



Coiste Chontae Liatroma

Craobh Sinsear

Liatroma Cluiche Ceannais 2025

Heartland Credit Union Páirc Seán Mac Diarmada

19ú Deireadh Fómhair 2025

CONNACHT GOLD LEITRIM SENIOR FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL



SEÁN Ó HEISLIN - BÉAL an ÁTHA MÓIR

v

GAEIL LIATROMA



Réiteoir: Eamonn Dolan (Carrigallen)

Standby Referee: Michael McGirl

Linesman: Mark McCloskey

4th Official: Eamonn O'Grady

*ACCRACCA Ní Raghallaigh
Rúnaí*



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Coiste Chontae Liatroma

Craobh Sinsear Liatroma Cluiche Ceannais 2025

19ú Deireadh Fómhair 2025

Clár an Lae

- 15:00 Kiltubrid Pipe Band amach ar an bpáirc
- 15:08 Foireann Gaeil Liatroma amach ar an bpáirc
(Team photograph)
- 15:10 Foireann Seán Ó hEislin-Béal an Átha Móir
amach ar an bpáirc (Team Photograph)
- 15:18 Toss for choice of ends
- 15:22 Paráid na bhFóirne
- 15:28 Amhrán na bhFiann
- 15:30 Connacht Gold
Senior Football Championship Final 2025 commences
- 16:02* Half-Time interval commences
- 16:04* Foireann Achadh Easa
Leitrim Senior Football Champions 2000
introductions on pitch followed by Team Photograph
- 16:17* Second-half commences
- 16:49* Connacht Gold SFC Final 2025 concludes
- 17:00* Presentation of Man of the Match award by
Gabriel Cronin, Cronin Dental Laboratories
- Presentation of Fenagh Cup to the winning captain by
Cathaoirleach Coiste Chontae Liatroma Deaglán Ó Buacháin.

*Subject to any additional time added on

If the game ends level at full time it will be replayed

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 tóir 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

Ar dtús ba mhaith liom fáilte a chur roimh gach éinne go Heartland Credit Union Páirc Seán Mac Diarmada don Chluiche Ceannais Sinsir Liatroma, an ocaid spóirtiúil is tábhachtaí dár Chontae sa bhliain. Fáilte roimh na himreoirí, na hoifigi agus lucht leanúna ó Chumann Sheán Ó Eslín Béal an Átha Móir agus Gaeil Liatroma. Tá súil againn go léir go mbeidh cluiche bhreá spóirtiúil againn inniu.



It is my great pleasure to welcome everybody to this venue here today for the culmination of the joint efforts of many as we reach the climax of the Connacht Gold Senior Football Championship. It has been a roller coaster championship, the first year of the slimmed down eight team model, which has produced many thrilling encounters, a number of surprises, new playing rules in action, and by all accounts greater attendances all round. As we await what unfolds this afternoon, we can be sure that both finalists have deservedly arrived at this juncture to lay claim to the 2025 Fenagh Cup.

It is huge day in the short history of Leitrim Gaels as they contest their first ever SFC Final. Founded in 1997, they club has gone from strength to strength in more recent times, since they won the Smith Monumentals IFC in 2019 and have contested a number of semi-finals since. Today they will be hoping that the dream which began 28 years ago when they first formed can arrive at its ultimate destination.

In contrast the Ballinamore Sean O Heslin's club is no stranger to this stage of a Leitrim SFC. The club has garnered a total of 21 previous titles in its storied history starting with its first title all of 112 years ago. The club sit proudly on top of the roll of honour and they will be doing their utmost to erase the heartbreak of last year's penalty shoot-out loss in the replayed final.

Today is a huge day for our match referee **Eamonn Dolan** as he referees his first SFC Final. It is an honour he richly deserves as he has made excellent strides since becoming a knight of the whistle a short number of years ago. From what I can ascertain from previous records, he becomes the first Carrigallen man to take charge of a Senior Final which is historic in its own sense. I welcome the remaining members of his team of officials and wish them the very best of luck in their assistance of Eamonn.

Our gratitude is extended to all the stewards who will be in operation today, many of whom have been here for previous rounds also. Thanks also to Park Committee for ensuring the pitch is in pristine condition for our biggest day. In mentioning this I wish to record our gratitude to our Safety and Facilities Committee who were chiefly responsible for the delivery of the marvellous surface we now enjoy. We should include in this note of gratitude Prunty Pitches who were the principal contractors. On a sombre note, we remember the late **Gerry McGovern, RIP**, who was the main mover and shaker in the above committee over the duration of the redevelopment. Gerry passed to his eternal reward last May, shortly after he witnessed the first game played on new surface.

Once again, as is traditional we will be treated to the tunes of the Kiltubrid Pipe Band here today. They are an institution that we should cherish. Well done to those of all age groups who are ensuring the band's longevity of attendance at Leitrim GAA events.

Thanks to all the local media outlets that provide coverage to our games, particularly the Leitrim Observer, Ocean FM and Shannonside Northern Sound FM. Our thanks also to all involved with Leitrim GAA Streaming Service who afford many who would otherwise like to be here in person to enjoy the action live, wherever they may be.

We are hugely grateful to our competition sponsors at all levels and on the occasion of today's final, let me record our appreciation to all associated with the Connacht Gold brand who have been our Senior Championship sponsors for a long number of years. The contribution of our sponsors is much appreciated and we would encourage all to recognise this as you go about your daily purchases. Míle buíochas.

Finally, it would be remiss of me not to compliment the excellent work of CCC Liatroma, the committee responsible for ensuring the smooth running of our games. They have once again delivered a master class in fixture planning and delivery in order that we arrive at this pre-planned date. We hope you all have an enjoyable occasion!

Déaglán Ó Buacháin, Cathaoirleach Choiste Chontae Liatroma.

Match Officials for today's final

Referee – Eamonn Dolan (Carrigallen)

Eamonn Dolan works as a Category Buyer with ESB Networks and in addition to being the referee for today's match is also the Chairperson of the Carrigallen club.

Eamonn has played championship football at all levels for his club, winning an intermediate championship winner's medal in 2006 and narrowly missed out on senior championship medal in 2009 losing that final to Glencar Manorhamilton by a single point.

He has been refereeing for 6 years and during this time Eamonn has represented his club officiating at games in Leitrim and in Connacht at provincial level.

Eamonn is a current member of the national reserve panel and has been involved in a number of national league games this season as linesman and sideline official.

In 2024 Eamonn was appointed referee for the Roscommon v Sligo Connacht Minor Championship game in Dr. Hyde Park .

In Leitrim Eamonn was appointed referee for the 2024 Intermediate Championship Final and U20 Division 1 final.

Eamonn is grateful to the support of his team of umpires who have travelled with him from the start of his refereeing career.

