

Cloone GAA News - 2017

Date Added

02-Jan-17

Congratulations Galore!

We wish to extend our sincere congratulation and best wishes to our Club player and official Liam Reynolds who announced his engagement to Maeve Reynolds from Annaduff over the Christmas period. Wish them the very best for the future. Congratulations also to our Club player Adrian Kelly and Mary McCarrick from Co Sligo who announced their engagement over the Christmas period, and to former ladies club player Louise Heslin and Declan McCluskey who also got engaged at the Christmas.

Finally congratulations to Declan Nichols Cloone, and Phillipa McGuire Aughavas who celebrated their wedding on Wednesday December 28th last. We wish them the very best for the future.

Date Added

02-Jan-17

Lotto Jackpot Winner

Santa came in style to Niamh Dillon Cloone whose yearly Lotto ticket turned up trumps as she was the lucky winner of our Lotto Jackpot on Christmas Eve. Congratulations Niamh. The jackpot was € 4,300.00 and the numbers drawn were 2, 6, 9, and 21. The Lotto jackpot now starts at € 2000,00 and the next draw is on this Saturday night January 7th and your continued support is now needed more than ever.

Recent Bereavements in the club

It was with deep regret that we learned of the deaths of two great stalwarts of Cloone Gaa over the Christmas period. Following the news of the death of former club and County player Paddy Kelly came the news of the death of one of our great supporters and officials Charlie Mitchell.

Paddy Kelly was a very talented footballer who played with The Leitrim minor and under 21 teams and of course starred with Cloone when they won the Leitrim County minor and junior championship in 1962. Paddy also played on various Cloone teams later and won many medals at Junior, over thirty, and various other tournaments and had the honour of captaining the Cloone over thirty team on one of their three in a row title wins. Paddy's knowledge of Gaelic games was exceptional and he featured on many occasions on the various quiz teams during our fundraising quizzes, but of late he enjoyed reminiscing on the exploits of The gunner Brady, the Gallant John Joe Reilly, and the great Piggy Jones, and if you weren't up to speed with those names Paddy would not be long putting you in the picture. Along with his football ability Paddy was also a highly respected musician who entertained crowds far and near. Paddy was always available to provide music for various fundraising functions which were used very frequently when the development of the park was ongoing and while the organising were always very apprehensions until Paddy arrived, but once he did you were guaranteed the best in Irish music with a bit of Country thrown in. Paddy was a great friend to everybody and will be sadly missed and no doubt but when he arrived at the golden gates he enquired if the Gunner Brady was around. To Paddy's family and extended circle of friend we express our sincere sympathy.

Charlie Mitchell was a long time supporter of Cloone GAA and had the distinction of being the holder of a Leitrim Senior hurling Championship medal in 1956 with a Cloone Aughavas combination. Charlie having spent some years in England returned to Ireland in the late sixties early seventies and purchased what was then a parochial house in Streamstown. It was from Charlie that Cloone GAA bought the land that the clubs Gaa Park is now situated. Charlie trusts himself into all things Cloone GAA and was available for any task, no matter what. Charlie along with his long time friend Raymond Wynne became umpire in residence for Cloone GAA and both were always available to do this unpopular job. Playing numbers at that time were tight enough but once we had fifteen players and with Charlie at the head of the umpiring department we always took the field with confidence. Charlie was always a very popular umpire with all referees but he wouldn't be shy in gently advising the referee in a nice polite way if he had made a mistake in his interpretation of a particular rule. Charlie was always available to help our GAA club out in any way and his presence will be sorely missed by all who knew him. To his wife Mary, daughters Doreen, Caroline, and Tara, to his extended family and large circle of friends we extend our sincere sympathy.

