

Sunday 16th October, 2022

Markievicz Park



Senior Football Championship Final

St Mary's v. Tourlestrane
3.30 pm

Referee, John Gilmartin



**WHERE WE
ALL BELONG**



U17 A Championship Final

Drumcliffe Rosses Point vs. St Marys
1.00 pm

Referee, Ciaran McGovern



Supporting Club,
Supporting County

Official programme: €4

Club Sligo Platinum Members

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Platinum membership still available.
See www.sligogaa.ie/clubsligo for details.

Fáilte



On behalf of Homeland, I am delighted to welcome everyone attending Markievicz Park today and in particular the supporters of St Marys, Tourlestrane and, not forgetting the minor final, Drumcliffe Rosses Point.

Homeland is very proud of its role and heritage in supporting the people and communities of Sligo and we're very pleased to continue that support through our sponsorship of the county's blue riband football competition.

The teams here today represent the best of our communities in sport and have reached these finals through their commitment and dedication. We applaud their efforts, we wish them all the best and we extend those wishes also to the mentors, officials and supporters of all the clubs, some among our employees and many our customers.

On behalf of Homeland and Aurivo I would like to commend Sligo GAA and its officials on and off the field for all their work to stage these championships. We have seen some wonderful talent and great entertainment over the past two months and we look forward to seeing more today.

All the best to all involved today.

Caroline Millar-Price,
Brand Development & Marketing Manager,
Aurivo Agribusiness



CREDITS:

Produced and edited by Pádraig McKeon, PRO, Sligo GAA

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Design and print: OfficePro, Ballina

Clár an Lae

Expert Electrical U17A final

- 12.48 Drumcliffe Rosses Point take to the field and warm up at Scoreboard End
- 12.50 St Marys take to the field and warm up at Town End
- 12.58 Referee makes toss with Team Captains.
- 13.00 Throw In
- 13.35 Half Time interval
- 13.45 Second half commences
- 14.20 Game ends
- 14.30 Trophy presentation, in the main stand

Should the game end in a draw. There will be two ten-minute periods of extra time. If the sides are still level after extra time, the game will go to a replay at a date to be fixed.

In the event of extra time in the U17 game, the throw in for the senior game will be deferred by 30 minutes to 16.00.

Connacht Gold Intermediate final

- 15.08 Tourlestrane take to the field and warm up at Scoreboard End
- 15.10 St Marys take to the field and warm up at Town End
- 15.20 Referee makes toss with Team Captains.
- 15.22 Pre match Parade, led by the Midfield Pipe Band Swinford Co. Mayo
- 15.28 Playing of the national anthem - Amhrán na bhFiann.
- 15.30 Throw-in
- 16.05 Half Time interval
- 16.07 Introduction of the Curry 1972 Senior County Champions to the crowd
- 16.15 Second half commences
- 16.50 Game ends
- 17.00 Presentation of the Homeland player of the match award
- 17.03 Presentation of the Owen B Hunt Cup to the winning captain, in the main stand

Should the game end in a draw. There will be two ten-minute periods of extra time. If the sides are still level after extra time, the game will go to a replay at a date to be fixed.

Chairperson's welcome



Is mór an pléisiúr fáilte a chur romhaibh go léir go Páirc Markievicz tráthnóna inniu don lá is mó de shéasúr peile na gclub i Sligeach – cluiche ceannais peile sinsir na gclub, lá atá níos mó ná riamh mar a fheicfidimid an cluiche ceannais mionúr freisin ar an lá céanna don chéad uair le blianta.

I would like to welcome in particular the teams, management, officials and supporters of all three clubs participating.

It is great to see crowds back on the sidelines this summer. Our games are all about participation, on and off the pitch, and we have enjoyed an excellent summer of club football this year for which I want to thank all of the clubs participating.

Today's final is of course the blue riband event of our season and it brings together the two sides that have won the last seven championships between them and that have also been the dominant forces over the past four decades. Tourlestrane as six in a row champions will of course be primed to add to their already unprecedented run of championship victories but today will offer a renewed test from a St Mary's team that has excited throughout this year's competition.

Today also we will see the U17A championship final being played as a curtain raiser to the senior game, something that hasn't happened for some years. These are exciting times for our underage footballers. Sligo's underage teams are now increasingly more competitive at provincial level and beyond and we will be seeing some of the best of that talent on show today.

A special word of thanks and good luck to today's match official, referees John Gilmartin and Ciaran McGovern and their teams. All of us involved in the sport have a responsibility to ensure that their participation as volunteers is as fulfilling for them as for those involved with teams, and in the promotion and organisation of games.

Finally, I would like to thank our sponsors Homeland Stores who sponsor the senior championship, Connacht Gold who sponsor our Junior and Intermediate championships and Expert Electrical who sponsor our underage competitions. We want to acknowledge and thank also our partners, members of the media, Club Sligo members and club members generally for their sustained dedication to Sligo GAA. Without their input we would have no games. Ní neart go cur le chéile.

Míle buíochas,

Seán Ó Cearbhaill – Cathaoirleach CLG Sligeach



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Today's officials



Ciaran McGovern

The referee for today's Expert Electrical U17 championship final is Ciaran McGovern from the Eastern Harps club. He will be assisted by Keith Henry, who is standby referee. The linesman is Kevin Hegarty.



John Gilmartin

The referee for today's Homeland Senior championship final is John Gilmartin from the Curry club, an experienced official who is on the national intercounty refereeing panel for the National League. He will be assisted by Barry Judge, who is standby referee. The linesman is John Niland.

Amhrán na bhFiann

For many years it has been the tradition that the crowd would sing Amhrán na bhFiann before a big final. Today we want to recreate that tradition and would ask you all please to sing the anthem as it is played by the Midfield Pipe Band.

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 tóirán ná faoin tráill. Anocht a théam sa bhearna bhaoil, Le gearn ar Ghaeil, chun báis nó saoil, Le gunna-scréach faoi lámhach na bpiléar, Seo libh canaig' amhrán na bhFiann.

