

EXTRA TIME

NEWSLETTER

SUNDAY 28th JUNE 2020

- This week's edition of Extra Time can be viewed online by Clicking here
- This week's edition of Extra Time can be download in PDF Format by Clicking here

Welcome again to Extra Time, the pitches are open and the return to Games is now only weeks away, the Club Roadmap we hope will be confirmed after a meeting of Down GAA CCC on Tuesday night while the Inter County programme was released on Friday past by the GAA, indeed it is going to be Christmas come early for two counties as they will get to compete in an All-Ireland Football Final on the 19th December. Indeed in going through the archives it was interesting that here in Down in 1959 the County Final between Glenn and Downpatrick was played on the last Sunday in November, whilst in the case of the 1961 Final when Shamrocks beat Mitchel's it was not played until 1962. The most important thing to remember is that we all want to be still safe and well in December 2020.

In relation to attendance at games, we still await guidance on numbers permitted to attend our games and this even includes Club Challenge games. To give you an indication, if games were to commence tomorrow Pairc Esler would have a capacity of 1050 and that would include players and officials. Brewster Park capacity would be 2200 whilst Clones could cater for 4000. So you see there is still a lot to happen before we can be sure on numbers who can attend our games and with that will come compliance to certain factors at our venues. We will keep Clubs informed on direction from GAA and Local Authorities.

On Tuesday night last we conducted our Championship Draws for 2020 outside Pairc Esler and the draws have certainly wetted the appetite for a return to play and great to see East Belfast prepared to compete in the Junior Football and Hurling Championships, they had their affiliation accepted this week by the GAA at National Level and it is great to have us back to 48 Clubs again.





Karen Maginn (Head of Marketing, Morgan Fuels), Maureen O'Higgins (Vice Chairperson, Down GAA), Hugh Morgan (Managing Director, Morgan Fuels), John Devaney (Chairperson, Down GAA)

FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP DRAWS

2020 Down GAA Reserve Football Championship Sponsored by Eamonn Rooney Coach Hire

Round 1

- Mayobridge v Annaclone
- Longstone v Drumaness
- Saval v Clann na Banna
- Teconnaught v Clonduff
- Bredagh v Cumann Pheadair Naofa
- Tullylish v St Paul's

Round 2

- Atticall v Carryduff
- Ballymartin v St Patrick's Saul
- Newry Shamrocks v Kilcoo
- Bredagh/Cumann Pheadair Naofa v Saval/Clann na Banna
- Burren v Tullylish/St Paul's
- Liatroim v Longstone/Drumaness
- Teconnaught/Clonduff v Mayobridge/Annaclone
- Glenn v St John's

2020 Down GAA Premier Reserve Football Championship Sponsored by Eamonn Rooney Coach Hire

Round 1

- Downpatrick v Loughinisland
- Clonduff v Bryansford
- Bredagh v Cumann Pheadair Naofa
- Mayobridge v An Ríocht
- Rostrevor v Carryduff
- Burren v Kilcoo

Quarter Final

- Winner Clonduff/Bryansford v
 Winner Bredagh/Cumann Pheadair Naofa
- Winner of Rostrevor/Carryduff v Winner of Burren/Kilcoo
- Castlewellan v Winner Mayobridge/An Riocht
- Winner RGU Downpatrick/Loughinisland v Ballyholland

2020 Down GAA Junior Football Championship Sponsored by The Parador Lodge

Round 1

- St Paul's v Mitchels
- Glasdrumman v St Michael's
- Aughlisnafin v Ardglass
- Aghaderg v Drumaness
- Dundrum v East Belfast
- Kilclief v Bye

2020 Down GAA Intermediate Football Championship Sponsored by The Parador Lodge

Round 2

- An Ríocht v Teconnaught
- Annaclone v Bright
- Liatroim v Saval
- Atticall v Newry Shamrocks
- Dromara v St John's
- St John Bosco v Tullylish
- St Patrick's Saul v Ballymartin
- Drumgath v Clann na Banna

2020 Down GAA Senior Football Championship Sponsored by Morgan Fuels

Round 1

- Cumann Pheadair Naofa v Burren
- Kilcoo v Mayobridge
- Ballyholland v Darragh Cross
- Glenn v Bryansford
- Carryduff v Clonduff
- Rostrevor v Downpatrick
- Longstone v Loughinisland
- Castlewellan v Bredagh

