

**Coiste Chontae Liatroma
Craobh Sinsear
Liatroma Cluiche Ceannais 2024
Páirc Seán Uí hEislin
6ú Deireadh Fómhair 2024**

CONNACHT GOLD LEITRIM SENIOR FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL

**SEÁN Ó HEISLIN - BÉAL an ÁTHA MÓIR
v
MAOTHAIL**



Réiteoir: Enda Egan Fenagh St. Caillins

Standby Referee: Mark Mc Closkey

Linesman: Martin Feeney

4th Official: Seamus Mulhern



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Leitrim GAA Senior Football Team

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The Gallagher Group wish all Leitrim teams
every success in the coming season



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Coiste Chontae Liatroma

Craobh Sinsear Liatroma Cluiche Ceannais 2024

6ú Deireadh Fómhair 2024

Clár an Lae

13:30	Kiltubrid Pipe Band amach ar an bpáirc
13:38	Foireann Maothail amach ar an bpáirc (Team photograph)
13:40	Foireann Seán Ó hEislin-Béal an Átha Móir amach ar an bpáirc (Team photograph)
13:48	Toss for choice of ends
13:52	Paráid na bhFóirne
13:58	Amhrán na bhFiann
14:00	Connacht Gold Senior Football Championship Final 2024 commences
14:31*	Half-Time Interval
14:32*	Sheemore Gaels Team Leitrim Senior Football Champions 1974 introductions on pitch
14:46*	Second-half commences
16:16*	Connacht Gold SFC Final 2025 concludes
15:25*	Presentation of Man of the Match award by Gabriel Cronin Cronin Dental Laboratories (TG4 – far side of field) Presentation of Fenagh Cup to the winning captain by Cathaoirleach Coiste Chontae Liatroma Éanna Mac Stibhín (In stand above the Central Tunnel)

*Subject to any additional time added on.

*If the game ends level at full time it will be replayed
on Saturday, October 12th Time TBC)*

Amhrán na bhFiann
Sinne Fianna Fáil, atá faoi gheall ag Éirinn,
Buíon dár slua thar toinn do ráinig chugainn,
Faoi mhóid bheith saor,
Seantír ár sinsear feasta,
Ní fhágfar faoin tíorán ná faoin tráill.
Anocht a théam sa bhearna bhaoil,
Le gean ar Ghaeil, chun báis nó saoil,
Le gunna-scréach faoi lámhach na bpiléar,
Seo libh canaig' amhrán na bhFiann.

Fáilte ón gCathaoirleach

I dtús baire ba mhaith liom fáilte á chroí a chur romhaibh go leir go Páirc Sheáin Ó hEslin, Béal an Atha Mhóir an deireadh seachtaine seo le haghaidh ár cluiche ceannais I gcroabh sinsear don bhliain dhá mhíle is fiche ceathair.



I am delighted and it is my privilege as Chairperson of Leitrim GAA to welcome each and every one of you to Páirc Séan O Heslin, Béal an Atha Mhóir for the Leitrim Senior Football Final 2024.

This is a repeat of the epic encounter of 2022 between Mohill and Ballinamore and I wish the players of both teams the very best of good luck as they strive manfully and sportingly to bring the Fenagh cup back to their respective towns.

I also want to wish good luck to our referee Enda Egan and his team of officials today and again I appeal to the teams' management, all the players and in particular you the supporters to please give our officials the respect they deserve.

Today is a very proud day for our host club Ballinamore Sean O Heslins, and I know you will all join with me in congratulating the club on this magnificent facility you see here in front of you. We thank the Ballinamore club for allowing us to play the concluding stages of our championships here in Ballinamore. Well done club Sean O Heslins, thank you to the club officers the excellent stewards and to everyone here who has helped us with the smooth running of our championship games while Parc Sean Mac Diarmada remains closed for renovations.

Thanks to all our media outlets the Leitrim Observer, Ocean FM and Shannonside radio for their wonderful coverage and promotion of our national games here in Leitrim. I wish to welcome and thank TG4 for again bringing our county senior final live into homes right across Ireland and beyond. Leitrim GAA greatly appreciates this.

As my 5 years as chairperson of Leitrim GAA comes to a close, it is with sadness but huge pride that I step away. Thanks a million first of all to my family, to you the great Leitrim supporters, to the players who as amateurs give us wonderful enjoyment, my fellow officers in Leitrim County Board and indeed club officers right across the county and all those who never get a mention but work day in day out refereeing matches, doing the line, the umpires, raising finances, getting pitches ready, standing on gates & making tea etc.

It was a huge honour for me to be your chairperson and I can only hope that I have done the position justice. I sincerely hope that you enjoy your day in Ballinamore and that you leave for home with a smile on your face and say a quiet prayer and thank God for the people who maintained and passed on our national game the GAA, long may it survive and flourish.

Comhghairdeas leis na foirne go leir anseo agus tá súil agam go mbainfidh sibh taitneamh as an ocaid seo inniú.

*Eanna MacStibhin
Cathaoirleach Coiste Contae Liatroma*

Focal ón Oifigeach Caidreamh Poiblí

Bairbre Ni Lochlainn Broinn



Is onóir mór dom an Clár Oifigiúil a chur le chéile daoibhse mar Oifigeach Caidreamh Poiblí CLG Liatroma. Tá súil agam go mbainfidh gach duine taitneamh as an óscaid seo.

Firstly I would like to welcome you all here today to Páirc Seáin Uí hEislin, Ballinamore. Once again we have reached the highlight of our year, County final Day. Special congratulations to Mohill and Ballinamore Seán O'Heslins on reaching the Connacht Gold Senior Football Championship final 2024. Full credit must go to CCC Liatroma for getting us to this day in such a timely manner. I want to welcome the players, management and supporters of the two teams. No matter the results, enjoy the occasion.

We extend a warm welcome to TG4 who are broadcasting our final live today. It gives me great pleasure to welcome Sheamore Gaels 1974 Championship team who are being honoured here today.

Once again the Live Streaming of our games has been a huge success, broadcasting to our ever loyal and valued patrons at home and abroad. I wish to thank our great team of Brian Blake, John Lynch and his co-commentator Martin Mc Gowan, James Molloy and Brendan Doyle for their behind the scenes work and especially Martin Costello of AV Tech who does an extraordinary job of every production.

Thanks as always to our local media - Ocean Fm and Shannonside Northern Sound and their reporters, The Leitrim Observer's John Connolly and its correspondents and photographers and to Breifne Earley of Leitrim Daily/Final Whistle for also giving us coverage. Special thanks to John Connolly, Tommy Moran, and Eamonn Duignan for their wonderful articles for this production, to the club secretaries for their timely assistance in collating and getting all their information to me. Thanks to Sean O Suilleabhain and Declan Bohan for all their help. Special mention also to all our sponsors and advertisers for your continued support

As this is my final year as county PRO I would like to record my gratitude to all those Gaels throughout the county who have made me feel welcome at the various events I attended over the past five years both here and abroad. Your support and the courtesy shown made my task all the easier. Mile buíochas daoibh go leir.

Lastly my sincere thanks as always to James Molloy for his invaluable help in producing this programme and to DPS for their usual excellent production.

