

THE JIMMIES ECHO



OCTOBER 2023 ISSUE 4



A RECAP ON THE SUMMER

TIGER



Siaoosi Fifita of St. James' U13 A team out jumps Ballyboden fullback in the Colm Cooper final in Dr. Crokes GAA grounds this summer.

FÉILE 2023



THE MONTH OF MAY





| | | | |
|-------------------|----------------|--|------------|
| R1 | | | |
| | 2-5 | | 2-4 |
| R2 | | | |
| | 2-1 | | 1-5 |
| R3 | | | |
| | 1-7 | | 0-2 |
| SEMI-FINAL | | | |
| | 0-3 1-3 | | |





25 YEARS GONE

PA GREALISH RIP

Pa Grealish was 25 years deceased this year and on Saturday 13th May, the Grealish family along with the club had a mass in Cumann Theach Pa Grealish @3pm. Fr. Martin Glynn said the mass and the mass was well attended with over 80 people in attendance. Some members of Grealish family and club said a few words about Pa and the legacy he left in Mervue and the wider community of St. James' GAA. There was a documentary made and can be assessed online on the clubs official Youtube channel. Everyone enjoyed a lovely meal after the mass and enjoyed the sun shine as it beamed over Cumann Theach Pa Grealish.



Pictured at the clubhouse in Mervue are L-R Gerry Traynor, Joe McCarthy, Jim Cotter, Martin Crowley, Con O'Donovan, Phil Grealish, Martin Connelly, Michael Sherlock, Eabheainn Connelly, Tiernan Connelly, Una Sherlock Willis, Caoimhe Connelly, Fiona Connelly, Martin Concannon, Gerard Grealish, Pat Crowley, Seamus O'Grady, Mairead O'Grady, Alfie Howley RIP and Dave Henry.

THE MONTH OF JUNE



**U12 HEAD COACH ALAN O'DONNELL GIVING A TEAM TALK TO THE SQUAD
IN THE DOME BEFORE THROW-IN**

AISLING DE PAOR

CUP

JAMIE DE PAOR
LIFTED HIS AUNTIES
CUP "AISLING DE
PAOR" ALOFT.
GAELSCOIL DARA
CLAIMED THE
ANNUAL COMÓRTAS
AISLING DE PAOR
FOR 2023 AFTER A
MARATHON OF
GAMES.

IT WAS GREAT TO
SEE SO MY CLUB
PLAYERS ON BOTH
GAELSCOIL TEAMS
AND EVEN ALL THE
OTHER PUPILS WHO
SUPPORTED THE
EVENT, PARENTS
AND TEACHERS.





Bhí lá peile den scoth i mbun cuimhne ar iar mhúinteoir Aisling de Paor i nGaelscoil Dara i mí Meitheamh. Bhí Gaelscoileanna ar fud na cathrach agus condae páirteach sa comórtas éisceachtúil seo atá á reáchtáil ó 2007. Is comórtas é ar son Aisling de Paor a mhúin i nGaelscoil Dara leis na mblianta agus a d'imigh ar slí na fírinne i 2005. Bhí Aisling saite sa peil. Go deimhin i mbliana bhí gar gaolta Aisling ag imirt sa comórtas le Gaelscoil Dara, Gaelscoil de Híde agus Scoil Mhic Dara An Cheathrú Rua. Lá iontach peile a bhí ann ón tús áit ar fuair Gaelscoil Dara (le os cionn 17 scoláirí as Naomh Séamus ar an bpainéal) an ceann is fearr ar Gaelscoil Iarfhlaitha sa cluiche ceannais. Ba é imreoir Naomh Séamus Jamie de Paor nia le Aisling a bhí mar captaen bródúil ar an lá. Sé athair Aisling Sean a bhronn an chorn áit a raibh neart ceiliúradh agus comhrá tar éis an cluiche ceannais. Le cúnamh Dé beidh tuilleadh de imreoirí óga Naomh Séamus ag imirt sa comórtas speisialta seo i 2024!





Con O'Donovan pointing to the new timeline on the wall at the clubhouse in Mervue



Over the summer months, our club PRO Dave Henry, completed a historical timeline. The timeline is based on all the old teams from Mervue and Renmore period. It is on the walls in the clubhouse in Mervue. A brief history of each of the clubs is also on the walls and anyone can pop in for a look and enjoy this wall display.



1989 INTERMEDIATE WINNERS - MERVUE GAA - L-R MARTIN CROWLEY, DONNIE FARRAGHER, MIKE O'NEILL RIP, PA GREALISH RIP & GARY O'CONNOR



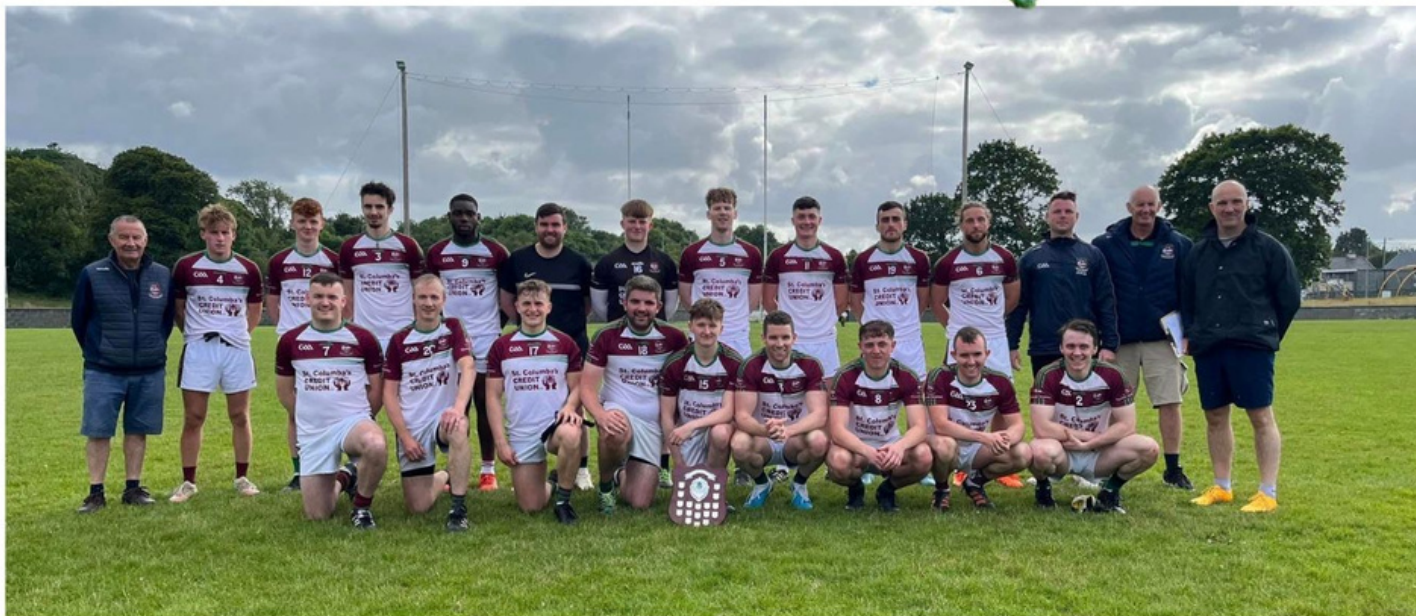
300 PARTICIPANTS



**CÚL CAMP - BIGGEST CAMP
IN CONNACHT**



RESILIENT MURPHY INSPIRES ST. JAMES' TO VICTORY



Last Saturday, St. James' claimed the Junior League Shield title in Oughterard. The Jimmies pulled it out of the bag in extra-time thanks to their captain Keith Murphy. The Ballybrit man, showcased a "Man of the Match" performance and added a tally of 0-7 in the game. High fielding, the mark and scoring from play was the strongest part of his game. Although he was subbed in normal time due to fatigue, Murphy returned to play in extra-time and made an impact immediately with a mark. He raised the white flag and business resumed for the Jimmies. This was a ding dong affair with both sides exchanging scores during the course of the game. Na Piarsaigh were very physical and set the tone for this tie. Nevertheless, St. James' were aided by a strong breeze in the opening period and capitalised on this until they received a black card. At half-time there was four point between the sides in favour of the city outfit. Both sides exchanged scores in the second half and lots of St. James' players got on the score board including, Aidan Coyle, Dessie Hynes and Stephen Flaherty to name a few. In the end the sides were level at the end of the 60 minutes and extra-time was required. Fitness, really prevailed in the end and when Murphy return to the team, they settled and won in comfortable fashion.