HURLING CHAMPIONSHIP DRAWS



Hugh Morgan (Managing Director of Morgan Fuels) – Sponsors of Down GAA Senior Football and Hurling Championship pictured with John Devaney (Down GAA Chairperson)

2020 Down GAA Junior Hurling Championship

Round 1

- Ballyvarley v Ballela
- Cumann Pheadair Naofa v Kilclief
- East Belfast v Castlewellan

Round 2

- Ballela v East Belfast
- Castlewellan v Cumann Pheadair Naofa
- Kilclief v Ballyvarley

Round 3

- Cumann Pheadair Naofa v East Belfast
- Castlewellan v Ballyvarley
- Kilclief v Ballela

Round 4

- Ballela v Castlewellan
- Ballyvarley v Cumann Pheadair Naofa
- East Belfast v Kilclief

Round 5

- Castlewellan v Kilclief
- Cumann Pheadair Naofa v Ballela
- East Belfast v Ballyvarley

Semi Finals

- 1st v 4th
- 2nd v 3rd

Final: Winner A v Winner B





Michael O'Rourke (Down GAA Assistant Secretary) & Maureen O'Higgins (Vice Chairperson, Down GAA)

2020 Down GAA Intermediate Hurling Championship

Round 1

- Liatroim V Carryduff
- Newry Shamrocks V Clonduff

Round 2

- Clonduff V Liatroim
- Carryduff V Newry Shamrocks

Round 3

- Carryduff V Clonduff
- Newry Shamrocks V Liatroim

Round 4

• Carryduff V Liatroim Clonduff V Newry Shamrocks

Round 5

- Liatroim V Clonduff
- Newry Shamrocks V Carryduff

Round 6

- Clonduff V Carryduff
- Liatroim V Newry Shamrocks

Final: 1st Place V 2nd Place

2020 Down GAA Senior Hurling Championship Sponsored by Morgan Fuels

Round 1

- Portaferry V Ballycran
- Ballygalget V Bredagh

Round 2

- Bredagh V Portaferry
- Ballycran V Ballygalget

Round 3

- Ballycran V Bredagh
- Ballygalget V Portaferry

Round 4

- Ballycran V Portaferry
- Bredagh V Ballygalget

Round 5

- Portaferry V Bredagh
- Ballygalget V Ballycran

Round 6:

- Bredagh V Ballycran
- Portaferry V Ballygalget

Final:

• 1st Place V 2nd Place

LATEST INFORMATION REGARDING OPENING DATES

The Latest Information in regard to Opening Dates has been outlined by the GAA on Friday.

Phase 3 (from June 29th)

- Astro turf facilities for club members
- Hurling ball walls
- Walkways all control measures, bar the need to adhere to social distancing, removed
- Outdoor Handball Alleys
- Officer Training/Meetings (Subject to further guidelines on numbers and area of room being prepared by NHSC and issued to clubs)

Phase 4 (from July 20th)

- Club/County Gyms
- Dressing Rooms (subject to advice on Close v Casual Contacts)
- Indoor Handball Alleys, subject to guidance laid down in Handball Return to Play Document

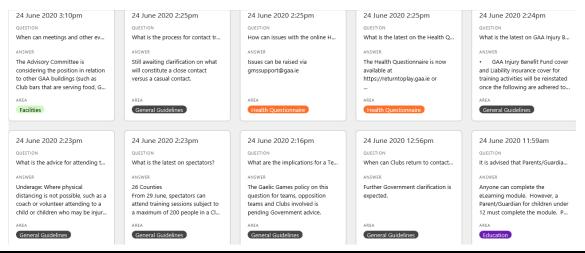
Phase 3:

The following are allowed to open from June 29th providing Govt Regulations for relevant sector is followed and all required third party insurances and assurances are in place:

- Bars serving food (Dates set by NI Executive will have to be followed)
- Businesses operated by third parties using GAA premises under licence or lease, eg Creches or Gyms
- Astro turf facilities commercial usage
- Playgrounds

Note: further guidelines and advice will be forthcoming on these matters and all is subject to change.

