



SLIGEACH vs DÚN NA NGALL

Sunday - 13 February, 2022 @ 2.00pm - Markievicz Park, Sligo.



Cumann Lúthchleas Gael | Allianz Hurling League | Division 2B

GAA

WHERE WE
ALL BELONG

Réiteóir;
Caymon Flynn (Iar Mhí)

WHERE YOUR
EDGE
BELONGS



Clar Oifigiuil - €3

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See www.sligogaa.ie/clubslogo for details.

CLÁR AN LAE

- 13.37** Sligo come on to the pitch
- 13.38** Donegal come on to the pitch
- 13.43** Referee and officials come on to the pitch
- 13.50** Toss of coin with referee and captains
- 13.57** Amhrán na bhFiann
- 14.00** Game starts
- 14.38** Half time
- 14.53** Second half starts
- 15.33** Game ends

TODAY'S OFFICIALS



Our referee today is Caymon Flynn who hails from the St Brigit's club in Co. Westmeath.

He is joined by Galway's Conor Quinlan who is standby referee and linesman Matthew Farrell from Roscommon.

The umpires today are Paul Reville, Richie Heffernan, David Clune and Jason Monaghan.

Credits: Produced and edited by Pdraig McKeon, PRO, Sligo County Board GAA.
Contributors: : John McEniff (PRO, Donegal County Board) Alanna Cunnane, Gerry McLaughlin
Photography: Eamonn McMunn, Geraldine Doherty, Donegal GAA, Darragh Cox
Front Cover Photographs feature Gerard O'Kelly Lynch (Sligo) and Gerry Gilmore (Donegal).
Design & Print - Office Pro 096 74900



The Sligo hurlers had the honour of winning the first ever intercounty game played under a roof when they completed a 1-32 to 1-23 victory over Leitrim in NUI Galway Air Dome at the Connacht GAA Centre of Excellence.

That victory qualified them for the final of the Connacht preseason hurling tournament where unfortunately they weren't able to match Roscommon in an exciting game that ended 2-27 to 1-21 in favour of the Rossies.



CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

Is mór an Áthais dom céad míle fáilte a chur romhaibh go dtí Pairc Markievicz tráthnóna seo le haghaidh an cluiche seo I Roinn 2B Sraith Náisiúnta Iomaint.

While the weather over the last two weekends hasn't been the best it hasn't dampened the enthusiasm of players and supporters alike for our National Leagues which have returned with full crowds (and no water breaks) and the usual excitement and drama. Last weekend saw Sligo's long unbeaten run in NHL competition unfortunately come to an end, while today's visitors Donegal notched an impressive win. Pdraig Mannion and his charges will doubtless be unsparing in their efforts to get back to winning ways in front of their home support.

I extend a warm welcome to the Donegal team, mentors, officials and supporters. I would also like to welcome referee Caymon Flynn and his officials to Sligo for today's game.

I would like to thank our sponsors, partners, Club Sligo members and clubs for their sustained dedication to Sligo GAA. Even through difficult times that support is a constant and it is greatly appreciated.

One disadvantage of the mainly positive "split season", is the additional demands placed on playing surfaces. Our volunteer committee here in Markievicz Park put in trojan work to ensure the pitch and surrounding facilities are in the best shape possible and I wish to acknowledge their work. This week we ratified our county board committees for 2022 and the amount of people who willingly give their time and effort on a voluntary basis is the association's greatest strength. I look forward to working with them all in 2022.

*Ar aghaidh linn le chéile,
Sean Ó Cearbhaill,
Cathaoirleach CLG Sligeach*



FINNIAN CAWLEY:

Brotherly comradery ingrained in Sligo's squad

By Alanna Cunnane

Captain Finnian Cawley can recite a host of perks that accompany donning the black and white, but above all his team's main goal *"is to leave Sligo hurling in a better place for the next generation."*

A vital part of the squad that achieved back-to-back promotions, the Easkey/St Farnans clubman attributes their success to the determination amongst the *"exceptional bunch of men"* he leads out and also the *"infectious personality"* of their manager Padraig Mannion.