The Man of the Moment Keith Murphy receiving the County League Shield title of Mairtin Curran

Supermac's

COMMUNITY FOCUS

MERVUE/BALLYANE

LOCAL MAN A HERO IN PUBLIC EYE



Pictured in Oughterard last Sunday are supporters of local man who captained the Jimmies to historic victory

Local Journalist Interviews St. James' Junior Captain Keith Murphy

"When it comes to finals, you only get one chance and I knew this going into the game. I said to the lads in the warm up, all they had to do was let the ball into me and i'll do the rest and this was the case in the opening half. I scored 0-5 and mainly from my left boot. There were stages in the first half, which I felt we could have stretched our lead but we were only four points up at half-time. I was subbed in the second half towards the end and I felt that this was bad management call. Nevertheless, I asked could I come back on and the management agreed and introduced me again in extra-time. Sure I was only on the pitch and I won a mark. The umpire raised his white flag on that occasion too. I was glad we won it in the end and there was a great buzz in the Merlin Bar that night. All my friends and family were there to celebrate the win with me. It means a lot and I want to thank everyone who came to support the team on Saturday. Im glad to be back playing this year and I am giving it a right go. I am eligible to play senior football this season also and have put myself on the shop window for selection".

Keith Murphy enjoying the Cúl Camps in Mervue this week.



**THE GIRLS CLUB
MAKE HISTORY BY
MAKING THREE
COUNTY FINALS AT
U12 LEVEL**



**Discussing last nights U13 A match are stalwarts of the club
Con O'Donovan & Alfie Howley RIP at the clubhouse and
comparing the teams of old in Renmore and Mervue**



The U13 B team defeated in the County Championship Semi-Final

THE MONTH OF JUNE



Pictured at club grounds is Aaron Collins (minor player) who returned from Canada after leaving several years ago.



A Tournament Like None Other

by Cian O'Connell



(Aidan Brady Commercial Director of Roscommon GAA – Club Rossie celebrating as his native club Elphin GAA win the shield final in Mervue)

One thing is for certain: Darragh Frain smiled down from above on Saturday. His brother Tom remained the coolest man in Mervue, a love for football and St James' always evident. This was another day of sport and celebration. From early morning preparations commenced. Every duty was carried out with good humour, Seán O'Toole and David Henry got the fixtures moving. The officials, who generously gave up their time, let the games flow and the action moved along at a decent clip. Darragh Frain's contribution hasn't been forgotten and as emerging footballers from across the country demonstrated their skill, he'd have admired the fact that the past, present, and future connected.



(Members of the Elphin Ballinameen club with their sliverware before they made the journey back to Roscommon on the Club Rossie bus).

Three generations of different families watched on, excited about the progress and potential. Glorious days await. It was a tournament when there simply was something for everyone. The Allianz Football League's record scorer, David Tubridy, guided Doonbeg to some silverware. During 15 years with Clare, Tubridy scored 22-421 in the competition, he is now giving something back to Doonbeg, helping a talented crop of players. That was just one small sub plot at the event. Corofin brought trademark class and left with a trophy. Milltown were spirited and stylish, with former Galway and Kildare footballer James Kavanagh lending his considerable expertise on the line.



(Corofin defeated St. James' to prevent the hosts from winning the title for 4 years in a row).

Fr Griffins/Éire Óg's encouraging underage revival is noteworthy too. Griffins versus Corofin in one fixture would have delighted Mick Dolan and others, who kept the flame lit in the proud city club. Times were tough for a while, but hope is returning. Another town team, St Michael's, were admirably defiant. Brilliant scores landed and decent victories registered. Maigh Cuilinn, the current standard bearers in the Galway senior game, were typically courageous. Clubs travelled from elsewhere in Ireland which remains part of this tournament. Some Enniscorthy players and mentors left Wexford at 6am, but their attitude and spirited approach impressed many.

(David O'Reilly of FGEO on the move against Soni Fifita of St. James' GAA).





(The St. James' U11 Squad paused for a minute silence in memory of Darragh Frain)

Elphin/Ballinameen departed with silverware too. Aidan Brady, who has made a significant contribution to the GAA in the west, danced a jig of delight following a win. Undoubtedly there was football and fun. The coaches match on Thursday evening set the tone and relaunched a few comebacks. James' stalwarts, who have provided distinguished service, enjoyed monitoring the U11s. Some had trained teams for the Darragh Frain tournament previously, others have managed for decades. The current panel, under the guidance of Kevin Curran, Seán O'Dowd, Shane Igoe, Justin Moorehouse, Emmet Lee, Alan Wall and John Quirke are busy preparing for the challenges ahead. Valuable lessons were learned during a memorable few hours.



(Members of the St. Michael's GAA club flying the Roscommon flag high).





Claire Ann Irwin visited club grounds to wish the Jimmies U13 A Team the best of luck as they travelled to the kingdom to compete in the Rose of Tralee Cup as part of the Rose of Tralee Weekend. The Jimmies reached the semi-final but were narrowly defeated in extra-time.



THE MONTH OF AUGUST

AUG



**THE ST. JAMES' SENIOR TEAM PAUSE FOR A MINUTES SILENCE
BEFORE THEIR SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIP MATCH AGAINST
LETTERMORE (ALIFE HOWLEY RIP)**



ARTICLE FROM THE MORNING OF ALFIE'S PASSING 26/08/2023

This morning, we learn sad news of the passing of the great Alfie Howley. Alfie was a seriously committed man to the clubs cause over the decades. He was instrumental in the formation of Renmore GAA and over the years managed many successful teams in Renmore and was a significant figure in St. James' GAA. He was always present at juvenile committee meetings and games up until his passing. He was a very keen supporter of the clubs U13 A team and from his hospital bed he was enquiring about the team. We are all in shock this morning at the club. The clubhouse will be open all weekend for people to pop in for a cup of tea and a chat. We think of Alfie's family this weekend and we offer our sincere condolences to all his family and friends. Funerals details to follow on rip.ie. Below is a bio of Alfie Howley which was written by Dave Henry and will feature in the club's history future publication.