The most up to date information in regard to the Return to play can be found by accessing the link of Frequently Asked Questions https://learning.gaa.ie/covid19faqs



COVID-19: HEALTH QUESTIONNAIRE NOW AVAILABLE

The GAA's Covid Health Questionnaire that each person participating in Gaelic Games must complete prior to the first occasion that they return to their club is now available. Forms can be accessed by visiting

https://returntoplay.gaa.ie.

Each person participating in Gaelic Games must also re-confirm that their Health Status hasn't changed on each subsequent occasion that they



participate. Parents/Guardians can submit forms on behalf of their dependents and forms can also be submitted on behalf of persons who may struggle with completing the electronic form themselves. COVID Supervisors in clubs can verify that individual members of their teams/panels have submitted forms and are permitted to participate.

It should be noted that the COVID Supervisors do not have access to view the specific information provided via the Health Questionnaire, they will simply be able to see that the questionnaire has been submitted. Personal Information contained on the Health Questionnaires is stored for a maximum period of three weeks. Click HERE for information on how to fill out the Covid Health Questionnaire.

All Covid Supervisors/Club Officers, Players/Team Personnel, and the Parents/Guardians of Underage Players must also complete the GAA's Covid-19 Club Education eLearning Module.

Click HERE to access the GAA's Covid-19 Club Education eLearning Module.

ULSTER MFC DATES

Down will meet Fermanagh in the rescheduled 2020 Ulster minor football championship on the weekend of 23rd October in Brewster Park, Enniskillen. Fixtures to be finalised at the next meeting of the CCC. The final will be played no later than November 22nd.

2020 Ulster MFC:

October 17/18

First round

• Monaghan v Cavan, Clones October 23/24/25

Quarter-finals

- Derry v Armagh, Celtic Park
- Donegal v Tyrone, Ballybofey
- Antrim v Monaghan or Cavan, Antrim venue or Kingspan Breffni
- Fermanagh v Down, Brewster Park

CHALLENGE GAMES NOTICE FROM ULSTER COUNCIL

On 20 June the GAA announced that contact training and challenge games could take place in the '26 Counties' from Monday 29th June and that further detail was awaited from the NI Executive in relation to the position in the 'Six Counties.'

Yesterday the NI Executive announced that competitive games could commence from 17 July which mirrors the date the GAA have announced for a return to competitive football. We are awaiting further guidance from the NI Executive in relation to what is permitted in the period 29 June-16 July and a further announcement is expected tomorrow Monday 29th June. However it is important for clubs and counties to be aware that there is still no provision to allow challenge games to be played in the 'Six Counties.'

Further guidance on this matter will be issued in light of Monday's announcement. When Challenge Games are permitted Clubs are reminded that we can only accept requests on the nominated and approved form using the following link:

www.downgaa.net/challenge-games

DRAWS FOR CHRISTY RING CUP

The Quarter-Finals in the Christy Ring Cup competitions will take place over the weekend of October 24/25.

2020 Christy Ring Cup Draw Quarter-Finals:

Down v London; Offaly v Kildare; Roscommon v Wicklow; Derry v Sligo.