"I personally, don't see myself as a captain. I see us as a team of captains and leaders. I'm just the lucky one who has been given the title", says Cawley.

"Padraig and his management team have come in and have done the business in fairness to them."

"The main thing for me though, is the environment that has been created in this group over the last few seasons. That's what I will remember him most for, supporting and helping us all when we needed it."

Fostered in the now 2B League outfit is a sense of brotherly comradery, in more ways than one. Playing on the same team as sibling Tommy is a memory that Cawley, *"will treasure the most."*



"I'm extremely proud of Tommy. He'll hate me for saying this, but I am!"

"As an older brother, all you want is for your younger brother to do his best and to be happy" he says.

"I've seen us both go from banging sliotars against the gable of our house, to playing alongside each other in a Sligo County jersey. Go from battling against each other in our back garden to battling with each other in Markievicz Park."

"These are things you only dream of as a brother and I'm so proud that we've made that a reality. It can't get much better for me," he added.

Running Derry close last week, the Yeats' County men now line up the challenge of a "strong and physical" Donegal, zeroing in on performance and hoping for a bumper crowd.

"We understand the challenge that's in front of us, but we're just focusing on putting in a performance over 70-75 minutes that we as a team, can be proud of. If we can do that, God knows where it will take us."

"There are brilliant people involved in Sligo hurling but there's also amazing supporters."

"Hopefully, we can put in a performance this weekend that will put a smile on our supporters' faces and do their support justice."





**SUPPORTING
LOCAL COMMUNITIES
EVERY STEP OF THE WAY**

SEAN REYNOLDS: Grassroots fundamental to the continued flourishing of Sligo hurling

By Alanna Cunnane



“Hurling in Sligo really is at a crossroads” says chairperson Sean Reynolds, who firmly aspires to continue to build underage and grassroots structures to fortify long term success.

Those elements “first and foremost” in the county board’s objectives, initiatives like Coiste na nÓg, Táin Óg and day to day leagues and championships are expected to bear fruit in the coming years.

“Growing and nurturing the talent that we have from underage and nursery ensures that we can have continued success down the line and right up into senior level” says Reynolds.

“It’s through the hard work and dedication of the coaches within the clubs that things are ever improving.”

“They are very passionate about hurling and are consistently growing the code throughout the county.”

Noting too that the sport “isn’t detrimental to football or vice versa” he encourages the “symbiotic relationship” of participating in the two at all levels, citing that there are “lots of transferable skills.”

As focus now turns to the Donegal clash in Markievicz Park, he is optimistic for the future of the “young and very ambitious senior squad” and hopes for a significant turnout in ambition of inspiring the next generation.

“We’ve plans to encourage younger hurling fans to come out on the day, bring their hurls and hopefully go for a puck around on the turf at Markievicz Park.”

“They can also enter in a draw for signed Sligo shirt for their favourite players as well. We need to make the most of our home advantage this weekend.”



In the first game of the League season, Sligo battled hard but ultimately came out on the wrong end of a three point defeat in the first round in Derry's Celtic Park last Saturday afternoon (Feb 5). It wasn't a day for refined hurling and while Sligo led by a point at half time, Derry made full use of the elements in the second half to claw out a three point win.





SLIGO TEAM VS. DERRY

Round 1, Div 2B Allianz Hurling League, 5 February, 2022

Back row (l-r) Mark Hanniffy, Gerard O'Kelly Lynch, Matt Davey,
Conor Hanniffy, Patrick Foley, Niall Kilcullen, Kevin Gilmartin, Ruairi Brennan.

Front row (l-r) Eoin Comerford, Finnian Cawley, Joe McHugh, Fionn Connolly,
Rory McHugh, Kevin O'Kennedy, Michael Munnely, Andy Kilcullen.





