

Sunday 9th October, 2022

Markievicz Park



**Connacht Gold
Junior A football championship final**

**St. Molaise Gaels vs. Shamrock Gaels
1.30 pm**

Referee, Michael Conway



**WHERE WE
ALL BELONG**



**Connacht Gold
Intermediate football championship final**

**St. Molaise Gaels vs. Easkey
4.00 pm**

Referee, Bill Carty



**Supporting Club,
Supporting County**

Official programme: €3



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Fáilte



On behalf of Connacht Gold, I am delighted to welcome everyone attending Markievicz Park today and in particular the supporters of the participating teams - St Molaise Gaels, who have two teams competing today, Easkey and Shamrock Gaels.

Connacht Gold has supported the GAA in Sligo for many years and we're very happy this year to again be sponsors of the Intermediate and Junior club championships

It's an honour to support all the Clubs who compete in these championships. The three clubs involved today are a strong reflection of the communities that they represent. As an organisation with a presence in each of those communities we wish the best today to all the players, mentors and supporters among our employees and our customers.

On behalf of Connacht Gold 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. They have provided great entertainment over the past two months and have showcased some wonderful talent that we look forward to seeing more of today.

The best of luck to all involved today in what I am sure will be two entertaining contests.

Seamus Hannon,

National Account Manager, Aurivo Consumer Foods.



CREDITS:

Produced and edited by Pdraig McKeon, PRO, Sligo GAA

Contributors: Sorcha McLoughlin, Declan Bruen, Rian Bailey.

Photography: Eamonn McMunn, St Molaise Gaels GAA, Christine Kilcullen, Sportsfile

Design and print: OfficePro, Ballina

Clár an Lae

Connacht Gold Junior A final

- 13.18 St Molaise Gaels take to the field
- 13.20 Shamrock Gaels take to the field
- 13.25 Referee makes toss with Team Captains.
- 13.30 Throw In
- 14.05 Half Time interval
- 14.15 Second half commences
- 14.50 Game ends
- 14.55 Trophy presentation, in the main stand

Should the game end in a draw, two ten minute periods of extra time will be played. If the teams are still tied at the end of extra time, the match will be replayed at a date to be fixed.

Connacht Gold Intermediate final

- 15.48 St Molaise Gaels take to the field
- 15.50 Easkey take to the field
- 15.55 Referee makes toss with Team Captains.
- 15.58 Amhrán na bhFiann.
- 16.00 Throw-in
- 16.35 Half Time interval
- 16.45 Second half commences
- 17.20 Game ends
- 17.25 Trophy presentation, in the main stand

Should the game end in a draw, two ten minute periods of extra time will be played. If the teams are still tied at the end of extra time, the match will be replayed at a date to be fixed.

Today's officials.



Michael Conway

The referee for today's Junior A championship final is Michael Conway from the Easkey club. He will be assisted by Keith Henry from Bunninadden, who is the standby referee, and by linesman David Dillon from Owenmore Gaels.



Bill Carty

The referee for today's Intermediate championship final is Bill Carty from the Cloonacool club. The standby referee is Cathal Martyn of Coolera Strandhill and the linesman is Declan O'boyle from Calry St Josephs.

Chairperson's welcome



Is mór an sásamh é fáilte a chur romhaibh go léir go dtí Pairc Markievicz tráthnóna inniu le haghaidh an cluiche ceannais seo i craobh idirmheánach peile Chontae Shligigh urraithe ag Connacht Gold.

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

While this has been, thankfully, a 'normal' year - with the pandemic behind us for the most part - it has been a very different year in GAA terms with the introduction of the 'split season' separating club and inter county competition. I believe that this has been a good year for the GAA in Sligo generally, at both club and intercounty level, but we need to live through a number of years to understand the full effect of the changes before we deem it a total success.

I expect that we will have two competitive and entertaining games today. In the Junior A final, the presence of St Molaise Gaels and Shamrock Gaels is a testament to the work in both clubs over recent years to nurture young talent and keep as many young people as possible involved in the games.

In the Intermediate final, St Molaise Gaels return for the third successive year and face Easkey, one of our oldest clubs with a long and proud tradition. Both teams are filled with players who have worn the county jersey with distinction in both underage and adult competition. I expect a real championship contest and wish the best to all involved.