Drumcliffe Rosses Point minor team



Drumcliffe – path to the final

Drumcliffe Rosses Point has been one of the most exciting teams in the U17 league this year, building on a championship and League final appearance in the U15 grade last year in which many of today's squad were involved.

In this year's league they finished two points off top place in the round robin stage, pipped Eastern Harps by a point in a thrilling high scoring semi-final and then were themselves on the wrong end of a one-point margin against today's opposition in the final.

In the championship, they went down in the initial round to Shamrock Gaels but then had big wins against St Molaise Gaels and Easkey and a one-point win over today's opponents to again qualify for the semi-final stage.

In the semi final they exacted full revenge for their first-round defeat by putting Shamrock Gaels to the sword, on the Gael's home pitch and this set up today's showdown.

This will be the fourth meeting between the sides this year, with each of the three previous games ending in a one-point win, twice for St Mary's and once for Drumcliffe Rosses Point.

The Drumcliffe side is managed by Declan Carroll and features a number of players that were involved in this years Sligo minor and U16 panels including Eamonn Keane, Michael Carroll, Eamon O'Mahony, Joe and Finn Campbell, Donnacha O'Brien, Jake Chambers, Rian O'Callaghan and Sean McCabe.



DRUMCLIFFE ROSSSES POINT U17

1

Donnchadh O Brien

2

Dylan McGee

3

Finn Campbell

4

Jake Chambers

5

Ronan O Connor

6

Rian O Callaghan

7

Daire Scanlon
(Captain)

8

Joe Campbell

9

Eamon Keane

10

Diarmuid Dunleavy

11

Michael Carroll

12

Eamon O Mahony

13

Matthew Percy

14

Conor Gillen

15

Sean Mc Cabe

- 16 George Gillen
- 17 Dara O Flaherty
- 18 Aidan Cunningham
- 19 Shane Mc Donagh
- 20 Daragh Crowe
- 21 Samuel Regan
- 22 Daniel Oates
- 23 Andoni Ozkos Beglane
- 24 Andreii Savonic

MANAGEMENT TEAM

Declan Carroll
Des McGee
Fergal Keane
Shane Campbell

ST MARYS U17



1

James Cronin

2

Clyde Regan

3

Stefan Roche

4

Conor Golden

5

Patrick Brady

6

Ronan O'Hehir

7

Shea O'Neill

8

Eli Rooney

9

Robert O'Kelly Lynch

10

Ashraf Tumuheirne

11

Ronan Niland
(Captain)

12

Alex Dee

13

Matthew Mulholland

14

Dylan Streete

15

Ross Clifford

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| 16 Adam Feeney | 25 Conor Murray |
| 17 Connor Flynn | 26 Cathal Kelly |
| 18 Oliver O'Riordan | 27 Roghan O'Neill |
| 19 Patrick Murphy | 28 Ronan Kiely |
| 20 Eoin Monaghan | 29 Logan Markey O'Neill |
| 21 Harry Cawley | |
| 22 Jack Scanlon | |
| 23 Carlos Menendez | |
| 24 Rory Connellan | |

MANAGEMENT TEAM

Bainisteoir	Aidan Rooney
Maor Foirne	Peadar Niland
	Adrian Flynn
	Seamus Cronin
	Stephen Scanlon
	Brian Roche

St Marys – path to the final.

Despite the two teams being almost impossible to separate when they meet, the path to the championship has been a little different for today's finalists,

Having won the league title by the narrowest of margins against today's opponents in mid-July, the Ballydougan side had a mixed passage through the round robin stages of the Championship with reverses against today's opponents and Eastern Harps and a draw against Shamrock Gaels.

That meant a trip to Keash for a semi-final which turned out to be a thrilling contest that St Marys took with two points to spare after a tight context.

The St Mary's side has a strong cast of players that featured in Sligo's U16 Manning Cup victory and Connacht U17 championship campaign which ended at the Connacht semi-final stage including Connor Flynn, Ronan Niland, Ronan O'Hehir, James Cronin, Clyde Regan, Eli Rooney, Shea O'Neill , Robert O'Kelly Lynch, Ashraf Tumhierwe and Matthew Mulholland.

While acknowledging that his side has had an up and down campaign, St Marys manager Aidan Rooney is expecting another cracking contest today . "We have a good base of football in the team but unusually for young fells, we have had injuries. We are hoping to get everyone on the pitch for Sunday and from there to get a performance because there is, literally. A kick of a ball between these teams. Definitely a day to look forward to"

St Marys U17 team





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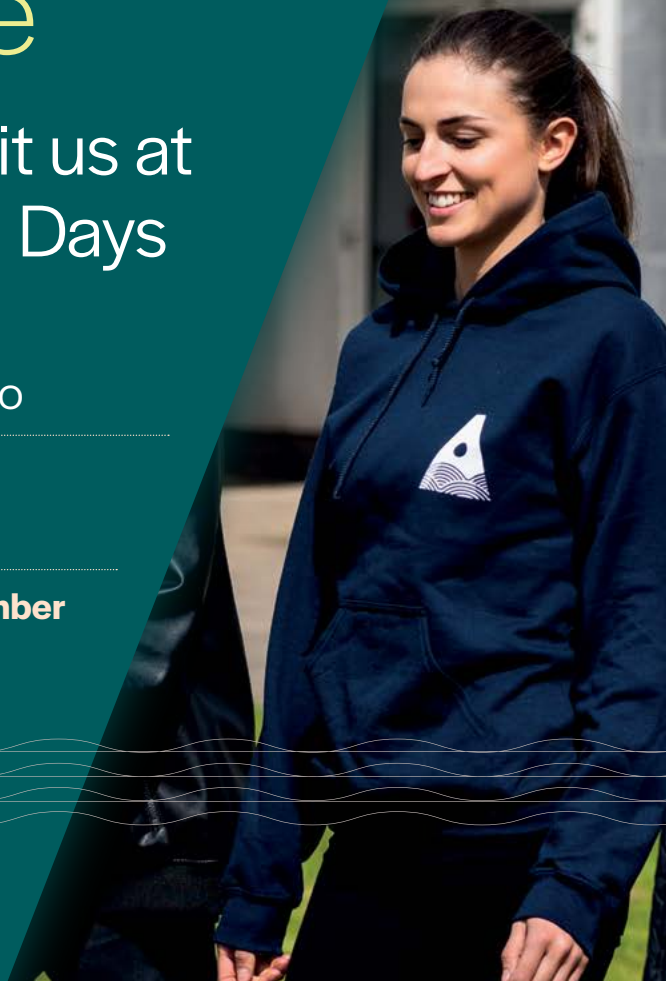
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Donegal

