



WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP GLORY FOR NENAGH HANDBALL CLUB AND SINÉAD MEAGHER!



SINÉAD MEAGHER WITH COACH EAMONN SPILLANE, BEING PRESENTED TO THE CROWD AT THE SENIOR NORTH FINAL BY NORTH BOARD CHAIRMAN, DAN KENNEDY. SINÉAD WON A DOUBLES GOLD MEDAL AND A SINGLES SILVER MEDAL AT THE 2015 WORLD HANDBALL CHAMPIONSHPS IN CANADA.



HOMECOMING FOR GOLD MEDALIST – SINÉAD MEAGHER



Sinéad's proud family



Sinéad with Doubles partner Clodagh Nash

There was no end of cheers, hugs and even a few tears as world champion Sinead Meagher arrived back to the Hibernian Inn on Sunday morning, 23rd August, following her dramatic victory with Clodagh Nash from Clare in the final of the under-17 doubles at the Handball World Championships in Calgary, Canada.

Packed to the rafters with family, friends and supporters Sinead was clearly shell-shocked at the rapturous reception she so deservedly received: "I was absolutely shocked, I couldn't believe it when I walked in. Seeing all of my family and friends, I couldn't believe it. I'm over the moon that they have all come here this morning."

Growing up in the same house as gold medal winner Bob Tisdall in the 400 meter hurdles in the 1932 Olympics in Los Angeles, Sinead was always destined for greatness. She showed her potential in the World Championships in Dublin three years ago when she came home with the silver medal in the under-13 singles and has since gone on to win an impressive six All Irelands, two inter-provincials with Munster and numerous other titles in handball. However things did not go

Sinead's way in the build up to the finals. "I broke my finger about a month before the championships and that limited my training to three nights a week" but that did not seem to affect her as she managed to participate in ten matches in total during the competition.

She faced Fiona Tully in the singles final and suffered an injury in the first game that required a ten minute timeout. She lost that game but won the second forcing a tiebreak and unfortunately she had to settle for a silver medal, no mean achievement. However she showed her mental resolve in the doubles final as she had just three hours to recover from that game before partnering with Clodagh Nash and winning the match by two games to nil.

"Clodagh is amazing, absolutely brilliant to play with. She asked me to partner her around June and we have trained very hard since. We have become close friends and in Canada we travelled together and stayed in the same hotel. I want to say a special thank you to her father Jim Nash. He has been very good to me and coached me through all of the games even when I was playing Clare opposition. The

whole Nash family have been brilliant. I can't thank them enough."

Throughout her career one man has been a guiding light for Sinead and there's no doubt that without him Sinead would not be a world champion, her coach Eamonn Spillane. "Eamonn has been a massive influence on me. He has coached me all the way up and I know this win probably means even more to him than it does to me. We were on the phone to each other a number of times during the tournament and even from across the Atlantic he was a massive help. I just can't thank him enough".

Sinead held special praise for her family. "My parents bring me to all the training and matches and I want to thank all of my family for supporting me. Without their help and support I would not be standing here. I owe them so much". She is an ambitious young lady and despite only arriving back in Nenagh less than an hour she was already looking forward to the next World Championships in Alaska in three years' time and capturing the under-19 title. And we have no doubt that she will leave no stone unturned in her efforts to get there.



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Boysie Hogan, Sinead and Eamonn Spillane



Members of Nenagh Handball Club

The quiet man of Nenagh Handball Club stood tall, proud as punch as he waited in Dublin airport to greet his prodigy as she arrived back home with a silver and gold medal dangling around her neck.

EAMONN SPILLANE first started coaching handball to Sinead over four years ago when she was just twelve years of age. "Back then we trained twice a week and even then I could see she was a special talent. Her attitude to training is amazing. In the lead up to these finals she did serious training. She trained a lot on her own, travelled to places like Mallow, Tulla and even Connemara to train. She clocked up the miles and got her reward".

Anyone who met Eamonn during the championships could tell his heart and mind was not here but in Calgary. "I wasn't able to sleep thinking about it. On the night of the finals her mother Ann rang me at 2:35am. I couldn't believe it when she told me she won. These are the things you dream about. Ah, it's unbelievable to be honest. You always dream about winning medals like this but never did I think it would become a reality. It

was all a bit of a dream until I saw her at the airport."