His umpires today are **Andrew Mc Manus, JP Mc Manus** and **Eamonn O'Malley** from Carrigallen and **Fintan McBrien** from Aughavas. The officials on duty with Eamonn today are Standby Referee **Michael McGirl** of Drumreilly, Linesman **Mark McCloskey** of Bornacoola, and Sideline Official **Eamonn O'Grady** of Drumkeerin.



Focal ón Oifigeach Caidreamh Poiblí

Breandán Ó Dúill

Welcome to Heartland Credit Union Páirc Seán MacDiarmada for County Final Day — the showpiece occasion in our county calendar.

To our finalists — players, management, backroom teams, and officers — comhghairdeas on reaching today's decider. County Final Day is the reward for months of preparation, resilience, and no little skill. May you savour the occasion and leave nothing behind but your best effort.

We also extend a warm welcome to the victorious Aughavas team of 2000, who are being honoured here today.

I wish to acknowledge the work of CCC Liatroma in stewarding the championship from throw-in to final whistle. To our match officials, stewards, and Park Committee — your efforts make days like this run so smoothly. We remember **Gerry McGovern (RIP)**, who was the main driving force behind the redevelopment of our county ground and stand area.

Sincere thanks to Connacht Gold, title sponsors of the Senior Football Championship, and to all our partners whose continued support underpins everything we do; and to our local media and photographers for chronicling every twist and turn. Thank you to all clubs who deliver regular score updates and team announcements — a small effort with a big impact, growing attention for your clubs and boosting support for important fundraising. This souvenir programme is also a team effort: thanks to the contributing writers, club officers for their timely submissions, our design and production partners, and the many hands who bring it from screen to print.

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 in 23 countries. I wish to thank our great team of **Brian Blake**, **John Lynch** and his co-commentators, **Martin McGowan**, and especially **Martin Costello** (AV Tech), who does an extraordinary job on every production; **Aoife Keenan** and **Enda Tiernan** for their sterling work on score updates; **Con Doyle** on the championship draws; and **Seán** and **Debbie** on admin and team sheets.

Thanks as always to The Leitrim Observer's **John Connolly** and its correspondents and photographers; to **Breifne Earley** (Final Whistle) for additional coverage; and to local radio — Ocean FM and Shannonside Northern Sound — and their reporters. Thanks also to the Kiltubrid Pipe Band, whose presence, as always, adds to this special occasion.

Special thanks to **Tommy Moran**, **John Connolly**, and **Eamonn Duignan** for their wonderful articles for this production; to the club secretaries and club officers for their timely assistance in collating and sending all information; and to **Seán Ó Súilleabháin** and **Declan Bohan** for their help. Many photographs throughout the championship have been captured by **Willie Donnellan**, **James Molloy**, and **Stefan Hoare**, and we are delighted to include some here.

Lastly, my sincere thanks to **James Molloy** for his invaluable skills and behind-the-scenes efforts in producing this programme. Finally, thanks to **Kevin** and all at DPS Print for an excellent production, and to our programme sellers for their service.

Whether you are here in Heartland Credit Union Páirc Seán MacDiarmada or following from afar, I hope the pride of club and county is palpable. To both teams: may the best team win — and may all involved enjoy the occasion safely and well.

Leitrim Senior County Final

Man of the Match Recipients 1990 - 2024

Year	Player	Club
2024	Domhnaill Flynn	Mohill
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)



Domhnaill Flynn (Mohill) is congratulated on his 2024 Man of the Match award by the award sponsor Gabriel Cronin, Cronin Dental Laboratories Drumshanbo





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Looking for a fitting end to a great Championship!

Just like Christmas, we spend so long looking towards the Connacht Gold Leitrim SFC Final that we're all a little surprised when the day is finally upon us. But today's Final in Heartland Credit Union Pairc Sean Mac Diarmada may just put the cap on a wonderful and thoroughly enjoyable campaign and the possibility of a historic new chapter for Leitrim GAA.



Actually, scratch that - no matter who lifts the Fenagh Cup, history will be made. Anybody with even the slightest interest in the affairs of Leitrim GAA realise the significance of a victory for Leitrim Gaels, the youngest club in the county attempting to go where they've never gone before and realise the dreams of an entire community.

But winning would be just as significant to Ballinamore Sean O'Heslins, the Kerry of the Leitrim Club scene with 21 Fenagh Cups to their name. Throw in the 15 other appearances on County Final day and nobody comes close to the Ballinamore men for sustained excellence down through the years and that should be celebrated every bit as much as a maiden title. While the focus today will be on crowning new champions, my gut feeling is that the football fan in Leitrim has been the real winner of the 2025 Championship. Some of that is down to the new rules that have prompted more positive play, the scourge of safety first, negative football banished under a blizzard of two pointers.

But it is not all down to two pointers - goals are certainly more plentiful in the knockout stages with 19 scored this year compared to five in 2024. True, more goals were scored over the entire championship up to this point last year, 66 to 56, but the difficulty of competition is nowhere near the same.

That is an important point - eight teams instead of ten ensured every single game mattered, the level of jeopardy is much higher in 2025, with far less hammerings and the chance for the underdogs to pull off a shock - all of which added to the entertainment value for those in the stands.

Most of all, this year's Championship has passed the mummer test - remember the hum of conversation that used to permeate grounds last year, the lack of action on the field driving people to their phones or conversations with their neighbours and as much as last year's two game epic in the final was a thrilling restoration of faith in the game, the other knockout encounters were tough watches, even with close and exciting finishes.

Credit to the County Board and the Clubs who made the admittedly tough decision to cut the numbers in each of the three grades, the Senior grade clearly benefitting from the new format but the effect has also been seen in the Intermediate and Junior grades. There has been pain, we have to acknowledge that but, in all honesty, it will pay off for players, clubs, spectators and, eventually, County teams in the long term.

Of course, further tweaks could be made to improve competitions but right now, 2025 has seen the best Senior Championship we've seen for years in terms of competitive standard and sheer enjoyment. To all who made that possible, take a well deserved pat on the back - you've done great work for Leitrim GAA!

John Connolly is the Sports Editor of the Leitrim Observer

The Hunger Games

Tommy Moran

American author **Suzanne Collins** certainly hit the jackpot when she decided to write futuristic stories set in an imaginary country “**Panem**”, somewhere in North America. The premise of the series is that one boy and one girl are selected by lottery each year from one of the districts in Panem, to participate in a compulsory televised subjugation, a battle royale death match called **THE HUNGER GAMES**, a spectacle of brutality and survival, orchestrated by the powerful to keep their grip on the weak. Posters for the various films, released over the years, proclaim Everyone Hungers for Something and a trailer for another includes the line It’s the things we love most that destroy us.