I want in particular to wish today's officials well - Michael Conway, Bill Carty and their teams. While there has been much to celebrate in Gaelic games this summer we have also seen a dark side with a number of high profile incidents across the country involving the abuse of officials. These are totally unacceptable.

Without our officials there would be no organised games. They are volunteers who are entitled to enter the field knowing they have the full support of the officials and mentors of all the participating clubs in what ultimately is just a game. As we reflect on the 2022 season, I will be encouraging the gaelic games community in Sligo to explore ways that we can improve and protect the experience of match officials so that it remains a role that members of the association are willing to undertake

Finally, I would like to thank our sponsors, 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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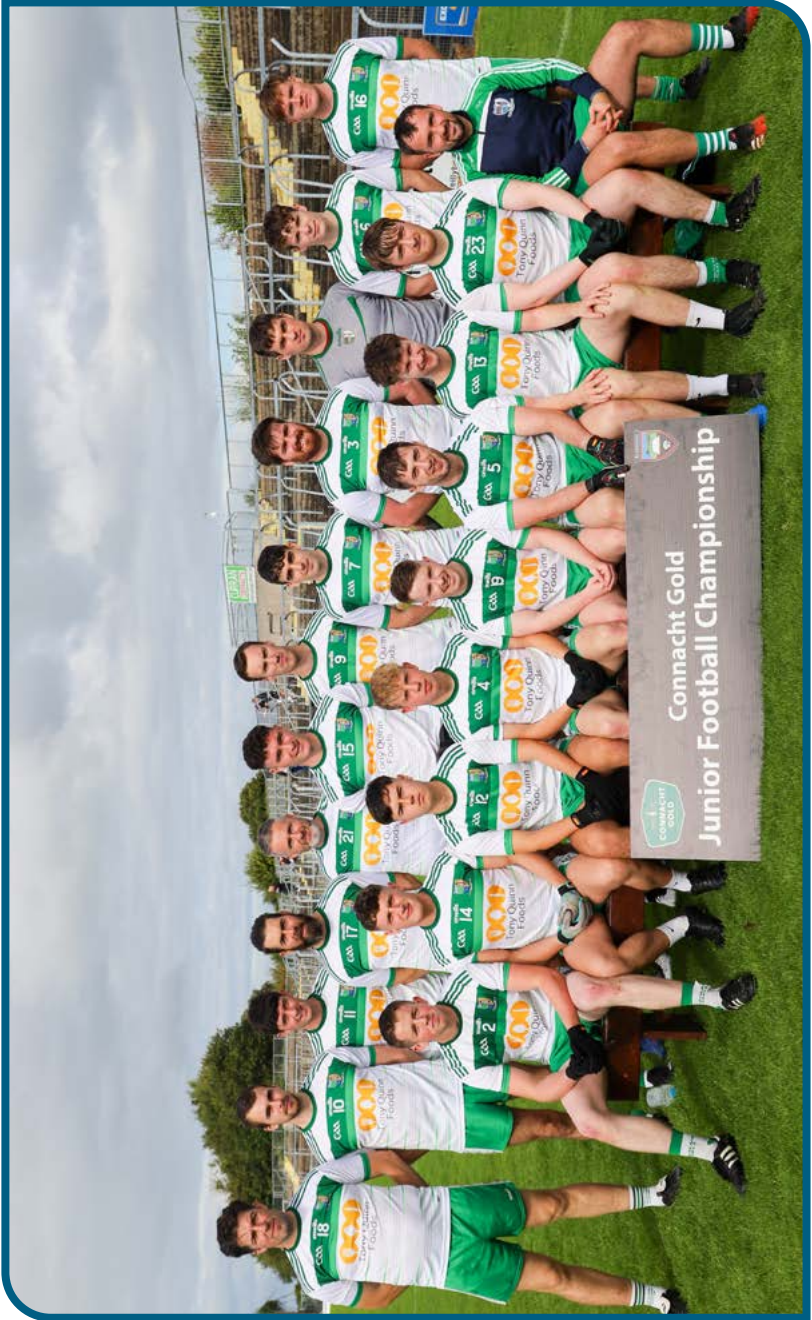


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Wishing Sligo success
in their 2022 campaigns

St Molaise Gaels Junior A





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Molaise Men - A Generation Apart

Written by: Sórcha McLoughlin

Today marks a momentous day for St Molaise Gaels as we wait in hope of triumph. The locals and indeed the players and management are aspiring for a duplicate of history as both the junior and intermediate teams compete in finals today. It has been twenty-one years since both teams won their respective county finals in Markievicz Park. What's heartening to see are the countless connections between the players of the past and present.

