

# BLACK & WHITE

ISSUE 5 AUTUMN 2024

A NEWSLETTER FROM CLUB SLIGO



## TWO LEGENDS VISIT THE CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR MURAL UNVEILING

*Turn to back page for more*

**INSIDE**

## PLAYER WATCH

*Tubbercurry's **Eddie McGuinness** on his career with club and county*

## SCOOP CARTY

*We talk to kitman Aidan on his current role and his days as a Sligo footballer*



for all the latest news see [sligogaa.ie/ClubSligo](https://sligogaa.ie/ClubSligo)

**Club  
Sligo**  
Supporting Club,  
Supporting County



# BUSY SUMMER FOR CÚL CAMPS

Sligo GAA celebrated another successful year of Cúl Camps this summer, with almost 3,000 children taking part in 26 camps across Sligo during the five-week run.

Some 80 coaches from all clubs in the county oversaw events, which featured two inclusion camps catering for almost 50 children with additional needs.

CÚL CAMPS IN NUMBERS

**5** WEEKS  
**26** CAMPS  
**2** INCLUSION CAMPS  
**24** LOCATIONS

**80** COACHES EMPLOYED FROM ALL CLUBS IN COUNTY  
**2,976** CHILDREN ATTENDED CAMPS ACROSS THE COUNTY

**1,302** GIRLS  
**1,674** BOYS



## MEMBERSHIP 2024



### Platinum Membership (€1,500 per year)

- Entitled to purchase two All-Ireland football and hurling final tickets.
- Invitation for two people to attend post-match meal with team and team management.
- Six entries each month to "Club Sligo" draw.
- Official Sligo GAA O'Neills jersey and O'Neills jacket.
- Annual car sticker.
- Two free passes for Sligo Senior Championship final
- Photo publicity and media/social media promotion.
- Name listed in home National League and county final match programmes.

### Standard Membership (€240 per year)

- Entry into 12 monthly "Club Sligo" draws per year.
- Official Sligo GAA O'Neills jersey or O'Neills jacket (new membership only).
- Annual car sticker.
- Free pass to Sligo Senior Club Championship final.
- Invitation to meet-and-greet night in Centre of Excellence prior to the football and hurling championships.
- Bonus members draw for two All-Ireland football and two All-Ireland hurling final tickets.

To become a Club Sligo member, sign up on [sligogaa.ie](http://sligogaa.ie), contact Eamonn McMunn on 071 916 8750 or contact your local club.



## MEMBER DRAW RESULTS



Conor Kilcoyne, winner of the Club Sligo bumper June draw receiving his cheque for €5,000 from Treasurer Cormac Kearns. Pictured with his father Shane Kilcoyne.

### JUNE

Prize	Name	Address
€5,000	Conor Kilcoyne	Cloonacool
€500	Jerry O'Grady	Coolaney
€100	Cummins Accountancy & Advisory Ltd	Sligo
€100	Bill O'Kelly Lynch	Keveinsfort
€100	Barry Gallagher	Curry
€100	CHH Consulting Engineers	Sligo
€100	Leo Boland	Dromard

### JULY

Prize	Name	Address
€500	Trevor Coen	Ballygawley
€100	Arken Construction	Cloonacool
€100	Rouse Project Development	Enniscrone
€100	Thomas Taaffe	Ballintogher
€100	EJ Menswear	Sligo
€100	Bill O'Kelly Lynch	Keveinsfort

### AUGUST

Prize	Name	Address
€500	Feeney Brothers	USA
€100	Una Cafferky	Bunninadden
€100	Oates Breheny Group	Sligo
€100	Teresa & Brendan Walsh	Tourlestrane
€100	St. John's GAA Club	Carraroe
€100	Michael Scanlon	Carraroe



Trevor Coen receiving his Club Sligo prize from Pdraig Clancy, County Board Executive.



## My Club Sligo

**NAME:** LINDA DONOVAN  
**CLUB:** EASTERN HARPS  
**JOINED CLUB SLIGO:** 2020



### WHY DID YOU BECOME A MEMBER?

My father influenced my decision as he was a member of Club Sligo and I still hear him saying, 'It's not for me; it's for the future children of Sligo'.