Maybe Suzanne was peeping into the future about the Leitrim Senior Championship and the selection by lottery and the battle royale matches and the spectacle of survival, but would have been pushing it a bit with talk of death matches and references about brutality, (she probably wasn’t up to speed on the new football playing rules), but she was spot on about everyone hungering for something, though missing the boat about the powerful trying to keep their grip on the weak. Such an idea would have been far from the minds of Coiste Chontae Liatroma and its Games Committee, for the 2025 championship could not have been better organised, presented and keeping the public interested right up to the final moments. Regrets, there are a few of course, Mohill missing out on a three in a row; Fenagh, so near and yet so far, but their day in the sun comes closer; St Mary’s, Aughawillan, Glencar/ Manorhamilton and Melvin Gaels missing out in the play-offs. The championship can be a game of inches or seconds. Back in the 1950’s **Padraig Carney** of Mayo became known as the Flying Doctor, after he had travelled from New York to line out with his home county in Croke Park; 75 years later, many of our clubs are bringing away-based players so much further, even from Dubai, Australia or New Zealand, to back up the home squads, so we can boast of flying plasterers, teachers or computer whiz kids, with the very same passion for their home place. Fair play to all of them, their families and their clubs. The same is now true for many lady footballers competing in the LGFA.

So, we have an historic, a very historic County Final, with championship leaders, Ballinamore Sean O’Heslin’s facing the new kids on the block, Leitrim Gaels. It will be a game for the ages and has been looked forward to so much since the final whistle in Heartland Credit Union Pairc Sean Mac Diarmada last Sunday. After a meteoric rise since the foundation of the club not so many years ago, the Gaels have striven, on and off the field, to develop top class facilities that are the envy of many; every aspect of the GAA is nurtured from the youngest juvenile upwards and the officials have inculcated a real sense of pride and passion among their ever growing membership and running alongside is the increase in housing, canal development and general infra-structure. There is an air of pride around the place and these past few weeks the village is a cacophony of colour. There will be talk, naturally, of the **Derrygonnelly Three**, and on their influence on the Leitrim Gaels side to date. But, as the man said, what club would not welcome the Jones brothers with open arms?

The Ballinamore side will not be over-awed, the players, team management and supporters have faced many a challenge over the years and are full of confidence in their own ability in a team of well-tested stars, young, and sprinkled with seasoned veterans, the perfect mix. Like most clubs now, O’Heslins have a virtual army of coaches, trainers, parents, committees, loyal workers ready for any occasion, youthful and far-seeing officers, fund-raising ideas, sponsors and well-wishers, local and recently arrived volunteers, with the green and gold flying over all. Let the action begin. Everyone Hungers for Something.

Footnote -- As **Helen O’Rourke** soon retires as CEO of the national LGFA, it is opportune to congratulate this lady who has given decades of loyal service to Lady’s football throughout the country and overseas. Of Aughavas parentage, Helen has always shared a special bond with Leitrim.

Comhghairdeas, Helen, agus go maire tú an céad.

The Late Gerry McGovern RIP

Cloone GAA, Leitrim GAA & Connacht GAA

It was with profound sadness and a sense of loss that the Leitrim GAA community learned on May 28th this year of the passing of our serving County Safety and Facilities Officer, the late Gerry McGovern, after a brief illness. Indeed, no later than Monday, May 12th, Gerry attended our Management Committee meeting and County Committee meeting and reported to the meetings in his usual meticulous manner, providing updates on the various projects that he was actively pursuing.



The late Gerry dedicated a huge portion of his life to GAA matters, from his playing days with his native Cloone GAA and Leitrim GAA, followed by a very successful refereeing career, right through to his massive involvement in GAA administration at all levels of the Association. While he represented Cloone GAA on the playing fields at all levels, with varying degrees of success, his finest playing hour came in 1980 when Cloone captured the Fenagh Cup to be crowned Leitrim SFC Champions with a 2-9 to 0-9 victory over their near-neighbours Gortletteragh. This victory placed the icing on the cake of a most historic year for Cloone GAA, as it coincided with the opening of St. Mary's GAA Park in the same year, a project Gerry was also heavily invested in, along with his entire community.

As his playing days came to an end, Gerry threw his lot in with refereeing and quickly moved through the ranks to become one of Leitrim's finest. As with all tasks undertaken by Gerry, he did so with care and attention, ensuring that he was always on top of his game. Gerry became a member of the National Referees' Panel and took charge of many important assignments at inter-county level. While taking charge of a multitude of club finals at all ages and grades, he was the 'man in the middle' of the Leitrim Senior Football Championship Finals of 1993 and 1999. One could be sure that no matter if the game was at under-12 or senior level, Gerry treated all refereeing assignments with the same level of high respect and attention.

While Gerry served his local club in a variety of officer roles over his playing days and while refereeing, he gave freely of his time towards the administration of GAA matters with Leitrim GAA. In his role as Assistant Secretary to Coiste na nÓg, then known as Bord na nÓg, in the 1990s, he shared in the administration that was in place to facilitate the great Connacht MFC success of 1998, a team captained by Cloone's Seamus Maguire, which was a source of great pride to Gerry. He became an officer of Leitrim GAA Senior Administration, serving in a multitude of roles from the Leitrim GAA Supporters Club and leading a variety of other fundraising ventures.

He assumed the role of Vice Chairman in the early 2000s and, on our first venture to play New York in the Connacht SFC in 2003, was instrumental in organising the Supporters' Club trip to the Big Apple, which was of invaluable assistance to many who were travelling stateside for the very first time. Gerry became Chairman of Leitrim GAA in 2005 and immediately set about the redevelopment of Páirc Seán Mac Diarmada with the planning and delivery of the New Stand facility, which commenced immediately following the SFC Final of that year. The reopening of the new facility in 2007, which was and continues to be the envy of many, was the culmination of two years of planning, which involved much fundraising and accessing a variety of grant funding. To this end, Gerry was the organiser-in-chief, and he surrounded himself with many fine helpers who delivered on the project. Almost running parallel with this project was the finalisation of the acquisition of the property that currently houses our Centre of Excellence in Annaduff. These were two mammoth simultaneous projects undertaken by Leitrim GAA, which will stand us in good stead into the future. While the ultimate development of the COE was stalled for a period of time, due to economic considerations, nonetheless it progressed nicely during Gerry's tenure. Indeed, as it readied for its official opening in 2019, Gerry was again to the fore in the 'Brick in the Wall' fundraising campaign, which contributed greatly to its ultimate delivery.

Before concluding his five-year term as Chairperson in 2009, Gerry was a very proud man as he got the opportunity to present the Frank Reynolds Memorial Cup to his native Cloone as they captured the Leitrim Intermediate Championship title with victory in Ballinamore over Aughawillan. It was the perfect end to his term of office. On the conclusion of his role as Cathaoirleach, he took on the role of Connacht GAA delegate for Leitrim and thus began a road towards higher office. He was elected Vice Chairman of Connacht GAA in 2015 and, following the conclusion of his three-year term, became President of Connacht GAA in 2018, which was a singular honour for himself, his family, and all associated with Leitrim GAA. From 2018 to 2021, while holding the highest position within the province, he was also a member of Coiste Bainistíochta in Croke Park, holding the position of joint Vice President of the Association.