Bairbre Ni Lochlainn Broinn



On duty with the Live Streaming crew – Brian Blake (insert), Martin Costello, John Lynch and Martin McGowan

Leitrim Senior County Final

Man of the Match Recipients 1990 - 2023

Year	Player	Club
2023	Ronan Kennedy	Mohill
2022	Paul Keaney	St Mary's Kiltoghert
2021	Wayne Mc Keon	Ballinamore Sean O Heslins
2020	Keith Beirne	Mohill
2019	Conor Dolan	Glencar Manorhamilton
2018	Gary Plunket	Aughawillan
2017	Keth Beirne	Mohill
2016	Pearce Dolan	Aughawillan
2015	Darren Mc Loughlin	Mohill (drawn game against Glencar Manorhamilton)
2015	Ronan Gallagher	Mohill (replay)
2014	Gary Plunket	Aughawillan
2013	Clement Cuniffe	St Mary's Kiltoghert
2012	Paul Brennan	Melvin Gaels
2011	Gerry Hickey	Glencar Manorhamilton
2010	Paddy Maguire	Glencar Manorhamilton
2009	Paddy Maguire	Glencar Manorhamilton
2008	Shane Loughlin	Glencar Manorhamilton
2007	James Glancy	St Mary's Kiltoghert
2006	Shane Canning	Mohill
2005	James Gill	Kiltubrid
2004	David Mc Hugh	Annaduff
2003	James Mc Gowan	St Mary's Kiltoghert
2002	Donnacha Lynch	Allen Gaels
2001	Kevin Nolan	Allen Gaels
2000	Padraig Mc Loughlin	Aughavas
1999	Kieran Fox	Glencar Manorhamilton
1998	Joe Tiffoney	Melvin Gaels
1997	Noel Moran	Allen Gaels
1996	Dermot Reynolds	St Mary's Kiltoghert (drawn game)
1995	Gene Bohan	St Mary's Kiltoghert
1994	Aidan Mc Keon	Allen Gaels (versus winners Aughawillan)
1993	Declan Darcy	Aughawillan (drawn game against St Mary's Kiltoghert)
1992	Declan Darcy	Aughawillan (replay)
1991	John Owens	Allen Gaels
1990	Mickey Quinn	Aughawillan (versus winners Ballinamore Sean O'Heslins)



Ronan Kennedy is congratulated on his 2023 Man of the Match award by the award sponsor Gabriel Cronin, Crronin Dental Laboratories Drumshanbo



Match Officials for today's final

Referee – Enda Egan (Fenagh St Caillín's)

Enda Egan is from the Fenagh St Caillins GAA Club and this is his first time in charge of the county's blue ribbon event. He officiated at his second intermediate final last year and has been refereeing for 11 years. Over his refereeing career he has taken charge of games at all levels in Ladies and Mens football including several underage finals. He is also the man in the middle at hurling matches. Outside the county he has refereed and assisted at Connacht underage games.

He has played football at all grades for his club Fenagh St Caillins winning titles at Underage, Senior B and Senior League and has represented Leitrim at Under 16 and Minor. He is a keen handballer with Connacht medals among his collection.

Enda is carrying on the family tradition – his late father Pat RIP, who left us all far too soon, was a distinguished referee and in his time was in charge of four senior county finals. He would indeed be a proud man today to witness his son follow suit.

Enda has one son, Caiden who is 14 years old.

His umpires today are **Ciaran Crinnigan, Damien Mc Govern, Kevin Lee and Niall Butler.**



Standby Referee: **Mark Mc Closkey**

Linesman: **Martin Feeney**

4th Official: **Seamus Mulhern**



Past might point the way to the future

John Connolly



Interesting the way things change with the years but last night (Saturday October 5), the gael of Fenagh, Kiltubrid and St Mary's celebrated the 50th anniversary of Sheemore Gaels winning the Leitrim Senior Football Championship, to date the only amalgamation in the long history of Leitrim GAA to lift the Fenagh Cup.

It wasn't universally popular - I started with the Observer in 1990 but I even heard the jibe 'From Sliabh an Iarainn to the Shannon'. The experiment lasted just two short years and no amalgamations in the Senior championship have been allowed since.

But I'm wondering if the topic might soon return to the table as the Leitrim SFC has entered the era of the Town teams. Town teams have always done well but since Sheemore Gaels' win in 1974, the tide had swung towards the towns.

For the purpose of this article, I've put Melvin Gaels (Kinlough) and Carrigallen in with the towns with Annaduff still rural but straggling the divide thanks to a growing population base in Dromod and Drumsna. All of what we term towns have rural catchment areas but crucially, towns, by their nature, have significant advantages in terms of playing numbers.

The 10 years after Sheemore Gaels' win, the Fenagh Cup was split evenly, five apiece, between the Town and Rural teams. Even the runners-up spot was split five apiece but in the 20 years from 1985 to 2004, there was a shift - 12 Town teams won with nine as runners-up while eight titles went to rural clubs with 11 runners-up spots.

But over the last 20 years, including 2024, there has been a landslide in favour of the Town teams. Allen Gaels, Glencar Manorhamilton, Mohill and St Mary's have all become super-powers as the Town teams have claimed 16 of 20 titles. Even the teams contesting the Final have gone one-sided with just four wins and three runners-up for the rural clubs, 17 'town' teams appearing in Finals.

Take Aughawillan out of the mix with 11 Senior titles in the past 50 years and the swing towards the town teams in the one of the most rural counties in Ireland has been astonishing and population trends suggest that is only going to accelerate over the next 20 years.

That's a lot of figures to absorb and statistics can often be twisted to suit agendas but the trend is striking all the same. It is why the Senior Championship will be contested by eight teams next year and some wondering if we need to go a bit further.

Amalgamations are a touchy subject and the identity of a club, so woven up in their community, is something that must be preserved as an imperative. But the idea of a rural club appearing in a County Senior Final may soon become a pipe dream and that's tough on future generations of footballers.

I've taken in a few games in this year's Junior Championship and I'd find the notion of a senior team that combined the best footballers of Eslin, Glenfarne Kiltyclogher, Cloone and Bornacoola quite intriguing. Logistics are a problem but they shouldn't stand in the way of something worth trying - it worked for Sheemore Gaels in 1974, who's to say it won't work in the future?

John Connolly is the Sports Editor of the Leitrim Observer

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We will be launching the New 2025 Jersey & Leisure Range on the 1st of November both online & in various retail outlets,

For More information visit www.gaelicarmour.com



Coolebawn and Ceannabo

Tommy Moran

Packie McGarty is in the news again. His name, revered for decades, will be called down around Mohill, to add an impetus to their efforts to claim another Leitrim Senior title. Packie was one of the very best, not only in his native club, but throughout the land, and his name pops up anywhere Leitrim emigrants gather to discuss the GAA greats. “*Remembe Packie*” could be the war cry for the green and white as they gather to head for Ballinamore. It won’t be the first time the sides have met in a final, the first one was back in 1890 and played in Dooloughan, Keshcarrigan, with Michael Murphy of Fenagh as referee. It wasn’t a high scoring encounter, Mohill managed 2-2, Ballinamore just a point, long before the days of massed defences, sweepers and men behind the ball. Mohill must have played ‘keep ball’ in the second half to ‘wind down the clock’, as many highly trained teams do at present, some to their cost!