SAVE THE DATES

Saturday 17/Sunday 18 October

Allianz FL Division 3 round 6

Down v Leitrim, Pairc Esler

Allianz HL Division 2B final Down v Derry

Saturday 24/Sunday 25 October

Allianz FL Division 3 round 7 Louth v Down, Drogheda

Christy Ring Cup quarter-final

Down v London

Friday 23/Saturday 24/Sunday 25 October

Ulster MFC quarter-final

Fermanagh v Down, Brewster Park

Saturday 31 October/Sunday 1 November

Christy Ring Cup semi-finals

Quarter-final winner v quarter-final winner

Christy Ring Cup relegation semi-finals

Quarter-final loser v quarter-final loser

Saturday 7/Sunday 8 November

Ulster SFC quarter-finals

Fermanagh v Down

Christy Ring Cup relegation final

Relegation semi-final loser v relegation semi-final loser

Saturday 14/Sunday 15 November

Ulster SFC semi-finals

Fermanagh/Down v Monaghan/Cavan/Antrim

Christy Ring Cup final

Semi-final winner v semi-final winner

Sunday 22 November

Ulster SFC final

Donegal/Tyrone/Derry/Armagh v Fermanagh/Down/Monaghan/Cavan/Antrim

Saturday 28/Sunday 29 November

All-Ireland MFC semi-finals

Leinster winner v Ulster winner

Saturday 5 December

All-Ireland SFC semi-final

Leinster winner v Ulster winner

Sunday 6 December

All-Ireland SFC semi-final

Connacht winner v Munster winner

Saturday 5/Sunday 6 December

All-Ireland MFC final

Semi-final winner v semi-final winner

Sunday 13 December

All-Ireland SHC final

Semi-final winner v semi-final winner

Saturday 19 December

All-Ireland SFC final

Semi-final winner v semi-final winner

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WORKSHOP

We are pleased to let you know that Sport NI have revised their Safeguarding Children and Young People Workshop to be able to deliver it online in light of the current situation. We have had a number of enquiries regarding the workshop and its delivery to an online format and we have been working hard over the last number of weeks, with Paul Stephenson from the NSPCC, to adapt the workshop to an online virtual format for delivery. We are now in the position to



be able to offer workshops however there are a number of changes to the format as outlined below:

- The workshop will be delivered in two parts part one is pre-learning that participants are required to undertake in advance of the online workshop. This consists of a 25 minute video which provides important elements of the face-to-face workshop that has been adapted to be undertaken prior to the online workshop. It is mandatory that participants undertake the pre-learning as they will be tested on their knowledge of it within the online workshop. They will also receive the Safeguarding Children and Young People Resource booklet which they should read through prior to the online. Part two will be an online virtual workshop via Zoom lasting approximately 100 minutes delivered by one of our experienced tutors.
- Presently we will are only taking individual participant bookings via Eventbrite. The cost per participant is
 £15. Participants must register via Eventbrite for the date specific workshop they wish to take part in. I
 have enclosed links below. Once registered, they will receive an email that their registration is confirmed
 as well as the pre-learning materials and the link to access the online workshop.
- Workshops will take place via Zoom with a tutor delivering the content live. Participants will be required to log onto Zoom via the link approx. 5-10 mins prior to the start of the workshop. Following introductions, the tutor will deliver the interactive workshop which lasts approximately 100 minutes plus breaks so just less than 2 hours. Throughout the workshop participants will be expected to fully participate (with their cameras on) in polls and breakout rooms to test knowledge and promote discussion (just as in the face-to-face workshop).
- Upon completion of the online virtual workshop participants will receive a certificate of attendance and be asked to give their feedback via a short online survey. Certificates will be issued dependent on participants fully engaging in the workshop content.
- The number of places on each workshop is limited to 12 persons presently to allow for the participant/tutor interaction to take place and ensure a good quality experience for all taking part.

We also hope, through time, to be able to accommodate group bookings by Governing Bodies and Local Authorities. Please get in touch with us if this is something you wish to look into. Until such times as we are in a position to deliver the face to face workshop, this will be the only option available for volunteers and coaches to undertake Safeguarding Children and Young People awareness training therefore we would ask that yourselves as a Governing Body accept participants undertaking the training*. Certificates will display that it was an online virtual workshop that was undertaken and we would recommend that following the online workshop participants should undertake a face-to-face workshop rather than an online refresher in 3 years' time when required.

Online virtual workshops will commence from Monday 29th June 2020 and I have enclosed the dates below for you to circulate to anyone who may be interested in attending or to display via your website. We are currently taking bookings for the first two workshops with the later workshops opening up should demand require. Any enquiries should be directed to workshops@sportni.net

Safeguarding Children and Young People Online Virtual Workshop dates:				
Date	Time	Registration Link		
Monday 29th June 2020	7.00pm – 9.00pm	https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/online- safeguarding-children-and-young- people-in-sport-tickets-109948129816		
Tuesday 30th June 2020	7.00pm – 9.00pm	https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/online- safeguarding-children-and-young- people-in-sport-tickets-109948137840		
Monday 6th July 2020	7.00pm – 9.00pm	Not yet released		
Wednesday 8th July 2020	7.00pm – 9.00pm	Not yet released		
Monday 20th July 2020	7.00pm – 9.00pm	Not yet released		
Wednesday 22nd July 2020	7.00pm – 9.00pm	Not yet released		

WHITE MOUNTAIN PROGRAMME

Providing grants for community organisations in Northern Ireland

Grants of up to £50,000 are available for projects making a positive impact at ground level, either developing facilities for community use or encouraging biodiversity and environmental improvements.