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- Invitation to meet and greet night in Centre of Excellence prior to the Football and Hurling Championships (Where guidelines allow)
- Bonus members draw for two All Ireland Football Final and two All Ireland Hurling Final tickets (Where guidelines allow)

TEN QUESTIONS FOR... KEVIN O'KENNEDY

- Coolaney and Mullinabreena

- Q What do you remember about your first intercounty game...
A It was Fermanagh in Kent Park and I started at centre forward.
- Q What has been your most memorable moment in hurling...
A Winning the Nicky Rackard
- Q If you had to pick a teammate to be a manager in the future, who would it be and why...
A Finnian Cawley, he is well able to talk the talk
- Q Who are the last five artists played on your Spotify...
A Dermot Kennedy, Sam Smith, Westlife, Ed Sheeran, Pa Sheehy
- Q What fictional TV series or film would you like to play a role in and why...
A Iron man, why not?
- Q Where in the world have you been where you'd like to revisit...
A Turkey
- Q If you could have a superpower what would it be...
A Predict the future
- Q What is your life hack...
A Planning out my days in a diary
- Q What piece of advice would you give to your 15 year old self now...
A Do whatever makes you happy
- Q Secret sporting ambition...
A Play in the top tiers of hurling before I retire



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FROM THE SIDELINE...

Sligo's manager, Padraig Mannion

The step up from Div 3A to Div 2B is a huge step for this young Sligo team according to team manager Padraig Mannion and last weekend's outing in Derry, was a case in point.

In wet conditions where retaining possession was critical, Sligo failed to take advantage of the elements in the first half. *"That hurt us big time. We conceded too easily and once they got ahead Derry were able to use their strength to keep that bit ahead all the time"*

"Teams in this Division are probably a few years ahead of us in the strength and conditioning stakes. Tactically though we will hold our own, so we are going in with the attitude that we're good enough to beat any team in the division.

Mannion felt that Derry was a good touchpoint for the standard Sligo needs to get to. *"We played them last year in the Christy Ring and it really showed us the difference compared to what we had*

been doing. Again last week, in a very different setting we learnt more and while things didn't go our way on the scoreboard at the end, I was still happy with the way that team played through until the end"

Noting that his team has a good preseason behind it and has developed a good game plan that plays to its strengths, the Galway native concluded *"we are taking it one game at a time. Donegal will present a different challenge. They had a big win last week and that builds confidence. It's important that our lads handle that and that we build our own game. I'm confident that we will pick up points in the division and today in front of our own supporters would be a great time to start"*



County Colours:
Dubh & Bán

SLIGEACH

National Hurling



1

Matt Davey
Matiú Mac Daibhí
Naomh Eoin

2

Niall Kilcullen
Neil Mac Giolla Chulainn
Iascaigh

3

Mark Hanniffy
Marcus Ó hAinbith
Óran Mór-Meáráí

4

Kevin O'Kennedy
Caoimhín Ó Cinnéide
Tobar an Choire

5

Gavin Connolly
Gabhán Ó Conghaile
Naomh Fearnain

6

Rory McHugh
Ruairí Mac Aodha
Iascaigh

7

Fionn Connolly
Fionn Ó Conghaile
Naomh Fearnain

8

Finnian Cawley ©
Fionn Mac Amhlaigh
Naomh Fearnain

9

Patrick Foley
Padraig O'Foley
Droichead an Chláirín

10

Michael Munnelly
Micheál Ó Maonghaile
Naomh Eoin

11

Gerard O'Kelly-Lynch
Gearoid Ó Ceallaigh-Loinsigh
Naomh Eoin

12

Conor Hanniffy
Conchubhair Ó hAinbith
Óran Mór-Meáráí

13

Joe McHugh
Seosamh Mac Aodha
Iascaigh

14

Andy Kilcullen
Aindrias Mac Giolla Chulainn
Iascaigh

15

Kevin Gilmartin
Caomhín Mac Giolla Mháirtín
Calraigh Naomh Iosaf

- 16 Jimmy Gordon
Iascaigh
- 17 Ronan Molloy
Naomh Fearnain
- 18 Daniel Rolston
Iascaigh
- 19 Darragh Cawley
Naomh Eoin
- 20 Eoghan Rua McGowan
Iascaigh
- 21 Ronan Redmond
Cúil Irra Leathros

