first half but scored just two points from play in the second. When it was put to McEntee that Meath now turn to face summer in a far healthier state of mind than this time last year, he replied: "I think

that's a fair understatement. There's no doubt.

"There's initial disappointment with not winning the game there today but I think we can take an awful lot from our performances in the league.

"And even from our performance today. It wasn't a no-show. Ultimately, in the end though, we weren't good enough."

## Variety

Mostly, they took a team with a greater depth and variety of attacking talent on man-for-man and paid the price.

"We're far from the finished article that's for sure," said Bonner of his own team after adding the Division 2 title to the Ulster crown he won in his first year as manager last summer.

"We still have a lot of work to do



# McGuigan lands knockout blows as Oak Leafs floor wasteful Leitrim

**DERRY** 0-20

**LEITRIM** 0-16

**Seán McGoldrick**  
ALLIANCE FL DIVISION 4 FINAL

LEITRIM came, saw, but failed to conquer favourites Derry in an entertaining Division 4 final at Croke Park on Saturday.

In only their fifth appearance at Croke Park, Leitrim ended the contest camped in the Derry half, but a ruinous streak of profligacy - which saw them kick nine first-half wides when aided by the breeze - ended their chance of winning a first ever game at headquarters.

"I do think the wides ultimately killed us," acknowledged Leitrim boss Terry Hyland. "We have statisticians and statistics, but the biggest statistic is the scoreboard and if you don't keep that right you can forget about the rest of them."

After a pedestrian start which saw them twice fall three points behind, Derry had Leitrim's number by half-time after holding them scoreless for 15 minutes, during which they scored six points to lead 0-10 to 0-7 at the break.

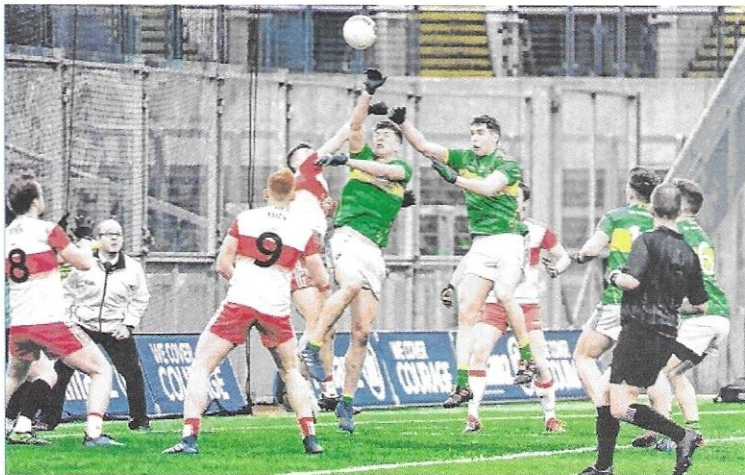
## Punishing

Man of the Match Shane McGuigan - who was the game's top scorer with a 0-6 tally - revealed that Derry had targeted turnovers as a means of punishing Leitrim, who committed a lot of defenders to their attack once they had possession.

"We knew if we could get them turned we would make hay, because there was a lot of space in the forward line and that worked well for boys like me," said McGuigan.

Two of Derry's second quarter points came directly from turnovers achieved deep inside their own half. This strategy, allied to exerting more pressure on Cathal McCrann's previously pinpoint accurate kick-outs, yielded a rich dividend.

"We lost four or five of our kick-outs just before half-time which handed them possession. We



Leitrim pair Pearce Dolan and Raymond Mulvey contest a dropping ball with Paul McNeill of Derry in the final minutes of their Division 4 final RAY MC MANUS/SPORTSFILE

probably got a bit, shall we say, lazy on the field. We didn't make the runs to create the openings. Cathal (McCrann) can only hit something that's moving and we stopped moving," said Hyland.

"Those things happen in games and that probably came down to a lack of experience and we corrected it in the second-half."

Derry boss Damian McErlan suggested this spell before half-time was when the game was decided.

"I suppose the most pleasing aspect of the performance was the fact that we settled our heads, started to control the game and hit seven points in a row to go in three points up," he said.

"That was the key part of the game for us. The clean sheet was huge, as well as scoring 20 points."

Seven different Derry players hit 16 points from play between them; while Leitrim had 10 different scorers, only Ryan O'Rourke and Evan Sweeney managed to score more than once.

A brilliant save from Cathal McCrann denied Emmet Bradley a Derry goal early in the second-half, but their ability to judge the breeze

and fire over long-range points stretched the Leitrim defence. By the 50th minute they were six points in front and cruising.

Leitrim hung in and had one goal chance which Derry full-back Brendan Rogers dealt with, but the fighting qualities they exhibited pleased Terry Hyland.

"It showed the character of the lads to keep at it. Previously they may not have done that, but this group have been pushing right to the end.

"We have turned over games at the end before. We had a couple of half-chances and might have got a goal which could have swung it back in our favour and we have to credit them for that."

Regardless of the result, the two teams had already achieved their spring target of securing promotion. However, with provincial championship games coming up against Tyrone and Roscommon respectively, there may not be too many more highlights in 2019.

"If we give ball away like that against Tyrone they will just score at the other end. We have loads to take out of the game, but we are by no means the finished article. Facing

Tyrone will absolutely sharpen the focus," suggested McErlan.

For Hyland the challenge of taking on a so-called weaker county was one he could not pass up.

"I once asked the question: 'What is anybody doing to help the so-called weaker counties?' So when someone asked me to help then I would be the coward had I backed down.

"Facing Roscommon doesn't intimidate us to be honest. We have to prepare properly and go out with the right frame of mind. So it doesn't matter who the opposition are. They are only wearing jerseys the same as everybody else," he declared.

**SCORERS:** Derry: S McGuigan 0-6 (ft. in), R Bell 0-4 (ft), E Lynn 0-3, C McKaigue, E Bradley 0-2 each, P Cassidy, C Bredley 0-2 (ft), N Toner 0-1 each. Leitrim: R O'Rourke 0-6 (ft), E Sweeney 0-2 (ft), M McVeeney, P Maguire, R Mulvey, M Plunkett, S Moran, D McGovern, D Flynn (ft), E Mulligan 0-1 each. **DERRY** - Mullon 8, K McKaigue 7, B Rogers 8, P McNeill 7, M McEvoy 7, C McKaigue 8, N Keenan 7, E Bradley 7, C McKeamey 7, P Cassidy 8, E Lynn 8, C Doherty 7, S McGuigan 9, R Bell 8, C Bradley 7. **Subs:** B Heron 7 for Lynn 50, N Toner 7 for Bell 50, J Recks 6 for Doherty 59, E McGill 6 for K McKaigue 6A, R Dougan 6 for Bradley 70+.

**LEITRIM** - C McCrann 7, A Flynn 6, M McVeeney 7, P Maguire 6, R Mulvey 7, S McKeamey 6, C Moran 6, E Plunkett 7, S Moran 7, C O'Quinn 6, R O'Rourke 7, D McGovern 6, D Flynn 6, E Mulligan 6, E Sweeney 7. **Subs:** P Dolan for McGoin 33, D Rooney for Mulligan 44, D Moran 5 for C Moran 50, C Reynolds 5 for A Flynn 61, J Heslin 5 for D Flynn 65m.

**REF** - B Cawley (Kildare)