Far from that being the culmination of his service to the GAA at all levels, when this term concluded, Gerry became Leitrim GAA Safety and Facilities Officer and, in more recent times, gave everything of himself to ensure that the county, and by extension its clubs, had the very best of advice and aid in the pursuit of various projects that helped to improve the infrastructure and development in many club areas. His most recent interest at county level was in the redevelopment of Avant Money Páirc Seán Mac Diarmada. Once again, surrounding himself with a very vibrant working group, the delivery of the new seating project in 2023 and the relaying of the new playing surface, recently reopened, was a source of great satisfaction for Gerry. At the recent Connacht Championship match versus Mayo, as he looked on, he had to be very satisfied with his endeavours on behalf of Leitrim GAA. Far from finished with development, unfortunately, recent illness prevailed, and his last engagement with Leitrim GAA concluded at the meetings on May 12th last.

Gerry McGovern was one of a kind, and we are privileged to have had him on our side. He was a trojan worker and leader but was also a great raconteur and excellent company. He was a most approachable and affable human being. We have endured a great loss, but that pales into insignificance when we consider the loss he is to his beloved family circle. To his loving wife, Kathleen; his sons, Ciaran and Gavin; daughter Jacinta; daughters-in-law Alison and Sarah; Jacinta's partner Daniel; his adored grandchildren, Dara, Jack, Rosie, and Mike; brothers Fr. Ciaran and Joe; sister-in-law Geraldine; nephews Ronan, Conor, and Kieran; and his extended family, we extend our most heartfelt sympathy.



The late Gerry with members of the Cloone Club on the occasion of his election as Uachtarán Comhairle Connacht in 2018



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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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

Ballinamore Sean O'Heslins Team Captain and Management



Ballinamore Sean O'Heslins' Team Captain is **Shane Moran**, a highly skilful and dedicated individual and leads by example on and off the football field. Shane is an inspirational leader of our team whose dedication to the club has been exemplified by his commitment to the club over his long playing career.



He was an integral part of the 2021 Senior Championship and 2016 Intermediate winning teams. He has also played in the 2019 and 2024 Senior Championship finals while also representing his county at all levels including being a key member of the Leitrim team which won promotion to Division 3 in 2019.

He was named Leitrim Young Footballer of the Year in 2010, County Player of the Year in 2019 while also being named Young Hurler of the Year in 2009.

Shane is an accountant who works as a Financial Analyst for Hewlett Packard. He is married to Caoimhe (herself a former LGFA Allstar with Monaghan in 2013) and they have two daughters Lucy and Katie.

Shane comes from a sporting family with his father Ollie a highly talented footballer and hurler with St Mary's and his mother Mary having her own sporting successes with Aughawillan and Leitrim Ladies. Shane's two brothers Conor and Paul are also on the Ballinamore Sean O'Heslins' team today.



Management Team

Conor Doherty, Conor Harte, Mark Henry, Patsy Connaughton, Daryl McFarland, 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'Heslins' 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.

Daryl McFarland is manager of the club's second team and match day kit man.

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

Fergal O'Connor (absent from the photograph) is a Fermanagh man who is enjoying his second year with the Senior team.

Seán Ó hEislin-Béal an Átha Móir

Leitrim GAA Connacht Gold Senior Football Finalists 2025



Rear from left: Senan Harte, Andrew Burns, Paul Honeyman, Gavin Darcy, Danny Smyth, Nathan McCartin, Darragh Murphy, Brian Leyden, Darren Maxwell, Harry Prior, Dessie Wisley, Dillon Beirne, Michael Keegan, Cailin Murphy, Brian Banks, Naoise McManus, Philip Farrelly, Sean Christie, Cathal McHugh, Wayne McKeon and Donal Feely

Front from left: Keelan McHugh, Mark Aherne, Shane Murphy, Matthew Murphy, Tom Prior, Conor Moran, Shane Moran, Luke Murphy, Eoin Connaughton, Kian McGovern, Paddy Connaughton, Michael McKiernan, Michael McBrien, Paul Moran, James Honeyman, Liam Ferguson and Tommy Smyth