Club AGM 2017

At a well attended AGM held on Sunday evening Jan 15th the following officers were elected for 2017. President Pat McNamara, Chairman Michael Lohan Vice Chairman Seamus Maguire. Secretary Martin McCaffrey ,Assistant Secretary Liam Reynolds, Treasurer, John Reynolds, Assistant Treasurer Gerry Keegan, Finance Committee ,Michael Harte, Dermot Tiernan ,Gerry McGovern , Gerry Keegan Aidan Donohue , Niall Brennan , Liam Reynolds , Aidan Donoghue , Sean McGovern , Maria McCrann, PRO Gerry Mc Govern, ASAP Officer, Seamus Maguire, Oifigeach Cultúra, Damian Ó Braonáin, Registrar Seamus Maguire, Insurance Officer, Adrian Nicholls, Development Officer, Sean McGovern, Coaching Officer, Niall Brennan, Children's officer, Maria McCrann, Assistant Children's officer, Eamon Cunningham, IT Officer, Enda Tiernan, County Board Delegates, Sean McGovern / Michael Lohan/Liam Reynolds/Martin McCaffrey, Underage Representatives Kieran Casey / Eileen Donoghue.

The following under age coaches were appointed for 2017, under 13 Seamus Tiernan, under 15 Aidan Donohue, and under 17 Gerry Keegan.

Chairman Mickey Lohan, secretary Martin McCaffrey and Coaching officer Niall Brennan all gave very comprehensive reports on club activities over the course of 2016. On the finance side, renewed efforts are presently being made to increase the numbers of yearly Club lottery tickets and all supporters are urged to get their tickets now. The finance committee are proposing to hold a table quiz on Saturday night February 25th for which players and supporters will be urged to organise a team. The national club draw tickets are presently on sale, and ticket sellers are urged to maximise this draw. This draw provided a great opportunity to raise finance for the club and all prizes are sponsored by Croke Park.

New York recognition for Mike Dillon

Cloone GAA would like to extend its heartiest congratulations to former Cloone player and New York resident Mike Dillon on being recognised for his lifelong commitment and dedication to New York GAA when on Saturday 25th March he will be presented with Joe Mc Inerney Memorial Lifetime Achievement Award. Mike who was born close to the village of Cloone played with distinction with Cloone in the forties early fifties, before he immigrated to New York. On arrival in New York he was soon part of the Leitrim team in New York and was part of the 1958 Leitrim team that won the New York Senior football Championship. He was also a member of the successful New York team that that played Dublin in the National League in Croke Park in 1958 and the following year he captained New York against the great Kerry team in Gaelic Park.

Following his playing days he would go on to be the Club Secretary of the Leitrim New York Club and he also wrote as a sports journalist for the Advocate Newspaper. He was a lifelong supporter of the Leitrim County Society Association. On our trips to New York for the Connacht Championship it was nice to meet Mike who always had a great welcome for us and Mike was a huge supporter of the Leitrim teams on their visits to New York. Mike will be presented with the Joe McInerney Memorial Lifetime Achievement award in Antun's on Saturday March 25th. Congratulations Mike from all in Cloone GAA.

Leitrim Observer article:

The New York GAA is holding its Annual Awards Banquet in Antun's, Queens on Saturday, March 25 and this year the Association is introducing a new award, namely the 'Lifetime Achievement Award'.

The first recipient of this honour will be Leitrim's Mike Dillon. Mike, a native of Cloone, had a distinguished footballing career at club, college and county levels, achieving much success in Ireland, London and New York.

He was born in the early thirties, and began his secondary education with the Presentation Brothers in Carrick-on-Shannon, but later switched to the famous bastion of Gaelic football, St. Mel's. Here, in this nursery of football, Mike's career flourished.

He won Leinster Senior College medals in 1950 and '51. The depth of talent was evident on the '51 team when seven players from the College team were selected on the Leinster Colleges' Interprovincial team.

Though the Hogan Cup competition was introduced in 1946, it was suspended from 1948 to 1957. Instead the provincial college teams played each other in a format similar to the Railway Cup.

Of those seven, Tony Hayden, Jimmy McKeon, Eddie Rowley, Eddie Duffy along with Mike graduated to become Leitrim senior players, while team captain Arnold Meagher and Walter Cahill featured for Longford.

Unfortunately for Mike and his team mates the interprovincial games were played on Sundays, and the Bishop of Ardagh, a Dr. McNamee would not allow his students to play on Sundays, lest it interfered with their spiritual formation.

So Mike and his team mates were denied a great opportunity to showcase their skills against the crème de la crème of college players.

Still, 1950 and 1951 were memorable years for Mike as he was one of the leading lights that propelled Cloone to two Leitrim Senior Championships.

A bright inter-county future awaited Mike, but in 1952 he emigrated to London, and transferred to the St. Vincent's Club. Here he inspired his English club to two London Championships in 1953 and 1954.