The objective of the White mountain Programme is to support community amenity or biodiversity projects which clearly address local issues, needs and opportunities, and which seek to complement and build upon existing local initiatives. Funding for the White mountain Programme is through the Landfill Communities Fund and is derived from White mountain's operations at Mullaghglass landfill site near Lisburn. Your project must be located within 15 miles of Mullaghglass landfill site.

Funding is available under two grants strands:

- White mountain Programme Small Grants (£3k to £10k)
- White mountain Programme Main Grants (£10k to £50k)

Prior to submitting an application, all potential applicants are advised to contact Groundwork NI at whitemountainprogramme@groundworkni.co.uk to discuss their proposal and to confirm its eligibility For more information visit https://www.groundwork.org.uk/projects/whitemountain-programme/

AUGHRIM PROGRAMME

Aughrim Landfill Programme is a partnership between Aughrim Landfill Ltd and Groundwork NI. Funding for Aughrim Landfill Programme is through the Landfill Communities Fund (LFC) and is derived from Aughrim Landfill Ltd's operations at Aughrim landfill site.

The programme aims to support projects working in the conservation and promotion of biodiversity projects and protection of social environment. The grants available are from £5,000 to £10,000.

Projects must be located within 10 miles of a licensed landfill site. Priority will be given to projects located within 10 miles of Aughrim landfill.

For more information visit: https://www.groundwork.org.uk/projects/aughrim-programme/

BRANDED WATER BOTTLES

MMI Group, the manufacturers of the All-Ireland medal, are running the attached offer on printed water bottles with your club crest and room for individuals to mark their initials/name.

As well as a Covid-19 prevention measure, the sale of bottles to individual presents a fundraising opportunity for your club.

- There is a wide range of options available to suit all club colours.
- Lead time is no more than 7 days from artwork approval.
- Pricing inclusive of VAT(at 23%), set-up and delivery to one address on the Island of Ireland.

For firm quotes, queries or pricing for higher quantities please do not hesitate to contact:

Stephen Murray

Account & Contracts Manager T: 00353 1 450 9577 – ext 215 M: 00353 87 9578744

E: stephenmurray@mmi.ie

W: www.mmi.ie

W: www.brandedproducts.ie



Branded Products.ie

Club Crest Printed Water Bottles

An excellent fundraising opportunity and Covid-19 prevention measure for your club.

7 day lead time fom artwork approval. Options to suit all club colours available. Choice of sports lid or flip lid.

Note individual names are to be marked in (sharpie or permanent marker recommended) by the user.



1	colour pri	nt
250pcs	500pcs	1,000pcs
€2.25	€2.04	€1.85
2	colour pri	int
250pcs	500pcs	1,000pcs
€2.64	€2.32	€2.15
3	colour pri	nt
250pcs	500pcs	1,000pcs
€3.15	€2.61	€2.48
4	colour pr	int
250pcs	500pcs	1,000pcs
€3.48	€2.92	€2.70

750ml

Pricing INCLUSIVE of VAT(at 23%), set-up and delivery to one address on the Island of Ireland.

To order or for queries contact Stephen on sales@mmi.ie

MMI Group Ltd , Insignia House, JFK Par Dublin 12 ,D12 EC53

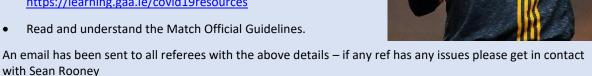
REFEREES

Just to emphasise again that <u>all</u> referees must be members of Clubs and before they can be appointed to games they must be registered members on the GAA Membership System.

There is support available for Referees in regard to their returning to officiate and the following links should be access by Referees:

Match Officials in each County must complete the following:

- Education eLearning Module completed and provide proof to their County Referee Administrator. https://courses.gaa.ie/Covid19ClubEd/#/
- Complete the Health questionnaire, notification of completion will go to County Referee Administrator https://learning.gaa.ie/covid19resources
- Read and understand the Match Official Guidelines.





INVITATION TO WHAT SHOULD BE AN INTERESTING CONVERSATION DECLAN KELLY IS ALSO THE CEO OF TENEO THE TIPPERARY TEAM SPONSORS

Applying Tomorrow's Logic to Today's Turbulence. World-class Insights from Acclaimed Thinkers.