Alfie Howley came from Clare and moved to Galway in 1961. He played for Kilfenora GAA club in both football and hurling. Howley attended secondary school at St. Flannan's College and won the Munster Senior College final in 1959. They defeated a fancied St. Joseph's Fairview school which included seven Dublin county minor players and among these was the great Des Foley. Howley moved into Renmore in 1961 and worked with McInerney's. He played with Father Griffins GAA club at the time and won two county senior titles in 1967 and 1970. "We beat Milltown in 1967 and I was fortunate enough to score the winning goal". While playing with Griffins, Howley got involved in Renmore GAA when Fr. Dermody approached him. "He asked me would I give him a hand in forming a club. Numbers were not great at the time he said, but overtime it would become a big club". Renmore GAA club was formed in 1973. "My initial involvement at juvenile level was in 1978, when I coached my son, Padraic's age group. At the first training session, we thought that we would have only ten players but we had around twenty five that showed up from the area. People such as Frank Loughnane, Pat Houlihan, John Leen and Gerry Mahoney all helped out". Howley mentioned that team played in Community games and played local matches at U8 and U10 level against their rivals Mervue GAA. "Pa Grealish was a great person and always facilitated us. We defeated Mervue in a City league final and we knew that we had a good team in the making. Mervue were a strong team and we had some great matches over the years. We beat them in a Féile final in 1986. We beat them in a replay in Renmore. Mike O'Neill was over their team at the time. We were great friends and rivals. We beat Ballybum in semis and lost to Nemo Rangers 2-6 to 1-7 having lost our full back due to injury. David Beagley sustained a broken hand. Furthermore, we won an U14 hurling title that same year. There was lots of dual players playing, twelve in total. Mervue beat us in the U16 semi-final and we lost the Minor A Championship final in 1990 to Mervue. In the build-up to this fixture, Joe McDonagh said that the sides weren't going down to Tuam for the day out. We missed a lot of scoring opportunities that day. That same day, Salthill beat Corofin in the senior final. Overall city football was becoming strong".

Howley was involved in all aspects of the club including Community games, City Leagues, Going to schools games coaching and fundraising. He mentioned that he loved watching his son Padraic play. "He was a very good player, he could kick from both feet and I loved going to the games. We had good committees and had too many nights out in the Sacre Coeur Hotel. The best moment was the formation of Renmore and Mervue GAA Clubs. It was an exciting time and seeing the lads playing for the club and county was a great achievement. It brought people together. People got to know each other. Myself and Mike O'Neill RIP became great friends". We all have fond memories of Alfie and we will hear stories about him over the coming days.

Rest in Peace Alfie

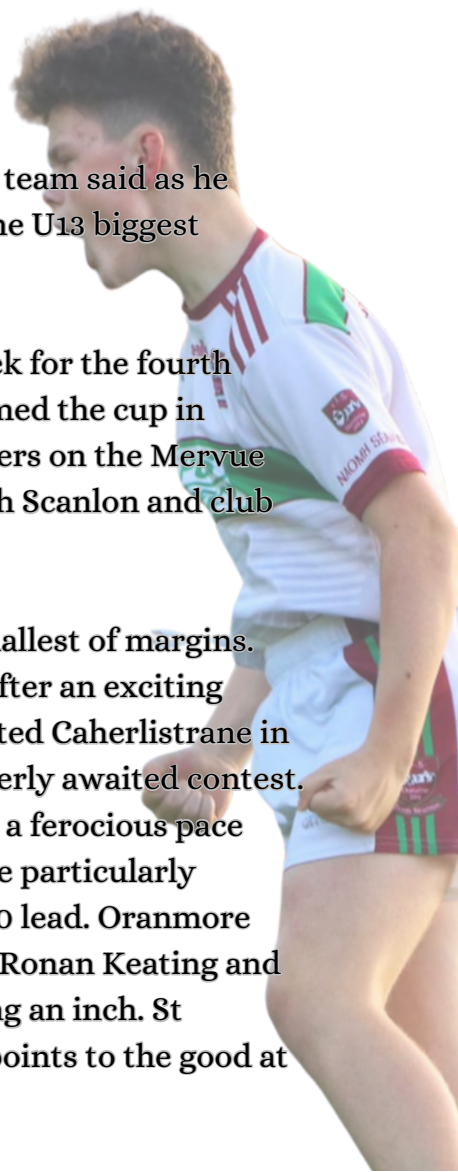


ALFIE SMILES AS JIMMIES WIN

“This one is for Alfie Howley”, captain Liam Murphy of the St. James’ U13 team said as he lifted the under 13 ‘A’ county title aloft in Pearse Stadium. Howley, was the U13 biggest supporter up until his untimely passing last month.

St James U13 ‘A’ footballers won the county A championship final last week for the fourth time. Prior to the merger, Renmore won the title in 1986 and Mervue claimed the cup in 1987. Padraic Howley captained the Renmore team in 1986 and many players on the Mervue team had family connections with the current winners; including Kenneth Scanlon and club coaches Pat Crowley and Peter Mulrooney.

In 2018, St. James’ won the title defeating Salthill Knocknacarra by the smallest of margins. The club won this significant title in Pearse Stadium last Friday evening after an exciting contest against a much touted Oranmore/Maree side .St James’ had defeated Caherlistrane in the semi-final and Oranmore had accounted for Corofin to set up this eagerly awaited contest. There was no let-up in proceedings from the off with St James’ starting at a ferocious pace befitting of a final. Oisín Scanlon, Conor Conneely and Alan Corcoran were particularly potent up front for the Jimmies and registered key scores to race into a 4.0 lead. Oranmore settled and came back into proceedings with scores from David Casserly, Ronan Keating and the impressive Harry Glynn. The pace was frenetic with neither side giving an inch. St James’ were the better side in the opening half and deservedly went in 3 points to the good at half time.



There was rest in the second half. Oisín Scanlon who had an excellent final overall scored a fantastic goal at the start of the second half to push the James's lads further ahead only for them to be pegged back once more by a tonic Oranmore goal in reply. The game ebbed and flowed at this juncture with Oranmore staying in touch. But in the championship quarter St James really began to show their quality. Scanlon again adding to his personal tally with some sublime scores. Oranmore were starting to struggle to gain a platform at midfield at this point and when Chris Fitzpatrick scored a goal after a sweeping St James move the game was all but over with 5 minutes left on the clock. Oranmore continued to press but found it hard against a resolute St. James' defence. The referee, Muiris MacGearailt sounded the final whistle and the St. James' lads could celebrate. All in all they deserved the victory. Liam Murphy the St James' captain accepted the cup from Coiste na nÓg chairman Michael Ryder to rapturous applause. It was particularly poignant when Liam mentioned Alfie Howley the recently deceased club stalwart in his victory speech. The Jimmies had great performances in every line of the field. None more so than Niall McHugh who was imperious at full back marking Oranmore talisman Ronan Keating. McHugh was ably assisted by Dara McGrath and Evan Dilleen. In the half back line, Ryan Connolly who received the player of the match award had an outstanding evening with Alex Nolan, Finn O'Reilly and sub James Freeman also contributing handsomely. In midfield, Liam Kelly and Finn Lynagh worked extremely hard. In the half forward line, Alan Corcoran with 3 points, Liam Murphy with some excellent assists and Jamie de Paor who scored a crucial second half point were important to the cause all day. In the full forward line Oisín Scanlon with a personal tally of 2.5, Conor Conneely and Mark Allnutt all played a significant part in the victory. Goal Keeper Evan Molloy was outstanding from start to finish and must be credited for his performance. Subs also played their part like Tony O'Brien and Oisín Gorham.



Pictured are members of the U13 A Team and their supporters with club senior players Johnny Duane & Paul Conroy after the final with the cup in the clubhouse.