Reflecting on that September 16th, 2001, the then amalgamated intermediate side of Cliffooney/Grange/Maugherow was led by captain Jimmy Langan to victory over Geevagh. Jimmy remarked that he believed it was their "best performance of the year and that every man played well that day". As is well known, he is here today in a managerial position, and his son Michael plays in full forward. Jimmy also has three nephews involved across both teams: James, Marc, and John Heraghty.

The Junior team of 2001 was victorious as they beat Eastern Harps. Club devotee Tommy McGowan managed the team in their year of success. Tommy, an unwavering member of our club continues to guide and encourage the young men of the locality in his role of selector for this year's Junior finalists. Seamus Hoey and his son James were members of

the successful junior team in 2001. The lineage of Hoey footballers continues two generations later with the young Jack Davitt who represents the intermediate team today. It goes without saying that no matter what role you play whether it is supporter, player, or coach - you never really leave the GAA - it's a vocation and one that has unequivocally been imparted to our young club members by the generations before them.

The underage structures within the club must be praised for their perpetual efforts and commitment to the development of the game within our community. The influx of young players has been an incredible asset to the Molaise Gaels adult panels in recent years. To have close to 40 players competing across junior and intermediate teams is prodigious, a monumental achievement.



St Molaise Gaels

1

Darren Gilsenan

2

Tola Carway

3

Gavin Gilsenan

4

Tristan Watters

5

Conor Feigheny

6

Evan Farrell

7

Oisín Gilmartin

8

Daniel Keaney

(Captain)

9

John Gilsenan

10

Oisín Sheridan

11

Daniel O'Connor

12

John Heraghty

13

Jack Mc Govern

14

Aaron Currid

15

Luke Gallagher

- 16 Ed Mullane
- 17 Daragh Fallon
- 18 Darragh Currid
- 19 Colm McBrien
- 20 Ronan Keegan
- 21 Ben Roberts
- 22 Conor Watters

MANAGEMENT TEAM

Bainisteoir	Jimmy Langan
Maor Foirne	Mark Quinn Peter Wilson Philip Lang Lee Porter Tommy McGowan Declan Bruen
Physio	Adam Burke

Shamrock Gaels



1

Ultan McKenna

2

John Craig
(Captain)

3

Declan Willis

4

Shane McCann

5

Patrick Barrett

6

Eoin O'Connell

7

Gavin McMorrow

8

Conor Merrick

9

Aaron McKenna

10

Daire Kearns

11

Brian Boyd

12

Dylan McKenna

13

Stephen Willis

14

Keith Candon

15

Seamus Hailstones

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| 16 Jack Duignan | 25 Patrick Kenny |
| 17 Conor Kearns | 26 Joe Quinn |
| 18 David Barlow | 27 Paul Brennan |
| 19 Aodhan Eivers | 28 Adam Kearns |
| 20 Keith McMorrow | 29 Luke Flynn |
| 21 Paddy O'Grady | 30 Frankie Quinn |
| 22 Callum Kennedy | |
| 23 Mark Kearns | |
| 24 Daniel O'Hara | |

MANAGEMENT TEAM

Bainisteoir	Mark Tuohy
Maor Foirne	Keith McMorrow Vinnie Boyd
Club Chairperson	Lauri Quinn
Club Secretary	Ursula Lyons
Club PRO delegate	Cormac Kearns