25th & 26th November

Sligo

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Support behind the scenes



It is 30 years this year since sponsorship was first allowed for GAA clubs and counties and over the years it has become a critical part of keeping the games going. Sponsorship now isn't just about what is happening on the field but also about development work, venues and communications activity.

One of the brands that is synonymous with gaelic games in Sligo is Clifford Electrical, the long-time sponsor of Sligo's senior teams. The Clifford family has also been long term supporters of Markievicz Park and Sligo GAA was delighted recently at the offer of Clifford Electrical to sponsor a new electronic scoreboard that was used for the first time for the county's U15 football finals in mid-September.

The Markievicz Park committee was delighted to welcome Pat and John Clifford to Markievicz Park on Sunday last to see the new scoreboard in action and to

thank them for their generosity.

A new area that all counties are now getting involved with is the live video streaming of games every week throughout the championship. Sligo GAA has registered SligoGAATV.ie and the service is provided for us by Rory O'Brien, a proud Sligo Man who has been working with media and broadcasting technology for over 40 years now. The weekly streaming service is sponsored by Richard Brennan of Brennan Agri Services who popped in last week to see what Rory was up to in the media box before the Intermediate final.



Medal Presentation Dinner 2022 Under 20 Connacht Football Champions



Friday, 11th November 2022

7.30pm

Clayton Hotel, Sligo



Tickets priced at €40 available at www.sligogaa.ie/tickets



Dessie Sloyan - legacy of U20 victory



Building on success

As we near the end of the year and start to hand out the medals, one of the biggest nights that the Sligo GAA community will look forward to is the presentation of their Connacht championship medals to Sligo's U20 team.

Nobody who was in Markievicz Park on that tense but wonderful evening in May will likely ever forget the release of winning a first ever Connacht title at the U20 (or previously U21) grade but for those involved, it was as much about creating a new mark for Sligo football, a starting point for future teams to follow, rather than just a win for themselves.

"Making the statement that 'We are Sligo', that we are proud of where we come from and of what we stand for was an important part of the bond in this group" according to team manager Dessie Sloyan.

The Easkey native continued "they built up to that Championship by

working hard over three years, taking the knocks when things didn't go their way in previous years but staying positive and learning year on year until they set a new standard by winning the U20 championship. For me and the other lads on the management team it was very satisfying to see them achieve their ambition and it is great to see now how throughout the county those players are taking on roles of leadership within their club teams, as we have seen last week and will again this week in the county finals. Success surely breed success".

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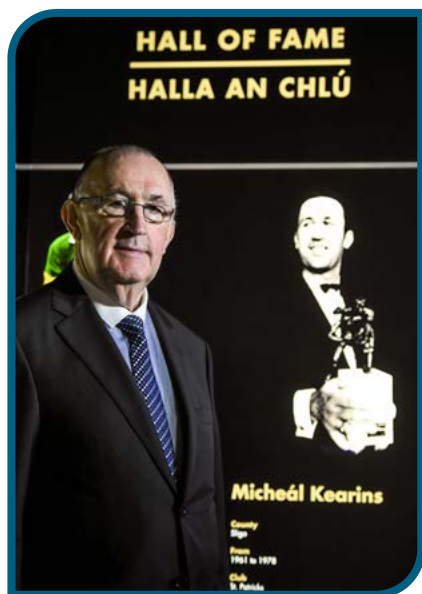
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Wishing Sligo success
in their 2022 campaigns

Micheál Kearins Top Scorer in Ireland 1972

Fifty years ago, in 1972 Micheál Kearins scored 142pts - (4gls-130pts) in 19 Games - an average of 7.5pts per game.



Micheál Kearins embodies everything that our G.A.A founders would have wished for- serving his community of St Pat's G.A.A Club, and the wider County of Sligo where he gave so much enjoyment to our supporters. We thank him sincerely for all the pleasure, excitement, and success on the playing fields, he brought to our homes, schools, hospitals and the Sligo diaspora in faraway lands, in an era where radio was ever present. How often did we hear Micheál O Hehir say on the

airwaves "Micheál Kearins yet again from an acute angle sends the ball unerringly across the black spot"?.

Wherever football people gather to discuss the "greats" of the game, there is one name which will never be omitted from the list, and that is the name of Micheál Kearins - Sligo's ace marksman in the sixties and seventies at County, Provincial and National level. The news of the schoolboy prodigy had spread throughout the county in the late fifties, where he displayed skills and football attributes that marked him out as a potential future star. Everything he did had the hallmark of genius - he fielded beautifully, faded from the tackle superbly, zig-zagged his way past bewildered opponents on scintillating solo runs, and seemed to possess in-built radar with regard to the location of the goal posts. Mickey went on from the modest schoolboy stage to display his unique talent throughout the Country and take his place among the "Elite" and "Greats" of the game at National level.