Special Feature

SENIOR MEN'S TEAM

A SEASON OF SUNDAY'S



GALWAY SENIOR FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP GROUP 1

Nolan hits six points as St James' stun Annaghdown

City outfit use the elements to good effect in revenge opening round success

| | |
|------------|-----|
| ST. JAMES' | 0-8 |
| ANNAGHDOWN | 1-4 |

IVAN SMYTH
AT KENNY PARK

GALWAY U-20 footballer Jack Nolan kicked six points as St. James' opened their senior football championship campaign with a valuable if surprising first-round win at Kenny Park on Saturday.

Nolan's haul all came in the final period as St. James' came back from 1-3 to 0-1 down at the interval to prevail by the bare minimum. The Mervue/Renmore based side claimed a measure of revenge after losing out to Annaghdown in last year's championship. The strong breeze blowing towards the scoreboard end was a big factor in this game. Both sides only scored a solitary point when shooting towards the dressing rooms.

This was a tough watch at times as both sides packing their defences with long periods of holding onto possession the order of the day. Annaghdown struggled badly against the wind as they went the first 27 minutes of the second half without scoring. Diarmuid Kilcommins did finally get them off the mark as Jack Dowd laid off to the rampaging midfielder who went for goal only for Galway U-20 shotstopper James Egan parrying the effort over the top.

This reduced Annaghdown's deficit to the minimum, but they were unable to build on this as they were made to pay for shipping seven second half points in a row, six of which came from Nolan. St. James' could have prevented the dramatic finale which unfolded as Johnny Duane played Aaron Connolly through on goal but Annaghdown 'keeper James Healy got down low to make a smart stop.

Yet Annaghdown will feel they could and perhaps should have secured a share of the spoils. After Ian Burke won a turnover for Annaghdown, as the game ticked towards the fourth and final minute of injury time, Damien Comer was fouled just inside the St. James' 45m line.

After a hold up arising from a debate over where the free should be kicked from, goalkeeper James Healy stepped up

to take a free 40m out near the sideline. With the strong gale against him, the goalkeeper's effort from the deck dropped short as the St. James' supporters cheered what they believed was the final action of the game. That was not the case as when St. James' tried to clear the lines, sub Dessie Hynes was penalised for leading with the boot when Aidan Burke was adjudged to be in the process of picking up possession.

This meant Annaghdown secured another free, this time on the right hand side but slightly closer to goal. Comer opted to try an outside of the right effort after missing with the same technique from a similar position earlier. With the wind blowing from left to right, he needed to aim for the far post but the 2022 All Star saw his effort get caught in the wind and travel wide on the near side. With that St. James' survived!

Nolan starred in the second half on a day when scores were hard earned. Sam O'Neill, Johnny Duane and Jack O'Neill (first half) all played an important role. Unsurprisingly, Comer led the fight for Annaghdown as he kicked all of his side's 1-3 first half tally with his goal the best moment. He was forced to forage deep in the final period with Annaghdown only winning two of their 11 second half restarts. The Kilcommins brothers - Diarmuid and Daithí - toiled diligently while Daraigh Meehan also performed well.



**SAM O'NEILL
CONVERTED A CLOSE
RANGE FREE TO PUSH
ST. JAMES' IN FRONT
FOR THE FIRST TIME**

With Annaghdown keen to back up their run to the semi-final stage last year, they started fast. Comer won possession from the throw in with Daithí Kilcommins embarking on a marauding run from deep before he was hauled down in front of the posts. Comer stepped up and slotted over the left footed free to get his side off the mark. After that early score, the game settled with both sides struggling to break down the



opposition's packed defence.

A rare attacking move of quality saw Paul Conroy offload to Eoin Finnerty with Annaghdown defender Meehan producing a superbly timed challenge to dislodge possession as the St. James' wing back prepared to pull the trigger. In the 20th minute, Comer knocked over his second free before Conroy curled a beauty off the outside of the right from a placed ball to get the Jimmies off the mark. Comer slotted his third free but Annaghdown needed more than a two point lead going into the break.

Annaghdown managed to win a turnover in their own 45 with Michael Naughton doing well to boot the ball along the ground as Matt Duggan's side countered. Enda Mullarkey's long ball found Comer with the Galway full forward turning inside and skipping clear of three defenders before burying a left footed effort to the bottom corner. A five point half-time deficit was going to be tough for St. James' to overcome given their first half attacking display.

Up stepped Jack Nolan. Sam O'Neill produced a super catch

over Comer before sliding a ball through to Nolan, who curled over. Two minutes later Aaron Connolly broke the ball to Nolan for another score. Annaghdown were struggling to beat the St. James' press as they lost their first five kickouts.

Barry Downey's side didn't maximise their control over possession for the rest of the third quarter, but a Nolan free in the 45th minute and a brilliant left footed strike from the same player after Johnny Duane won the Annaghdown restart closed the deficit further.

A long ball by the increasingly influential Duane was broken by Connolly with Nolan gathering and slotting over from close range. Sam O'Neill converted a close range free to push St. James' in front for the first time before Duane found Nolan, who called the mark just inside the 45.

The Galway U-20 footballer produced a sweet strike to move St. James' two in front. Kilcommins cut the deficit, but Annaghdown saw two late chances go begging as St. James' bid to avoid another relegation scrap started off on the



St James' Sam O'Neill comes under strong pressure from Daithí Kilcommins of Annaghdown at Kenny Park.

right foot.

Annaghdown: J. Healy; S. Forde, R. Forde, R. Sheridan; D. Meehan, Daithí Kilcommins, C. Potter; Diarmuid Kilcommins (0-1), M. Naughton, D. Hegarty, J. Creaven, A. Burke, F. Burke, D. Comer (1-3, 0-3 frees), E. Mullarkey. Subs: I. Burke for D. Hegarty (43); J. Dowd for F. Burke (53); A. Heneghan for E. Mullarkey

(60).
St. James': J. Egan, A. Lee, C. O'Regan, J. Nolan, K. Hourigan, J. Duane, E. Finnerty, P. Conroy (0-1, free), S. O'Neill (0-1, free), L. Vane, L. Melody, J. O'Neill, J. Nolan (0-6, 0-1 free, 0-1 mark), D. Hynes for L. Melody (14), J. O'Hara for J. Duane, (34-38 mins, blood sub).
Referee: M. Flaherty (Caltra)



Comer brilliance inspires his side to a narrow win

ANNAGHDOWN 2-10
NAOMH ANNA LEITIR MÓIR 1-11

MIKE RAFFERTY
AT PEARSE STADIUM

FOR three quarters of this game in Pearse Stadium on Sunday, Annaghdown played with a conviction and authority and had a comfortable look of winners written all over them.

They had amassed an impressive tally of 2-10 and enjoyed a 10-point advantage over a Leitir Mór side who had scored just six points and were struggling to make an impression and looked like they had nowhere to go.

Gradually, the tempo of the contest changed in the closing stages as Naomh Anna went chasing the game, and over a 17-minute spell they scored 1-5. It still left them two points short of a reward, but their late scoring rush might be valuable when scoring differences come into it at the finish of the group stages.

Damien Comer was the central figure from an Annaghdown point of view and his contribution of 1-5 was crucial to his side's success. He had an enduring man-to-man duel with Sean Andy Ó Ceallaigh, but also had many willing colleagues who rose to the challenge on the day.

Leitir Mór had Maitias Bairead and Oisín Mac Donnacha back in the starting side after their recent stint in the States, and while the side were competitive, their continued slow build-up never allowed some impressive attacking players a chance to shine or make an impression.