Sinead received a huge surprise when she appeared through arrivals. She was only expecting one person to meet her there but her parents, family, uncles, aunts and Eamonn were there with balloons, the tri colour and Nenagh Handball Club jerseys to welcome her home.

"It was brilliant, she was only expecting one person, not the whole family. She was shocked when she saw us. She couldn't believe it, neither when she saw the crowd in Nenagh. It means so much to us all, to Boysie Hogan, to everyone, it's unbelievable".

"She rang me to say she had reached the singles final. It was a big achievement. She beat the girl who beat her three years ago in the Worlds. In the quarter final she beat the All-Ireland minor champion, in the semi-final she defeated a girl she had never beaten until last year. And now here she is with a gold medal".

A modest man, often working on his own to promote handball in the club

there is no greater person deserving of the plaudits. He has worked tirelessly to promote handball not just in the club but throughout Tipperary and Munster. He is currently chairman of the Munster Juvenile Handball Committee and when he isn't coaching he is at meetings up and down the province. An unsung hero of Gaelic games we are thrilled for him and hope he fully enjoys this moment.

One man who is synonymous with handball in Nenagh is **BOYSIE HOGAN**. He was bursting with pride as Sinead arrived back to the Hibernian Inn and happily posed for photographs with her.

When asked about her achievement he was quick to praise the work of both Jimmy Morris and Ger Gavin and the committee for having the foresight to build an alley in the clubhouse. "When it opened first it was all adults playing but then Eamonn Spillane had the foresight to get youngsters involved because handball was going to die out. It wasn't long until Sinead Meagher won an All-Ireland, within eighteen months, and she has won more since."



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"Eamonn Spillane has done so much for handball. He is in the alley every night over the winter and deserves lots of credit. His son Shane also gives him a hand and if they continue their great work it won't be long until we have more All Irelands".

When pressed about Sinead's remarkable achievement he said "I was thrilled, absolutely thrilled. I thought it would never happen. It's going to take a while to get over the shock. Congratulations to Sinead and long may she continue. Now she can look forward to Alaska with a lot of confidence."

Another proud man in the Hibernian Inn was Tipperary Handball PRO Paddy Collins from Ballina. "Seven players went from Tipperary to Canada" he remarked "and she was the only one to return with a gold medal. She is so dedicated, the amount of training she puts in and she has her wonderful parents behind her. The children who have the support of their parents are always the most successful."

He went on to say "it was an even bigger achievement for Sinead as she had to overcome a broken finger and suffered concussion at

one stage during the year. She is a battler and never gives up. For North Tipperary it is going to be huge. The children from Nenagh, Ballina, Lahorna and all over will look up to her and want to emulate her. She is a lovely person, she has time for everyone and will play handball with whoever asks her". Boysie was quick to jump in and point out that there are "thirty All Ireland titles in Nenagh, most come from Silver Street and now we have a world champion. It's going to be huge for juvenile handball."



Nenagh Handball Club's Caitríona Morris presents a bouquet to Sinéad. Many thanks to Martin Morris of the Hi-B for his kind generosity in hosting and catering the welcome home breakfast!

Thursday and it would be lovely if more schools would include handball on their curriculum. Lisenhall have an alley and it is a huge advantage for them in juvenile handball competitions." Boysie went on to say "that's where we all started playing, in the school in the Christian Brothers. Hopefully more schools will now promote it".

Paddy was also eager to praise the Éire Óg club for the support they give to handball. "They alley they have is one of the best in the country and it's great to have it on our doorstep. Éire Óg make it available to everyone and all of North Tipperary appreciates the help and support of the club".

Both men hope that this might lead to more schools in Tipperary building a one wall court to promote handball. Paddy went on to say that "Ballina allow us in for a two hour coaching session every



The loyal friends!



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NENAGH SENIOR HURLERS THROUGH TO LAST EIGHT

BLUES BOOK THEIR PLACE IN THE LAST EIGHT

Liam Heffernan's senior hurlers booked their place in the quarter-finals of the Clean Ireland Recycling County Senior Hurling Championship following a fourteen-point win over Roscrea at a soaking wet St Flannan's Park in Moneygall on Sunday afternoon, September 13th.