Hosted under the Chatham House Rule, this is a rare opportunity to hear from a globally renowned business strategist who is passionate about creating prosperity, through world-class business, in the North & South of Ireland.



GMT Virtual Event

Register for Free Here

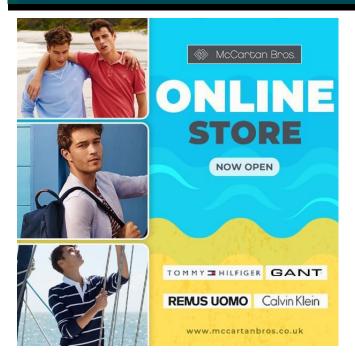


FEARGAL MCCORMACK

Advisor to Leading Businesses on the Island of Ireland



In Conversation With:





CLUBS DRAW PRIZE WINNERS

JUNE CLUBS DRAW PRIZE WINNERS

5 x £1,000

An Riocht:

20AR144 Conor Clarke

• Burren:

20BU177 Laurence McArdle

• Burren:

20BU658 Shona Fitzpatrick

Bredagh:

20BH180 Sarah McKegney

Liatroim:

20LM101 Jerome Farrell

Club winners £200 each

Aughlisnafin:

18AN039 G D Lenaghan

Bright:

20BT062 C M Precission

Cumann Pheadair Naofa:
 20CPN369 Liam Gray

• Glasdrumman:

20GN034 Aisling & Cara Smyth

JUNE SUPER DRAW PRIZE WINNERS

1 x £5,000

Mayobridge:

20ME150 Paul Downey

5 x £2,000

• Drumgath:

18DH060 Nicola Monaghan

• Ballymartin:

20BN042 Edmond Poland

Drumgath:

15DH097 Patrick S Downey

• Kilclief:

20KF129 Conor Shields

Burren:

20BU416 Maureen Braham

5 x £1,000

• Bredagh:

20BH273 Aisling Curran

Glenn:

20GL107 Gary O'Hare

• Burren:

20BU631 Michael Gilfedder

• Clonduff:

20CL004 Donna Grant

• Longstone:

20LE086 Julie Cole

Watch Video of Draw by Click here: https://youtu.be/rttRZQsIY5c

DOWN & ANTRIM U20 HURLERS TO MEET ON 17/18 OCTOBER

The U20 hurlers of Antrim and Down will meet on 17/18 October in a play-off game to decide who will represent Ulster in this year's Leinster U20 hurling championship. Both teams were looking to participate in the competition but Leinster can only accommodate one Ulster county. Rescheduled dates for the 2020 Leinster U20HC have yet to be released but the winners of Antrim versus Down are set to face Carlow in the first round.

ARCHIVE



The last week in June was memorable for Down just three years ago when we enjoyed a wonderful evening in the Athletic Grounds as the men in Red and Black shocked the GAA world with a victory over Monaghan in the Ulster Semi Final, it was a very proud occasion for the late great Eamonn Burns, who steered Down to an Ulster Final.



https://youtu.be/VnrB7Cx5a-U



In 1981 Down triumphed over Armagh in Clones in the Ulster Final with the late Joe Lennon in charge assisted by Tony Hadden and Seán Magorrian.

Down thanks to two John McCartan goals were Ulster Champions again. Here we share with you highlights of the goals that day.

https://youtu.be/z7AljPk44Bk



Greg Blaney was of course not just one of our greatest footballers but he also was an accomplished County Hurler and in this clip from 1991 he showed that he was an equally talented goal scorer.

Click here to see video

ARCHIVING THE PAPERS FROM 1961

Last Week we mentioned that we were archiving the papers from 1961 in our collection as we published the preview of the Ulster Final Down v Armagh with 40,000 people expected at Casement Park, well history shows that Down were victorious 2-10 to 1-10 in what appears to have been an epic contest.

The paper also reported that the Official Attendance was given as 38,500, we expect that there were many more there!