Not even the seemingly eternal Dessie Foley was around then, but he will be around today, leading the Kiltubrid Pipe Band in the pre-match parade, a band that has had a fair sprinkling of GAA personalities, including PJ Meehan, over the years. The current panel of players will leave **Lough Rynn Castle Hotel**, their sponsors, and the town first, to be followed by a virtual army of supporters, led by Sean Bula McCrann and Ciaran Kelly, to the bodhran beat of Declan Moran, clad in green and white from head to toe and roaring like Geronimo at the Battle Little of Big Horn. Geronimo lost, but Declan expects his braves to win, to win it for Packie and Eddie Rowley and John ‘Poocher’ Gordon and Anthony Canning and Matt Gaffey and Michael McGuinness and Des Keegan and Eamonn Duignan and Frankie Keegan and George Dugdale and everyone mentioned in the *Fag an Bealach* book.

Out they go, out the one- way street, horns beeping at ‘Topline’ for Jordan Reynolds, in the hope he could rattle the net later. Then on to the Selton Memorial, where heroes of a different era made the ultimate sacrifice; and then a cacophony of sound to annoy the Flynns and the Dwyers of Gorvagh, who wore and supported the red and black in the semi-final two weeks ago. Further on past the skeleton of the Ivy Leaf, formerly Fenaghville, where men and women danced and courted the night away and on to ‘*Fenagh town and its ancient abbey walls, where the preaching of her holy monks once echoed through her halls*’ (a bit different from the shenanagins that went on in the halls of Fenaghville or the Ivy Leaf years later). Anyway, St Caillin and his monks would never have stood the two o’clock dances and them getting up at four or five for morning prayers. Sometime soon Caillin will have to use his influence to help Fenagh to a county senior title that has evaded them for years.

On to Edentenny, where the Fannings, Farrellys, McWeeneys, Galloglys, Quinns, Duignans, McGraths, Mulveys, Reynolds, O’Connors, McHughs, Murrays and the Beirne brothers so often had the bonfires blazing, to welcome the home side after victories in Pairc Sean. It will be all green and gold from here on, flags and banners and posters, except at Noreen Crossan McGowans, where Brendan has erected a green and white flag on the chimney to annoy her; but all the rest, from there on past Ardrum (Costello’s)

Rock, the scene of many a footballing battle, to the Island Theatre and the bridge over the Basin, will remind the Mohills that they are entering enemy territory.

The tributaries of Kiltymooden, Chapel Lane and Church Lane will bleed into Main Street, where Tom Gannon, captain of the 1927 team lived and just across the street, McGirl's, where so many teams togged out on the loft and marched from there to the park, led by the Drumreilly Band playing Number 9, the tune they always kept for the town. The long march was the players 'warm up', with no need for cones or markers or bibs and where nobody got injured, as happens often nowadays. At the Courthouse they will be entering Ceannabo, a name that long ago, struck terror into many a heart and on to O'Brien's, where Spike McCormack will shortly be inscribing the medals for the championship winners. Another tributary here, leading up from Fohera and there will be a flurry of flags at McKeons and at Smiths and at priors@highstreet, the team sponsors, and they'll be saying "*it was your man's son that got the winner against Carrick, he'll need watching today*".

The last lap will be past '*the Junction*' that was once the headquarters of the Cavan and Leitrim Narrow Gauge Railway. If Todd Andrews had left it open in 1959, the Mohills could have come by train and saved on the petrol or diesel or electricity or the hybrid, whatever that is. A first -class carriage was transplanted to the park in 1960 and served as a dressing room and a sort of a lovers' rendezvous for years. The carriage put an end to togging out beside the well and washing your legs with a wet docken, eventually to be replaced by two changing rooms that cost far less than the Dail bike shed and in 2009 by the stand and facilities that we can all enjoy for the final. The Prunty pitch will look resplendent, as will all the ancillary facilities. Resplendent for the teams, the spectators and for TG4, bringing to mind the thriller served up two years ago.

Many of the Mohills will have parked in the town, or at St Felim's Square or at the Sports Hall, cars turned for home, ready for the cavalcade with the Fenagh Cup. But that could be tempting fate. So, Declan Moran will be back in action, beating the bodhran and leading the green and whites to the gates of Pairc Sheain Uí Eislín for the much-anticipated final between Coolebawn and Ceannabo.

Who will win? It could end up like the Mohill and Ballinamore GAA current fundraisers, 50:50.



Sheemore Gaels Leitrim Senior County Champions 1974 - 50h Anniversary



The Sheemore Gaels squad 1974 county final

Rear from left: **Jim Newcombe, Josie Murray, Seamus Tighe, Frankie Monaghan, Peter Farrell, Richard Ellis, Pauric Leydon, Sean Murray, Liam Kelly and Paddy Guckian, Jim O'Neill and Dermot Monaghan.** Front from left: **Michael James McKiernan, Martin Craig, Eddie Guckian, Sean Leydon, Hubert Murray, Michael Martin, Michael Tighe and Pat (Junior) Mulhern, Gus Guckian and Bernie Heeran.** Absent: **Pat Lennon.**

In 1974 Sheemore Gaels made Leitrim GAA history by becoming the first and only amalgamation to win a senior football championship. A rule was introduced in 1973 allowing two intermediate clubs to amalgamate and participate in the senior championship. However, following the Gaels success in 1974 the rule was abolished and no amalgamations have been allowed in senior championship since then.

At the time St. Mary's and Fenagh were intermediate teams so both clubs amalgamated to become Sheemore Gaels. The Fenagh club at that time comprised of the parishes of Fenagh and Kiltubrid while Eslin were part of the Mohill club. Due to an increase in player numbers Fenagh and Kiltubrid parted amicably and went their separate ways in the late 1970's.

The Gaels took part in the 1973 championship without success but in 1974 despite losing the first round proper to St. Joseph's (an Aughavas/Drumreilly amalgamation) they progressed to the final through the losers group. They defeated Glencar Manorhamilton and Gortletteragh to reach the semi final where they defeated the holders Sean O'Heslins on a 1-6 to 0-8 scoreline.. The final against Mohill was played on 25th August 1974 in Pairc Sean Mac Diarmada in front of a then record crowd of 2,500 who paid gate receipts of £825.

The final was unique in other ways as both teams had three sets of brothers on their starting fifteen. Sheemore Gaels had Michael & Seamus Tighe, Paddy & Eddie Guckian and Sean & Pauric Leydon while Mohill had John & Brian Gordon, Des, Gerry & Frank Keegan and Joe and Tom Reynolds. Four county minors played; Michael Martin, Richard Ellis and Sean Leydon for the Gaels and Joe Reynolds from Mohill. It was also historic in that Michael Martin at the age of 18 was the youngest captain of a winning Leitrim senior championship team. While Sheemore Gales won by five points, it was by no means a comfortable win. Mohill led by five points to three at half time, but a second half goal by Seamus Tighe swung the game in Gaels favour and they finished on a 1-10 to 0-8 winning scoreline. The Gaels scorers were M. Martin 0-5, P. Mulhern 0-3, S Tighe 1-0, M. Tighe and P. Leydon 0-1 each. The Sheemore Gaels team trainer was Father Tommy Greenan and his selectors were Joe Flynn, Pat Egan and Adrian Browne.