**Clean Ireland Recycling County Senior Hurling Championship
Last 16
Nenagh Éire Óg 1-21
Roscrea 0-10**

Éire Óg made an encouraging start with points from Shane Hennessy and Michael Heffernan (free) helping the Blues into an early advantage before a Paddy Murphy goal following terrific work from Donnacha Quinn opened a five-point gap between the sides. Roscrea got off the mark with a converted free in the fifth minute, but a second Shane Hennessy effort re-established Éire Óg's five-point lead almost immediately (1-3 to 0-1). To their credit Roscrea hit back with two fine points to cut the deficit to three by the ninth minute (1-3 to 0-3). Éire Óg dominated thereafter, however, and raced into a 1-9 to 0-3 lead thanks to points from Paddy Murphy, Shane Hennessy (two) and Donnacha Quinn (three frees). Roscrea brought eighteen scoreless minutes to a close with a converted free in the 27th minute. Éire Óg hit back with efforts from Andrew Coffey and Donnacha Quinn (free) before a late Roscrea point from play left nine in it at the break (1-11 to 0-5). A Roscrea '65 in the 33rd minute cut the Éire Óg lead to eight. Pearse



Morris opened the Blues' second half account before two Roscrea frees book-ended a Donnacha Quinn effort from a placed ball. With twenty minutes to play Éire Óg led 1-13 to 0-8. The Blues then fired six points without reply to lead 1-19 to 0-8 by the 53rd minute. Andrew Coffey (two), Donnacha Quinn (three frees) and Tommy Heffernan were responsible for these efforts. It is worth mentioning, however, that Roscrea created a good goal-scoring opportunity in the 42nd minute, but Éire Óg 'keeper Michael McNamara conjured a terrific double save to deny the raiding Roscrea men. A Roscrea free in the 55th minute left thirteen in it before frees from Donnacha Quinn and James Mackey concluded the scoring from an Éire Óg point of view before Roscrea landed a late sideline ball to bring this contest to a conclusion.

Quarter-Final Draw

The pairings for the Clean Ireland Recycling County Senior Hurling Championship last eight are as follows:

Nenagh Éire Óg v Portroe

**Kildangan v Drom & Inch
Kilruane v Éire Óg Anncarty
Thurles Sarsfields v Clonoulty.**

Please keep an eye on the club website and the respective social media channels for updates. The quarter-finals are scheduled to take place on the week-ending Sunday, September 27th in Semple Stadium, Thurles.

Nenagh Éire Óg: Michael McNamara, Mark Flannery, Noel Maloney, John Brennan, Barry Heffernan, Hugh Maloney, Conor Ryan, Dáire Quinn, Michael Heffernan (0-1, 0-1 frees), Pearse Morris (0-1), Tommy Heffernan (0-1), Andrew Coffey (0-3), Donnacha Quinn (0-9, 0-8 frees, 0-1 '65s), Paddy Murphy (1-1), Shane Hennessy (0-4). Subs: (53rd) James Mackey (0-1, 0-1 frees) for Shane Hennessy, (56th) Philip Hickey for Donnacha Quinn, (56th) Killian Gleeson for Pearse Morris, (58th) Adam Gratton for Noel Maloney, (59th) Billy Heffernan for Dáire Quinn.

Referee: Michael Murphy (Toomevara).



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ÉIRE ÓG LOSE OUT TO KILRUANE IN NORTH TIPPERARY MINOR A QUARTER- FINAL

The Blues lost an entertaining minor A quarter-final at a windy Puckane on Wednesday evening, August 25th. The Éire Óg lads gave it everything, but in the end were defeated by an impressive Kilruane team.

**Ger Gavin North Tipperary Minor
A
Hurling Championship Quarter-
Final
Nenagh Éire Óg 1-13 Kilruane
MacDonagh's 3-9**

The Blues were denied a goal as early as the second minute when the raiding Adam Healy was bravely blocked by the Kilruane 'keeper before an Anthony Walsh free presented Éire Óg with the lead in the fourth. Five minutes later a Jake Morris free doubled the Blues' tally before a brace of Kilruane points tied the game at 0-2 apiece by the 11th minute.