### FAVOURITE CLUB/COUNTY GAA MOMENT?

Thankfully, we have had many cherished memories with Sligo GAA: From (husband) Ross being part of the victorious Connacht-winning team in 2007 to more recently being part of the coaching team of our victorious minor and U20 boys Connacht-winning teams. But if I have to pick my favourite Sligo GAA moments, it would be travelling week in, week out to all Sligo games both home and away with my Dad; these are the memories I will always cherish.



It is your support of Club Sligo that allows us to develop both players and infrastructure across the county. This is Your Club Sligo.

### TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP:

go to [sligogaa.ie](http://sligogaa.ie)  
email [administrator.sligo@gaa.ie](mailto:administrator.sligo@gaa.ie)  
call 071 9168750

# 'SCOOP' KEEPS SLIGO DRESSED FOR SUCCESS



**Aidan 'Scoop' Carty reflects on how his experience of playing with Sligo's senior footballers in the noughties has helped him adjust to his role as the current team's kitman.**

**A**idan 'Scoop' Carty insists that while his first days as the kitman for the Sligo senior footballers were something of a learning curve, his past involvement with the inter-county set-up as a player eased the gradient.

"I met the outgoing kitman at the Centre of Excellence in Scarden and he told me, 'I'll give you a hand the first night and I'll show you where we keep the equipment but the rest is up to you'. He said that he wanted me to do it my way, not his. I was part of the Sligo panel in the early 2000s, so I had an idea of what the expectations would be. Thankfully, I haven't made many mistakes but you still learn the hard way," says Aidan.

Now three years in the job, the Coolera-Strandhill clubman has his routine down to a fine art – arriving an hour early for 8pm training at Scarden where he sets about laying out gear, cones, bibs and footballs in preparation for the players' arrival. "You have to be organised. You can't wing it because if something isn't right, if the footballs aren't pumped to the right pressure, the players and management will let you know about it. It's busy, but that just makes time-keeping all the more important," he says.

As a substitute goalkeeper, Aidan featured only a handful of times for the Yeats County in pre-season FBD League fixtures from 2001 to 2003. However, his position afforded him

a front-row seat to Sligo's narrow defeat to Galway in the Connacht Championship final in 2002 and a two-point loss to eventual champions Armagh in the last eight of the same year's All-Ireland Championship.

Bitter heartache notwithstanding, Aidan feels dramatic changes introduced in Sligo football since his playing days are finally turning the team onto an upward trajectory.

"The whole approach is different. Now, it's much more about strength and conditioning, nutrition, recovery, and psychology. Anything you might need in terms of equipment is got for you. It's been effective. You need only look at the last few years to see the impact that has had," he says.

"We've played in the Connacht

Championship in New York, we've been to the Connacht Championship final, and we've been to Croke Park three years in a row. Everyone wants to be in Croke Park – players, coaches, and kitmen. I've been lucky. It's been an amazing experience."

He continues: "We've been successful at minor and U20 levels and the fruits of that are coming through with the progression of the likes of Canice Mulligan and Jack Lavin. That's only going to bring other players on. We've been unlucky in the Tailteann Cup but the performances and the spirit of the team have been first class. There's no reason why we shouldn't be aiming for promotion to Division 2 in the National Football League next year."

Aidan has turned his role in Scarden into a family affair, with daughter Emily, nine, and son Tom, seven, often seen busying themselves with cones, footballs and bibs around the Centre of Excellence. Indeed, their role as unofficial mascots is very much encouraged by Aidan's wife Rhona, a Donegal native and a fanatical follower of Jim McGuinness's Ulster champions.

**"You have to be organised. You can't wing it because if something isn't right the players and management will let you know about it."**

"They love to give me a dig-out on training nights. They're both getting into football now and I suppose, if they want to play for Sligo, there's nothing better than being exposed to training and matches as often as they are. We also live close to Scarden so it's not a great effort for them to pop down and give me a hand," he says.

"My wife is from Dungloe and will go to any game that's on. She loves it. The whole family goes to Donegal games as well as Sligo games, so the kids have been to Croke Park twice this year. When times are good football-wise, we enjoy it as much as we can."

Aidan hails the flexibility afforded by his day job with Sligo Glass, the glazing company based in Finisklin



*Aidan celebrates with Eamonn O'Hara and Kieran Quinn after their All-Ireland Senior Football Championship Qualifier Round 4 win over Tyrone at Croke Park in 2002.*

in Sligo town, as essential to helping him fulfil his kitman duties. "It's the family business. We've all worked there – my father, cousins and uncle. They have been brilliant. If I need to drop gear at the launderette during work hours, or get away a little early to prepare for games, they say, 'Scoop, that's no problem!'," says Aidan, who explains that he gained his moniker after a neighbour noticed his talent for accurately remembering names, numbers and faces.