The Connacht Gold Leitrim Senior Football Championship 2024

Team	P	W	L	D	F	A	+/-	Pt
Seán Ó hEislin-Béa	4	4	0	0	113	56	57	8
Mohill GAA Club	4	4	0	0	92	43	49	8
St Mary's-Kiltoghert	4	4	0	0	64	31	33	8
Achadh Mhaoláin	4	3	1	0	53	52	1	6
Fenagh-St Caillins	4	2	2	0	89	59	30	4
Leitrim Gaels	4	1	3	0	52	59	-7	2
Annaduff	4	1	3	0	66	78	-12	2
Glencar-Manorhamilton	4	0	3	1	43	68	-25	1
Gortletteragh	4	0	3	1	37	78	-41	1
Naomh Pádraig-Droim	4	0	4	0	37	122	-85	0

Friday, 2nd Aug 2024

7:30 Round 1	Achadh Mhaoláin	0-14 0-13	Annaduff	Venue: Aughawillin	Referee: Seamus Mulhern
7:30 Round 1	Fenagh-St Caillins	0-14 3-08	St Mary's-Kiltog	Venue: Fenagh-St. Caillins's	Referee: Mark Mc Closkey

Saturday, 3rd Aug 2024

6:00 Round 1	Gortletteragh	1-12 0-15	Glencar-Manorham	Venue: Gortletteragh	Referee: Eamon Dolan
6:00 Round 1	Naomh Pádraig-D	0-07 3-17	Mohill GAA Club	Venue: St. Ona's's	Referee: Vincent Mc Morrow
6:00 Round 1	Leitrim Gaels	3-11 2-17	Seán Ó hEislin	Venue: Leitrim Gaels	Referee: Enda Egan

Friday, 9th Aug 2024

7:30 Round 2	Mohill GAA Club	2-19 0-07	Gortletteragh	Venue: Mohill	Referee: Martin Feeney
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Saturday, 10th Aug 2024

7:00 Round 2	Glencar-Manorham	0-08 1-08	Leitrim Gaels	Venue: Glencar/Manorhamilton	Referee: Michael Mc Girt
7:00 Round 2	Seán Ó hEislin	2-15 1-17	Fenagh-St Caillins	Venue: Pairc Sheán Uí Heislín	Referee: Gareth Foley
7:00 Round 2	Annaduff	3-14 2-08	Naomh Pádraig-D	Venue: Annaduff	Referee: Eamon Dolan
7:00 Round 2	St Mary's-Kiltog	1-12 0-05	Achadh Mhaoláin	Venue: Pairc Naomh Muire	Referee: Enda Egan

Saturday, 7th Sep 2024

4:30 Quarter Final	Leitrim Gaels	1-10 2-12	St Mary's-Kiltog	Venue: Ballinamore	Referee: Michael Mc Girt
6:15 Quarter Final	Achadh Mhaoláin	0-08 0-09	Fenagh-St Caillins	Venue: Ballinamore	Referee: Eamon Dolan

Saturday, 28th Sep 2024

5:00 Relegation Final	Annaduff	0-10 0-16	Glencar-Manorham	Venue: Ballinaglera/St. Hughs Park	Referee: Seamus Mulhern
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Relegated: Naomh Pádraig Dromhair, Gortletteragh, Annaduff

Friday, 16th Aug 2024

7:00 Round 3	Gortletteragh	0-08 2-14	St Mary's-Kiltog	Venue: Gortletteragh	Referee: Michael Mc Girt
7:00 Round 3	Fenagh-St Caillins	1-25 1-07	Annaduff	Venue: Fenagh-St. Caillins's	Referee: Eugene Mc Hale

Saturday, 17th Aug 2024

7:00 Round 3	Leitrim Gaels	0-12 2-10	Achadh Mhaoláin	Venue: Leitrim Gaels	Referee: Eamon Dolan
7:00 Round 3	Seán Ó hEislin	9-19 0-05	Naomh Pádraig-D	Venue: Pairc Sheán Uí Heislín	Referee: Patrick Guckian
7:00 Round 3	Mohill GAA Club	1-16 1-06	Glencar-Manorham	Venue: Pairc Philip Mhic Aongusa	Referee: Kevin Mallon

Saturday, 31st Aug 2024

6:30 4	Naomh Pádraig-D	1-08 5-12	Fenagh-St Caillins	Venue: St. Ona's's	Referee: Michael Mc Girt
6:30 4	Achadh Mhaoláin	1-15 1-09	Gortletteragh	Venue: Aughawillin	Referee: Gareth Foley
6:30 4	St Mary's-Kiltog	1-09 0-09	Leitrim Gaels	Venue: Pairc Naomh Muire	Referee: Kevin Mallon
6:30 4	Annaduff	4-08 3-13	Mohill GAA Club	Venue: Annaduff	Referee: Mark Mc Closkey
6:30 4	Glencar-Manorham	1-08 3-14	Seán Ó hEislin	Venue: Glencar/Manorhamilton	Referee: Eugene Mc Hale

Saturday, 14th Sep 2024

6:00 Relegation Semi Final	Annaduff	2-10 1-04	Naomh Pádraig-D	Venue: Leitrim Gaels	Referee: Eamon Dolan
6:00 Relegation Semi Final	Glencar-Manorham	1-11 0-08	Gortletteragh	Venue: Ballinaglera/St. Hughs Park	Referee: Patrick Guckian

The Connacht Gold Leitrim Senior Football Championship Final 2024

Sean O'Heslins Ballinamore v Mohill at Ballinamore 6th September 2024



Ballinamore

Le Chéile

THE TEAM BEHIND OUR TEAMS



From our youngest players at the Saturday morning nursery to our youth teams and right up to our senior squads, every corner of Ballinamore GAA will benefit from the incredible support this initiative has brought to life.

It's thanks to the generosity of Ballinamore Le Chéile — a group of local businesses and individuals with deep ties to the community — that this vision has become a reality. We owe them a huge debt of gratitude and will continue to work hard to honour their commitment to the future of our club.



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THE TEAM BEHIND OUR TEAMS



From our youngest players at the Saturday morning nursery to our youth teams and right up to our senior squads, every corner of Ballinamore GAA will benefit from the incredible support this initiative has brought to life.

It's thanks to the generosity of Ballinamore Le Chéile — a group of local businesses and individuals with deep ties to the community — that this vision has become a reality. We owe them a huge debt of gratitude and will continue to work hard to honour their commitment to the future of our club.



Béal an Átha Móir Seán Ó hEislin

A GAA club was founded in Ballinamore on the 31st January 1889 at a meeting in McGauran's Railway Hotel, now the Allied Irish Bank. A plaque was erected on the wall of the bank as part of the club's centenary celebrations in 1989.