Club Sligo

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Supporting County

SLIGO COUNTY BOARD ARE ASKING SLIGO
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GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF GAA IN SLIGO



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1st prize €5000, 2nd prize €500, 5 x €100 prizes



Benefits for all Club Sligo Members

- Entry into 12 monthly draws per year
- Official Sligo GAA O'Neills 2021 Jersey or O'Neills Jacket
- Annual car sticker
- Free pass to Sligo Senior Club Championship Final (Where guidelines allow)
- Invitation to meet and greet night in Centre of Excellence prior to the Football and Hurling Championships (Where guidelines allow)
- Bonus members draw for two All Ireland Football Final and two All Ireland Hurling Final tickets (Where guidelines allow)

Development breeds success

2022 will be remembered as a good year with all Sligo's county teams competing well.

One of the big reasons for that uplift is the focus of the Sligo GAA development team based out of our Centre of Excellence.

The work they are doing is building capacity in coaching and games development all around the county. This is the work that Club Sligo, first established in 2012, exists to support.

Sligo's first ever Connacht U20 football championship this year following closely on the Connacht minor success in 2021 was the culmination of five years' work by a very committed group of players working in close harmony, with consistent management structures over the period.

The group embraced that work and also built an identity as representatives of Sligo of which we can all be proud.

Our U16 footballers won their national competition the Fr Manning Cup and in hurling Sligo won the Celtic Challenge Michael Ferry Cup – the All Ireland U17 competition for hurlers outside the elite hurling countries – and our U15 hurlers were successful in the Peter O'Keeffe shield final as they began to get a taste for competition at intercounty level.

As we build this capacity to compete year on year, we are shaping a new tradition that will underpin further future success and set a standard in turn for those that follow,

Our senior county players in both codes now form two strong, committed groups, based at the Centre of Excellence that are fully engaged with modern training methods and the application of sports science to Gaelic games.

We now have, for the first time ever, young Sligo footballers and hurlers who are used to winning, and who are happy to play with that expectation.

That emerges from having a focus first on the rounded development of the player from a young age with an emphasis on skill development, in a team context, and on learning how to practice well, with good habits and a positive attitude towards playing in a team environment.

This work is only possible when we are investing in the knowledge and skills of the people that work with our youth in bringing them from excited kids to mature and capable young men.

This is the work that is at the heart of what Club Sligo is there to support – creating a new culture for the games that evolves year on year.

THE OWEN B. HUNT PERPETUAL CHALLENGE CUPS:

Owen B. Hunt was born in Gabhlán, Rooskey, Co. Sligo on 11th July, 1896. His family later moved to Ballyglass, Cloonacool.



He emigrated to Philadelphia at a young age. A great lover of all things Irish, he became very closely associated with Pennsylvania State Friendly Sons of Saint Patrick and went on to become President of this organisation which is a benefactor of Irish students travelling to the U.S.A. He also became President of the American Anti-Vivisection Society.

Owen B. was a politician, a Democrat and the first Irishman to become Minister for Labour in Pennsylvania. He was responsible for the widely acclaimed Blue Cross legislation in that State and also researched and edited a number of books including "Irishmen in the American War of Independence".

In 1953 Owen B. presented Sligo County Board with a Perpetual Challenge Cup

for the Senior Football Championship. The first winners were Craobh Rua from Sligo town captained by Sean Tansey, a native of Cloonacool. They defeated Keash in the final at Corran Park, Ballymote, which was also the venue when the cup was presented for the last time in 1988. On that occasion St. Patrick's, captained by Seamus Reilly, were the winners.

In 1989 a new Owen B. Hunt Cup was kindly presented to the County Board by Sean and Peggy Owens, Benada, Tourlestrane. Peggy Owens is a niece of Owen B. St. Patrick's, again captained by Seamus Reilly, achieved a unique double when they became the first winners of the second cup. The County Board decided to retire it in 2008 with Eastern Harps, captained by Ross Donovan, being its final recipients.

In 2009 the third Owen B. Hunt Cup was presented for the first time with Tourlestrane, captained by Gerry McGowan, the winners of the final played at Markievicz Park.

Owen B Hunt died in May 1978 at the age of 82

Sligo Senior Football championship, roll of honour

	CLUB	WINS	YEARS WON
1	Tubbercurry	20	1890, 1917, 1918, 1924, 1927, 1928, 1930, 1934, 1938, 1939, 1940, 1946, 1950, 1951, 1955, 1957, 1976, 1986, 1991, 2014
2	Tourlestrane	17	1956, 1978, 1982, 1994, 1997, 1999, 2004, 2007, 2009, 2011, 2013, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021
3	St Mary's	11	1977, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1987, 1996, 2001, 2015
4	Eastern Harps	7	1975, 1993, 1995, 1998, 2002, 2008, 2010
	Curry	7	1889, 1922, 1964, 1972, 2003, 2006, 2012
	St Patrick's, Dromard	7	1968, 1970, 1971, 1973, 1974, 1988, 1989
5	Ballisodare	6	1931, 1932, 1960, 1961, 1962, 1963
6	Easkey	5	1935, 1936, 1937, 1941, 1966
	Ballymote	5	1892, 1905, 1913, 1925, 1948
7	Craobh Rua	4	1944, 1952, 1953, 1954
8	Collooney Harps	3	1942, 1943, 1965
9	Coolera/Strandhill	2	1907, 2005
	Bunninadden	2	1891, 2000
	Shamrock Gaels	2	1990, 1992
	Soeey	2	1949, 1959
	Skreen	2	1945, 1947
	Knocklassa	2	1915, 1933
	Enniscrone	2	1914, 1916
	Collooney/Ballisodare	2	1967, 1969
	Sligo Wanderers	2	1909, 1910
10	Kilglass	1	1929
	Gurteen	1	1906
	Coolaney-Mullinabreena	1	1958
	Moylough	1	1919
	Sligo Emmets	1	