- 22 Eoin Comerford
Cúil Irra Leathros
- 23 Tomás Cawley
Naomh Fearnain
- 24 Tony O'Kelly Lynch
Naomh Eoin
- 25 Ruairi Brennan
Tourlestraine
- 26 Kieran Prior
Naomh Eoin

Bainisteoir	Padraig Mannion
Coach/Selector	Donal Tully Fearghal Flannery
Doctor	Dr Matt O'Mahoney
Physio	Lee Sherlock

WHERE YOUR
EDGE
BELONGS



1

Luke White
Lúcas Ó Banáin
Carndonagh

2

Gavin Browne
Gabhan O Broinn
Sean Mac Cumhaills

3

Stephen Gillespie
Stíopháin Mac Giolla Easpaig
An Bheart

4

Padraig Doherty
Pauric O Dochartaigh
Carndonagh

5

Conor OGrady
Conchúr Ó Gráda
Naomh Adhamhnáin

6

Michael Donaghue
Mícheál Ó Donnchú
Setanta

7

Sean McVeigh
Sean Mac an Bheatha
Naomh Adhamhnáin

8

Declan Coulter
Déaglán Ó Coltair
Setanta

9

Danny Cullen
Donail O Cuilin
Setanta

10

Bernard Lafferty
Bearnard Ó Laifeartaigh
Setanta

11

Gerry Gilmore
Gearard Mac Giolla Mhuir
Setanta

12

Ronan McDermott ©
Ronan MacDiarmada
An Bheart

13

Josh Cronolly McGhee
Sean Ó Crónaile
Setanta

14

Ritchie Ryan
Risteard Ó Riain
An Clochán Liath

15

Davin Flynn
Daimhín Ó Floinn
Setanta

- 16 PJ Browne
Sean Mac Cumhaills
- 17 Brian Mc Intyre
Naomh Adhamhnáin
- 18 Conor Gartland
An Bheart
- 19 Mark Callaghan
Setanta
- 20 Jack O Loughlin
Bun Cranncha
- 21 Daire O Maoileidigh
Naomh Adhamhnáin

- 22 Cathal Doherty
Carndonagh
- 23 Ciaran Bradley
An Bheart
- 24 Niall Cleary
Setanta
- 25 Dean Harvey
Setanta
- 26 Ryan Hilferty
Naomh Adhamhnáin

Bainisteoir	Mickey Mc Cann
Coach/Selector	Gabriel O Kane
S & C	Shane Sweeney
Physio	Colum O Neill Frank Fogarty



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FROM THE OTHER SIDELINE...

Sligo Donegal “a real leveller” in the division

By Alanna Cunnane

A vengeful Donegal are on a mission this year, keen to “rectify” last season’s Nicky Rackard semifinal loss to Tyrone, according to manager Michael McCann.



While last week’s opener, a 3-16 to 0-08 win against London, leaves them standing in good stead in Division 2B, he still believes “it wasn’t a polished performance” and there is room for improvement in his side ahead of this weekend’s “leveller.”

Dubbed a “50/50 game”, McCann envisages that every point will prove crucial given it is a “really tight division” and the men in black and white have really “upped the ante” in recent years.

“Sligo are a young, fit team, that works very hard and they use the ball well” says McCann, who has been in charge since 2018.

“I watched them against Derry last week and they were well in the game. They are tidy hurlers in defence and attack and

use the ball very well. They gave away a soft goal but they are impressive.

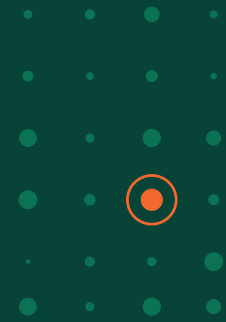
I think it will go down the stretch and whoever makes the least number of mistakes will come out on top because both teams are very hungry for it.”