Adam Healy forced Éire Óg back into a narrow lead in the 15th minute before the Kilruane 'keeper denied Jake Morris with a fine save. Jake Morris was on hand to convert a free in the 20th minute to present Éire Óg with a 0-4 to 0-2 lead. Kilruane hit back with a point before a goal in the 27th minute presented the MacDonagh's with a 1-3 to 0-4

advantage –
Éire Óg
trailed by
two points at

the break. The MacDonagh's enjoyed a goal scoring opportunity during the opening minutes of the second half which flew agonizingly wide before a Kilruane free saw the Blues trail by three.

Éire Óg rallied impressively – Conor McCarthy set up Jake Morris for an equalizing goal in the 37th minute (1-4 apiece) and a minute later an Adam Healy point forced the Blues into a narrow lead. A Kilruane point tied the game, but with twenty minutes to play Éire Óg led once more thanks to a Shane Hennessy point. A second Kilruane goal in the 41st minute wrestled the advantage away from the Blues before a MacDonagh's point presented Gilbert Williams' side with a 2-6 to 1-6 lead. We have come to associate a great spirit with this bunch of Éire Óg hurlers and the lads responded brilliantly to the challenge presented to them.

Indeed, despite playing into the breeze Éire Óg fired 0-5 without reply to take a 1-11 to 2-6 lead by the 51st minute. A Jake Morris free set the Blues on their way and Shane Hennessy then added to the tally. A converted placed ball from Jake Morris in the 48th minute tied the game before a superb point from Craig Himli presented with the Blues with the lead. Then, with nine minutes to play, a Jake Morris free, following a foul on Adam Healy, helped Éire Óg into a two-point lead. Kilruane hit back with a point from play and a converted free to tie the game, but Éire Óg edged back into the lead thanks to a Shane Hennessy effort in the 57th minute (1-12 to 2-8). With Éire Óg hurling well Kilruane required something special and found that

something special in the 58th minute when inter-county star Cian Darcy scored a sensational goal to present his side with a precious two-point lead.

Right on the hour mark the Kilruane 'keeper made a third stunning save of the evening when denying Conor McCarthy from close range. Jake Morris converted the resultant '65 and we braced ourselves a frantic close to this entertaining contest. Full credit to Kilruane, however, the MacDonagh's saw out the game well and added a late effort to secure their place in the semi-finals.

Nenagh Éire Óg would like to wish Kilruane MacDonagh's all the very best of luck for the remainder of the competition.

Nenagh Éire Óg minor A manager John Manley was joined on the management team this year by selectors Derek Lillis, Christy McLoughlin and Paudie Gleeson. The club would like to thank the management team and the players for representing the town of Nenagh, the club, their families and most importantly themselves in such a proud manner this season. Well done lads.

Nenagh Éire Óg: Jack McGrath, Mark O'Farrell, Alex Jones, Jake Flynn, Conor Bonnar, Anthony Walsh (0-1, 0-1 frees), Jason McKenna, Craig Himli (0-1), Gavin O'Connor, Shane Hennessy (0-3), Adam Carey, Adam Healy (0-2), Conor McCarthy, Jake Morris (1-6, 0-5 frees, 0-1 '65), Brian Tuite. Subs: (35th) Connie O'Reilly for Brian Tuite.

Referee: Michael Murphy (Toomevara).



www.nenagheireog.com

PLEASE SUPPORT NENAGH ÉIRE ÓG FLAG DAYS NEXT SATURDAY AND SUNDAY!



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UNDER-16 NORTH FINALISTS



Congratulations to our under-16 A hurlers who have reached the North Final after a very competitive league. The final will be held in Toomevara on Saturday Sept. 19th at 3.30pm. It will be preceded by the B final between Borrisokane and Shannon Rovers. Please make every effort to support the lads and show up in force in Toome!

Club Lotto



www.nenagheireog.com

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PHOTOS FROM THE UNDER-16 NORTH SEMI-FINAL WIN OVER TOOME NENAGH 0-20 TOOMEVARA 0-12





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TOOMEVARA EARN TWO-POINT WIN OVER ÉIRE ÓG JUNIOR A CAMOGIE TEAM

FOR THE VERY FIRST TIME IN ADULT CAMOGIE NENAGH ÉIRE ÓG AND TOOMEVARA MET IN COMPETITIVE ACTION IN A HIGHLY-ENTERTAINING ENCOUNTER IN MACDONAGH PARK, NENAGH IN THE THIRD ROUND OF THE JUNIOR A CHAMPIONSHIP – TOOMEVARA EMERGED VICTORIOUS, BUT WERE PUSHED ALL THE WAY BY A DETERMINED AND SKILFUL HOME SIDE.