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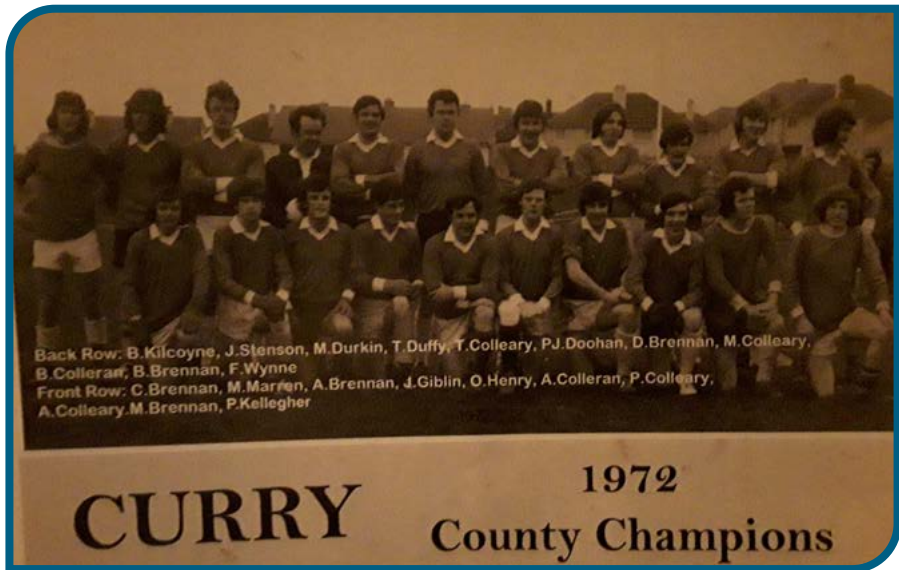
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Jubilee team – Curry, Sligo County champions 1972

Curry was crowned Sligo senior county Champions in 1972 when they defeated Enniscrone on a scoreline of 1.10 to 0.05.



It was the club's fourth title overall with the most recent previously being in 1964. The team, like that of many rural clubs, was built around players from a number of families. There were five Colleary brothers, two Giblins, two Collearans, two Brennans from Lambfield and two Brennans from Chaffpool, while goal keeper Tommy Duffy was an uncle to Michael Marren.

The club went on to represent Sligo in the 1972 Connacht club Championship where the team was defeated by Fr. Griffiths's of Galway

- Tommy Duffy- Bellaghy. Tommy was a free scoring corner forward on the 1964 winning team, he transformed himself into a solid keeper on this team. He played for Sligo during the League in 1956 He passed away in 1981 RIP.
- Padraic Colleary- Cully. Padraic was the original solid corner back, one of the five Colleary brothers on the team.

- Paddy Joe Doohan – Doocastle. Paddy Joe was a towering full back also from the 1964 team, a genial man but not to be messed with in the square. He represented Sligo in 1964-65. He died in November 2019 RIP
- Michael Colleary – Cully. Michael completed the full back line in great style. They gave away very few scores.
- Anthony Brennan – Drimbane. Anthony was a very athletic wing back, a keen reader of the game.
- James Giblin – Montiagh. James was our captain and centre back. He commanded great respect from the team.
- Aidan Colleran- Broher. Aidan was probably the fittest man on the team, he covered acres on the pitch.
- Tom Colleary- Cully. Tom was a powerful presence on the pitch with a never say die attitude. He formed the midfield partnership with fellow Curry man, John Stenson when Sligo won Connacht in 1975. He also represented Connacht at interprovincial level. He was on the panel when Curry won in 1964.
- John Stenson-Cloonagh. John or Johnny as he was widely known was an outstanding footballer, very skilful with a personality that kept us all together. Johnny represented Sligo for many years including the great Connacht win in 1975. Johnny died in September 2009 RIP
- Aidan Colleary - Cully. Aidan was the youngest player in our team, he belied his tender 16 years with a wonderful display in the final. He went on to play for Sligo for many years.
- Jim Colleary - Cully. Certainly one of the best players to come out of Curry or Sligo, Jim was central to the winning of the championship in 1972. A man of great athleticism and strength he represented Sligo and Connacht for many years.
- Donal Brennan – Lambpark. Donal was a scoring forward, one of the many youngsters in the forward line, he was on the Sligo panel that won Connacht in 1975.
- Colm Brennan – Chaffpool. Colm was a most skilful footballer contributed greatly to winning the county final.
- Owen Henry – Drimbane. Owen was the heart of Curry football. A member

of the 64 winning team he was the consummate footballer, free scoring forward. He captained the winning Curry team in 1964. He died in 1972. RIP

- Michael Marren - Bellaghy. Micheal , a nephew of goalkeeper Tommy Duffy, was a skilful clever footballer, always a keen student of the game.
- Seamus Brett-Broher. Seamus was a very good defender, he played a big part in the campaign in 1972,
- Bernie Colleran-Curraconane. Bernie was a skilful determined forward. He was a son of one of the famed seven Colleran brothers who brought glory to Curry in the 20s and 30s. He died in 1973 RIP.
- Eddie Giblin-Montiagh. Eddie, a brother of James , our captain, was a young up and coming player. He died in 1972. RiP
- Edward Colleran-Curraconane. Brother of the late Bernie, played for Curry for many years after 1972, a tigerish number 7.
- Bernie Kilcoyne - Curraconane . A strong athletic player, his work took him to many countries and he later settled in Knockmore
- Bernard Brennan-Lambpark. Brother of Donal, his work took him to Cork curtailing his involvement , a tidy corner forward.
- Bernard Brennan-Curry. Son of the legendary Jack, a good footballer whose work in Cork curtailed his involvement in the 1972 team.
- Mattie Brennan-Chaffpool. Brother of Colm, he was a very steady defender with good football skills.
- Michael-Durcan-Cashel. Michael was an excellent footballer but injury ruined his season, he did come back to play a big role in our Connacht club championship in Galway. He was a brother of Fr Sean, great Curry and Sligo player. He died in 2016 RIP
- Paraic Kelleher -Ballincurry. Sub goal keeper , a talented player , he emigrated to England and is still actively involved with Neasden Gaels in London.
- Martin Howley-Curry. Martin was a very skilful footballer but injury ruined his season. Son of the legendary Gerry.
- Chris Wynne - Drimbane , won U 16 County title in 1972 and was drafted into the Senior panel for the county final. He moved to London shortly after and still resides there.