They were also having issues at the other end of the pitch, as goalkeeper Patrick Mark Ó Fátharta was having difficulties with the short kick-out as they conceded possession and ground on a regular basis.

Matt Duggan's charges were never headed in this contest, and they took a quick lead when Diarmuid Kilcommins released Comer to slot over the opening score from 40 metres. An Oisín Mac Donnacha free levelled matters, but Annaghdown responded with points by Daithí Kilcommins and Comer.

Leitir Mór certainly had chances to respond, but the normally accurate Fionn MacDonnacha was not enjoying a good spell in front of goal as three scoring chances were spurned. Eventually the ever-willing Kasey Ó Ceallaigh drew on a loose ball on the ground and blasted the ball over the bar.

The game took its first real turn on 12 minutes when Annaghdown struck for a goal when Daithí Kilcommins and Comer provided the vision to release Diarmuid Kilcommins into space and he fired past Ó Fátharta to put them 1-3 to 0-2 ahead.

With the Kilcommins duo, Ryan Forde, Ryan Sheridan, Daragh Meehan, and Jack Dowd to the fore, they continued to knock over the scores as Daragh Hegarty, Comer, Frankie Burke (2), and Ryan Sheridan all pointed to give them a 1-8 to 0-4 interval advantage.

Iarla Ó Curraoin and Dylan Seolgie (free) got the closing scores for the Connemara side who also messed up a late goal chance through a handling error.

Comer made an immediate impact on the restart when catching the throw-in and going straight through to open the scoring on 11 seconds, but Annaghdown were dealt a blow when they were reduced to 14 players after Ryan Sheridan collected his second yellow card on 36 minutes.

Comer added another point from a free while Dylan Seolgie and Warren Seolgie responded at the other end. The most crucial score of the game arrived on 43 minutes when Comer once more displayed all his power and pace to pull away from the chasing cover as his 50-metre run through the middle culminated in a goal to put them well in command at 2-10 to 0-6.

Thereafter they were not seen as an attacking force as they failed to score again and Naomh Anna, driven on by Evan Ó Flátharta in particular, as well as Kasey Ó Ceallaigh, Dylan Seolgie, and Cláirín Bairead, gradually got a recovery going.

After Oisín Mac Donnacha had a free come back off the crossbar, two points by the outstanding Dylan Seolgie and another from Maitias Bairead closed the gap somewhat, before they were also reduced to 14 men when Oisín Mac Donnacha was red carded a minute into injury-time.

Getting forward in droves they continued to make inroads on the score line as Evan Ó Flátharta scored and then set up Cian Seolgie to bring it to 2-10 to 0-11; before Cláirín Bairead set up Dylan Seolgie deep into injury-time for a low left footed finish that flew past James Healy for a goal, but they ran out of time in their attempted fightback.

Annaghdown: J. Healy; S. Forde, R. Forde, J. Creaven; D. Hegarty (0-1), R. Sheridan (0-1), C. Potter, Diarmuid Kilcommins (1-0), M. Naughton; D. Meehan, Daithí Kilcommins (0-1), A. Burke, J. Dowd, D. Comer (1-5, 0-10) F. Burke (0-2, 0-11). Subs: L. Murphy for Daithí Kilcommins (39); S. O'Connell for D. Meehan (45mins); J. Burke for A. Burke (52mins); E. Curry for Hegarty (57mins); C. Quinn for F. Burke (60mins).
Naomh Anna Leitir Mór: P.M. Ó Fátharta, C. Mac Donnacha, S.A. Ó Ceallaigh, E. Mac Donnacha, C. Bairead, E. Ó Loingsigh, E. Ó Flátharta (0-1), M. Bairead (0-1), K. Ó Ceallaigh (0-1), I. Ó Curraoin (0-1), W. Seolgie (0-1), D. Seolgie (0-1), T. Ó Curraoin for D. Seolgie (52mins).
Referee: Christopher Ryan.

Champions make most of fast start

Seven-point half-time lead proves game-defining

MAIGH CUILINN 2-11
ST JAMES 1-8

DARREN KELLY
AT PEARSE STADIUM

MAIGH CUILINN are two from two in the senior championship following this six-point victory over St James' last Saturday. Dessie Conneely's goal after just four minutes gave the defending champions a lead they never relinquished, and while they also looked inevitable winners despite a determined effort from St James, Sean O'Connor's green flag on 38 minutes created a secure eight-point lead.

Full of confidence after their first day victory over Annaghdown, St James' kept the fight to their opponents and were eventually rewarded with Sam O'Neill's goal 60 seconds after O'Connor, but they couldn't significantly reduce the deficit after trailing 1-6 to 0-2 at half-time.

The game was delayed due to a traffic hold-up on the Headford Road detaining referee Austin O'Connell; and once the game got underway, St James' goalkeeper James Egan had to turn his jersey inside out, as his green top nearly perfectly matched the three inside forwards he was trying to thwart.

His first attempted stoppage didn't go according to plan as wing-back Johnny Moloney showcased why he's such a quality acquisition. His long diagonal ball fell perfectly for Conneely to get inside his defender and finish to the net.

Maigh Cullinn were ahead but even with the wind, they didn't have everything their own way. Conor Corcoran had an exceptional first half for the west Galway outfit making crucial interceptions including one from O'Neill.

Another opportunity for the city side saw Lee Vahey and Dessie Hynes combine, but Andrew Power made the stop in the Maigh Cullinn goal. Aaron Connolly slipped trying to make the rebound count before Aidan Claffey made the crucial clearance for Maigh



Cullinn.

It remained 0-1 to 0-0 entering the second quarter with both teams hitting three wides each. However, Hynes set up Dan McNulty on 16 minutes to finally open for the Jimmies with a fisted effort.

Corcoran hit back for Maigh Cullinn, but the game appeared to be coming alive as Jack Folan and Paul Conroy allowed Hynes punch a response leaving it 1-1 to 0-2, but St James' wouldn't score again before half-time.

When they didn't drop back from Eoghan Kelly's mark, the resulting free allowed Conneely convert on 20 minutes. Maigh Cullinn's captain was fouled himself three minutes later to add another; and when the influential Owen Gallagher was impeded on 27 minutes, Conneely stretched the advantage to 1-4 to 0-2.

The momentum was with Don Connellan's two-time Frank Fox Cup winners now as Michael Maughan and Neil Mulcahy started the next move that saw Gal-

lagher open his account; and in injury-time, Conneely was taken down again before scoring, with St James' Folan getting a yellow card for his troubles.

At 1-6 to 0-2, the game looked up but St James' kicked seven-in-a-row in overcoming Annaghdown, and with the elements, Barry Downey's troops couldn't be discounted. The introductions of Jack Forde and Eoin Cannon during the break were also instrumental, with the latter supplying Connolly for a score inside 25 seconds.

Galway midfielder Conroy was leading by example, fronting up to the favourites. He was directly responsible for four assists, and kicked his point from play before the 31st minute was complete.

Trailing by 1-6 to 0-4, St. James' nearly created more as a move started by Vahey saw Forde's attempted pass to Concannon slip away. It was a crucial moment.

James McLoughlin was making his presence felt

during the second-half and a series of passes combined with Paul Kelly brought place onto the edge of the square. When the pass went across, O'Connor was unmarked to palm home Maigh Cullinn's second goal.