Although home advantage is a real factor in his opinion, he is optimistic to come away with from Markievicz Park with two points in a game he believes will have a “real competitive edge.”

“There’s a good standard of hurling in this league and if a few more from Donegal and Sligo came out to see they’d realise that there’s a good game of hurling on,” he adds.

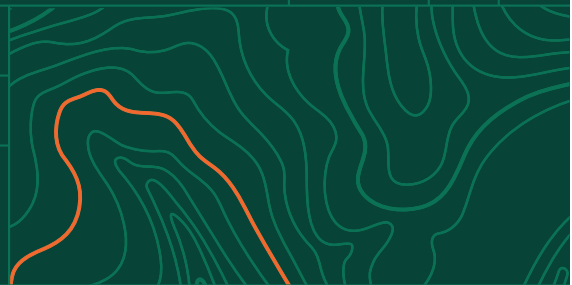
“It’s high intensity and it means a lot to both teams so it should make for an interesting matchup.”





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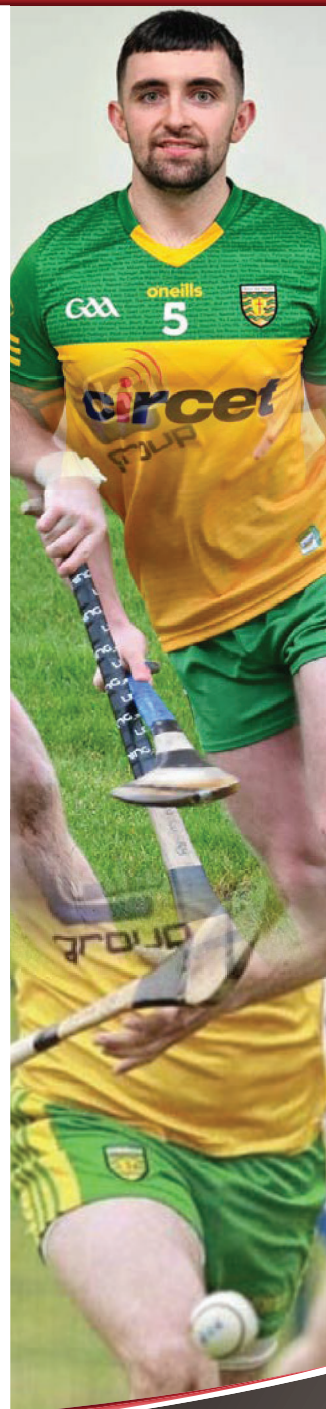
For more information,
visit agrinewal.com



TEN QUESTIONS FOR... CONOR O'GRADY

- Naomh Adhamhnáin

- Q What do you remember about your first intercounty game...
- A **Getting a trimming from Meath**
- Q What has been your most memorable moment in hurling...
- A **Richie Ryan missing a 21 yard free**
- Q If you had to pick a teammate to be a manager in the future, who would it be and why...
- A **BMAC, already has his name in for the Eunans job.**
- Q Who are the last five artists played on your Spotify...
- A **George Ezra, Kanya, Baccara, Picture this, MK**
- Q What fictional TV series or film would you like to play a role in and why...
- A **Good Will Hunting- Serious show**
- Q Where in the world have you been where you'd like to revisit...
- A **Killygordon, serious pitch surface**
- Q If you could have a superpower what would it be...
- A **Stop time**
- Q What is your life hack...
- A **2 pairs of trousers when on the bench**
- Q What piece of advice would you give to your 15 year old self now...
- A **The trainings worth putting on the county jersey**
- Q Secret sporting ambition...
- A **To score against Luke White**



TOP 5 IRISH UNIVERSITY 2020



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**“ I DIDN'T APPRECIATE HOW BRILLIANT
IT SLIGO WAS BEFORE I STARTED &
THE ENDLESS OPPORTUNITIES THAT
WOULD BE OPEN TO ME ”**

Sean Carrabine

BEng (Hons) Mechanical Engineering & Sports Scholar

Sinead Naughton

BSc (Hons) Public Health and Health Promotion

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DONEGAL IN ACTION -
against London in Round One - 6 February





CONTINUING SUCCESS - back to back silverware four years on the trot!