"My neighbour said I would make a great reporter, so 'Scoop' stuck after that. As far as nicknames go, I've heard plenty worse so I consider myself very lucky!"

After a career playing at a high level,

and after a summer in which Stephen Cluxton once again returned to stand between the sticks for Dublin aged 42, one wonders if Aidan ever thinks about similar return for his club.

"I stopped playing about 10 years ago. I'm 50 now so that's probably no harm! I did come out of retirement for a senior match a couple of years ago. The club were short of a goalkeeper and the manager at the time asked me to fill in. My body didn't forgive me for it. Still, I wouldn't mind going back playing a bit of junior football but between family, my day job at Sligo Glass, and my role as kitman for the Sligo senior footballers, I'm plenty busy as it is. Football might have to wait."

*Aidan with kids Tom and Emily at Markievicz Park in 2023.*



# A LOT DONE, MORE TO DO FOR SLIGO'S SHIELD WINNERS



While Sligo U16s' victory in this year's Manning Shield may be an important milestone in the team's development, manager Aidan Rooney insists that his side's sights have already turned to the next challenge.

Sligo's young footballers overturned a six-point half-time deficit to beat Cork South by a scoreline of 1-14 to 1-10 in Caherlohan, Co. Clare, earlier this year – an impressive final performance to follow wins against Offaly and Roscommon in the previous rounds.

Aidan, who returned to coaching at underage inter-county level last year after previously overseeing the Yeats County's development squads from 2011 to 2015, believes Manning Shield success, while welcome, is not the limit of the team's ambitions.

"The Manning Cup and Shield are good competitions and very well run. We lost the first couple of games, but we saw good development in the group. We welcomed back lads who were training with the minor panel and after that we beat Offaly and Roscommon in the Manning Shield semi-final and then Cork in the final," he says.

"It's a nice transition for the group. Winning the Manning Shield is great because winning is a habit and habits are important, but its significance is small compared to where we want to go. Championship is next year and that's our focus."

With a squad of 38 players all vying for places, Aidan is unapologetic about the competition serving as an early indicator of the panel's pecking order.

"We went with what we think is our best team for these games and we won three in a row. I'm very honest with the lads. Not everyone is going to be a winner. The competition is good and healthy in the squad and this period has focused minds in terms of helping lads understand where they are and how far they have to go," he says.

A winner of the Connacht SFC title with Leitrim in 1994, Aidan is supported by backroom team members

Joe Neary and Fergus Leonard, who are both teachers in Summerhill College.

"Summerhill has a fine footballing tradition and players from the school account for a large proportion of the panel but what's really helping the county is the progression of all schools across Sligo over the past 10-15 years. Sligo GAA is feeling the benefit of that," says Aidan, adding that another key factor in the county's continued success at all age levels is the positive atmosphere around the Centre of Excellence in Scarden.

"Scarden is a good place to be at the minute. Looking around the gym sessions, you can see a full panel of minor players, a host of U20s and senior players doing their own programmes. Having everyone together like that provides an example to the young lads that the pathway is there. I had those senior players when I was managing minor in 2015, so they see me having conversations with seniors and minors and there's a tangible sense of connection. That's what gives you hope that Sligo's recent success is sustainable."

Sligo captain Adam Feeney (St. John's) accepts the Manning Shield.



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Sligo GAA @sligogaa · Sep 29  
Wins for @shamrockgaels and @StMarysGAASligo in the final round of @Homelandretail senior football championship to go through to semi finals where the pairings will be @StMarysGAASligo vs. @CStrandhill and @shamrockgaels vs. @molaisegaels

## HOMELAND SENIOR FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL TABLE

GROUP 1		P	W	D	L	F	A	+/-	Pts
	Shamrock Gaels	4	3	0	1	64	54	10	6
	Coolera Strandhill	4	3	0	1	65	32	33	6
	Tubbercurry	4	2	1	1	61	53	8	5
	Easkey	4	1	1	2	42	51	-9	3
	Calry St Joseph's	4	0	0	4	35	76	-41	0