But the floodgates didn't open as might have been expected, as Maigh Cullinn were given a reminder that nothing could be taken for granted. Conroy launched forward and tried to put Concannon through. The ball ricocheted around the goal before spilling kindly to O'Neill who stroked it home and at 2-6 to 1-4, the game was back alive.

Maigh Cullinn are still without Sean Kelly, Peter Cooke and Ger Davoren but St James' were also missing Jack Nolan who scored six points the first day. They could have done with some of those scores as at other end, Gallagher was able to pick up the pieces.

McLoughlin provided the former Antrim player to make it 2-7 to 1-4 on 40 minutes. After O'Neill was fouled, Concannon replied for St James, but Gallagher restored the six-point cushion on the three-quarter make after another Moloney delivery.

It was the first of three in succession as Gallagher and Conneely made it double scores on 54 minutes thanks to Paul Kelly's industry. St James' did have two chances but Maigh Cullinn midfielder Tom Clarke fetched the ball on both occasions.

After Forde won a '45, Jack O'Neill got off the mark, and substitute Dave O'Connell profited from work by Conroy and Johnny Duane, but the city side couldn't get closer than six points.

Maigh Cullinn: A. Power; M. Maughan, N. Mulcahy, C. Corcoran (0-1); J. Moloney, D. Wynne, A. Claffey (0-1); J. McLoughlin, T. Clarke; S. O'Connor (1-0), E. Kelly, P. Kelly; N. Walsh, D. Conneely (1-5, 0-4), O. Gallagher (0-4). Subs: C. Bohan for S. O'Connor (48mins), M. Lyons for Gallagher (60mins).
St James: J. Egan; C. O'Regan, J. Folan, A. Lee; E. Finnerty, J. Duane, K. Hourigan; P. Conroy (0-1), S. O'Neill (1-0); L. Vahey, L. Melody, J. O'Neill (0-1, 45); D. McNulty (0-1), A. Connolly (0-1); D. Hynes (0-1). Subs: J. Forde for Melody (H-T), E. Concannon (0-2, 0-11) for Hynes (H-T), D. O'Connell (0-1) for McNulty (54mins).
Referee: A. O'Connell.



SENIOR FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP GROUP 1

Revitalised St James' make short work of limited rivals

City club in hunt for knock-out spot

ST JAMES 2-15
NAOMH ANNA LEITIR MÓIR 0-9

MIKE RAFFERTY
AT PEARSE STADIUM

ON a weekend that club stalwart Alfie Howley passed away, St James' did him and themselves proud with an impressive display at Pearse Stadium on Saturday.

What a difference a year makes as this team's struggles of last season appear a distant memory. In 2022, St James' survived the relegation dog fight but this time round they have won twice in the senior football championship with their prospects of advancing from Group 1 a real possibility.

While the opening quarter might have been competitive, once Aaron Connolly notched the City side's first goal they never looked back in a contest in which they were never headed. St James' were pretty much in command for the duration as they strolled to a 12-point victory.

Unfortunately Naomh Anna did not do themselves justice. They were very competitive in their two earlier games in which they suffered narrow defeats against Milltown and Annaghdown, but on this occasion they struggled to make an impression. While they enjoyed the advantage of the elements in the opening half, it was of little use to them as the Connemara men's slow build up rarely gave them the opportunity to test the St James' defence.

Five points up at the break, Barry Downey's charges just maintained their consistency on the resumption as they gradually pulled away to win with ease. Greatly helped by the experience of Adam Lee, Cathal O'Regan, Paul Conroy, Johnny Duane and Aaron Connolly, some of the younger lads like Sam O'Neill, Jack O'Neill, Jack Nolan, Eoin Finnerty and Dan McNulty have developed into

better players.

Moving the ball quicker than previously and also maintaining a forward line that didn't drop as deep, they attacked at pace with half back Finnerty leading by example. The City side struck for the first two scores of the game, as Jack O'Neill opened their account with an effort from 40 metres, before Aaron Connolly curled over a right footed effort shortly afterwards.

Kasey Ó Ceallaigh was at the end of a neat passing movement to get Naomh Anna off the mark, before Paul Conroy, with a free, and Dylan Seolge exchanged scores as the first quarter drew to a close.



CONNOLLY AND FINNERTY ADDED LATE POINTS FOR THE CITY SIDE WHILE AN EFFORT FROM MCNULTY CAME BACK OFF THE CROSSBAR

The first turning point of the game arrived on 15 minutes when St James struck for a goal. It was Jack O'Neill and Jack Nolan who combined to send Connolly through and from close range he got the better of Patrick Mark Ó Fátharta to put them 1-3 to 0-2 ahead.

Olisín Mac Donnacha responded with a free, but Leitir Mór were struggling for possession in the middle third and did not appear to be playing at a level they are capable of. Surprisingly two lads with 8 and 9 on their backs - Myles Mac Donnacha and Eamonn Ó Loingsigh - are normally found about the midfield area where their abilities would be well respected, but they spent the afternoon in an attack that got very little chance to make an impression.

Rather quickly the game slipped away from them as St James' struck four points in succession through Paul Conroy (two), Dan McNulty and Liam Melody, before Myles Mac Donnacha got an opportunity to make an impression with two scores from a mark and open play to leave matters at 1-7 to 0-5 at the break.

Both sides made a quick start in the scoring stakes on the resumption as Adam Lee and Jack O'Neill pointed for the Mervue/Renmore combination, before Dylan Seolge slotted over twice at the other end, with one of them coming from a free. Indeed, he was the real bright spark in the Naomh Anna attack and his five point contribution was a tribute to his display. He was later denied by a smart James Egan save as he went for goal from a narrow angle.

Just like they did in the opening half, St James' put together a scoring spurt that allowed them open a more comfortable gap between the sides. Johnny Duane, Paul Conroy and Adam Lee all slotted over points, before Jack Nolan provided his second goal assist of the day to send Liam Melody through to get the better of Ó Fátharta at close range to leave matters at 2-12 to 0-7. McNulty and Seolge (free) exchanged points, but as the pace and tempo of the game dropped, the scoring rate slid accordingly.

Connolly and Finnerty added late points for the City side while an effort from McNulty came back off the crossbar. The classy Dylan Seolge brought the scoring to a conclusion with a long range effort on the outside of the boot.

It was a day when St James lifted their game and got a deserved reward, while Leitir Mór can have no complaints as they did not play anywhere close to the standards they have set themselves. Next time out they face a Moycullen side who they drew with in Rossmuck last year, while St James will meet An Spidéal.



PHOTOS: JOE O'SHAUGHNESSY.



Dessie Hynes of St James' is chased by Naomh Anna Leitir Mór's Dylan Seolge at Pearse Stadium.

St James': J. Egan, A. Lee (0-2), C. O'Regan, J. Folan, K. Hourigan, J. Duane (0-1), E. Finnerty (0-1), P. Conroy (0-4, 0-2 frees), S. O'Neill, J. O'Neill (0-2), L. Melody (1-1), L. Valney, D. McNulty (0-2), A. Connolly (1-2), J. Nolan, Subs: D. O'Connell for S. O'Neill (44), D. Hynes for Hourigan (48), E. Concannon for Melody (48), K. Breathnach for J. O'Neill (55), D. Lenthall for Lee (inj. 58).