2021 was a big year for Sligo hurling. Having won the Lory Meagher and Nicky Rickard Cups in 2018 and 2019, and been promoted from Division 3B to 3A in 2020, the challenge of maintaining progress last year was a tall order for a young and emerging team.

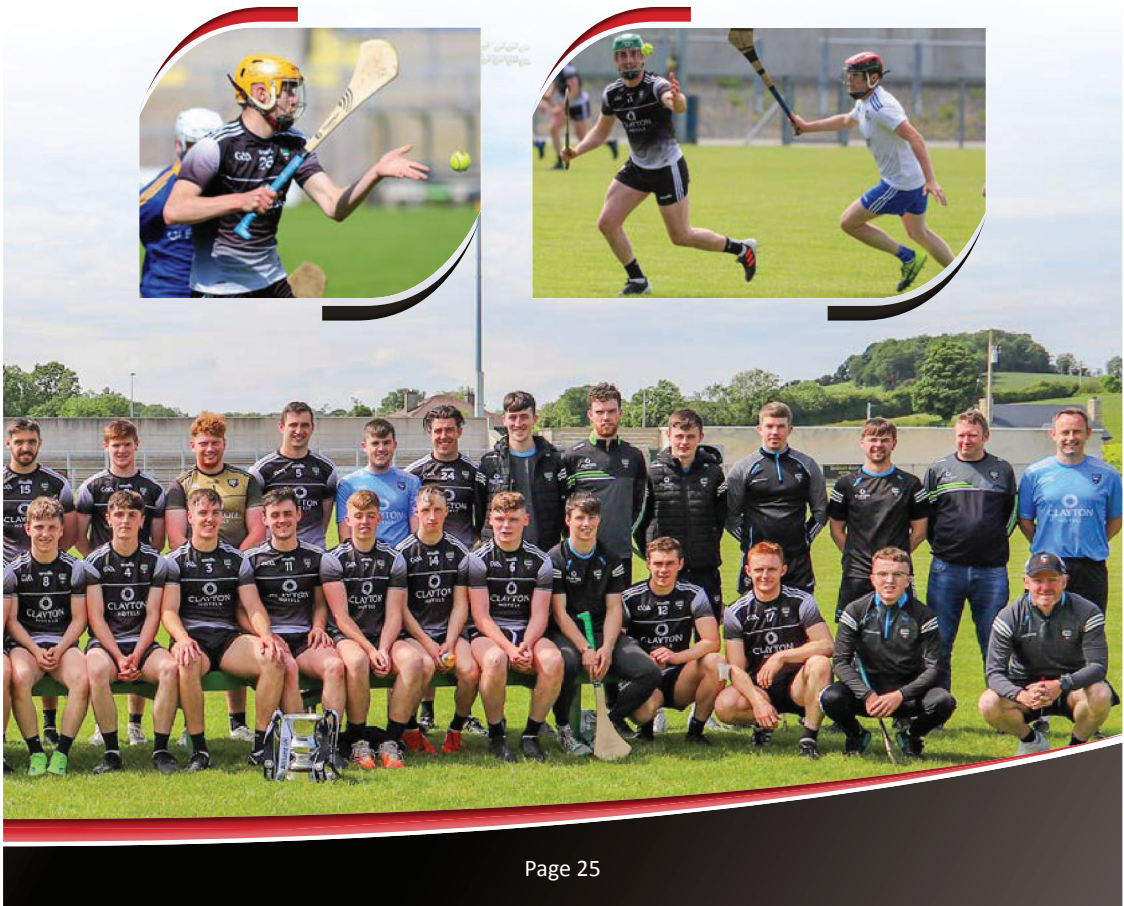
This is no ordinary group through and over the course of a shortened league campaign they dominated Division 3A from the off, with wins over Armagh and Longford setting them up with the opportunity to get promoted with a game to spare.