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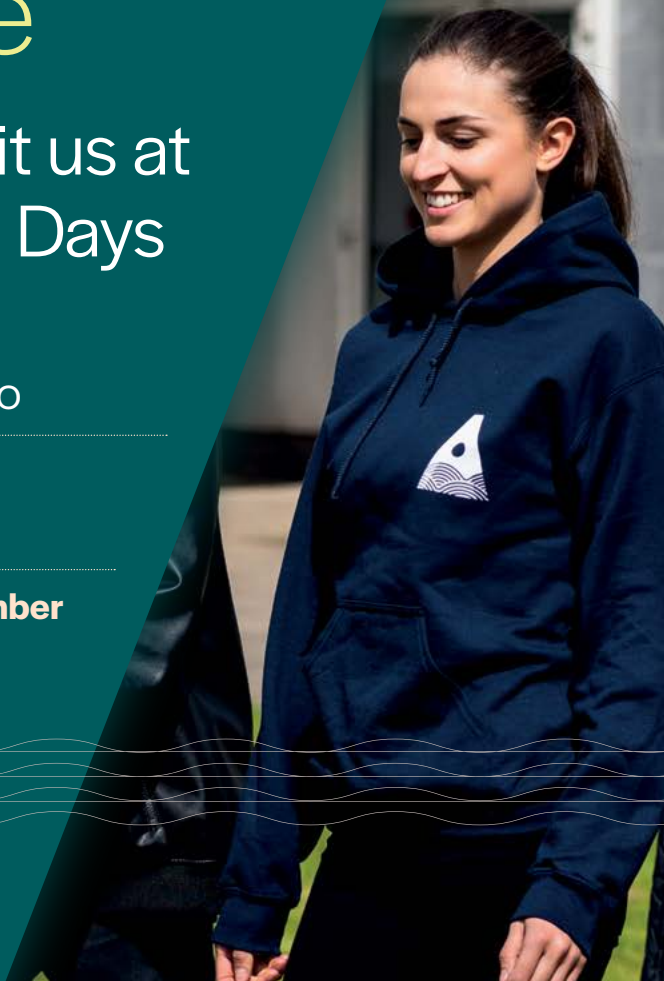
17th November

Donegal

25th & 26th November

Sligo

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Shamrock Gaels - 50 years and growing



For a long time now, and especially through the two years of the pandemic, the Shamrock Gaels club has been looking forward to the prospect of celebrating its 50th birthday.

The club was formed on 16th March 1972 and brought together those in the Ballyrush, Gleann, Riverstown and Sooeey parishes who had previously played for old rivals Sooeey and the Knockalassa teams who had in the preceding years struggled at Junior level.

Both clubs had a long and proud tradition within the GAA, a tradition that stretched back to the very foundation of the Association. Over these years, Sooeey contested six senior county finals, winning the Senior Championship in 1949 and 1959. Knockalassa played in five finals, winning the title in 1915 and 1933.

The seeds of the eventual amalgamation were sown when a Sooeey/Knockalassa combination, called St. Joseph's, contested the 1966, Under 16 and Minor county finals. The U16 team lost to Múire Naófa, while the Minors won the county championship, beating Drumcliffe in the final. The two clubs joined forces again in 1969 to contest the Senior Championship but lost in the first round to another amalgamation Gurteen/Bunninadden.

By the beginning of the 1970's, both clubs had fallen on lean times and despite contesting eight finals in the previous decade, neither team won any honours and members began to realise the absurdity of two Junior clubs, based in the same parish, struggling to put out teams from a relatively small pool of players. This led to the historic meeting in Riverstown Hall on 16th

March 1972. The new club was greeted with great enthusiasm by players, members and supporters of both Sooeey and Knockalassa.

The name and the colours which differed from all that had gone before in the area were suggested by the late Paddy Gannon, who had played for a team called Shamrocks whilst he was living in London. The name was especially appropriate given the date on which the Club was formed.

One of the hall marks of the Shamrock Gaels culture from its earliest days has been its focus on the development of its youth so it is fitting that as it celebrates its 50th year, the club was able to field three adult teams this year, reflecting its success in engaging as many young people as possible and keeping them involved in the club into adulthood.

Each of those teams has had some success this year. As well as reaching today's Junior A final, the senior team reached the senior championship semi final, and the third team reached the League Division 4C final. In the underage ranks, the club this year has also won county titles at U19 and U13 level and contested finals at U15 and U17.

Adding in that the Shamrock Gaels Ladies are contesting the Junior championship final this weekend and have already won county titles this year at U16, and - in summary, the club is having the most successful year in its history... a very happy birthday indeed.