**COUNTY JUNIOR A
CAMOGIE CHAMPIONSHIP
NENAGH ÉIRE ÓG 0-10
TOOMEVARA 0-12
SEPTEMBER 05, 2015**



The Blues started brightly when full-forward Maeve Coffey pointed in the second minute following a great delivery from Alanna Morris. However, the Greyhounds responded with two points before a Grace O'Brien free levelled proceedings.

Instantly Toomevara pointed a free and Grace O'Brien issued a great response with her second point after great work from Aileen Duggan. Maeve Coffey and the hard-working centre-forward Aislinn O'Brien completed the Blues' first half scoring with a point apiece to counter two Toomevara efforts to leave the half-time score at 0-5 each.

Grace O'Brien gave the home side the perfect start for the second half with a pointed free, but the next ten minutes belonged to the visitors who scored four without reply to open up a 0-9 to 0-6 lead and try as they might Nenagh just could not close the gap.

The Éire Óg junior A Camógie team pictured moments before taking on Toomevara at MacDonagh Park, Nenagh on Saturday afternoon, Sept. 5th.

For a whole series of photographs from this terrific contest please click [here](#).

Holly O'Brien and her sister Grace both pointed, but Toomevara, who were playing in the senior grade until recently, cancelled out the girls' points with two of their own.

Grace pointed two more efforts late on, but a Toomevara point in the 64th minute extended their lead to two points. Nenagh, to their credit, did not give up and a late Aislinn O'Brien effort was brilliantly saved by the Toomevara net minder and with that ended any hopes of an Éire Óg victory.

Nenagh face Holycross in two weeks' time in their final group game and must win to have any hope of progressing to the knock-out stages. We wish Holly O'Brien and Ciara McGrath well who picked up injuries in this encounter.

Nenagh Éire Óg: Sarah Quigley, Ruth Hassett, Rachel Maher, Emer Ryan, Alanna Morris, Hazel McAuliffe, Aileen Duggan, Ciara McGrath, Michelle Collins, Alicia Hallinan, Aislinn O'Brien (0-1), Rachel Spillane, Grace O'Brien (0-6), Maeve Coffey (0-2), Holly O'Brien (0-1). Subs: Louise Hickey for Collins, Sarah Kennedy for McGrath.

Referee: Jim Simmons (Thurles Sarsfields).

**ACTION PHOTOS FROM
MATCH ON NEXT PAGE**



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JOHN TUCKER MEMORIAL TOURNAMENT AUGUST 15TH 2015



Many thanks to Kilmacud Crokes for taking part in the 2nd annual John Tucker Memorial Tournament. It was an excellent match with the visitors just coming out on top. Following a speech by Senior club chairman, Jim Nagle and some lovely words by John's son Eddie (top right), the trophy was presented to the Kilmacud captain by John's son David Tucker and his sister, Nora Hogan (top left). Well done to all involved.

With thanks to:
Diarmuid O'Gallagher Photography



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OUT AND ABOUT WITH ÉIRE ÓG

T+B Adventure World
Birthday Parties
at Nenagh College

We also cater for Communions, Confirmations and any other Special Occasions

- Let us ease the hassle of organising a memorable day for your loved one!
- Our parties represent unbeatable value, depending on the package you choose. With plenty of playtime in Nenagh's biggest and best sports facilities, we offer you a fun filled time.
- Dining Area for birthday cake celebrations can also be provided. (See Supermac's for Party Box Options)

Check us out of Facebook
(T+B Adventure World Parties)

For more information contact 085 8215377

Package 1 (2 hours)

- The use of a state of the art indoor hall, where the children can participate in soccer, Basketball, GAA, Tag Rugby, Archery or Dance. (Must be told in advance what you specify)
- A seating area for Birthday cake celebrations.
- We will also provide an inflatable Basketball or Soccer shootout.