MARY'S TOP HITS OF THE 80'S



St Mary's 1983-Connaught-Champions

Heading into today's game St Mary's are third on the list when it comes to senior football championship titles in Sligo. Like their opponents today, the majority came in a period of great dominance with nine of the eleven coming in a twenty year spell between 1977 and 1996.

Founded in 1976, St Mary's wasted no time in rising to the top of club football within the county and following a final loss to Tubbercurry in their first campaign, the North Sligo outfit were crowned champions of the '77 campaign with victory over St Pat's/ Dromard.

Their hunger would only grow stronger in the coming years, completing a three in a row of championships - not once, but twice in a seven-year stretch. They overcame Tubbercurry (1979) and Eastern Harps (1980,

1981) with strong attacking play displayed in their high goalscoring tally in finals, thanks to players like Jim and John Kent, Mick Laffey and Barnes Murphy.



St Marys - Sligo senior champions 1996

Between '83 and '87, St Mary's and Tubbercurry would compete in all five finals, with St Mary's winning four times. Tubbercurry won the '86 final to halt the Mary's charge for a season, before they would reclaim their crown in the '87 season, their eighth title in total and sixth of the 80's. The final of 1985 was a particularly intriguing encounter, as it took not only one but two replays to separate Tubbercurry and St Mary's, with the latter taking the spoils in Kilcoyne Park.

Throughout this period, St Mary's would not only dominate Sligo but they went on to win three Connacht senior football titles in 1977 (again, just one year after their establishment), 1980 and 1983. Once again their scoring power would come to the fore with Eamon Delahunt and Morgan Walsh finding important scores in the Connacht campaigns. They overcame Corofin in the '77 decider, and another Galway outfit in St Grellan's in 1980, before victory over Knockmore in the '83 final. St Mary's were also beaten in three

finals throughout this period (1979, 1981, 1984).

After the success of '87, it would take St Mary's nine years to rebuild and win another championship decider – with their only appearance in a final in the meantime coming in the 1991 loss to Tubbercurry. The 1996 season rolled around and TJ Kilgannon took the reigns as manager, with Tommy Breheny as captain of the side. Goals from Pascal Bree and man of the match Paul Newton helped the Sligo town side to victory over Eastern Harps. David Cummins, Peter Mullen and Meath man Eamon McClocksey were credited in the match report in helping the Sligo town outfit to a ninth senior championship.

Two more titles would come in 2001 and 2015, and today marks the first final appearance for St Mary's since 2016. Can club legend Mark Breheny help the red and black return to their former glory and land a 12th senior championship?



Tommy Carroll - St Marys,
1980-Sligo-Champions



Tommy-Breheny 1996
Championship final

St Mary's team



St Mary's path to the final

This is St Mary's first final since 2016 when they lost to today's opponents in what was their fourth final in five years.

They arrived in today's final in the most dramatic fashion winning a penalty shoot out after goalkeeper Jack Teape pointed a last minute 45 m free to tie the semi-final after extra time.

Before then the Ballydugan side had gone unbeaten through the group stages with wins over Tubbercurry, Shamrock Gaels, Calry St Josephs and Curry.

Group One

Round 1	Tubbercurry	1 - 11	2 - 13	St Mary's
Round 2	St Mary's	1 - 14	1 - 12	Shamrock Gaels
Round 3	Bye			
Round 4	Calry/St Joseph's	1 - 11	1 - 14	St Mary's
Round 5	Curry	0 - 11	1 - 25	St Mary's



Name	P	W	D	L	F	A	+/-	Pts
St Mary's	4	4	0	0	81	54	27	8
Shamrock Gaels	4	3	0	1	86	52	34	6
Calry/St Joseph's	4	2	0	2	57	60	-3	4
Curry	4	1	0	3	51	85	-34	2
Tubbercurry	4	0	0	4	47	71	-24	0



ST MARYS SENIOR TEAM

1

Jack Teape

2

Ryan Feehily

3

David Philips

4

Fionn O'Hehir

5

Gerard O'Kelly Lynch

6

Luke Nicholson
(Captain)

7

Ryan Madden

8

Paul Kilcoyne

9

Tony O'Kelly Lynch

10

Michael Munnelly

11

Emlyn Mulligan

12

Patrick Maher

13

Stephen Coen

14

Nathan Rooney
(Captain)

15

Scott Lynch

- 16 David Lynch
- 17 Liam O'Kelly Lynch
- 18 Adam Lynch
- 19 David McGovern
- 20 Jay Cox
- 21 Sean Clifford
- 22 Conor Darcy
- 23 Johnny Martyn
- 24 Stephen Henry
- 25 Paul Moore

- 27 Donal Keaveny
- 28 Eamonn Flynn
- 29 Cormac Niland
- 30 Niall Feehily
- 31 Zaak Mahon
- 32 Jimmy Monaghan
- 33 Marc O Hehir
- 34 Kyle Cawley
- 35 Cian Breheny
- 36 Dylan Kilgallon
Finn Young

MANAGEMENT TEAM	
Bainisteoir Maor Foirne	Mark Breheny David Keane Damien Eames
Selector S&C Game Admin Kit	Peadar Niland Garry O'Hehir Simon Buckley Ronnie Brennan, Aidan Power, Stephen Scanlon
Physio	Therese Devaney , Rachael Dunne
Kit	Aaron Tansey, Brendan Munnelly, Dylan Kilgallon , Ronan Niland

TOURLESTRANE SENIOR TEAM



1

Adam Broe

2

JP Lang

3

John Francis Carr

4

Barry Walsh

5

Oisín Kennedy

6

Adrian McIntyre

7

Noel Gaughan

8

Feidhlim O'Donnell

9

Conan Marren

10

Kenny Gavigan

11

Cathal Henry

12

James Leonard

13

Liam Gaughan

14

John Kelly

15

Gary Gaughan
(Captain)