RECORD CROWD SAW MAGNIFICENT DUEL WITH ARMAGH

Down still Ulster's Kingpins But they never got it so tough Newry

Reception med For York Armagh

TURKEY RECORD

acing This

present d, there i Motorsome a good which and the

York Armagh

A RMACH SUPPORTERS have a right to be proud of their team's great performance in the Ulster

Senior Football Championship final at Casement Park, Belfast, for they gave the Allor the Co. Armaghtion of New York will

I reland Champions, Down, the shock of their lives, but at the same time brought out the splendid
tighting qualities of the kingpins of Gaelic football and proved, if any such proof were needed,
that this Down side is all that its cracked up to be.

With the mood that Armagh was in on Sunday it took a champion side of the calibre of Down to overcome them. They went out to Casement Park determined that they would be the first to lower the red-and-black standard from the top of the mast where it has flown so proudly for the past three years over Ulster, and for the past year over all-Ireland.

In holding Down to a three points margin they brought about one of the finest football finals seen in Ulster for many a day—a final that was a credit to the teams taking part and to the great Association to which they belonged—and gave top value for money to the near forty thousand crowd that packed the Belfast arena.

F Armagh covered themselves with glory in defeat, Down did likewise in victory. Trailing by 1-7 to 1-2 at half-time, even their most fervent supporters could not see them getting over this ruthlessly scientific Armagh machine which seemed to have its teeth so deeply embedded in that Ulster title that Down and Kerry combined would not have stopped them.

But what change took place in the second half. A terrific cheer heralded the appearance of "match-winner" James McCartan, the idol of Glenn, Down and indeed all Ireland, when he lined up with the Down men on the resumption despite an injured shoulder which kept him out of the game in the first half.

What happened to Armagh not even their mentors know. They do know that the Down they faced in the second moiety was the Down that played Kerry into the ground at Croke Park last September—the real thing—and against this machine Armagh had no answer. Point by point their lead was whittled away and then McCartan hammered down the coffin lid with a blazing goal to put Down ahead—a lead they never lost.

Did Armagh lost their heads? That is one explanation being put forward.

What would have happened, many are asking, if so much attention had not been paid to Sean O'Neill—attention which cost Armagh several points from frees for petty infringements on the Down forward. Paddy Doherty certainly made Armagh pay very dearly for them, for the Down sharpshooter was seldom in better form. Sean O'Neill regained most of his former prestige in this game. He was once more the elusive quick-silver Sean supporters know so well. Without these points Down might well have been trailing at the end—what would have happened if O'Neill had been allowed to go through is, of course, another question.

Outside the playing pitch altogether this clash between neighbouring counties made people sit up and take notice. From an early hour cars streamed through the town of Newry from all parts of Deven Arman and the county from all parts of Down, Armagh, Louth, and even Dublin, with day an air of festival, the air of a great occasion, for great it was, being the big day for Ulster Gaelic football followers.

Belfast was also rudely awakened. The city throbbed like a beehive and its usually deserted Sunday streets rang to the sound of whirring cars, purring buses, and groups of colour-bedecked youths and girls making their way to the grounds from midday onwards. It certainly improved the appearance of this drab city, if only for a few hours.

But the pre-match scenes were nothing to what occurred after the game was over. There was a record traffic jam on the Lisburn Road which piled up hundreds of cars, buses, motor-cyclists on the motorway for over almost an hour. Thousands of Belfast folk, uninterested in Gaelic football, returning from a day at the seaside, realised for the first time what an Ulster football final really meant, and before they got out of the jam they knew not only that Down had beaten Armagh but all the ins and outs of the game from conversations which passed between passengers and drivers of the waiting cars—so whether they liked it or not there were many who just had to take an interest on Sunday.

Cars and buses were passing through Newry on the return journey up to ten o'clock, and Hill Street presented a gay appearance as groups paraded up and down sporting Down or Armagh colours and good-naturedly bantering each other about the merits or demerits of the respective sides.

And so the scene is once more set for some of those memorable moments which marked 1960 as the year of achievement for Down, when thousands who had never seen a Gaelic football game in their lives became its most enthusiastic

Next big date on the calendar is Sunday, August 6th, when Down go to Croke Park to once more take on the Munster champions, Kerry, who they have already beaten three times in a row. Kerry were engaged also on Sunday in a dreary replay with Cork, while in the Leinster final Offaly qualified for the All-Ireland semi-final by defeating. Dublin defeating Dublin.

Top Towne

At Cloughog

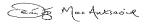
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Seán Óg Mac an tSaoir

Seán Óg McAteer

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