FÍR IONAD

16 Harry Prior
Anraí Mac An Phríora
Fohera

17 Liam Ferguson
Liam Mac Fearghais
Kiltymooden

18 Shane Murphy
Seán Mac Murchaídh
Ardrum

19 Naoishe McManus
Naoishe Mac Mánaís
Kiltymooden

20 Brian Leyden
Brian Ó Laocháin
Ballyduff

21 James Honeyman
Seamus Mac an Meala
Tullyoscar

22 Kian McGovern
Cian Mac Samhráin
Cornacreegh

23 Andrew Burns
Aindrias Ó Broin
Clenaghoo

24 Nathan McCartin
Natháin Mac Artáin
Oughteraigh

25 Dessie Wisley
Deasún Mac an Mhíslí
Tully

26 Patrick Connaughton
Pádraig Ó Connachtáin
Aghadark

27 Danny Smith
Dónal Mac Gabhann
Main Street

28 Killian Maguire
Cillian Mag Uidhir
Kilrush

29 Darragh Murphy
Dáire Mac Murchaídh
Cornacreegh

30 Eoin Connaughton
Eoin Ó Connachtáin
Aghadark

31 Michael Keegan
Michael Mac Aogáin
Dún na Bó

32 Tommy Smyth
Tómas Mac Gabhann
Main Street

33 Cillian Murphy
Cillian Mac Murchaídh
Cornacreegh

34 Gavin Darcy
Gabhan Ó Dorchaídh
Fohera

35 Philip Murphy
Pilib Mac Murchaídh
Ardrum

36 Seán Christie
Seán Mac Críosta
Anville Court

37 Dillon Beirne
Diolún Ó Beirn
Main Street

38 Mark Aherne
Marcas Ó hEachtighearna
Tullyoscar

39 Senan Harte
Senan Mac Airt
Aghatawney

Ballinamore SOH
Béal an Átha Móir Seán Ó hEislin

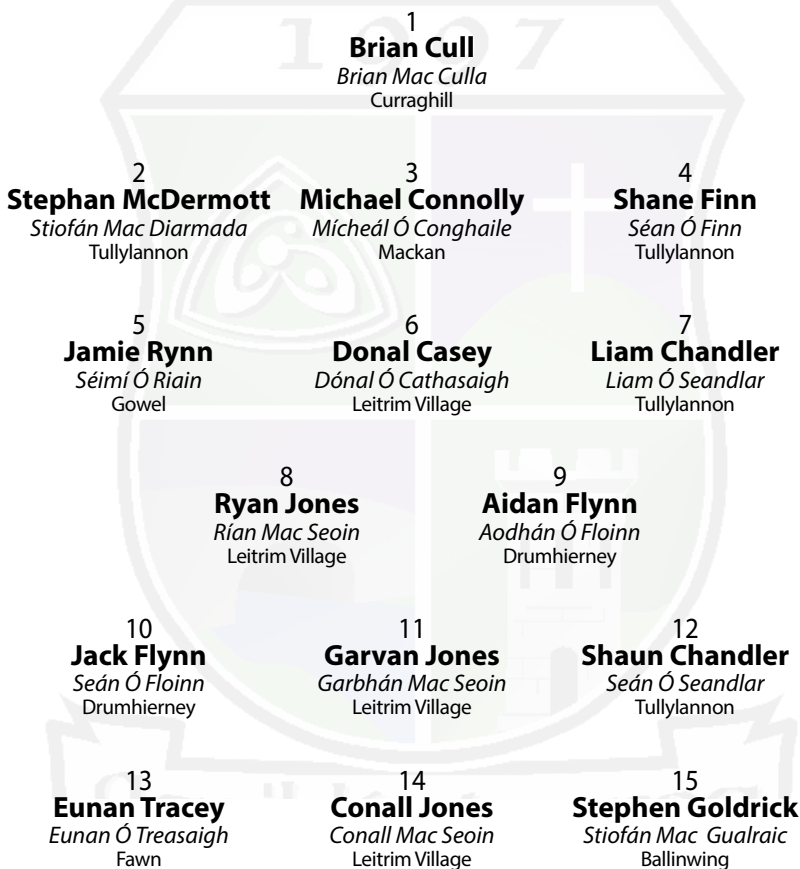


	Cúil	Cúillíní	Seachal	45m	Saor Ciceanna
1adú Leath					
2adú Leath					
IOHLÁN					

Manager: Mark Henry. Selectors: Conor Doherty & Patsy Connaughton

Leitrim Gaels

Gaeil Liatroma



FÍR IONAD

16 Matthew Earley
Maitiú Ó Maolmhochóir
Leitrim Village

17 Michael McManus
Micheál Mac Mághnuis
Farnagh

18 Robert Casey
Roibéard Ó Cathasaigh
Leitrim Village

19 Aaron Farrell
Arón Ó Fearghail
Ballinwing

20 Ryan Goldrick
Ríán Mac Gualraic
Kiltoghert

21 David Regan
Dáithí Ó Riagáin
Tullylannon

22 David Bruen
Dáithí Ó Braoin
Kiltoghert

23 Frank Cullen
Proinsias Ó Cullinn
Lismakeegan

24 Liam Moreton
Liam de Mórtn
Carrickaveril

25 Conor Guckian
Conchúr Mac Eochagáin
Leitrim Village

26 Ben Finn
Beircheart Ó Finn
Tullylannon

27 James Shanley
Seamus Mac Seanlaoidh
Leitrim Village

28 James Flynn
Seamus Ó Floinn
Tonnagh

29 Donal Moreton
Dónal de Mórtn
Ballygart

30 Matthew Doyle
Maitiú Ó Dubhghaill
Cloonsheevagh

31 Séan McKeon
Seán Mac Eoin
Battlebridge

32 John Farrell
Seán Ó Fearghail
Ballinwing

33 Rory Kelly
Ruaidhrí Ó Ceallaigh
Leitrim Village

34 Dermot Daly
Diarmuid Ó Dálaigh
Liscallyroan

35 Brian Tracey
Brian Ó Treasaigh
Tirmactiernan

36 Shane Rynn
Seán Ó Riain
Gowel

37 Paddy Keane
Pádraig Ó Catháin
Ballinwing

38 Connor McLoughlin
Conchúr Mac Lochlainn
Ballinaboy

39 Brian Goldrick
Brian Mac Gualraic
Ballinwing

40 Dhani Keane
Dhani Ó Catháin
Ballinwing

41 Osin Curley
Oisín Mac Thoirdealbhaigh
Leitrim Village

42 Eoghan Connolly
Eoghan Ó Conghaile
Mackan

43 Ben Clarke
Beircheart Ó Cléirigh
Leitrim Village

44 Aodh Gavin
Aodh Ó Gábhain
Leitrim Village

Cúil Cúilíní Seachal 45m Saor Ciceanna

1st Leath

2nd Leath

IOHLÁN

Manager: Mal Guckian. Selectors: Donal Scollan, Peter Goldrick, Emmett Mahon, Damien Eames

Gaël Liatroma

Leitrim GAA Connacht Gold Senior Football Finalists 2025



Rear from left: Rory Kelly, Michael Connolly, Ben Clarke, Sean McKeon, Stephen McDermott, David Bruen, Aaron Farrell, Conor Guckian, Ryan Jones, Brian Cull, Liam Chandler, Michael McManus, Matthew Doyle, Ben Finn, Garvan Jones, Conall Jones, Dhani Keane, Brian Tracey, Liam Moreton, Shane Rynn, Oisín Curley, Dermot Daly, Frank Cullen

Front from left: Conor Deegan, Donal Casey, Eoghan Connolly, Ryan Goldrick, David Regan, Shaun Chandler, Jack Flynn, Aidan Flynn, Jamie Rynn, Shane Finn, James Flynn, Connor McLoughlin, James Shanley, Stephen Goldrick, John Farrell, Paddy Keane, Robbie Casey, Eunan Tracey, Donal Moreton, missing Brian Goldrick.

Leitrim Gaels GAA Club – Our Journey

In November 1996, a meeting was held to discuss a bold vision – establishing a GAA club in Leitrim Village. The idea was embraced enthusiastically, and by February 1997, the County Board had given its unanimously approval. On 9th March 1997, Leitrim Gaels played their first league game in Division 4 against neighbours Kiltubrid. Crowds gathered to witness the historic event, which Kiltubrid won 7-09 to 1-06. That “Team of ‘97” laid the foundations for everything that followed.



Our first championship win came swiftly — August 1997 against Fenagh — a sign of the determination that has driven Leitrim Gaels ever since. A decade later, in 2007, the opening of the Leitrim Gaels Community Field marked another milestone — a magnificent €1.2 million project brought to life through tireless community effort, grants, and loans. And we continue to look forward: plans for a gym, walking track, a second full-sized pitch, and a padel court are already shaping the next chapter of our story.

From humble beginnings, our club has climbed through every division, proudly reaching senior football status by 2020. Along the way, we have celebrated many triumphs — the Intermediate Championship (2019), Junior A (2012), Junior B (2001 & 2007), Junior C (2009), and league titles in Divisions 3 (2011), 4 (2010), and 5 (2004 & 2010), earning promotion to Division 1 in 2015. Our strength lies in the nurturing of youth. The tireless dedication of coaches and mentors since the early 2000s has inspired generations of talent, producing consistent underage success from U-12 right up to Minor.

Much credit goes to those who fostered our underage talent from the early 2000s, driving consistent success from U-12 to Minor. 2019 saw our re-registration and participation with the LGFA after many years without a dedicated section for girls and ladies football and in 2022 our first ever adult ladies team— now ensuring every player, boy or girl, has a place to wear Purple and Green.