Package 2 (2 hours)

- All of package 1 plus:
- You choose either a GIANT inflatable Wrecking Ball or Obstacle Course.

Package 3 (2 hours)

- All of package 1 plus:
- You choose two of the following GIANT inflatables, Wrecking Ball/Obstacle Course/Last Person Standing

Package 4 (2 hours)

- All of package 1 plus:
- You get the GIANT Wrecking Ball and Obstacle Course, then you choose either the Last Person Standing or the mechanical Rodeo Bull to go with them.

T + B ADVENTURE WORLD Birthday Parties hold a current insurance policy for all bookings at all times. Please make the staff aware of any medical conditions, of any children that may be relevant.

For more information contact 085 8215377



Best of luck to senior hurlers, Tommy and Barry Heffernan on their new business venture, T + B Adventure World Parties. Well done, lads!

THIS PHOTOGRAPH WAS TAKEN ON SUNDAY 27TH OF APRIL 1997 AND FEATURES KEVIN TUCKER IN POSSESSION WITH WEXFORD'S ROD GUINEY IN HOT PURSUIT. It was a league encounter in Semple Stadium which Tipperary emerged victorious on a scoreline of 2-12 to 1-08. At the time Wexford were the reigning Leinster and All Ireland champions having defeated Kilkenny in the Leinster decider before account for Limerick in the All-Ireland Final in 1996. Kevin scored a point in this game while club mate Michael Cleary notched up two points for himself. Later that year Tipperary played Clare in the Munster final and the Banner County won 1-18 to 0-18. Kevin was marking Clare captain and former Dublin bainisteoir Anthony Daly that day with the Nenagh man scoring an impressive 0-03 off the Clare hero while Michael got one point. The two sides met again in the Liam McCarthy decider, the first ever "back door" final and again Clare got the better of the Premier County. That game marked the end of Michael Cleary's inter county career in which he won an impressive two All Irelands, four Munster titles, two National League medals, four Railway Cups and four All Star Awards.

Congratulations to our under-10 hurler, Cian Connolly who had a big job to do before the Minor All-Ireland final. Cian presented the match day sliotar to referee Paud O'Dwyer. He had a great day out. Hard luck to Shane Hennessy and the Tipp Minor team.





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NENAGH ÉIRE ÓG GOLF CLASSIC

The Nenagh Éire Óg Golf Classic, which was kindly sponsored by Eddie Connolly Builders Nenagh Limited, took place at Nenagh Golf Club on Friday, August 14th. The event was deemed a terrific success with over forty teams participating. It was a glorious day weather-wise and some tremendous scoring featured during the competition.

In the end the team representing Una Powell's (right) claimed the top prize – a huge well done goes out to team members James Kelly, David Reddan (snr), David Reddan (jnr) & Tom O'Donnell (score: 54.1). In second place was the team representing The Well (PJ Shanahan, Scott O'Brien, Ger Clifford & Jack Dunlea) on a score of 55.6. The Carey Glass International team claimed third prize – Paul Carey, John Hanly, Paddy Murphy & Niall Madden scored a cumulative 56.2. On the day Scott O'Brien (The Well) won the longest drive and the nearest the pin winner was Paschal Looney (Top Oil).

The event organisers were thrilled by the resounding support for the event from the local business community and wish to sincerely thank all team, prize and tee sponsors for their more than generous support.

A special word of thanks also goes out to title sponsor Eddie Connolly Builders Nenagh Limited and, of course, to our hosts Nenagh Golf Club. Thanks too to Alan and Heather who were responsible for the food on the day.



Una Powell's, winners of the Nenagh Eire Óg Golf Classic 2015 – a huge well done goes out to team members James Kelly, David Reddan (snr), David Reddan (jnr) & Tom O'Donnell (score: 54.1).



The Carey Glass International team claimed third prize – Paul Carey, John Hanly, Paddy Murphy & Niall Madden scored a cumulative 56.2.





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PHOTOS FROM THE NENAGH ÉIRE ÓG GOLF CLASSIC





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BLAST FROM THE PAST - 1982 NORTH U-21 CHAMPIONSHIP



parity with the struggling Blues. Alas, the final whistle was blown by referee, Michael Cahill which heralded the 4-in-a-row for Eire Og, at 2-7 to 1-8.

