

Cloone GAA News - 2008

Date Added

15-Jan-08

Club AGM 2007

Our annual general meeting was held in the community centre on Sunday last. This was a very important meeting for the club as a number of officer positions had to be filled. Our outgoing Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer gave their reports of the year ending 2007. The election of officers took place with a number of new faces added to the fold, list of officers are President: Pat McNamara, Chairman: Adrian Nicholls, Vice Chairman: Seamus Maguire, Secretary: Alan Canning, Vice Secretary: Martina Mulvey, Treasurer: Aidan Donohue, Finance Committee: Dermot Tiernan, Adrian Kelly, Michael Harte, Peter O'Donnell, Irish Officer: Damien Brennan, Register: Shane Tiernan, Insurance Officer: Louie Brennan, Development Officer: Sean McGovern, Coaching Officer: Pdraig Quinn, IT Officer: Enda Tiernan, Park Committee: Sean McGovern, Timmy Beirne, Aidan Donohue, Seamus Tiernan, Enda Tiernan. Our underage team trainers Pdraig Quinn, Geard Doherty and Joseph Bohan will have the welcome assistance of three of our senior panel Brian Mulvey, Kevin Fitzpatrick and Gavin McGovern. We wish all our new officers the very best of luck in their new roles in the club and I'm sure they will be well able to keep the club moving in the right direction in 2008. On behalf of the club I would like to thank our outgoing officers, Enda Tiernan, Seamus Tiernan, Louie Brennan and Dermot Tiernan for the many years of hard and sometimes un-noticed work they have put into the club and although they will no longer be at the head of the table I'm sure they will help our new officers settle into their positions.

Cloone Shock Marys to take B Shield

An injury time Damien O'Donnell goal saw Cloone claim a deserved victory in the Shield B Final last Sunday in Pairc Sean Mac Diarmada, although nine minutes into the game, that seemed highly unlikely. St. Marys season to date has been some way off the highs of last year although it was still imagined that they would have been too strong for Cloone when the sides met on Sunday last. Prior to the game, four dedicated Leitrim GAA men, George O Toole, Jack McNally, Tommy Tiernan and Tommy O Riordan were remembered with a minutes silence while flags were flown at half mast.

The manner in which St Marys began the game seemed to indicate that Cloone would be in for a difficult afternoon as the opening eight minutes of the game were spent almost entirely in the Cloone half. However, those opening minutes proved to be the highlight for St Marys as they began to make basic errors all over the field, lose their composure and lapse into the form that has seen them make such a disappointing start to this years league. With Jimmy Guckian back from injury and taking his place in midfield, Marys began brightly scoring two points in the opening two minutes. With less than a minute played, Guckian was fouled and Niall Comerton scored the ensuing free. Guckian made a huge impression in the opening stages and his importance to St. Marys was further illustrated when he scored the second point of the game.

Cloone found the going tough in the opening exchanges and while Declan Brennan did score a fine point to half the deficit, it was beginning to look ominous for the division two side. Comerton scored an easy free before his third point of the game after some fine passing involving Jimmy Guckian, Ian McGreevey and Ray Mulvey. With a lead of three points and playing much better than their opponents, Marys carved their way through the Cloone defence after seven minutes but were denied a certain goal when Mulveys well hit strike came back off the crossbar. That goal could have gone a long way towards seeing St. Marys on their way to victory, and although Liam McTiernan scored a point from a 45 to open up four point lead, Cloone soon after began to fight their way back into the game.

While Cloone deserve great credit for the manner in which they fought back, it must be said that St Marys form for the remainder of the game was well below what they produced in the opening exchanges. Where they had seemed dominant in every position, they were now beginning to look sloppy as Cloone fought back with purpose. Two pointed frees from Damian O'Donnell, who was beginning to prove himself to be a real handful as he won both frees, narrowed the deficit to two points. While Marys were beginning to fade from the game, they were still capable of producing a moment of class as was illustrated when they went the length of the pitch with some very good passes and excellent movement to score a fine point. Vinny McDermott began the move taking the ball out of defence before passing to Jimmy Guckian. He found Comerton who in turn picked out Clement Cunniffe who fisted the ball over the bar to restore St Marys three point lead 11 minutes before the break. In the final ten minutes of the half, Cloone continued to force their way into the contest and an excellent point from Alan Canning gave further indication that the game, which seemed as good as won in the opening ten minutes, now had a long way to run. The last minute of the half saw a Comerton free cancelled out by another fine point from O'Donnell.