Sean O'Heslin

Sean O'Heslin, a teacher in Ballinamore was a native of Drumcoman, Corraleeahan, Ballinamore. Sean's mother was also a teacher in Clogher. Sean was the driving force behind the club in its most successful period, the 1930s. Fuair sé bás i 1942, nuair nach raibh ach 55 bliain slánaithe aige. The club was named after him in 1953.

Successful Teams

Sean O'Heslin's have been highly successful in every grade of football with 21 Senior championship titles, 12 Senior Football League titles and 20 Minor Football Championships.

The club contested the first ever Leitrim Senior Championship in 1890 and reached the final but lost to Mohill. Twenty-three years later they won their first senior championship, in 1913.

The greatest periods in the club's history were the 1930s when five senior titles were won and then a prolonged period of success from 1964 to 1990 when twelve senior titles were won. Probably the club's greatest achievement was a three-in-a-row between 1967-1969.

During the 1990s the club had a very strong team which coincided with Leitrim's period of greatness having no less than five players on the Leitrim panel which won the 1994 Connacht championship

Sean O'Heslin's have reached the final of the Connacht Senior Club Football Championship on four occasions 1968, 1973, 1986 and 1990.

In 2016 the club won the Intermediate Championship after contesting the previous two finals. They subsequently reached the Connacht Intermediate Club Championship final, losing to, eventual All Ireland Champions, Westport.

In 2021 Dean McGovern was captain when the club ended a period of 31 years without a senior championship title.

In 2023 our Ladies Senior Team won the Connacht Intermediate title and qualified for the All-Ireland final in Croke Park, losing to Glanmire (Cork).

Our MacDiarmada Gaels (underage amalgamation with Kiltubrid) won the 2024 U20 A Championship.

Club Grounds

Páirc Seáin Uí hEislin was opened in 1952, the first GAA grounds in Leitrim. It was the main county grounds in Leitrim until the opening of Páirc Sean MacDiarmada in Carrick on Shannon in 1964. The Grounds were re-developed and reopened in May 2009 with two excellent pitches together with new dressing rooms and a seated stand for supporters. Further ground works were completed in December 2023 when the pitch reopened for the historic LGFA All Ireland Intermediate Semi final when Aoibheann Flynn scored "that goal" to send "Little Ballinamore" to Croke Park for the All-Ireland Final.

The last Senior Football County Final played in Ballinamore was in 1963 when Aughavas beat St Mary's Kiltoghert



Seán Ó hEislin - Béal an Átha Móir Team Captain and Management

Wayne McKeon is Seán Ó hEislin - Béal an Átha Móir captain in 2024.

Wayne has represented the club and Leitrim at all levels.

Wayne Mc Keon is from the Aughatawney/Willowfield area of Ballinamore. He has been playing Senior football since 2005 and in that time he has played in most outfield positions but mostly in midfield or wingback roles.

He has played in three Intermediate finals, losing two but captaining the team to the Intermediate title in 2016 when the team qualified for the Connacht Intermediate Club final, losing to Westport.

He has played in two Senior finals, losing in 2019 before giving a **Man of the Match** performance in the 2021 final as the club ended a 31 year wait for senior honours.

With Leitrim he is the holder of two FBD winner's medals with Leitrim in 2013 and 2014.



Wayne McKeon with team manager Mark Henry



Management Team

Conor Harte, Patsy Connaughton, Mark Henry, Conor Doherty, Fergal O'Connor and Brian Cafferty

Team Manager **Mark Henry** is originally from Greenlough in Derry but has been living in Fermanagh for many years. He joined Ballinamore Sean O'Heslin's late last year. Mark has huge experience after being involved with club teams in Tyrone and Fermanagh while also having spells involved with Fermanagh underage teams.

Conor Doherty is originally from Omagh and like Mark has been living in Fermanagh for many years.

Conor Harte is a former player and Club Chairman. He has managed Leitrim Minors and also the Ballinamore Ladies senior team. His son Senan is a member of the senior panel.

Patsy Connaughton is a former Club Secretary. His sons Paddy and Eoin are both members of the senior panel.

Fergal O'Connor is a Fermanagh man who is enjoying his first year with the Senior team.

Brian Cafferty is a former club player, now based in Dublin, who joined the management team earlier this year.

FÍR IONAD

- 16 Philip Farrelly
Pilib Ó Faircheallaigh
Ardrum
- 17 Shane Murphy
Seán Mac Murchaidh
Ardrum
- 18 Killian Maguire
Caillian Mag Uidhir
Kilrush
- 19 Kian McGovern
Cian Mag Shamhráin
Cornacreegh
- 20 Naoishe McManus
Naoishe Mac Mánaís
Kiltymooden
- 21 James Honeyman
Séamus Mac an Meala
Tullyscar
- 22 Andrew Burns
Aindrias Ó Broin
Clenaghoo
- 23 Danny Smith
Dónal Mac Gabhann
Main Street
- 24 Peter Reynolds
Peadar Mac Ránall
Willowfield
- 25 Darragh Murphy
Dáire Mac Murchaidh
Cornacreegh
- 26 Gavin Darcy
Gabhan Ó Dorchaidh
Fohera
- 27 Eoin Connaughton
Eoin Ó Connachtáin
Aghadark
- 28 Tommy Smyth
Tomás Mac Gabhann
Main Street
- 29 Dessie Wisley
Deasún Mac an Mhislí
Tully
- 30 Keelan McHugh
Caoláin Mac Aodha
Creedy
- 31 Dean McGovern
Dean Mag Shamhráin
Lisacarn
- 32 Niall McGovern
Niall Mag Shamhráin
Lisacarn
- 33 Nathan McCartin
Natháin Mac Artáin
Ardrum
- 34 Cillian Murphy
Cillian Mac Murchaidh
Cornacreegh
- 35 Philip Murphy
Pilib Mac Murchaidh
Ardrum
- 36 Cyril óg Smith
Coireall Óg Mac Gabhann
Lahard