Perhaps a good indication of Mike's stature as a player was the fact that Leitrim brought him back to play in the Connacht Championship in '54.

In 1955, Mike arrived in New York, and his well-established credentials were a great boost to the Leitrim-based New York team that was coming to the fore. He had a distinguished playing career Stateside, winning a New York Championship in '58 and the Ballantine Cup in '59.

In International games Mike's prowess was very much in evidence against Ireland's best of that era, namely Dublin and Kerry.

He lined out against Dublin at Croke Park, and he was captain the following year when New York played Kerry in Gaelic Park, and was noted as "playing a Trojan part in the game" against the All-Ireland champions.

Mike playing career ended prematurely due to a knee injury, but he continued to be active, fulfilling many roles, including that of secretary for a number of years, plus he also dabbled in sports journalism, occasionally filling in for his friend, the late Larry Dolan of the now defunct Irish Advocate.

Besides a great sporting career, Mike also enhanced his academic credentials in New York. He earned a B.A. from

Manhattan College and an M.B.A. from Fordham University.

He rose to prominence in the corporate boardroom, becoming an executive with the media giant C.B.S. In addition, he and his late wife Mary, ran a very successful hotel resort in the Catskills. It was always a very welcoming sojourn for Leitrim exiles.

Mike has two daughters Mary and Deirdre, and seven grandsons. Mike continues to enjoy his football and is a regular at Gaelic Park. Over the years Mike has been a great benefactor to Leitrim football at home and abroad, the New York football team and the County Leitrim Society of New York.

The diaspora will be out in force as Mike, one of Leitrim's finest gentlemen, makes another bit of history by being the first to be honoured with New York's GAA Lifetime Achievement Award.

A great choice for the inaugural accolade.

Date Added

27-Feb-17

The late John Charlie Bohan RIP

Cloone GAA would like to extend its sympathy to the Bohan family Edergole Cloone on the death of John Charlie Bohan whose death took place last week. John Charlie was a prominent member of the Cloone team and the holder of many medals and will long be remembered as a tough defender, and one that not too many forwards looked forward to marking. With his colleagues Paddy McCrann and the late Jimmy Joe McGarty they formed a full back line that only the brave hearted forward would take on.

John Charlie was a great supported of Cloone GAA all his life, and his words of encouragement from the side line were always a great boost to the team. He was also a great supporter of all underage teams and was a regular supporter at all under age games. To his wife Maisie, son Joseph, and family we extend our deepest sympathy.

Date Added

06-Mar-17

Club Trip to London

In conjunction with the Connacht Senior Football Championship match Leitrim V London on Sunday May 28th , Cloone GAA is proposing to organise a club outing to London. The trip would include a match against some of the opposition we have played against on previous outings. The trip will depend on numbers available to travel and is not confined to players. Anybody interested please contact club secretary Martin McCaffrey or tour manager Mick Harte immediately for further details.

Date Added

06-Mar-17

The late Paddy McCrann RIP

Cloone GAA would like to extend its sincere sympathy to the McCrann family on the death of Paddy McCrann Mount Ida Cloone. Paddy better known as 'Stonewall' was a stalwart of Cloone GAA with his career extending from 1942 to 1959. During this time he won five Leitrim senior championship medals, and was part of the famous three in a row championship winning teams of 1946, and 47 when Cloone beat Aughawillan, and 48 when Cloone beat Aughavas. Paddy was also a member of the Cloone team in 1950 when Cloone beat Sean o Heslins and in 51 when Cloone beat Carrigallen Harps. Paddy also won a Connacht Junior Championship medal with Leitrim in 1952.

Paddy first came to prominence as a key player with the Cloone minor team of 1944. Things were so much different back then as Paddy and his colleagues walked to Ballinamore for the match, as there was no transport available. Of course there was no such thing as after match meals back then, and it reported locally that they helped themselves to some refreshments from a window sill in the greater Fenagh area on their way home. This game was played in the days prior to Christmas. It seems fixtures were a problem back then as well and the CPA weren't even heard of.