Leitrim Gaels players have represented our club with pride at every level for the county. The club has a strong tradition of Hurling with six of our players part of the Carrick team that won the 2018 Connacht Junior Club Championship, and five on the Leitrim team that lifted the Lory Meagher Cup in 2019. Off the field, our success in Scór has brought home numerous County and Connacht titles.

As we honour our achievements, we pause to remember with love and gratitude those who are no longer with us - Adrian Whitney, Lorcan Molloy, Frankie Farrell, Ciarán Flynn, James Gilchrist, Aoife Treacy, Tommy Padden, Vincent Molloy, Joe Brennan, and all past members and supporters. Their legacy lives on in every game we play and every flag we fly. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a n-anamacha.

Today, we stand together for another proud milestone — our first Senior Final appearance in Páirc Seán Mac Diarmada. Whatever the outcome, this is not the end but another beginning. To our players, coaches, sponsors, volunteers, and the loyal supporters who have walked every step of this journey with us — thank you.

The spirit of Leitrim Gaels burns bright. The future is ours.

March on, the Purple and Green Army!

Leitrim Gaels Team Captain and Management

Aidan Flynn, 32, is honoured to lead Leitrim Gaels as captain this year. Born in New York, he moved to Leitrim Village at age seven. His dad, Tommy, is from Kiltubrid and his mum, Donna, from Kerry. The eldest of four brothers, Aidan lines out alongside Jack today, while Damian and Paddy have also proudly worn the Gaels jersey.

Aidan is married to Orla from Cavan, a talented footballer and camogie player who helped Leitrim LGFA win the All-Ireland Intermediate title in 2024. They have two young boys, Noah and baby Rian — future Gaels in the making!

A primary school teacher in Longford, Aidan has been a key part of the Leitrim Gaels men's team since 2009 and also coaches underage players. He represented the Leitrim Senior Panel from 2017–2024, making his Championship debut against New York in Gaelic Park, where he scored a vital late point. He's also played in two NFL Division 4 Finals in Croke Park — career highlights so far.

Known for his versatility and leadership, Aidan has won multiple underage titles, was centre-forward on the 2012 Junior Championship-winning team and captained the club to Intermediate glory in 2019. Today, he's hoping to make more history as the first Leitrim Gaels captain to lift the Fenagh Cup.



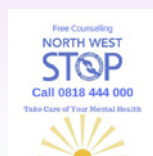
The Management would like to thank everyone for their support this year & from its Foundation in 1997 to the present day. We know the GAA Community will make a difference to North West Stop, so please support this great cause. North West Stop has provided an invaluable service to Leitrim and the surrounding counties for the past 20 years.

North West STOP is a community-based organisation dedicated to preventing suicide through education, awareness, and the promotion of positive mental health. They offer free counselling services to people of all ages, ensuring that every euro raised locally is reinvested directly back into our community.

The organisation is currently undertaking an exciting and ambitious project — the transformation of the former Garda Station in Drumkeeran, Co. Leitrim, into a dedicated mental health centre. Once complete, this facility will provide counselling, play and art therapy, and group sessions designed to bring healing and hope to our community. Mental health touches every family and every community.

In the past year alone, North West STOP has provided over 3,200 hours of counselling to those in need — an increase of 750 hours compared to the previous year. Their continued growth and commitment make a real and lasting difference in the lives of so many. You can contribute to this vital cause by scanning the QR code and making a donation — every contribution helps make a difference in our community.

Please support so they can reach their €100,000 fundraising goal.



Scan to Donate to
North West Stop Fundraiser
to Raise 100K



**Thank you to all of our club
Sponsors for the 2025 Season**



**Thank you to everyone who has
supported our 'Sponsor a player'
campaign throughout the season**

50 50 Weekly Draw

**Please support our 50/50 Club weekly draw
which has given out over €40,000 in prizes in
2025.**

***Play online or buy tickets from local
businesses.***



Scan to play

Thank you to our main club Sponsors



Proud Sponsors of Leitrim Gaels Senior Mens Team 2025

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*Please show your support to all of
our generous Sponsors*

Aughavas

Leitrim Senior Champions 2000



There were four groups of four teams in the Leitrim Senior Championship in 2000. Aughavas were drawn in group D with Glencar/Manorhamilton, Mohill and Kiltubrid.

In the first round Aughavas defeated a young team Mohill 1-12 to 1-07.

In round two Aughavas played the county champions Glencar/Manorhamilton. Aughavas scored two early goals, Manor pulled their way back into the game with Mark Rooney scoring 0-11. However, Aughavas scored a third goal in the second half through Pdraig McLoughlin which paved the way for an Aughavas win on a score line of 3-06 to 0-13.

In the third round Aughavas played Kiltubrid. Despite Aughavas dominating the game for long spells, Kiltubrid scored two goals to stay in touch. But two late points from Kevin Keegan and Pdraig McLoughlin saw Aughavas pull away and win on a score line of 0-15 to 2-06.

Aughavas went on to play Sean O'Heslin's in the quarter-final. The Ballinamore men had a team stacked with county players, but after a close encounter Aughavas won by a point 1-10 to 1-09.

Aughavas played Melvin Gaels in the semi-final. Some very good forward play on the day and two long range points in the second half from Damien Smyth saw Aughavas open up a lead that the Kinlough men were unable to close. Aughavas ran out winners on a score line of 0-13 to 0-08.

Aughavas faced Gortlettragh in the county final. It was a wet and windy day on Sunday October 22nd. Aughavas had the wind in the first half and led only by one point at halftime 0-04 to 0-03. However, Aughavas put in a powerful display in the second half and kept Gortlettragh scoreless. Aughavas ran out worthy winners on a scoreline of 0-10 to 0-03. The game wasn't a classic but nobody in Aughavas cared when Fintan McBrien lifted their first senior title in 34 years.

Aughavas went on to win the Division 1 league final later that year defeating Allen Gaels on a scoreline of 0-08 to 1-04. It was a great year for Aughavas GAA club under the guidance of PJ Carroll.