Naomh Anna Leitir Mór: P. M. Ó Fátharta, C. Mac Donnacha, S. A. Ó Ceallaigh, E. Mac Donnacha, D. Seolge, C. Bairéad, E. Ó Fátharta, P. S. Ó Ceallaigh, M. Bairéad, D. Seolge (0-5, 0-2 frees) K. Ó Ceallaigh (0-1), O. Mac Donnacha (0-1), M. Mac Donnacha (0-2, 0-1 mark), W. Seolge, E. Ó Loingsigh, Subs: F. Mac Donnacha for Ó Loingsigh (30), C. Ó Catháin for P. S. Ó Ceallaigh (42), L. Ó Curraoin for O. Mac Donnacha (52).

Referee: PJ Rabbitte.

SENIOR FOOTBALL GROUP 1

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---------------|---|---|---|---|------|------|-----|
| Maigh Cúilinn | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 5-44 | 2-25 | 6 |
| Annaghdown | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 9-23 | 1-28 | 4 |
| St James' | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 3-31 | 3-24 | 4 |
| Milltown | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 3-31 | 2-31 | 4 |
| NA Leitir Mór | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 1-29 | 4-36 | 0 |
| An Spidéal | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0-23 | 9-37 | 0 |

Rd 1: Milltown 0-11 NA Leitir Mór 0-9, St James' 0-8 Annaghdown 1-4, Maigh Cúilinn 1-19 An Spidéal 0-6.

Rd 2: Maigh Cúilinn 2-11 St James' 1-8, Milltown 2-9 An Spidéal 0-8, Annaghdown 2-10 NA Leitir Mór 1-11.

Rd 3: Annaghdown 6-9 An Spidéal 0-9, Maigh Cúilinn 2-14 Milltown 1-11, St James' 2-15 NA Leitir Mór 0-9.

Rd 4: Annaghdown v Milltown, Maigh Cúilinn v NA Leitir Mór, St James' v An Spidéal.

Rd 5: An Spidéal v NA Leitir Mór, Maigh Cúilinn v Annaghdown, Milltown v St James'.



SENIOR FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP GROUP 1

St James' keep good run going as Concannon hits a vital goal

Defensive An Spideál lose out again

| | |
|-------------------|------------|
| ST JAMES' | 1-9 |
| AN SPIDÉAL | 0-7 |

PÁDRAIC Ó CIARDHA
AT PEARSE STADIUM

Eoin Concannon's goal three minutes before half-time proved to be the crucial score as St James' overcame An Spideál in a tight but tame enough clash in Pearse Stadium last Sunday afternoon.

With the likes of Paul Conroy and Johnny Duane also making vital contributions, it was very much a case of the old guard doing the job as the Jimmies held off their opponents in the second half.

It was a scorching day in Salthill, as evidenced by the return of the water break to proceedings but the contest itself never saw the mercury rise too high with both sides struggling to impose themselves in attack.

That was down in large part to how An Spideál set up. Coming off the back of three defeats and having shipped six goals in their previous outing against Annaghdown, including one after just 13 seconds, it was more than understandable that the Cois Fharraige side were primarily focused on getting things right at the back. The voices of Dónal Ó Fátharta on the sideline and goalkeeper Maghnus Breathnach were a constant companion in Pearse Stadium as they directed those out the field into position.

For the most part, it worked. St James' struggled to create many clear cut opportunities and, despite having the majority of possession in the opening 25 minutes, found themselves only 0-3 to 0-2 ahead at that stage. The tactic limited An Spideál's own chances to get scores, however, with even their nominal full-forward Antaine Ó Laoi often finding himself as an extra defender plugging gaps outside his own 'D'.

The plan worked for most of the first half, however, but a goal in such a low-scoring game is always going to be a huge score and the way An Spideál

conceded will leave them incredibly disappointed, all their hard work rendered null by a long ball into the edge of the square.

Having had to try to work scores past 14 opponents up to that point, St James' Adam Lee must have been fairly surprised when he looked up from the right-hand touchline in the 28th minute and saw Eoin Concannon left one-on-one at the edge of the square. Not wishing to look a gift horse in the mouth, Lee duly lumped the ball into Concannon, who held off his man and swept a finish past Maghnus Breathnach in the An Spideál goal.

Concannon's strike left the Jimmies 1-3 to 0-2 up at the break and would have done more to drain energy out of An Spideál than 30 minutes of running around in the blistering heat.



PAUL CONROY WAS AGAIN ON HAND TO DO THE BUSINESS FROM ANOTHER FREE AFTER A SILLY FOUL ON EOIN FINNERTY

It was An Spideál who had opened the scoring after seven minutes when Liam Ó Conghaile tapped over a close-range free but Dan McNulty responded almost instantaneously for St James' after good work from Lee Vahey in the build-up. An Eoin Concannon free and a trademark curler from Paul Conroy then put Barry Downey's side 0-3 to 0-1 up but An Spideál had the gap back down to one by the 25th minute when Liam Ó Conghaile converted a long-range free he himself had won.

Johnny Duane showed a good range of passing as St James' prodded and probed in that first half and the former Galway defender showed he's well able to kick a score also,

picking up the break from the throw-in at the beginning of the second half and bursting through the middle before kicking over from the 30m.

An Spideál weren't long in getting off the mark in the second half either and Seán Ó Curraoin kicked their first score of this period a minute later after his brother Pádraic Eoin had done the hard running to set up the opportunity.

An Spideál looked to have a bit of momentum behind them when Liam Ó Conghaile converted his third free of the afternoon in the 33rd minute but, as was to prove a pattern for the remainder of the game, St James' were able to come up with a score when it mattered to maintain their cushion.

Paul Conroy was the first to step up, converting a testing free from the left-wing to make it 1-5 to 0-4 after 35 minutes. A super score from Liam Ó Conghaile, kicking over despite the close attention of three defenders, narrowed the gap once again but Cathal O'Regan, who had a fine game, hit back for the Jimmies with a score of equal if not better quality, making the most of the space afforded to him to split the posts from 45m with the outside of his foot.

Good work from Finnian Ó Laoi, who was making his first appearance for An Spideál since his return from Australia, saw him set up his brother Cillian to bring their side back within a goal with 15 minutes to go, 1-6 to 0-6.

Paul Conroy was again on hand to do the business from another free after a silly foul on Eoin Finnerty and, despite more than ten minutes of play remaining, St James' looked to have sealed it when another long-range point from Jack Nolan put the five points clear.

With Lee Vahey doing a dogged man-marking job on Liam Ó Conghaile and with Finnian Ó Laoi and Sam O'Neill effectively cancelling each other out in the middle of the field, An Spideál struggled throughout to create chances and though Ó Conghaile did



St James' Johnny Duane on the charge against Micheál Ó Curraoin of An Spideál during the clubs' Senior Football Championship clash at Pearse Stadium on Sunday. PHOTOS: JOE O'SHAUGHNESSY.



kick another free in added-time for them, an excellent point from substitute Dave O'Connell wrapped up the scoring and leaves the Jimmies knowing that a win or a draw in their final group game against Milltown will be enough to secure a quarter-final spot.