From 1952 Cloone were greatly depleted and went of existence until 1958 and once again when Cloone fielded a team Paddy 'Stonewall' McCrann was again togged out manning his customary right corner back position in the blue and gold of his beloved Cloone. Paddy gave sterling service to Cloone Gaa over a long number of years and with his great recollection of events back then, he was always available to recount stories of the glorious years of Cloone GAA. To his sons Michael, Paudge, Aidan, Kieran and Donal, his sister Bridget and his extended Family we extend our sincere sympathy.

Date Added

13-Mar-17

Visit from Kilmacthomas club

On Saturday evening last we had the pleasure of entertaining the Kilmacthomas GAA club from Waterford who were on tour for the weekend. A very entertaining Challenge game was played in the Park which Cloone won by four points. Afterwards our visitors were entertained in Creegans Bar where they proved their versatility as entertainers as well as GAA players.

Special thanks to the Kilmacthomas GAA club for including us in their tour, for the presentation piece, and the signed jersey which they presented to our club. We also thank them for the invitation to our club to visit them in Waterford, which we intend to take up later in the year. Thanks also to our team manager Niall Murray for arranging the game and to Tommy and Pat Creegan for the refreshments afterwards.

Date Added

24-Apr-17

Second win from three in the league

We secured a very important win over Kiltubrid in Cloone on Saturday evening last on a score line of 2-09 to 1-09. We led from the start in this tight and very competitive encounter and had to withstand a strong fight back from Kiltubrid in the second half. Cloone: Ciaran Casey, Dara Tiernan, Aidan Mulvey, Robbie McCaffrey. Francie Reilly Seamus Maguire, Darren Keegan, Niall Quinn, Brian Mulvey, Eoghan Keegan Sean Reynolds, Darren Carberry, Chris Carberry, Mickey Lohan Mark Creegan. Sub: Ronan Mulvey for Mark Creegan (inj).

Date Added

01-Aug-17

Positive start to championship

We secured a comfortable win over Carrigallen in the first round of the intermediate championship on Saturday evening last in Ballinamore on a score line of Cloone 4-07 to Carrigallen 0-10. It's great to start the championship on a winning note and hopefully things will continue in a similar vein on Sunday next when we take on Killtubrid in round two in Ballinamore on Sunday next at 4:30 pm. Well done to the team and management on last Saturday's victory.

Date Added

28-Sep-17

National Club Draw 2017 - Your Chance to Support Cloone

The GAA National Club draw is once again up and running and the club will be taking part again this year. Having had a winner last year, no doubt there will be great interest in the draw again this year.

The draw is sponsored by the GAA nationally with all prizes provided by GAA headquarters, which provides a huge opportunity for GAA clubs to raise some much needed funds. Tickets will be available from club members.

Date Added

16-Oct-17

History Corner - Part I

Having completed the playing activity on the pitch we now turn our attention to a little bit of history. Notes from the archives show that in 1970 Cloone GAA held their Annual Dinner Dance on the 27th of December and was attended by 186 guests. On January 7th the club held a very successful concert for Parochial funds and the proceeds amounted to £ 53.

At a meeting of Leitrim Co Board held in Drumkeerin on 22 of February 1971 the Cloone senior team were relegated from Senior to Intermediate championship, a competition in which only two teams played, i.e. Cloone and Melvin Gaels. The records show that Cloone were represented at that Co Board meeting by Sean Cooke, who provided the transport and a G McGovern. Cloone were grouped for the league with Carrick, Glencar Manor, St Aidan's Gortletteragh, and Aughnasheelin. The 1971 league started on Sunday March 7th and the following team represented Cloone on the first league outing of that year. Willie Mitchell, Kevin Foley, Pat Beirne Kevin Lennon, Gerry Moran, Peadar Moran, Sean Smith, Jim McCabe, Tommy McNamee, Kieran Brennan, Mattie Joe Lennon, Damian Brennan, Gerry Tiernan(RIP), Gerry McGovern, Kevin Moran. The Cloone full forward had a torrid afternoon against a very prominent member of the Leitrim County Senior team of that year, and even though Cloone only had the required fifteen players, he says that he played the entire game in fear of being taken off.

For all the local historians, who did Cloone play that day? Where was the game played? And who was the referee? No doubt you all know the answers. Answers on a postcard please. Answers published next week. More to follow.

Date Added

18-Oct-17

The famous 6!