Béal an Átha Móir
Seán Ó hEislin



	Cúil	Cúilíní	Seachaí	45m	Saor Ciceanna
1adh Leath					
2adh Leath					
IOMLÁN					

Maothail

1
Pádraig Tighe
Pádraig Mac Ceanglaigh
Oghill

2
David Mitchell
Daithí Mistéil
Tawlaught Beg

3
James Mitchell
Séamus Mistéil
Tawlaught Beg

4
Ryan Bohan
Rian Ó Buacháin
Springfield

5
Seán Harkin
Seán Ó hEarcáin
Glasdrumman

6
Shane Quinn
Seán Ó Cuinn
Gortfadda

7
Jack Rowley
Seán Ó Rothláin
Shannagh

8
Conor Quinn
Conchúr Ó Cuinn
Gortfadda

9
Domhnall Flynn
Domhnall Ó Floinn
Tawlaught Beg

10
Tadhg Mulligan
Tadhg Ó Maolagáin
Killamaun

11
Keith Keegan
Ceiteach Mac Aogáin
Cappagh

12
Evan Harkin
Éimhín Ó hEarcáin
Glasdrumman

13
Fiachra Mc Guinness
Fiachra Mag Aonghusa
Drumhanny

14
Keith Beirne
Ceiteach Ó Beirn
Coolabawn

15
Jordan Reynolds
Siordán Mac Ragnail
Coolabawn

FÍR IONAD

16 Peter O'Neill
Peadar Ó Néill
Drumbad Lane

17 Ronan Gordon
Rónan Ó Gordún
Shannagh

18 Matthew Murphy
Maitiú Ó Murchu
Aughadrumderg

19 Eoghan Duignan
Eoghan Ó Duigeannáin
Lisdadan

20 Donal Duignan
Dónal Ó Duigeannáin
Lisdadan

21 Adam McGuinness
Adam Mag Aonghusa
Drumhanny

22 Johnny Boyle
Seán Ó Baoill
Treanmore

23 Harry Boyle
Anraí Ó Baoill
Treanmore

24 Jamie Cosgrove
Séamus Mac Oscair
Drumcolligan

25 Senán Curran
Senán Ó Corráin
Roosky

26 Diarmuid Casey
Diarmuid Ó Cathasaigh
Springfield

27 Oscar Reynolds
Oscar Mac Ránaill
Gortnalug

28 Evan Kilrane
Éimhín Mac Giollaráin
Cloontumpher

29 Daniel Scott
Dónall Albanach
Kildoo

30 Alan Tuthill
Ailéin Ó Tuatail
Tullyoran

31 Conor Mulligan
Conchúr Ó Maolagáin
Gortfadda

32 Finn Cassells
Fionn Ó Caisil
Cornagresha South

33 Keith McCaffery
Ceiteach Mac Gafraidh
Curnee

34 Cillian Walpole
Cillian Walpole
Mullaghgrigney

35 Ciaran Baxter
Cídran Mac an Bhacstair
Coolabawn

Cúil Cúilíní Seachái 45m Saor Ciceanna

1adh Leath

--	--	--	--	--

2adh Leath

--	--	--	--	--

IOMLÁN

--	--	--	--	--

Seán Ó hEislin - Béal an Átha Móir

Leitrim GAA Connacht Gold Senior Football Finalists 2024



Backrow : Dean McGovern, Cyril óg Smith, Andrew Burns, Liam Ferguson, Cillian Murphy, Darragh Murphy, Shane Moran, Darren Maxwell, Dessie Wisley, Killian Maguire, Danny Smyth, Kian McGovern, Paddy Connaughton, Gavin D'arcy, Brian Banks, Eoin Connaughton, Naoise McManus and Philip Farrelly.

Front row: Senan Harte, Tom Prior, Tommy Smyth, Peter Reynolds, Paul Moran, Wayne McKeon, Shane Murphy, Michael McBrien, Mathew Murphy, Philip Murphy, Cathal McHugh, James Honeyman, Keelan McHugh, Paul Honeyman, Michael McKiernan and Luke Murphy.

Mohill

Leitrim GAA Connacht Gold Senior Football Finalists 2024



Rear from left: Jamie McCaffery, Alan Tuthill, Finn Cassells, Johnny Boyle, Keith Beirne, Keith Keegan, Conor Quinn, Padraig Tighe, Peter O'Neill, Oscar Reynolds, Domhnall Flynn, Tadgh Mulligan, Jordan Reynolds, Conor Mulligan, Matthew Murphy, Adam McGuinness, Ciaran Baxter;

Front from left: Eoghan Duignan, Daniel Scott, Ronan Gordon, Keith McCaffery, Senan Curran, James Mitchell, Evan Harkin, Fiachra McGuinness, Shane Quinn, David Mitchell, Donal Duignan, Jack Rowley, Jamie Cosgrove, Sean Harkin, Cillian Walpole, Ryan Bohan, Diarmuid Casey, Harry Boyle.

Mohill GAA History



The Mohill Faugh a Ballagh Club was founded in rooms on Glebe St. on the 27th of January 1889; the first active club in Leitrim and going strong ever since. Mohill won the first ever Leitrim Senior Football Championship a year later in 1890 which is 130 years ago this year. We again added Senior Championships in 1914 and 1929 but it was 42 years until we tasted success at Senior level again winning the 1971 Championship. We contested the 1972 and 1974 finals but it would be another 35 years before the Fenagh Cup would spend the winter in Mohill again. In a classic final in Páirc Naomh Mhuire, Cloone on the 8th of October 2006, we snatched victory in a dramatic finale coming from 5 points down with 8 minutes to go to win by one on a scoreline of 0-13 to 1-9; our fifth Senior Championship title.

In recent years, we have been lucky enough to reach the County Senior Final on nine occasions in twelve seasons between 2013 and 2024. Today's final is our fifth appearance here on County Final day in a row. In 2015 we added our 6th Senior title beating Glencar-Manorhamilton in a replay and once again in dramatic circumstances. The man who had kicked the winning point in the 2006 final deep in injury was in the right place once again. The ball fell to Ronan Kennedy who made no mistake in despatching the ball to the net in one of the most dramatic finishes to a County Final in Leitrim football history with Mohill winning out 1-4 to 0-6.

We returned on Final Day in 2017 with Glencar-Manorhamilton the opponents once again. In a fantastic game which produced football of the highest standard, we were triumphant on a scoreline of 0-14 to 0-11. This day will always be remembered as club stalwart Mary Kennedy lifted the Fenagh Cup on behalf of our club on front of a joyous sea of supporters on the Pairc Seán pitch below. Sadly Mary passed to her eternal reward eight months later and she will be in all of our thoughts today in what would be such an important day for her. Two more County titles were added in 2020 and 2023. Our lads hope to bring Mohill to double figures today and win a tenth Senior Championship for the club.

To add to our success at Senior level we have won 2 Intermediate, 6 Junior A, 6 Under 21, 12 Minor A and 13 Under 16 Championship titles. We have always been a prominent club at underage level in the county tasting a lot of success throughout the decades which contributed greatly to winning at senior level. The club has a very active Bórd na nÓg at present with coaches out every Saturday morning organising and attending blitzes for our U6's up to U11's. Great work is also being put in with our U13's, 15's and 17's as they compete well in every competition at a high level.

Today's final is a repeat of the 2021 final and the eight meeting of the two clubs on County Final Day. Ballinamore took the spoils here three years ago in an enthralling Senior Final which received plaudits from all over the country. Our lads will be hoping to reverse that result and gain their bit of revenge today. We wish the panel and management every success today. Fág a'bealach!

Pairc Philb MhicAonghusa

Football was first played at St Manchans GAA Park in the 1940's with many important county games being played there during the 40's and 50's. The pitch was closed in February 2010 for revamp and reopened in 2012. It was rededicated in memory of the late great Philly McGuinness who sadly passed away in April 2010. Philly played at full forward in the 2006 Senior final alongside brothers Michael and John in what was a historic day for our club.