From the side-line - Mark Touhy, Shamrock Gaels

Like St Molaise Gaels, Shamrock Gaels are a front runner when it comes to underage success in recent years. With many of those underage players carrying through to both their senior and junior A teams, Mark Touhy highlights how a junior A final is important in rewarding the players and coaches involved in the process:

“I think it’s a testament to the work in underage that’s been going on the last few years within the club. We’ve been contesting finals at underage for the last number of years and winning the minor A last year so there’s a good young crop of players coming around mixed in with some experienced lads.”

This Sunday marks meeting number three of the sides this year, and Shamrock Gaels have a chance to get one over on their opponents on the last lap:

“We’ve lost to Molaise twice this year in Division 3 and they pipped us by a point in the group stage of championship. They’re a really good side, they attack from deep with some good forwards. They’ve good pace about them, very strong in the middle so hopefully we’ve improved from the last meeting and bring that to perform on Sunday.”

Going beyond the expectations set out at the start of the championship, Touhy hopes that Shamrock Gaels can continue to learn from each game throughout their campaign and perform well in the final:

“If the truth is told, you set out at the start of this championship to get out of the group and make sure you stay in junior A. I’d say we were perceived to be on the weaker side of the draw this year, so we had a chance to make a semi final. We moved on from the loss to Molaise and had good wins over St Mary’s and Curry and took on Cloonacool in the semi-final. It wasn’t our best performance but we stuck at it to get over the line. We’re probably ahead of our aim at the start of the championship but we’re delighted to be here now and we hope to put our best foot forward for Sunday.”

Shamrock Gaels Junior A



Club Sligo

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- 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.

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 Con-naught 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.



St. Molaise Gaels Intermediate



From two sidelines... Jimmy Langan



While Jimmy Langan took the bainisteoir bib for St Molaise Gaels looking to make amends for back to back intermediate final losses as manager of both teams he is naturally delighted with the position that the junior A side has found themselves in:

“The target with the junior team this year, was to stay in Division 3 and the junior A championship because they’re all young lads. We got lucky in a few games. It’s just the way it fell, we got plenty of breaks there and plenty of young lads. We have about ten or twelve lads that are very close to being on the senior panel. We’ve about 34/35 lads training as well.”

It’s one thing managing two teams to finals but having them both compete on the same day is something we don’t often see. Rather than viewing this as a burden, Langan sees the positive side of the fixture:

“I think it’s probably better that they’re on the one day. There’s a connection there between the two teams. A lot of the lads that will play in the junior would have played some league games with the seniors. With a few of us involved between

the two teams we were able to tie the two squads together.”

Many brandish the ‘favourite’ tag on this St Molaise Gaels side, who have come so close in previous seasons. However, the latter stages of championship action make for close encounters, and Jimmy expects no less from Sunday’s clash:

“I never look back on football, I always look forward. I don’t see the last two years as adding any extra pressure. I wouldn’t see us as favourites going into it. We haven’t played Easkey that often. I saw them against St Pat’s they’re very young and there’s some excellent footballers there. Every final is 50/50. You look at the senior semi-finals last week there was nothing between them – and I’m sure it will be the same for us on Sunday. There’s not a lot between us.”

Gaels' Young Guns



While potential glory awaits Naomh Molaise Gaels today, many of our younger players have already tasted success in the past fourteen months. Jack McGovern was part of the Sligo Minor Team that won the first Connacht Minor Football Championship in 2021, bridging a 53-year gap. Jack came on as a sub in the final early in the second half scoring two points, but it was his wonder goal in the semi-final in Breffni Park against Meath that went viral gaining plaudits from pundits nationwide and beyond. Jack has been an integral part of the Junior A campaign this year and lines out for the green and white today in the first of the two finals.

Six players from this year's Sligo under 20 Connacht Champions are involved with the Intermediate team today; Michael Langan, Marc Heraghty, Joseph Keaney, Luke Casserly, John Kerins, and Jack Davitt have all played their part in getting The Gaels to today's final. Jack Davitt scored two goals in that Connacht

final, and Joseph Keaney was awarded Connacht's Eirgrid Player of the Province for his performances in the campaign. While Joseph, who has been involved with the County U20 team for three years now, John Kerins and Jack Davitt will be overage for next year's County U20 campaign, Luke Casserly, Marc Heraghty, and Michael Langan will be underage for another year.