The Connacht GoldLeitrim Senior Football Championship 2025

#	TEAM	P	W	L	D	F	A	±	PTS
1	 Leitrim Gaels	4	4	0	0	94	62	32	8
2	 Fenagh St Caillins	4	3	0	1	92	58	34	7
3	 Ballinamore SOH	4	3	1	0	84	57	27	6
4	 Mohill	4	2	2	0	70	68	2	4
5	 Glencar-Manor	4	2	2	0	74	78	-4	4
6	 Aughawillin	4	1	3	0	73	91	-18	2
7	 St Mary's Kilt	4	0	3	1	60	82	-22	1
8	 Melvin Gaels	4	0	4	0	59	110	-51	0

Friday, 15th Aug 2025

Thursday, 28th Aug 2025

Mohill 1-12 0-12 Ballinamore SOH

📍 Cloone • 👤 M. Feeney • ⌚ 7pm • 🕒 Rd 1

Aughawillin 1-18 0-24 Glencar-Manor

📍 Aughawillin • 👤 P. Martin • ⌚ 6:45pm • 🕒 Rd 3

Saturday, 16th Aug 2025

Friday, 29th Aug 2025

Fenagh St Caillins 2-21 1-11 Aughawillin

📍 Fenagh-St. Caillin's • 👤 S. Mulhern • ⌚ 7pm • 🕒 Rd 1

Leitrim Gaels 1-20 0-14 St Mary's Kilt

📍 Leitrim Gaels • 👤 E. Egan • ⌚ 6:45pm • 🕒 Rd 3

Melvin Gaels 3-09 3-22 Leitrim Gaels

📍 Melvin Gaels • 👤 J. Griffin • ⌚ 7pm • 🕒 Rd 1

Saturday, 30th Aug 2025

Fenagh St Caillins 0-19 0-14 Mohill

📍 Fenagh-St. Caillin's • 👤 M. Feeney • ⌚ 6:30pm • 🕒 Rd 3

Glencar-Manor 1-16 0-17 St Mary's Kilt

📍 Glencar/Manorhamilton • 👤 M. McCloskey • ⌚ 7pm • 🕒 Rd 1

Ballinamore SOH 5-17 1-11 Melvin Gaels

📍 Páirc Sheán Uí Heislín • 👤 K. Mallon • ⌚ 6:30pm • 🕒 Rd 3

Friday, 22nd Aug 2025

St Mary's Kilt 2-12 1-15 Fenagh St Caillins

📍 Páirc Naomh Muire • 👤 V. Mc Morrow • ⌚ 7pm • 🕒 Rd 2

Saturday, 13th Sep 2025

Melvin Gaels 1-09 4-16 Fenagh St Caillins

📍 Melvin Gaels • 👤 E. Mc Hale • ⌚ 6pm • 🕒 Rd 4

Saturday, 23rd Aug 2025

Aughawillin 1-16 2-09 Melvin Gaels

📍 Aughawillin • 👤 E. Dolan • ⌚ 7pm • 🕒 Rd 2

Glencar-Manor 0-14 1-19 Leitrim Gaels

📍 Glencar Manorhamilton • 👤 M. Mc Gírl • ⌚ 6pm • 🕒 Rd 4

Leitrim Gaels 1-15 1-13 Mohill

📍 Leitrim Gaels • 👤 M. McCloskey • ⌚ 7pm • 🕒 Rd 2

Mohill 3-16 1-16 Aughawillin

📍 Cloone • 👤 E. Egan • ⌚ 6pm • 🕒 Rd 4

Ballinamore SOH 0-18 0-17 Glencar-Manor

📍 Páirc Sheán Uí Heislín • 👤 S. Mulhern • ⌚ 7pm • 🕒 Rd 2

St Mary's Kilt 0-11 1-19 Ballinamore SOH

📍 Páirc Naomh Muire • 👤 E. Dolan • ⌚ 6pm • 🕒 Rd 4

The Connacht GoldLeitrim Senior Football Championship 2025

Saturday, 20th Sep 2025



Glencar-Manor

0-11

1-16

Mohill



📍 Páirc Seán MacDiarmada • 👤 M. Mc Closkey • ⌚ 5:15pm • 📌 **Quarter-Final**

• **LIVE**

Sunday, 21st Sep 2025



Aughawillan

1-06

8-16

Ballinamore SOH



📍 Páirc Seán MacDiarmada • 👤 E. Dolan • ⌚ 4pm • 📌 **Quarter-Final** • **LIVE**

Saturday, 27th Sep 2025



Melvin Gaels

0-15

1-12

St Mary's Kilt



📍 BallinagleraSt Hughs • 👤 M. Mc Girl • ⌚ 5pm • 📌 **Relegation Final**

Saturday, 4th Oct 2025



Mohill

3-07

4-14

Leitrim Gaels



📍 Páirc Seán MacDiarmada • 👤 M. Feeney • ⌚ 5pm • 📌 **Semi-Final** • **LIVE**

Sunday, 5th Oct 2025



Ballinamore SOH

1-21

1-21

Fenagh St Caillins



📍 Páirc Seán MacDiarmada • 👤 M. Mc Girl • ⌚ 4pm • 📌 **Semi-Final** • **LIVE**

Saturday, 11th Oct 2025



Melvin Gaels

0-14

2-21

St Mary's Kilt



📍 Glencar Manorhamilton • 👤 E. Dolan • ⌚ 3pm • 📌 **Relegation Final Replay**

Sunday, 12th Oct 2025



Ballinamore SOH

2-13

0-10

Fenagh St Caillins



📍 Páirc Seán MacDiarmada • 👤 V. Mc Morrow • ⌚ 4pm • 📌 **Replay – Semi-Final**

• **LIVE**

Sunday, 19th Oct 2025



Ballinamore SOH

3:30pm

Leitrim Gaels



📍 Páirc Seán MacDiarmada • 👤 Eamon Dolan • 🏆 **FINAL**

Money, Money, Money

Eamonn Duignan

Let's be honest about money.

No one asks where it comes from — until it's gone.

No one wonders who's actually footing the bills — until the bills can't be paid. And when it comes to running a county board, the assumptions are plenty — the most common being that Croke Park covers everything.



But here's the truth: without money, nothing happens.

Leitrim GAA is no different. In fact, Leitrim faces greater financial challenges than most counties. Yet, over the past three years, thanks to the incredible generosity of a group known as the **Leitrim Patrons**, our county teams have had access to top-level resources — and the results have shown. But as that three-year funding cycle comes to a close, there's a real question looming: **what happens next?**

How does the county board typically generate income. Nationally, county board income is generally broken down as follows:

1. Gate Receipts from Club Games – 11%
2. Commercial Income (Sponsorship, etc.) – 12%
3. Grants from Croke Park & Provincial Councils – 44%
4. Fundraising – 23%
5. Other Income – 10%



Now consider Leitrim's position within this structure:

- **Gate Receipts:** Among the lowest in the country — simply due to our smaller population.
- **Commercial Income:** Also among the lowest — the return on investment for sponsors is limited by population size and media exposure.
- **Croke Park Grants:** Success on the field impacts these payments — the more games you win, the more you get. Leitrim's limited success has meant limited support.

It's not a pretty picture on the income side.

Leitrim's costs, on the other hand, are very real and very high. Our geographical position means we're constantly bringing players together from places like Dublin and Galway — a costly task. Some key expenses & costs:

- **Mileage Payments:** 53% covered by the county board, 47% by Croke Park.
- **Meals & Nutrition Costs:** Mostly covered by the county board
- **Accommodation, gear, medical support, and coaching:**
- Costs are set at national level, leaving Leitrim with no control over some of the biggest line items in our budget.

In 2024, the cost of preparing Leitrim's county teams was **€791,748**. That's a staggering figure. And yet, Leitrim still has the lowest inter-county team costs in the country.