Heartiest congratulations this week to our gallant group of 6 under 13 footballers who recently won the under 13 shield as part of the successful Mohill team who beat Allen Gaels on Sunday week last. The players, Conor Keegan, Cathal Donohue, Aaron McCrann Anthony Luby, Colin McNamara, and Michael Tiernan have been a huge part of the Mohill panel and have contributed greatly to the success of the team. Michael Tiernan, Cathal Donohue, performed heroics in defence, the towering Conor Keegan turning a James McCarthy of Dublin performance in the middle of the field, and the super Colin McNamara leading the attack. Unfortunately Aaron McCrann was injured and couldn't take part, but himself and Anthony Luby were very much an integral part of the team. Our club president Pat McNamara was a very happy and proud spectator at the game, having two grandsons on the winning team. Well done to all involved and their mentors, and it's nice to know we have some very talented young footballers coming along.

Date Added

18-Oct-17

League concludes with defeat to Ballinaglera

On Saturday evening last we lost to Ballinaglera in the final game of the 2017 Intermediate league on a score line of 2-13 to 0-12. It brings the curtain down on what was an enjoyable year for the club successfully competing in both League and Championship, and with a little more luck could have made it to the finals of both competitions. The club would like to extend its sincere gratitude to our team manager Niall Murray and his backroom team who did a very good job in his first year with the club.

The team on Saturday evening was as follows, Ciaran Casey, Dara Tiernan, Mark Beirne, Declan Tiernan, Aidan Mulvey, Gavin Reynolds, Darren Keegan, Michael Bohan, Brian Mulvey, Derek O'Donnell Niall Quinn, S Reynolds, Darren Carberry, Eoin Keegan Chris Carberry. Subs used were Alvin Beirne, Robbie McCaffrey Mick Lohan. That wraps up our club football for 2017.

Date Added

24-Oct-17

History Corner - Part II

The history corner in last week's edition was a huge success with plenty of interest from many quarters. However nobody got all the answers correct, but there were some very close. The game was against Aughnasheelin, played in Ballinamore, and the referee was the late Charlie Lee from Aughavas. The Aughnasheelin fullback was the great Tommy Gallagher, who was a member of the Leitrim senior team at that time.

This week's history corner brings us to a very high profile game played on Sunday 21 March 1971. Reports would indicate that this was one of the best games played at this distinguished venue for a decade, with Cloone recording a famous victory over high profile opposition, on a scoreline of 1 09 to 1 06. I won't dare mention the row as the CCC Liatroma might issue suspensions retrospectively, as there no cards available on the day, not even blue cards. Cloone pulled out all the stops to ensure that a full team would be available. Cloone lined out as follows: Paddy Kelly (R.I.P.) Mattie Joe Lennon, Pat Beirne, Kevin Lennon, Bertie Scanlon, Peadar Moran, Gerry Moran, Jim McCabe, Tommy McNamee, Kieran McGovern, Damian Brennan, Gavin McAlinden, Willie Mitchell, Tommy Derwin (R.I.P.), Timmy Beirne. Subs toggged out on the day were Kieran Brennan and Sean Smith. As you can see a lot of players from the previous team had got their P45's. There was a big crowd at the game, with takings from the gate amounting to £ 24. Simple questions this week, now who was the opposition and where was the game played? The success of the day did not end with the game, as the club hosted a very successful concert in Doherty's Hall that night when the local Drama group presented their hilarious comedy to a packed audience. Proceeds from the door amounted to £42.00. Sure we were kicking it out of our way back then! I won't ask you the name of the play or the cast members but feel free to tell me. More next week

Date Added

24-Oct-17

Big win for Tommy

Congratulations to our local Publican and Sponsor Tommy Creegan on his success in the Leitrim Club Cairde draw held recently. Tommy and Pat have been long-time supporters of Leitrim and Cloone GAA, and the Creegan name has been on the Cloone jersey since sponsorship in the GAA was introduced.

Date Added

24-Oct-17

Recent Bereavements

It is with regret that we note the deaths of people who have contributed to the local community in many ways over a long number of ways. We remember the late George Argue who passed to his eternal reward in the last two few weeks, a man who contributed in no small way to everything that was progressive about Cloone, and now we remember Dan Keegan who on Saturday evening last suddenly passed to his eternal reward. Dan was so supportive of everything that was happening in the parish, and he will be missed by everyone that knew him. We extend our sympathy to their family and friends, and may their souls rest in peace.