Mohill Team Captain Team Captain and Management



Barry Lupton (selector) Cian Mulrooney (s&c coach) Shane Quinn (team captain) Mickey Quinn (selector) Eamonn O'Hara (manager) Ronan Gallagher (selector)

Shane Quinn Team Captain

Shane Quinn is our team captain and is his second year as captain of the side. Shane is the son of Micheal and Claire Quinn. His brother Conor is also a member of today's Senior team with sister Emma playing for Mohill ladies. Shane works as a Technician for telecommunications company Eir. He has been an ever-present on Mohill's Senior team since his debut all the way back in 2010. A fantastic underage player, Shane played with Leitrim at all levels and showed early signs of his leadership capabilities captaining the County Minor team in 2011. It didn't take long for him to break onto the Inter County scene at Senior level as he made his debut with the Seniors following a successful stint with the County U21's reaching the Connacht Final in 2014. Over the past 10 years, he has been a constant on the County Senior team. A very versatile player, Shane has played everywhere from the half back line through to the half forward line putting in some fine performances along the way for club and county. Incredibly, alongside a few more of today's team, he plays in his 10th County Senior Final (including a replay in 2015) and will be hoping that he will be player with the honour of hoisting the Fenagh Cup to celebrate Mohill's 10th Senior title.

Eamonn O'Hara Team Manager

This is Eamonn's third year in charge of the Mohill, reaching the final for third consecutive year today. A former Sligo All-Star and one of the greatest, Eamonn was one of the longest serving Gaelic footballers at senior county level. He began playing in 1994 and officially retired from inter-county football in 2013. Eamonn was named on the All Star team in 2002 and also represented Ireland twice in the International Rules Series. Eamonn won a Senior Connacht Championship medal in 2007 with Sligo, a game in which he scored a famous goal against Galway. Eamonn won an incredible eight senior championships as a player with his club Tourlestrane. Eamonn then went on to co-managed his native Tourlestrane to five consecutive senior club championships in Sligo (2016-2020) He previously spent one season in charge of Mayo club Ballaghaderreen and was involved with the Sligo U20's. Eamonn will be hoping that he can capture the Fenagh cup again today and complete back to back titles for the first time in the Mohills club's history.



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*Wishing The Mchill Seniors the very best
of luck in the County Final!*

*From all the Management and Team at
Lough Rynn Castle Estate & Gardens
your proud Sponosrs*



Callaghan's Bar

Sponsors of Mohill GAA

**Best of Luck to the
Senior team &
Management in the
County Final**



Wishing Mohill GAA Club, Players
& Management Best of Luck on
County Final Day



Craobh Peil Sinsear Liatroma

(Compiled by Seán Ó Súilleabháin)

Leitrim Senior Football Championship

Roll of Honour (to 2023)

Seán Ui Eislín-Béal an Átha Móir	(21)	1913,1922,1930,1933,1935,1936,1939,1956,1964,1967,1968,1969,1972,1973,1975,1979,1982,1986,1988,1990, 2021
Achadh an Mhuilinn	(12)	1923 (Kiltyhugh), 1976, 1978, 1983, 1984, 1989, 1992, 1993, 1994, 2014, 2016, 2018
Cluain	(11)	1911,1934,1937,1942,1944,1946,1947,1948,1950,1951,1980
Achadh Easa	(9)	1915,1940,1949,1952,1954,1955,1963, 1966, 2000
Maothail	(9)	1890,1914,1929,1971, 2006, 2015, 2017, 2020, 2023
Gaeil na Meilge	(7)	1959,1960,1961, 1962,1965,1998, 2012
Gleann an Chairthe/Cluainín	(7)	1977, 1999, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2019
Naomh Caillian-Fíonach	(5)	1906,1910, 1912,1919,1932
Gortleitreach	(5)	1905,1970,1981,1985,1987
Gaeil na hAilne	(5)	1991,1996,1997,2001,2002
Naomh Muire-Cill Tochairt	(6)	1958,1995,2003, 2007, 2013, 2022
Barr na Cuile	(4)	1938,1943,1953,1957
Gorvach	(4)	1924,1925,1926,1927
Aislínn	(3)	1891,1916,1917
Carraig Álainn	(2)	1941,1945 (Tully)
Eanach Dubh	(2)	1928, 2004
Droim Óir Bhealaigh	(1)	1931
Achadh na Síleann	(1)	1918
Gaeil Sí Mór	(1)	1974
Cill Tobraid	(1)	2005



2024 CONNACHT CLUB FIXTURES

EXTRA TIME & FINISH ON THE DAY, IN ALL GAMES



AIB CLUB SENIOR FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

Round	Date	Team 1	Team 2
Quarter-Final 1	Sat/Sun 9/10 Nov	London	Mayo
Quarter-Final 2	Sat/Sun 9/10 Nov	Galway	Roscommon
Semi-Final 1	Sat/Sun 16/17 Nov	Sligo	Winners of Quarter Final 1
Semi-Final 2	Sat/Sun 16/17 Nov	Leitrim	Winners of Quarter Final 2
Final	Sat/Sun 30/1st Dec	Winner of Semi-Final 1	Winner of Semi-Final 2

AIB CLUB INTERMEDIATE FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

Round	Date	Team 1	Team 2
Quarter-Final	Sat/Sun 9/10 Nov	Sligo	Leitrim
Semi-Final 1	Sat/Sun 16/17 Nov	Galway	Mayo
Semi-Final 2	Sat/Sun 16/17 Nov	Roscommon	Winner of Quarter-Final
Final	Sat/Sun 23/24 Nov	Winner of Semi-Final 1	Winner of Semi-Final 2

AIB CLUB JUNIOR FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

Round	Date	Team 1	Team 2
Quarter-Final	Sat/Sun 9/10 Nov	Sligo	Leitrim
Semi-Final 1	Sat/Sun 16/17 Nov	Winner of Quarter Final	Roscommon
Semi-Final 2	Sat/Sun 16/17 Nov	Mayo	Galway
Final	Sat/Sun 30/1st Dec	Winner of Semi-Final 1	Winner of Semi-Final 2

AIB CLUB MINOR A FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

Round	Date	Team 1	Team 2
Quarter-Final	Friday 25th October	Sligo	Leitrim
Semi-Final 1	Tuesday 29th October	Winner of Prelim	Mayo
Semi-Final 2	Tuesday 29th October	Winner of Quarter Final	Roscommon
Final	Friday 1st November	Galway	Winner of Semi-Final

CONNACHT CLUB JUNIOR HURLING CHAMPIONSHIP

Round	Date	Team 1	Team 2
Semi-Final	Sat 2nd November	Leitrim	Sligo
Final	Sat/Sun 16/17 Nov	Galway	Winner of Semi-Final

3Up/3Back doesn't do it

Eamonn Duignan

The county final is every counties showcase for the years activities with the two best teams qualifying for the final .Today Ballinamore (21) the High Kings of Leitrim football take on the New Kings Mohill (9) who have won five of the last eleven county finals. The final should appeal to every GAA follower in the county and not just the supporters of the competing teams. Every one should be looking forward to an exciting game but unfortunately football has lost some of its attraction in the last few years.



The club football scene takes its lead from the county scene and every supporter I talk to are crying out for someone to rescue our game before they abandon the game altogether.