With limited income and soaring costs, how did we manage?

Fundraising. It makes up 23% of our income — a remarkable percentage for a small county. In contrast, the fundraising income for Dublin GAA is zero.

Among the most significant fundraising efforts in Leitrim's history has been the Leitrim Patrons Fund, established in 2021 following Andy Moran's appointment as county manager. Andy understood the importance of financial support if Leitrim teams were to be given a fair shot. Together with **Seamus Clarke** (New York) and **Joe Layden** (Dublin), he began reaching out to individuals who could make a meaningful and long-term financial contribution.

The fund was established with the help of **Padraic White, Mike Feeney**, and myself. It was governed by strict financial protocols:

- Each Patron pledged **€10,000 per year for three years** — a total commitment of **€30,000**.
- A separate, dedicated bank account was created by the county board.

- Funds were to be used **exclusively** for the **senior county football team**.
- Payments from the account could only be made on the request of the team manager and required approval from the treasurer (**Martin McCartin**) and myself.
- All spending was supported by proper invoicing and was fully audited annually.
- Each Patron received an annual financial statement — **full transparency** was guaranteed.

Over three years, the Patrons Fund contributed **€440,000**. These were **Leitrim people** who gave not for personal gain, recognition, or profit — but out of love for their county and a belief in its potential.

Their contributions covered:

- Gym equipment
- S&C and medical costs
- Performance analysis tools (including HUDL and Pod camera)
- Nutrition support
- Physiotherapy
- Coaching software
- Hotel accommodation where necessary

Importantly, this support allowed the county board to free up resources for underage coaching and development — and that's where we've seen real, tangible results:

- **Leitrim won the Fr Manning Cup(U-16) in 2024. Their last win was in 1990.**
- **Leitrim won Humphrey Kelleher Cups (U-15 Development Squad) in 2023 & 2025**
- **Leitrim Combined Schools** beat St Jarlath's in the Connacht A Championship
- **St Clare's, Manorhamilton** defeated Gortnor Abbey in the Colleges C Final

The lesson is clear: **with proper investment**, Leitrim can compete. Leitrim can win.

As the administrator of the Patrons Fund, and on behalf of the Leitrim County Board Treasurer, I want to publicly and sincerely thank every Patron for their immense generosity and trust.

Your contribution ensured that Leitrim players — many travelling long distances and sacrificing so much — had the same standard of preparation as any team in Ireland. The impact of your support will be felt for years to come, and the county board — and everyone who loves Leitrim football — will be forever in your debt.

What Now?

Here's the hard question: **what happens next year?**

The Patrons' commitment was for three years — and that time has now ended.

So where will the money come from to keep our county teams running at a competitive level?

That's the challenge facing us now — and it's a challenge we must face together.

We've proven that with backing, Leitrim can punch above its weight. But without financial support, we risk sliding backwards.

The future success of Leitrim GAA will depend not just on talent, or passion, or tradition — but on the support of people who believe, like the Patrons did, that Leitrim football deserves every chance to thrive.



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 last 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



Craobh Peil Sinsear Liatroma

(Compiled by Seán Ó Súilleabháin)

Leitrim Senior Football Championship Roll of Honour (to 2024)

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	(10)	1890,1914,1929,1971, 2006, 2015, 2017, 2020, 2023, 2024
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
Aislinn	(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

Health & Wellbeing Initiatives Samaritans and Smoke / Vape Free Stadium

Samaritans – recognition of our partnership

We're really proud to launch this signage in our county GAA park as part of our partnership with the Samaritans – a charity that does incredible work supporting people when they're struggling. This sign is simple, but powerful. It reminds us all that it's okay not to be okay, and that there's always someone to talk to- day or night, no matter what you're going through.

The GAA is about more than sport- it's about looking out for each other, on and off the pitch. And by teaming up with the Samaritans, we're sending a clear message: You're never alone. So let's keep talking, keep supporting each other, and keep our County, Clubs and community strong-not just in body, but in mind and heart too.



L-R: Frank Considine (Samaritans), Bernie Mulligan Dolan, Lisa Mulligan, Declan Bohan, Attracta O'Reilly, Lorraine Mulvey, Martin McCartin

Smoke and Vape Free Launch

This is a proud day for us in Leitrim GAA. By going smoke- and vape-free, we're creating a healthier, safer environment for everyone who visits our grounds- especially our young people. It's about setting a positive example, protecting our members from second-hand smoke, and reinforcing the GAA's role as a hub for healthy living.

We're joining a number of individual Healthy Clubs across Leitrim who have already taken this step, and we're proud to be leading by example in Leitrim County grounds.

A special word of thanks to **Blanaid Carney**, our committee member and HSE Health Promotion and Improvement Officer / Stop Smoking Adviser, for all her help and guidance in getting us to this point.



L-R: Lorraine Mulvey, Attracta O'Reilly, Declan Bohan, Lisa Mulligan, Bernie Mulligan Dolan



Congratulations to all involved as 21 clubs in Leitrim receive official accreditation in the Irish Life GAA Healthy Clubs programme

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Ar Aghaidh le Chéile





Heartland Credit Union Ltd., proudly serving the communities of Annaduff, Mohill, Carrick-on-Shannon, and surrounding areas and common bond, is delighted to announce a landmark partnership with Leitrim GAA, securing the naming rights to the iconic Páirc Seán Mac Diarmada. Under this new agreement, the stadium will now be known as Heartland Credit Union Páirc Seán Mac Diarmada.

This five-year partnership highlights Heartland Credit Union's deep-rooted commitment to supporting local sport, culture, and community development in Leitrim. At the announcement earlier this month Collette Brennan CEO of Heartland Credit Union spoke of the symmetry between the two organisations:

"We are delighted to partner with Leitrim GAA and support the incredible work happening at Páirc Seán Mac Diarmada. The stadium plays a vital role as a hub for Gaelic games and a place where the values of teamwork, discipline, and community spirit are nurtured and passed down to future generations. This partnership aligns perfectly with our commitment to community involvement and backing local initiatives.

"Credit unions and the GAA share a strong bond — both are deeply rooted in their communities and rely on the dedication of local volunteers who give their time selflessly. This partnership feels like a natural and meaningful fit."

Chairperson of Leitrim County Board Declan Bohan said: "On behalf of our officials, players, coaches, and supporters, we are thrilled to welcome Heartland Credit Union as our new naming rights partner. There are strong, existing links between the GAA Membership and Credit Unions at grassroots level, and this partnership strengthens those ties even further. Our spiritual home has been the stage for many unforgettable moments for our County Teams and our Clubs, and we look forward to creating many more at what will now be known as Heartland Credit Union Páirc Seán Mac Diarmada over the 5-year term of this partnership."

This new collaboration between Heartland Credit Union and Leitrim GAA marks an important investment in Páirc Seán Mac Diarmada, helping to enhance its role as a central hub for Gaelic games and youth development across the county.



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