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| 16 Jack Lundy | 29 Diarmuid Dunne |
| 17 Kevin O'Hara | 30 David Brennan |
| 18 Ronan Walsh | 31 Stephen Clarke |
| 19 Cian Surlis | 32 Cathal Fleming |
| 20 Stephen Henry | 33 Jon Durkin |
| 21 Niall Egan | 34 Conor Surlis |
| 22 Rian Kennedy | 35 Jonathan O'Hara |
| 23 Rian Bailey | 36 Patrick Tobin |
| 24 Colin Neary | 37 Danny Cawley |
| 25 Niall Durkin | 38 Cormac Dolan |
| 26 Darren Leonard | 39 Ryan O'Hara |
| 27 Adrian Walsh | 40 Darren Gallagher |
| 28 Aiden Marren | |

MANAGEMENT TEAM

Bainisteoir	Fergal O'Donnell
Maor Foirne	John Marren Noel Manley Stephen Bohan
Physio	Paul Kilcullen

Tourlestrane road to the final

Tourlestrane found themselves starting 2022 with the second new manager in successive seasons with the appointment of Roscommon's Fergal O'Donnell to patrol the side-line.

It was business as usual on the pitch however as they went unbeaten through the Spring League and the regular Senior League Division One campaign,

They were surprisingly overturned by Coolera Strandhill in the League final but showing all the experience one would expect of a team looking to add a seventh successive title though, the champions have worked their way through the challenges presented to them and found a way to win each time, going unbeaten through the group stages against Coolaney Mullinabreena, St Farnans and then Coolera Strandhill to secure a semi-final slot before the last group game against Drumcliffe which they won to complete an unbeaten campaign.

In the semi-final they had a little too much guile where it mattered that allowed them slip past Shamrock Gaels and into a seventh successive finals.

Group Two

Round 1	Coolaney/Mullinabreena	2 - 7	0 - 15	Tourlestrane
Round 2	Tourlestrane	2 - 17	3 - 12	St Farnan's
Round 3	Bye			
Round 4	Coolera Strandhill	1 - 12	1 - 15	Tourlestrane
Round 5	Drumcliffe/Rosses Point	0 - 7	0 - 8	Tourlestrane



Name	P	W	D	L	F	A	+/-	Pts
Tourlestrane	4	4	0	0	64	56	8	8
Drumcliffe/Rosses Point	4	2	1	1	64	38	26	5
Coolera Strandhill	4	2	1	1	78	55	23	5
Coolaney/Mullinabreena	4	1	0	3	54	79	-25	2
St Farnan's	4	0	0	4	65	97	-32	0

Tourlestrane team



TOURLESTRANE'S GREEN AND GOLDEN ERA

Having won the intermediate championship in 1988, Tourlestrane resumed senior championship football hoping to rebuild during the 90's and compete for the senior crown. With the likes of Anthony Brennan, Tony Carty and Matthew Walsh in the engine room of their team, Tourlestrane returned to the summit by beating Shamrock Gaels to win just their fourth ever championship victory in 1994.

1997 and 1999 saw two more title wins over Eastern Harps and Easkey, with younger players coming into their own in the green and gold – Eamonn O'Hara, Gerry McGowan and David Durkin to name but a few. Neil Egan was Tourlestrane manager for all three victories in this period.

The noughties brought more success with a win over St Mary's in 2004, before wins in '07 and '09 against Eastern Harps – with whom Tourlestrane had many great battles with Harps winning the 2010 decider. Anthony Brennan won championships as manager, as did Michael Henry, while the likes of Shane Dunne and John Marren began their medal haul.

Victories over Coolera/ Strandhill (2011) and Tubbercurry (2013) meant Tourlestrane had won four senior titles in seven years. With such a wealth of talent at their disposal in players such as Adrian McIntyre, Gary Gaughan and Stephen Henry,



Tourlestrane were ruling the county in terms of recent success, but were still on the hunt for something they hadn't achieved before – back to back senior championships. St Pat's/ Dromard were the last team to do so during the 88/89 run, and after semi-final losses to Tubbercurry (2014) and St Mary's (2015), Eamonn O'Hara and Gerry McGowan would come back to Tourlestrane as a joint management team to push on this golden era of talent.





Back Row (left to right): Noel Manley, Gerry McGowan, David Durkin, Eamonn Walsh, Con O'Meara, Enda Gallagher, Richard Kennedy, Pádraig McVann. Front Row (left to right): Fintan Kennedy, John Egan, Eamonn O'Hara, Matthew Walsh (Capt.), Francis O'Hara, James Curley, Leo Gaughan.

Interesting enough that the last time Tourlestrane met St Mary's in a county final was McGowan and O'Hara's first year in charge, leading to a seven point win in 2016. Chasing the illustrious back-to-back, Tourlestrane came from behind to win the 2017 final against Eastern Harps. Their desire for a second successive title shone through, but as we know, their thirst for glory had not been quenched. Tubbercurry (2018), Coolera/ Strandhill (2019) and Drumcliffe/ Rosses Point (2020) would all fall to the Tourlestrane charge as they continued to break and make records, in becoming the first team in Sligo club football history to achieve a five in a row of senior football championships. These were helped by man of the match displays from Cathal Henry, John Kelly, Liam Gaughan and Pat Harte.

Moving on to last season, and with Kevin Johnson now in charge Tourlestrane would win a sixth title in a row, overcoming a strong Coolera Strandhill team. Still unbeaten in Sligo championship football since the 2015 semi-final replay against St Mary's, this brings us to today's decider as Fergal O'Donnell's men look to keep their streak alive and claim an 18th crown.