Although played in gloomy conditions and an overcast sky, this was one of the finest games played in the division this year. The contingent who were present were held spell bound for almost the entire hour, as the contest for glory was as uncertain as the flick of a coin. This game was laden with skilful displays, speedy play, nail biting tension and chilling excitement.

BLINDING START

The losers got off to a blinding start and it seemed as if they were going to take the title by storm. The centre forward and county minor, Donal Kealy, registered 1-1 within the first nine minutes of play, while Aidan Shanahan pointed from a 65 in the meantime to put Roscrea in an 1-2 to 0-0 advantage. Kealy was in glowing form, and there wasn't one Nenagh defender to match his speed when he soloed through to blast the ball to the net after just nine minutes.

It was obvious that someone had to curtail the devastating Kealy or otherwise defeat was imminent. The obvious was soon echoed when the fast and fleet footed, Denis Finnerty, switched with Phil Hennessy to test his worth on this exploiting attacker. This tactic worked admirably and the centre forward was to register but one more point in the game.

After The Reds lightening and almost frightening start the contest settled down to a much tighter affair when Conor O Donovan registered Eire Og's first scores in the 10th and

From 1979 to 1982 Nenagh Éire Óg dominated the North Under-21 championship winning four North and County titles in a row. 1982 was the final year of this glorious period for our club and in this month's edition it is this team that we are going to remember.

The team had a comfortable 2-14 to 0-09 win over Lorrha Dorrha in the North semi-final played in Cloughjordan before facing Roscrea in the same venue in the decider. The following is the full match report of the North final.

A goal by substitute Noel Coffey in the 39th minute of play, opened the golden gates to a fourth victory on-the-trot for a gallant Eire Óg when they dispensed with difficulty of an admirable Roscrea side in the North u/21 hurling final at Cloughjordan on Saturday evening last. Honours were hard earned in a spine chilling contest and during the 30 minutes neither side went more than 0-3 ahead. It is fair to say that victory was in the hands of lady luck rather than supremacy and to the

delight of the Nenagh men the pendulum swung in their favour at the final whistle.

A hearty three cheers and condolences must go to the losers, Roscrea, who put up a furious and tenacious battle throughout. They held a precarious and formidable lead for the first 38 minutes of play and throughout that time they seemed to have the upper edge.

Then just coming up to the 40th minute, disaster struck. It started when Phil Hennessy sent in a lobbing ball to the edge of Roscrea's square. The substitute, Noel Coffey, who replaced an injured Martin O'Connor at the interval was in the opportune position to make aerial contact and so raise the green flag for the holders.

It was at this stage that Eire Óg were to experience the lead for the first time with the score at 2-5 to 1-6. For the last twenty minutes of the game this lead was constantly threatened by the battling Reds. Although they brought back the holders to 0-1 they were never again to dominate, or, even attain



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11th minute to put the tally at 1-2 to 0-2. From here on, no more than a puck of the ball divided the sides and it was at this stage that the great battle of wits came to being. Talking about wits, a lot of this stuff came from Roscrea's Joe Butler, who was the cause of many headaches for the eventual winners.

This man dominated at top of the left. With his tremendous speed and experience gathered with the senior team, he proved a major burden for Eire Og's youngster, Donie O'Brien. Memorable, were his two points in the 18th and 21st minute of play which put Roscrea into a 1-4 to 0-3 advantage.

Nonetheless, the Nenagh lads were not in the least put off by such brilliance. They were hungry for that four-in-a-row and never let the challengers get too far away from their inescapable grasp. Who better to prove this point than the new centre back, Denis Finnerty, who took the wind out of everybody's sails in the 26th minute when his long range lobbing free from his own half bounced in front of the goalkeeper, Michael Scully, and hopped in over his head to the net.

Now with only four minutes to go to half time and the score at 1-4 to 1-3; brave was the man that would predict the outcome. Just before the interval, Roscrea's Tony Maher, and Joe Butler and Eire Óg's Conor O Donovan all pointed to leave the score at 1-6 to 1-4 in favour of 'The Reds' when the half time whistle was blown.