They did that in style with a 1-18 to 0-14 win against Tyrone in Omagh's Healy Park and then completed the league season unbeaten a week later against Monaghan in Iniskeen.

The weather for league 2020 was very different to what we are seeing in early 2022, but we'll take the same outcome.



NOTE FOR THE DIARY

The annual Kellogg's GAA Cúl Camps this year will run over six weeks from June 27 to August 12

With every club in Sligo now participating, it truly is 'access for all' offering boys and girls – between the ages of 6 and 13 – an action-packed and fun-filled week of activity revolving around Gaelic Games.

Activities are player-centred and organised in an age-appropriate manner with a strong emphasis on personal development and well-being.

- The camps are structured so that a different aspect of the game is worked on each day.
- The programme involves coaching specific skills providing children with the opportunity to put what they have learned through small sided games into practice
- During the camp week, a “blitz” is organised to provide each child with an introduction to competitive games.

Booking will open shortly so make a note of the Cúl camp location nearest you and mark it off in the diary.



St Michaels	1	June 27 th - July 1 st
Ballymote	1	June 27 th - July 1 st
Drumcliffe/ rosses point	1	June 27 th - July 1 st
Easkey	2	July 4 th - July 8 th
Coolera/ Strandhill	2	July 4 th - July 8 th
Geevagh	2	July 4 th - July 8 th
Tubbercurry	2	July 4 th - July 8 th
Tourlestrane	3	July 11 th - July 15 th
St Johns	3	July 11 th - July 15 th
Eastern Harps	3	July 11 th - July 15 th
Calry/ St Josephs	3	July 11 th - July 15 th
Castleconner	4	July 18 th - July 22 nd
St Pats	4	July 18 th - July 22 nd
St Marys	4	July 18 th - July 22 nd
Bunninadden	4	July 18 th - July 22 nd
Shamrock Gaels	4	July 18 th - July 22 nd
St Molaise gaels	5	July 25 th - July 29 th
Curry	5	July 25 th - July 29 th
Enniscrone/ Kilglass	5	July 25 th - July 29 th
Coolaney/ Mullinabreena	5	July 25 th - July 29 th
Cloonacool	6	Aug 8 th - Aug 12 th
St Farnans	6	Aug 8 th - Aug 12 th
Scarden	6	Aug 8 th - Aug 12 th
Owenmore Gaels	6	Aug 8 th - Aug 12 th



SLIGO GAA COACHING WORKSHOP SERIES 2022

Sligo GAA is running a series of workshops throughout the months of February and March focussing on different elements involved in coaching Gaelic Football and Hurling. We are providing a package offer for anyone interested:

€50 euro to avail of all workshops included or €15 euro per workshop



MONDAY FEBRUARY 21ST
AT 7PM
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EXCELLENCE

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NALLY**

CURRENT COACH WITH
MEATH SENIOR
FOOTBALLERS
'DEVELOPING SKILLFUL
PLAYERS AND EMPOWERING
PLAYER INVOLVEMENT IN
SESSIONS'



SATURDAY FEBRUARY 26TH
AT 11AM
SLIGO GAA CENTRE OF
EXCELLENCE

**CONLETH
GILLIGAN**

FORMER DERRY
PLAYER AND CURRENT
COACH OF KILCOO GAA
CLUB IN CO.DOWN
'ATTACKING PLAY -
CREATING SPACE AND
IMPROVING SCORE TAKING'



MONDAY MARCH 7TH
AT 7PM
SLIGO GAA CENTRE OF
EXCELLENCE

**LEO
TIERNEY**

CURRENT ROSCOMMON
GOALKEEPING COACH
'HELPING TO INCLUDE
GOALKEEPERS IN SESSIONS
AND IMPROVING THEM
TECHNICALLY'



SATURDAY MARCH 19TH
AT 11AM
SLIGO GAA CENTRE OF
EXCELLENCE

**DEREK
MC GRATH**

FORMER WATERFORD
HURLING MANAGER.
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DOWN AND COACHING A
GAMEPLAN

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“You can’t beat playing, but when you see the kids you used to train playing in Croke Park it makes it all worth it.”