TOURLESTRANE - COUNTY SENIOR CHAMPIONS 1994

THROUGH THE YEARS

When two clubs St Marys vs. Tourlestrane are so successful within a county, they are bound to cross paths from time to time. Here are a selection of those key battles over the years between the two:

7 September 1996

Sligo senior football championship semi final

St Mary's 2-9 Tourlestrane 0-11

TJ Kilgallon guided St Mary's to a ninth Sligo senior football championship - which was also a club record ninth medal for John Kent. Before beating Eastern Harps in the final, Mary's overcame Tourlestrane in the semi-final. Two goals from Maurice Galvin earned a spot in the decider, and sent the red and black to their final championship win of the 20th century.

17 October 2004

Sligo senior football championship final replay

Tourlestrane 2-9 St Mary's 2-4

It took a replay to separate the teams in 2004, following (2-3) from Mark Breheny in the first tie, and Tourlestrane scores coming from Matthew Walsh, Gerry McGowan, and John Marren's goal. The replay saw Tourlestrane behind at half time following two first half goals from Mark Rooney, but the green and gold would come back to claim their seventh championship with an important goal from substitute Eamonn Walsh.

18 October 2015

Sligo senior football championship semi-final replay

St Mary's 2-15 Tourlestrane 2-9

St Mary's were the last team to beat Tourlestrane in championship football in Sligo on their way to claiming an eleventh Sligo senior championship. A great blend of youth and experience with the successful minor A winning teams coming through, St Mary's were forced to a replay by Ray Dempsey's Tourlestrane in the semi-final. Stephen Coen starred in a replay that saw four first half goals.



2 October 2016

Sligo senior football championship final

Tourlestrane 1-14 St Mary's 1-7

The last county final St Mary's competed in, and the first of Tourlestrane's in their unbeaten county final streak. Many know this game as the 'red mist' for the great deal of red cards flashed in the latter stages, others will remember it for Johnny Kelly's late solo goal. Kyle Cawley hit the goal for his side, in Eamonn O'Hara and Gerry McGowan's first year in charge of their home club.



6 September 2020

Sligo senior football championship semi final

Tourlestrane 0-11 St Mary's 2-4

St Mary's led by four points coming out of the second half water break following a goal from Nathan Rooney and a Stephen Coen penalty. Tourlestrane's bid for a fifth senior title in a row looked dead and buried, but managed to turn the game around with a flurry of points. James Leonard kicked the winning score deep into added time, and Tourlestrane went on to beat Drumcliffe/Rosses Point in the final. This was the last time today's finalists met in championship football.

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A breakthrough year for Sligo handball.

2022 will also be remembered forever as a breakthrough year for Sligo handball and in particular for Cormac Finn of the Ballymote club who won not just one but two national titles,



In March in Kingscourt in Co. Cavan, Finn defeated Kilkenny's Kyle Jordan to become the national minor four-wall champion.

Then in September, in Roscommon, he repeated the feat by claiming the All-Ireland minor softball singles title bridging 58-year gap since the last and only other minor softball singles title won a Sligo man, also by a Ballymote player, Marcus Henry in 1964

Finn wasn't the only Sligo handballer to feature successfully in national or provincial competition. In March on the same court as Finn's first triumph, Castleconnor's Karly Cooney contested an All-Ireland under17 singles final.

Then in May, another Castleconnor player, Darragh Bourke was crowned as the 4 Wall national Junior champion in the 17&U B grade.



Also in May, Sligo handballers won six Connacht Juvenile titles with each of the Drumcliffe, Castleconnor and Collooney represented through Ciaran Corr and Noah Zaharia, Mark Percy, Niall Bourke and Cathal Jones, Rachael Jones, Daniel Slevin, Travis Gibbons and Brian Donegan.

Finally in September Laura Finn, a sister of Cormac's contested the All-Ireland Intermediate Final building on her success in winning the Junior B and Junior singles titles back-to-back in 2020 and 2021.



Leo and Jim Gray - Sligo Sports Stars book

LOCAL HEROES: A CELEBRATION OF SLIGO SPORT is a unique local sports book due for publication later this month.

Written by award-winning local journalists, Jim and Leo Gray, the book is a virtual encyclopedia of local sporting achievement, featuring more than 70 chapters across over 20 local sports.

Naturally, the book includes a comprehensive and wide-ranging focus on GAA and will be of particular interest to football and hurling fans throughout the region.

In all, there are 16 chapters of compelling GAA stories, covering everything from the legendary heroics of Sligo's Connacht Championship winning teams right up to the recent ground-breaking triumphs for the county's under-age footballers; the glorious progress of Sligo hurlers, the captivating Croke Park success of the county ladies' All-Ireland winning squad, and the enduring passion for Gaelic games at club and grassroot level.

GAA fans will enjoy riveting essays on the county's four football All-Stars, Mickey Kearins, Barnes Murphy, Eamonn O'Hara and Charlie Harrison.

Hurler Keith Raymond, who won three All-Ireland medals and five Champion 15 awards (the equivalent of the football All Stars), offers an absorbing insight into his success-laden career, while an indepth study of the county's outstanding advances in hurling includes thoughtful observations from Darragh Cox, Mick Burke, Henry Cox and Hurling Board Chairman, Sean Reynolds.

It looks at Sligo's 2007 Provincial Championship triumph with The Breheny brothers, Tommy and Mark, captain Noel McGuire. And the multi talneted Kieran Quinn.

Sligo's previous provincial win in 1975 is also covered in pieces with Paddy Henry, John Brennan, Tommy Cummins, Tommy Carroll, Mickey Kearins and Barnes Murphy, each of whom outline their own take on the twists and turns of what was an epic adventure for Sligo football.

Of more recent vintage are Paul Henry and Dessie Sloyan's perspectives as managers of the county minor and under 20 teams of 2021 and 2022 while the book also looks on the vibrant club scene in Sligo and takes a look from the perspective of officials and administrators

LOCAL HEROES: A CELEBRATION OF SLIGO SPORT is the most comprehensive collection of Sligo sports stars ever assembled between the covers of a book and is a must read for all Sligo sports fans. Published by Red Stripe Press, it will be launched later this month and will be available in all local book shops.





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