INTELLIGENT CHANGES

There were some significant changes in the Eire Óg attacking squad when the teams emerged for the second half. An injured full forward, Martin O'Connor, was replaced by Noel Coffey. Pat Lee

went in from the wing to full forward and Michael Cleary went from top of the left back out to his starting position at wing forward. Little did we know at his stage that these were the changes that were to transform the run of play in Nenagh's favour. Within three minutes from the change of ends, Phil Hennessy raised a white flag to narrow the Roscrea advantage to just one point.

Then it all happened: With just under ten minutes gone in the second half Noel Coffey drove home Eire Og's second goal to put the holders into the lead for the first time in the contest with the score at 2-5 to 1-6.

After this, it was slight frustration and panic in the Roscrea camp when Donal Kealy and Aiden Shanahan were off focus with two 65's. However with fourteen minutes remaining Donal Kealy made amends when he pointed from play to narrow the difference to just one point.

Prospects of a win were looking good when Eire Og's Conor O Donovan and John Heffernan added to the tally to surge ahead again by an 0-3 margin.

Admirable Roscrea's never gave up the fight and when Tony Maher reduced the lead again to just 0-2 with nine minutes remaining anything could have happened. A goal for the losers at this stage would have changed the advantage round again but that was not to be. There was no dying minute scores from either side and Eire Og emerged the victors 2-07 to 1-08.

THE NEAR MISSES

The outcome being so close on this occasion, all concerned will be analysing their near misses and mistakes. Pity it was for Roscrea that Seamus Kennedy was in the

goals for Eire Og. He had a great outing and saved the day for the holders on many occasions. A pull by Paul O Connor in front of the holders goals in the 13th minute was safely put out for a 65 by the commendable custodian. Joe Butler's searing shot in the third minute of the second half was again smoothed by a famous Seamus. Eire Og's John Flannery also showed his class when he curtailed the exploits of the Roscrea full forward Eamon Bergin who didn't have a solitary score.

As for Donal Kealy and Joe Butler and Tony Maher they were the real headache for the Eire Og defence. Butler and Maher were always handy for a score but even though Kealy did have an admirable game at centre forward, his devastating runs were brought to a halt when Finnerty came to the breach in the first half. No one would ever believe that Patsy Farrell started as a substitute in this championship. His contribution for the winners at midfield was solutely invaluable. Conor O Donovan who switched from centre forward to midfield was always hampering a tenacious Roscrea midfield.

The substitute Noel Coffey emerged a hero from the Eire Og attacking sextet with his goal a minute from the change of ends.

Eire Óg: Seamus Kennedy, Donie O'Brien, John Flannery, Martin Ryan, Paul Kennedy, Phil Hennessy, Jim Nagle, Denis Finnerty, Patsy Farrell, Michael Cleary, Conor O Donovan, Pat Lee, John Heffernan, Martin O'Connor, Paul Whelan. Subs Noel Coffey for O Connor, Michael Hanlon for Whelan.

Referee Michael Cahill
Kilruane MacDonaghs



NENAGH ÉIRE ÓG

NEWSLETTER

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JUVENILE NEWS

TEAMMATES NOW – FRIENDS FOREVER!

Nenagh Éire Óg under-12 team



Well done to Seán Phelan, Cian O'Farrell and coach Shane Connolly (Tony Forristal) and Rory O'Donovan and Gavin Dooley (Sonny Walsh) who were involved with Tipperary under-14 teams in Waterford recently. The Tony Forristal team were unlucky to lose out to eventual winners Cork while the Sonny Walsh team lost out to Dublin at the semi-final stage.

Jake Morris played a captain's role in leading the Tipperary under-16A team to the All-Ireland semi-final. Conor Bonar was superb for Tipp under-16Bs as they were narrowly defeated in the All-Ireland final. David Minogue was a coach with this team. Evan Murphy (above right) travelled to Cork with the Tipp under-15As and reached the final. All of our players played vital roles and they were a credit to the club and their families. Well done to all involved.



Tipperary Under-16 B County Team



Tipperary Under-16 A County Team



We were visited by JK Brackens clubman Kevin O Riordan recently who plans to kick a point in every GAA grounds in the country to raise funds for the Hope Foundation in Kolkata, India.

Here he is pictured with Mick Hynes who made a donation on behalf of the juvenile club, from our children to the street children of Kolkata. If you would like to find out more about this terrific fundraiser please search for Kick For Kolkata on Facebook.