At the interval there were several questions being asked around Pairc Sean. Would St Marys be able to rediscover the form they showed in the opening minutes? And how big a factor would the wind be? In the first half Cloone had the advantage of the strong wind, but trailing at the break by (0-7 to 0-5) it would have been fair to say that St. Marys would still have been expected by most to emerge victorious. Despite playing into the wind, it was Cloone who made the better start to the second half and their early pressure was rewarded when O'Donnells free reduced the deficit to a solitary point. Marys second half performance was a shadow of what they had produced in the early stages of the game but, nevertheless, Cloone were left thanking goalkeeper Dermot McCrann when he made two fine saves in the space of a minute.

The second half was more a war of attrition than a classic and that seemed to suit Cloone who were up for the battle. O'Donnell & Comerton exchanged points, with Comertons effort proving to be the Carrick clubs only score of the half. Marys were guilty of kicking bad wides while at the other end O'Donnell burst through the Marys defence to score a fine point to give Cloone the lead for the first time in the game and this would be a lead that they would not relinquish. The final 15 minutes of the game saw St Marys run out of ideas while Cloone with Alan Canning and Gavin Reynolds coming to the fore in midfield threatened to add to their lead. The closing stages of the game saw both sides push for the score that would result in either victory for Cloone or a St. Marys score that would have forced extra-time.

The final score of the game came with virtually the last piece of action as Damian O'Donnell reacted quickest to a Mark Beirne 45 to fist the ball to the St Marys net to ensure victory for Cloone. As was pointed out at the presentation of the Shield, it may not be the most prestigious of competitions within the county, but it is nevertheless a fine achievement for Cloone and will do their preparations for the intermediate championship no harm at all.

Cloone. Dermot McCrann, Seamus McCaffrey, Aidan Mulvey, Declan Tiernan, Declan Brennan (0-1), Mark Beirne, Seamus McGuire, Alan Canning (0-1), Gavin Reynolds, Mark Creegan, Damian O'Donnell (1-6), Derek O'Donnell, Ronan

Mulvey, Brian Mulvey (0-1), Pdraig Conboy. Subs: Niall Brennan for Conboy (22 mins), Kevin Fitzpatrick for R Mulvey (HT)

St Mary's Anthony Conway, Jonathan Cassidy, Michael Greene, Vinnie McDermott, David Crowe, Conor Guckian, Jimmy Guckian (0-1), James McGrail, Austin Marron, Clement Cunniffe (0-1), Ray Mulvey, Liam McTiernan (0-1), Niall Comerton (0-5), Ian McGreevey. Subs: David Kennedy, David McTiernan and Brendan Guckian for Greene, Marren and Crowe (47 mins)

Referee: Jimmy Stenson. (Eslin)

Date Added

08-Nov-08

Frank Quinn RIP

It was with great sadness on Thursday last that news reached Cloone of the sudden passing of one of the great former players of the club, Frank Quinn. Although living most of his adult life in Dublin Frank was a member of Cloone's most successful ever team back in the late 40's and early 50's. Frank distinguished himself in the Cloone jersey and would go on to also become a stalwart of the Leitrim team during that era.

Frank was one of a unique group of players in Leitrim winning two senior championships in his debut year. This unusual honour came his way after becoming a member of the Cloone senior team in 1948 and winning the senior championship Frank would win a second championship medal that year also as a result of the 1946 final being played in 1948. Further club championships would follow for Frank in '50 and '51. Frank was noted in that time for picking up new skills while training with Dublin clubs and returning to Cloone to form a solid full back line along with the likes of McCrann, McAlinden and McGarty. Like many of his era Frank would line out in The Grange and give everything for the cause and pride of his native Cloone jersey.

1951 would also see Frank become a member of the Leitrim Senior team and he distinguished himself with Leitrim earning a reputation throughout Connaught and further afield as a talented and tough corner back. Frank's performances with Leitrim would be recalled many years later when he was one of the elite group of players shortlisted for the Leitrim Team of the Millennium.

In later years Frank always enjoyed returning to Cloone to meet with family and friends and to reminisce about the teams and players he played with. Frank was laid to rest in Rathfarnham on Monday last and to his family and friends in Cloone and Dublin we extend our deepest sympathies. *Ar dheis De go raibh a Anam Dilis.*

Date Added

09-Nov-08

Annie Heslin RIP

Sincere sympathy to the Heslin family Streamstown on the passing of Annie last week. Annie was a great follower and supporter of all club activities. May she rest in peace.

Date Added

10-Nov-08

Good Luck Lads

Best wishes to Gavin, Kevin, Frank and Declan who headed for Austrailia last week. Good to know boots and togs were part of the luggage to make sure all four will be in peak condition to hit the field when they return!