GROUP 2		P	W	D	L	F	A	+/-	Pts
	St Mary's	4	3	0	1	73	64	9	6
	St. Molaise Gaels	4	2	1	1	69	61	8	5
	Drumcliffe Rosses Point	4	2	1	1	48	49	-1	5
	Tourlestrane	4	2	0	2	43	45	-2	4
	Curry	4	0	0	4	56	70	-14	0



Big shout out to Terry Quinn and team at @RomSligo for the recent donation of six 25kg Premium Bumper Plates to the Sligo GAA Academy – a big boost to their S&C work. We look forward to seeing the fruits of their generosity over the remainder of the season and beyond



Player Watch

**NAME:** Eddie McGuinness **AGE:** 27  
**POSITION:** Forward **CLUB:** Tubbercurry

Growing up with Tubbercurry golf course on his doorstep, Sligo fullback Eddie McGuinness dabbled in golf as well as soccer and hurling, but there was never any doubt about his preferred sport. "Football was always number one," he says.

Eddie started playing with Tubbercurry at age eight and played through the ranks with the club, Holy Family National School and St Attracta's Community School. He joined Sligo development squads at U13 and stayed with the county through every grade until he started playing with the senior footballers in 2018.

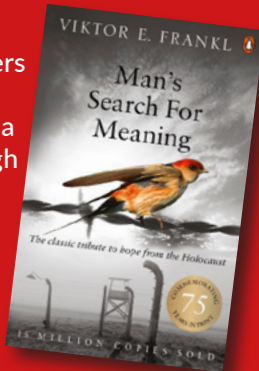
In terms of influences on his development as a footballer, Eddie refers first to his family. "My cousins Brendan and Brian Egan represented Sligo. They were always good role models. When I was an underage player, Tubbercurry's David Kelly, Brian Curran, Colm McGee, and Stephen Gilmartin were just becoming established players for Sligo. They were players you'd look up to and they'd always be willing to chat and give you advice. You'd always want to emulate them when you'd be playing," he says.

Football is clearly important to Eddie on and off the pitch – at the time of writing – he had just successfully defended his PhD examining speed performance in ladies' football while working as a lecturer in DCU.

Asked for his highlights from his club and intercounty career, he focuses on the resilience shown by Tubbercurry in retaining senior status while fighting relegation battles in recent years, despite several players emigrating and others retiring.

And he offers a realistic assessment on highlights of his time with Sligo. "I think the highlights are hopefully to come in terms of winning more prestigious silverware," he says.

"I'm happy with the level of commitment and consistency the players of my age grade have shown – that we've been a part of the team now for a number of years and have stuck through the doldrum period. The highlight is probably that we've brought Sligo football from a place of pessimism to now place of optimism – so, the highlight is hopefully to come."



**BOOK:** Man's Search for Meaning by Victor Frankl  
**MOVIE:** Braveheart

# ON THE SHOULDERS OF GIANTS

The commissioning of a series of murals featuring the legends of Sligo GAA is the latest measure designed to help foster and grow a sense of tradition and winning culture at the Centre of Excellence in Scarden. The murals were designed by graphic design student Desmond Gillen from Drumcliffe/Rosses Point.

Sligo GAA icons Barnes Murphy and Mickey Kearins were onsite for the unveiling of the artwork earlier this year. St Patrick's GAA star Mickey earned the county's first ever All-Star in 1971 and would go on to guide Sligo to their first Connacht Championship in almost 50 years in 1975. Barnes's footballing exploits earned him Sligo's second All-Star in 1974.



Winning captains: Kyle Davey, Jack Lavin, Noel McGuire, Canice Mulligan.



All Stars Barnes Murphy and Mickey Kearins.



Canice Mulligan, Sligo's winning U20 captain in 2023.



Jack Lavin, Jimmy Smith, Kyle Davey, Canice Mulligan, Barnes Murphy, Sean Boyle, Mickey Kearins, Noel McGuire, Sean Carroll.

## Young Players on Murals



**"I would say that it shows how far we can go as they were in the same place as us at one stage."**

Conor Walsh (Ballymote)



**"Hopefully one of us will join them up there in the future, whether that's underage success or senior."**

Marc Clifford (St Mary's)

## NEXT ISSUE



We speak to Eamonn McMunn about his varied and busy role as Administrator of Sligo GAA.