GAA Football Review Committee chairperson Jim Gavin addresses the media during a briefing at the GAA Football Review Committee media event held at Croke Park

There was a time I would watch every GAA football game on TV and go to as many games as I could. Not anymore and indeed not for sometime. Now I only go to games that I have a deep affiliation with, like my home club Mohill or the Leitrim County teams.

The appeal of any sport can be evaluated by how much interest a neutral fan has in the game. Is the game exciting, are the supporters absorbed in the action , are there individual battles, and who are the

star backs, midfielders and forwards?. If the real GAA fans have lost interest then there is no hope for the neutral. Football has never been so poor and unappealing and the Rules Review committee was set up to review and analyse the rules and make the game better for the spectators.

In my working life I was a big fan of the Pareto Principle (80/20Rule). The rule can be summarised as follows, dealing with the 20% will have an 80% impact. (20% of your customers will generate 80% of your revenues, and you concentrate on those customers).

If I apply the principle to football, the key issues (the few rules to change, that will have the biggest impact) for me and for any supporters I talk to are:

- 1.every player in one half of the field (mass defence)
2. endless lateral hand passing back and across the field to get through all the players
3. passing the ball backwards

If you solve the first, the second and third issues will be partially eliminated. .

What has caused these issues and such a fall off in watching and attending our games?. The answer is simple, coaches. Coaches see games in a one dimensional way and are concerned with how a game is won, with no interest in how the game is played. This is not a criticism of coaches, their job is to win games within the rules of the game. But the game is about much more than coaches. Sports fans like me want to entertained and not bored into oblivion. I watch sport for enjoyment.

The Football Review Committee under the Chairmanship of Jim Gavin have released their initial recommendations.

The Rules committee have given an update with 'seven core enhancements' for Gaelic football. One of those enhancements is 3up/3 back. Will that solve the mass defence? . Out of 28 outfield players on the pitch, 22 will be allowed to defend in a mass defence. In fact 22/28 is almost 80% of the players. In summary 80% of the problem of mass fences has not been solved. It won't make the games more attractive, will not improve the entertainment for supporters and will not reduce the obsession with hand passing.

To my surprise the 7 core enhancements does not include any recommendations on hand passing.

In my opinion the decision around the number of players in each half is the KEY (Pareto) decision for the rules committee. Every thing else follows from that decision. For supporters, scores are what they want to see, so the rules should be making scoring easier, not making it more difficult. In hurling scores are plentiful and supporters are engaged. Scores do come easier in hurling and therein is the solution to footballs dilemma - make scoring easier.

I want to see 6up/6 back, the ball been kicked into space , individual battles between backs and forwards, I want to see forwards taking on backs, I want to see space on the pitch that players can exploit with pace, I want to see more scores, I want to be absorbed by the game for its entirety and I want to go back and watch the game I love.

With all the foresight that I can muster I cannot see 3up/3back solving the current problems with Gaelic Football. I can only base my comments on what I see when I go to watch our games. I hope 3up/3back does not become a rule. It solves absolutely nothing and we will continue to get mass numbers in defence and endless hand passing with the only stat that seems important - the turnover. If the 3up/3back rule is imposed , then my overriding emotion will be one of profound sadness as I become further disillusioned with the game I love.

Recently I was voicing my utter frustration with watching football, to a hurling friend. He told me there was only one solution for football, " make the ball smaller, and give them all hurleys" .

The Pareto principle has stood the test of time. Further serious enhancements are required from the Football Review Committee. I hope we get them.
3up/3back just doesn't do it.

Eamonn Duignan (a supporter's view)

Football Review Committee Members

COLM COLLINS - Cratloe GAA, County Clare
PATRICK DOHERTY - The Downs GAA, County Westmeath
ÉAMONN FITZMAURICE - Fingue GAA, County Kerry
SHANE FLANAGAN - Johnstownbridge GAA, County Kildare
JIM GAVIN - Round Towers GAA, Clondalkin, County Dublin
JAMES HORAN - Ballintubber GAA, County Mayo
ALEC MCQUILLAN - Con Magees Glenravel GAC, County Antrim
MICHAEL MEANEY - Old Leighlin GAA, County Carlow
MICHAEL MURPHY - Glenswilly GAA, County Donegal
COLM NALLY - Newtown Blues GAA, County Louth
MALACHY O'ROURKE - Derrylin O'Connell's GAA, Co Fermanagh
**SÉAMUS KENNY (Runai) - **Simonstown Gaels GFC, County Meath

MÍLE BUÍOCHAS

The Leitrim GAA Patrons Committee **Joe Layden, Padraic White, Seamus Clarke and Eamonn Duignan** would like to sincerely thank all our Patrons who are financially supporting the Leitrim County senior football team over the next three years.

Such financial support ensures the Leitrim team is professionally prepared similar to all successful teams with proper medical support, strength and conditioning, nutritional needs, and up to date gym equipment.

To our patrons in Ireland, UK and USA we thank you all sincerely and confirm we are doing everything we can to bring football success back to the county

Martin McCartin
Cisteoir CLG Liatroima



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we continue to receive from our many sponsors.

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by Leitrim supporters everywhere.

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GIVE RESPECT - GET RESPECT HOW DOES IT WORK IN THE GAA?

- The GAA Respect Initiative seeks to ensure that Gaelic Games are promoted and played in a positive, fair and enjoyable manner at all ages and regardless of competition where players, coaches, referees and spectators Give Respect and Get Respect from each other.
- Clubs should adopt the Respect Initiative commencing with players at nursery or academy level and then progress to adult level
- Coaches should lead by example and never use unacceptable language towards a match official, to a member of an opposing team or to their own players
- Promote the Code of Behaviour (Underage) as the minimum level of behaviour when working with underage players
- Emphasise with all players, regardless of age, that they should at all times respect their own fellow team members and their opponents
- Players should at all times respect the decisions of match officials
- Parents should show good example to their children by respecting the team coaches and the decisions of match officials and act in a supporting and not a criticising role from the sidelines



The GAA Respect initiative seeks to ensure that Gaelic Games are promoted and played in a positive, fair and enjoyable manner where players, coaches, spectators and referees Give Respect – Get Respect from each other.

The Give Respect - Get Respect initiative applies to all in the GAA regardless of age, competition or ability.



The GAA Give Respect – Get Respect initiative promotes the rights, dignity and worth of each person regardless of ability, age, cultural or ethnic origin, gender, sexual orientation, or religious belief

HOW DO WE PROMOTE THE GAA RESPECT INITIATIVE?

- Wear the Give Respect Get Respect logo on your Club jerseys
- Organise the Respect Handshake before or after each game
- Support and implement the Go Games model in your Club
- Organise a clearly marked designated spectator areas for your games
- County Boards are encouraged to provide recognition awards for Clubs who successfully promote the Respect Initiative
- Organise half time Respect exhibition games at Inter County League and Championship Games
- Ensure that the Respect Initiative is addressed as part of our coach education programmes and in our child safeguarding workshops
- The Give Respect - Get Respect is a responsibility for us all, Clubs, Players, Coaches, Parents and Match Officials
- Promoting the initiative is a key roles for the Club and County Children's Officers





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Leitrim Minor Football Championship

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Leitrim County Final
Mohill v Ballinamore Seán O'Heslins

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