By Alanna Cunnane

Henry Cox has done it all in the hurling sphere.

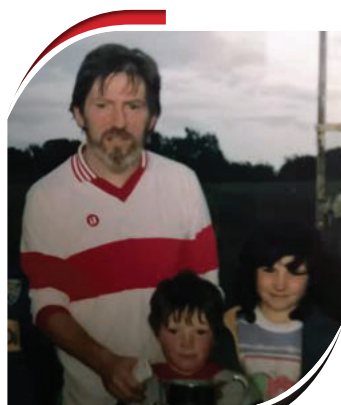
A native of Ballymurray in South Roscommon, his is a family steeped in its contribution to the GAA – his father before him secretary of the Roscommon Co Board, his own children deeply involved today at club and county level,

He first donned the saffron and gold in 1966 where as a 14 year old he graced Croke Park for his county’s U-16 team.

His was the winning point in an All Ireland minor hurling final in 1969 and he had a second All Ireland medal to cherish, in the junior grade, before his 21st birthday.

Having played for Roscommon at intercounty level for two decades he switched his loyalties to the home of his young family and went on to star with Sligo for a further decade, winning a National League Division 4 medal in 1989

As a player initially his loyalties were with Croabh Rua, and with Coolera-Strandhill in football, but simultaneously he started to work with what is now the



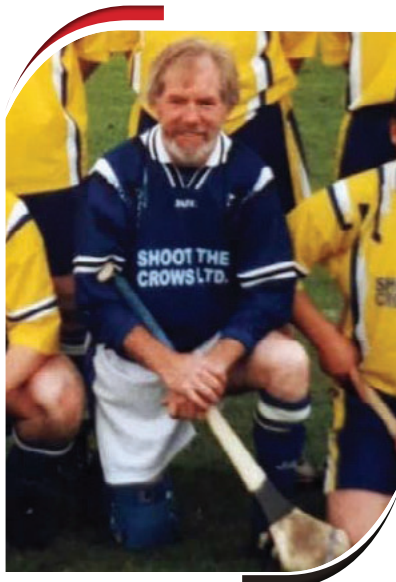
Calry St Josephs club on initiating a hurling club, at underage level.

Although he wasn't sure as to what the outcome would be at the time, the results were to influence the future of hurling in the county.

"I didn't think it would survive to be honest with you because there were so few teams in Sligo at the time, but we gave it a month and it did anyways" he says.

"There was never a hurling club in Calry before and it just took off."

Hanging up his boots aged 50, he found some alternatives to fill the hurling sized gap in his life. With



sons Darragh and Ronan following in his footsteps, he now revels in the fact that "Sligo's well known around the country now as a county that plays hurling."

"You can't beat playing but it's great to watch the young guys that you started off training in the U8s and U10s and all the way up. Seeing them playing seniors and in Croke Park, it makes it all worth it" says Cox.

"There are so many clubs and people playing hurling now and the skill level is something else too. People realise that Sligo can have good hurling teams and I'm proud of it. Of course, I'm proud of it, yeah."

NATIONAL HURLING LEAGUE - DIVISION 2B UPDATE

ROUND 1 RESULTS

Derry	2-14	Sligo	1-14
Donegal	3-16	London	0-8
Mayo	2-15	Wicklow	2-15

TABLE TO DATE

Pos	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Dif	Pts
1	Donegal	1	1	0	0	25	8	17	2
2	Derry	1	1	0	0	20	17	3	2
3	Mayo	1	0	1	0	21	21	0	1
4	Wicklow	1	0	1	0	21	21	0	1
5	Sligo	1	0	0	1	17	20	-3	0
6	London	1	0	0	1	8	25	-17	0

ROUND TWO - TODAY'S GAMES

London v Mayo, McGovern Park Ruislip

Sligo v Donegal, Markievicz Park

Wicklow v Derry, Aughrim



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