Managed by today's dual manager, Jimmy Langan, eighteen players involved today were also involved with Molaise's first U20/21 County Championship win in 41 years only last December when they beat Ballymote/Bunninadden in Kent Park on a score of 0-16 to 1-11 in a thrilling final. Oisín Sheridan, Oisín Gilmartin, Tola Carway, Luke Gallagher, Tristan Watters, Daniel O'Connor, John Heraghty, and Jack McGovern all line out in the Junior Final while John Kerins, Micheál Gillen, Ethan Watters, Marc Heraghty, James Heraghty, Jack Davitt, Michael Langan, Josh Fallon, Luke Casserly and Joe Keaney are on today's Intermediate panel.

It is a real testament to the underage development structure in the club as well as the coaches and mentors who worked with them over the years and to the commitment and dedication of the lads themselves.



St Molaise Gaels

1

Niall Mc Loughlin

2

Luke Casserly

3

Johnny Kelly

4

Liam Kennedy

5

Luke Towey

6

Paddy Mc Gowan

7

Marc Heraghty

8

Joseph Keaney

9

Dean Carroll

10

Eoin McHugh

11

James Heraghty

12

Cathal Herron

13

Alan McLoughlin
(Captain)

14

Jack Davitt

15

Michael Langan

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| 16 Ethan Watters | 27 John Gilsenan |
| 17 Jason Brennan | 28 |
| 18 Gerard Brady | 29 Daniel O'Connor |
| 19 John Kerins | 30 Jack McGovern |
| 20 Cathal Burns | 31 Luke Gallagher |
| 21 Micheál Gillen | 32 Oisín Gilmartin |
| 22 Colm Clancy | 33 Oisín Sheridan |
| 23 Josh Fallon | 34 Tristan Watters |
| 24 Keelan Watters | 35 Tola Carway |
| 25 John Heraghty | 36 Conor Watters |
| 26 Daniel Keaney | |

MANAGEMENT TEAM

Bainisteoir	Jimmy Langan
Maor Foirne	Mark Quinn Peter Wilson Philip Lang Lee Porter Tommy McGowan Declan Bruen
Physio	Adam Burke
Club Chairperson	Gabriel Kelly
Club Secretary	Thomas Kilfeather
Club PRO delegate	Sórcha Mc Loughlin

EASKEY



1

Daniel Rolston

2

Ciarán Montague

3

Ian Barrett

4

Bernard Feeney

5

Eoghan
Rua McGowan

6

Niall Kilcullen

7

Jack Scott

8

Rory McHugh

9

Noel McGuire

10

Mikey Gordon
(Captain)

11

Andrew Kilcullen

12

Hayden Gilroy

13

Rossa Sloyan

14

Joe McHugh
(Captain)

15

Kevin Duffy

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| 16 Joseph Dunphy | 26 Adam Taylor |
| 17 Brendan McGrath | 27 Shane Kilgannon |
| 18 Emmet Lindsay | 28 Declan Brennan |
| 19 Emmett Brennan | 29 Eanna Moylan |
| 20 Padraic Cawley | 30 Thomas Wall |
| 21 Dylan Sloyan | 31 Thomas Rolston |
| 22 Adam Gibson | 32 Thomas Whitty |
| 23 Fionn Moylan | |
| 24 Jonathan Conway | |
| 25 Jimmy Gordon | |

MANAGEMENT TEAM

Bainisteoir	Eamonn Sweeney
Maor Foirne	Dermot Kevany John Feeney Shane Feeney
Physio	Roisin Flynn
Club Chairperson	Michael Conway
Club Secretary	Caroline Colleary
Club PRO delegate	Thomas Cawley

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



Noel Maguire - an Easkey legend



Today marks Noel McGuire's fourth county final in an Easkey jersey, having played in the 1999 senior loss to Tourlestrane as well as intermediate title wins over Drumcliffe/ Rosses Point (2010) and Castleconnor (2015). In his 28th season of club championship football, can the man who lifted the Nestor Cup in 2007 help to land a place in senior football for the Sea Blues for 2023?

After the heartache of an extra time defeat to neighbours (and eventual champions) St Farnan's in last year's semi final, victory over St Pat's/ Dro-mard two weeks ago helped Easkey to bounce back and gain a place in the decider.