Date Added

13-Nov-17

Success for Co. U16 team

Congratulations to our up and coming football star Niall Keegan Faughill who was part of the successful Leitrim Under sixteen team that defeated Longford in the semi- final of the Fr Manning Plate in Longford on Saturday last. They now play Louth on Saturday next in the plate final. We wish Niall and the team the very best on Saturday next and we urge supporters to go along and support this great bunch of young footballers.

Date Added

13-Nov-17

History Corner - Part 3

Following on from last week's quiz, the answers were simple. The opposition were the 1970 Co under 14 champions Annaduff in the first round of the under 14 championship played in Dromad. A week later on the 4 th of June, Cloone made amends by defeating Bornacoola in the Grange by 4-12 to 0-01. There were some changes to the line when the following team took the field: Aidan McCrann, Brian Mulvey, John Gormley, Shane Creegan, Martin Mulvey, Sean McGovern, Hughie McGovern, Aidan Monaghan, Gerry Mulvey, Tadhg McHugh, Paudge McCrann, Sean Doherty, Mick Harte, Pauric Conway, Peter o Donnell. Sub used Pitchelli Brennan. Next week we will have a look at the under sixteen team of the same year.

Date Added

13-Nov-17

History Corner - Part 2

In response to last week's quiz, Sean Doherty was first in with the right answers. The game was against Gortletteragh, the County Champions of 1970 and the game was played in the Grange. Next in the trilogy, was a game played on Sunday March 28 th 1971, in what would now be considered an away game. The game is remembered for activities off the playing field, more so than the quality of football played. The motto was all shoulders to the wheel, but in fact it was limbs lower than the shoulder that became the dominant feature of the game. Our present sponsor played a blinder on

the side line, and umbrellas were used for purposes that they were never intended for. Sure it was a day out for all the family and surely a day not to be forgotten. The Cloone team lined as follows:

Paddy Kelly, Tommy McNamee Pat Beirne, Luke McNamee, Kevin Lennon, Peadar Moran, Gerry Moran, Jim McCabe, Damian Brennan, Kieran Brennan, Mattie Joe Lennon, Bertie Scanlon, Sean Smith, Tommy Derwin (RIP) Timmy Beirne. Subs used Willie Mitchel for Sean Smith.

We were really upmarket back then, as we had a meal for the team after the game, which cost £ 17.00. Even before the advent of the GPA or the CPA, weren't we really extravagant. Now, where was the match played, who were the opposition, and who was the referee? I can name one umpire, who got a serious lecture from the referee about his impartiality.

At that time we seemed to run league games and concerts in tandem, as that night we hosted the Drumreilly players in Doherty's hall, and the proceeds amounted to £32.00. At least we more than broke even for the day. Now the notes office was in a little of a quandary this week end, as to the name of the play by the Drumreilly play group, but following great and indeed intensive work by our research team we can now reveal that the name of the play was the hilarious Tom Coffey 3 act

comedy "Anyone Can Rob a Bank". Having spent £ 17.00 on a meal, no doubt the minds of the Cloone officials that evening were seriously focused on banking matters and were hoping to get some inspiration from the play. Next week we hope to feature some under age history.

Date Added

20-Nov-17

History Corner - Part 4

In the early seventies the under 16 championship came immediately after the under 14 and on June 25th 1971 Cloone defeated Gortletteragh in the Grange on a score line of 0-14pts to 0-12pts. The stats from the game would indicate that Gortletteragh dominated the early exchanges but that Cloone turned a super second half and won the game by two points. Cloone lined out as follows, L Bohan, B Mulvey, J Gormley, S McHugh. M Mulvey, M McCrann G Mulvey, E Moran A Monaghan, C Moran, P McGarty, P McCrann, T McHugh, G Lennon J Dillon.

The last game in the group was against a more seasoned Bornacoola team who defeated Cloone by a big score, and while much the same team lined out, the changes saw Sean Doherty don the number one shirt, and Pat Kilkenny coming a number 15.

Date Added

20-Nov-17

Wedding Bells

Congratulations and best wishes to former ladies player Louise Heslin Streamstown Cloone, and Declan McCloskey Donegal who were married on Friday last in Sligo.