"We had a good run in the group stages to get to the semi-final, and I suppose semi-finals the last couple of years haven't gone the way we wanted. To get over the semi-final was a big monkey off our backs and we're delighted with that", said the Easkey midfielder.

When it comes to younger teams on a big stage, they may look to their more experienced heads in their ranks in the important moments - but McGuire has no doubt in the abilities of his team mates:

"Preparations are going well, you know a lot of these lads have played in county finals at under age and in hurling finals as well so they're used to playing on big days. So, I don't

think that (the occasion) is going to be a factor. They don't need to be relying on me to guide them in that respect!"

Despite being known for his exploits at full back for Sligo, Noel know all about the midfield game for his club and uses his defensive abilities in that regard. This has helped him to adapt to the changes in the game that he has seen over the course of his adult career with Easkey:

"We were in a senior final in '99, and the game has evolved (since then). It's more based on a possession game now and not turning the ball over and making the best use of the possession that you have. I suppose the game that I would have played 20+ years ago was probably a little bit more man for man and win your own ball type of game. You just have to adapt to it. The type of players we have, we're maybe not the most physical of teams but we've a lot of good runners and pace in our team so we try to play to those strengths."

From the side-line – Eamonn Sweeney, Easkey

In his second year as manager of the Sea Blues, Eamonn Sweeney will be looking to guide Easkey to a sixth intermediate title – and keep their streak of being unbeaten in intermediate finals alive. Going off the loss to neighbours St Farnan's in last year's semi-final, he has praised the players in their fight back throughout this season to make amends:

“Every player was disappointed at how things turned out last year, and they decided at the beginning of the year that they were going to drive it that little bit further on. I think they're ready to make the final step now. All I'd be asking of the players is for a performance on the day. There's no real pressure on the lads apart from that, once the performance comes then the result will follow. If that result is victory, we take that.”

Recognising the quality of the opposition, Sweeney expects his side to fight all the way with Jimmy Langan's side – while making the most of the occasion:

“I've seen Molaise in the last few finals, they were very unlucky last year and they're probably an even better team this year. We won't underestimate them, but don't underestimate our lads either, they're well up for the game. We're there to enjoy the day and perform on the day so we can get the result.”

With Easkey being a dual stronghold in the county, balance is key to their success in both codes. With a place in senior football for 2023 as well as a third county hurling title up for grabs, player management is key in getting the best out of their dual players:

“You have to mind the players. About eight of our starting team were playing in the hurling semi-final. You don't get a full run at it that way but some people will say that that's an advantage that when they do come together they're focused on what they're doing. They're great fellas to be able to do it, they're fabulous players and most of them were playing county hurling all year so we didn't even get to see them all year. They're great athletes, they just keep going because it's championship nearly every week for them.”

Easkey Intermediate



Sligo GAA grounds to go smoke free



Sligo GAA has committed that its county ground, Markievicz Park and its Centre of Excellence at Scarden are to go Smoke Free.

There are already a number of smoke free grounds in the county and Sligo GAA Chair of Health and Wellbeing, Trevor Coen revealed that the hope is that all clubs in the county will make their grounds smoke free by the end of 2023.

As part of this new initiative, all pitch viewing areas of both grounds are now smoke and vape free zones. There will be prominent signage at both grounds and the GAA will also be getting support from the HSE with information leaflets and QUIT packages under the Healthy Ireland (HI) banner.

Mr. Coen continued, “We now have over half of the clubs in the county participating in the GAA’s Health Club initiative and as part of their commitment in that regard, a number of clubs have already made their grounds smoke free – specifically Curry, Eastern Harps, Shamrock Gaels, St Johns and St Molaise Gaels – while a number of others have started the process – Owenmore Gaels for Connolly Park in Collooney, Ballymote for their Corran Park and Coolaney / Mullinabreena for Nace O’Dowd Park.

Mr Coen said, “the focus is not about ‘clamping down on people. It is about encouraging people to quit smoking and also about not having people around our grounds smoking in any form around young people.

There have been pilots in a number of counties around the country and the feedback is positive. For those that feel they have to smoke or vape, we will be providing designated areas near the perimeters of the ground but we will be encouraging people to abstain for the hour and a half or so that they are with us”

free smoke

saor ó thobac

All pitch viewing areas are smoke & vape free zones

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hi
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