St James': J. Egan; C. O'Regan (0-1), A. Lee, P. Healy; J. Duane (0-4), L. Vahey, E. Finnerty; P. Conroy (0-3, 0-2 frees), S. O'Neill; D. Hynes, D. McNulty (0-1), J. O'Neill; E. Concannon (1-1, 0-1 free), A. Connolly, J. Nolan (0-1), Subs: D. O'Connell (0-0) for J. O'Neill (45), K. Breathnach for McNulty (55), K. Hourigan for Healy (56-60, blood), K. Hourigan for Lee (62).
An Spideál: M. Breathnach; S. Ó

Droighneáin, D. King, C. Ó Caidmhí, L. Ó Fátharta, M. Ó Curraoin, O. Morris; F. Ó Laoi, D. Ó Droighneáin; Ciarán Ó Laoi, L. Ó Conghaile (0-5, 0-4 frees), P. Ó Curraoin; Cillian Ó Laoi (0-1), A. Ó Laoi, S. Ó Curraoin (0-1), Subs: P. Ó Conghaile for D. Ó Droighneáin (40), D. Burre for S. Ó Curraoin (55), I. Breathnach for P. Ó Curraoin (55 mins), Cormac Ó Laoi for Cillian Ó Laoi (56 mins).
Referee: Austin O'Connell.

GAA GALWAY SENIOR FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP GROUP A

Concannon and O'Neill goals see St. James' past Milltown

• North Galway side fail to ignite despite Hehir strike

St. James' 2-6
Milltown 1-6

By David Connors
At Tuam Stadium

FROM avoiding the drop by the skin of their teeth last year, it's been a remarkable turnaround in fortunes for St. James', who picked up their fourth win of the Galway Senior Football Championship group stages and confirmed their place as seeded quarter-finalists by virtue of finishing as the best second-place finishers at the expense of Milltown.

Though both teams were already assured of knockout football prior to throw-in, the substantial prize on offer at a rain-sodden Tuam Stadium was victory for either team would see them joining group winners Maigh Cuilinn, Corofin and surprise packet Claraghalway in one bowl in the draw - meaning they couldn't be paired with that high-flying trio in the final eight ties.

Goals in either half from St. James' duo Eoin Concannon and Sam O'Neill were the result-clinching scores in a game that was reasonably entertaining despite the treacherous conditions, even if the second period turned into a low-scoring arm-wrestle where the jimmies deservedly prevailed in a contest they never fell behind in.

Both teams only managed to tally 1-1 each in the entirety of the second half. However, Barry Downey's St. James' men had 12 shots at the posts following the change of ends - in comparison to Milltown's four - further illustrating the Mervue-based club's overall supremacy.

Milltown, managed by Jarlath Jennings, only raised a single white flag from play throughout along with Mark Hehir's 38-minute goal as they struggled to create scoring chances and were well shut down by a resolute St. James', though not always legally, when a possible opening looked on the cards.

After Hehir's third quarter goal, all either team could

muster from that point on was a point apiece in 22-plus minutes of football. Wides, hitting the posts, and efforts dropping short were the flavour of the day in what amounted to a drab finale.

Special mention must go to Milltown netminder Conor Nolan for a couple of fantastic saves to deny St. James' number 11 Jack Nolan. Though the Milltown man's goalkeeping heroics were unable to make up for their woes at the other end of the field in an area where the likes of Cathal O'Regan, Lee Vahey and Johnny Duane held firm against the opposition's forwards.

With qualification assured and perhaps some of the pressure off, the pair tried their best to feed quick ball into their inside line through the boot in the opening stages. After six minutes, the teams were deadlocked at 0-2 apiece. The hugely physical Aaron Connolly opened the scoring and a Jack Nolan free doubled James' lead before Milltown responded to level matters thanks to a Hehir free and an Eoin Mannion point from play.

On nine minutes, James' centre-forward Liam Melody prodded the ball through for himself inside enemy lines before being fouled for a penalty which Eoin Concannon duly converted by sending Conor Nolan the wrong way.

Though Mannion and Liam Costello looked threatening with ball in hand, James' were content to cough up frees rather than let Milltown have a chance at goal thereafter.

A Mike Martin free and another from Hehir rounded out the half's scoring for Milltown who were 1-5 to 0-5 behind at the break with Jack O'Neill, the impressive Connolly, and Melody replying in kind for the city club.

A coming together between Sam O'Neill and Niall Costello in front of the stand ignited fury among the Milltown supporters following the resumption with the James' midfielder ultimately being brandished a yellow card by referee Austin O'Connell.

O'Neill, one of two grandsons on the James' side of the late great Billy O'Neill, a legendary Galway GAA dual star of the 1950s who was native of Cork before joining



MILLTOWN forward Mike McWalter has his shot blocked by Daniel McNulty of St. James' with Aaron Connolly (23), Paul Conroy (8) and Johnny Duane (6) also in close proximity during Sunday's Senior Football Championship Group A clash at Tuam Stadium.

PHOTOS: RAY RYAN

ST. JAMES': J. Egan; A. Lee, C. O'Regan, J. Folan; L. Vahey, J. Duane, E. Finnerty; P. Conroy, S. O'Neill (1-0); D. McNulty, L. Melody (0-1), J. O'Neill (0-1); J. Nolan (0-1 free), E. Concannon (1-0, penalty), A. Connolly (0-3). Subs: D. Hynes, for Concannon, 45 mins; K. Hourigan, for Lee, 47 mins.

MILLTOWN: C. Nolan; P. Godwin, Claran Blake, J. Hynes; S. Feerick, J. Kirrane, J. Martin; Cathal Blake, C. Brennan; N. Costello, M. Hehir (1-4, 0-4 frees), M. McWalter; M. Martin (0-1 free), L. Costello, E. Mannion (0-1). Subs: S. Blake, for C. Brennan, 45 mins; K. Mannion, for Feerick, 45 mins; D. Brennan, for N. Costello, 54 mins; D. Blake, for McWalters, 55 mins.

REFEREE: Austin O'Connell.

HERALD SPORT MAN OF THE MATCH:
Aaron Connolly (St. James').

the army in Galway, showed his pedigree on 37 minutes when poking to the net, at the second attempt, after a free-flowing move that also involved ex-Galway player Johnny Duane and the lively Melody.

Commendably, Milltown responded in kind a matter of second later when Liam Costello did well to win possession before feeding Hehir, who produced a cracking finish to leave matters at 2-5 to 1-5 on 38 minutes.

In a madcap few minutes,

Liam Costello also saw a goal attempt hit the base of the post and bounce clear just seconds after their goal. It was a moment that could have changed the complexion of the contest entirely if it had found the back of the net.

However, with 53 minutes on the clock, Aaron Connolly used all his strength to hold off his man before fisting over to give his side a four-point advantage - a large lead given the elements - and take his personal haul to a commendable three points.



Eoin Finnerty (right) comes away with possession for St. James' against Milltown's Niall Costello.

From there until the finish line, the likes of county star Paul Conroy, who was kept under wraps by Milltown midfielder Colin Brennan for long spells, and Johnny Duane dictated the pace of proceedings as James' ran down the seconds.

Given their inferior scoring difference, a draw wouldn't do Milltown. And though a Hehir free rounded off the scoring with four minutes of normal time remaining, they never looked like getting the required late scores to alter

the result to move up the table from third.

* Elsewhere in Group A, table toppers Maigh Cuilinn defeated Annaghdown by 2-11 to 1-11 at Pearse Stadium on Saturday. Niall Walsh and James McLaughlin netted for the winners in what was a dead rubber. An Spidéal and Naomh Anna Leitir Mór were knocked out prior to their clash in Ros Muc on Sunday. Brothers Finnian and Antaine Ó Laoi found the net for the Cois Fharraige men in a 2-7 to 1-9 win.



SENIOR FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP QUARTER-FINAL

Barrett nails late winner as Daly's side squeeze home

■ Mountbellew-Moylough given a big fright by gallant St James' in thriller

| | |
|----------------------|------|
| MOUNTBELLEW-MOYLOUGH | 1-09 |
| ST JAMES' | 0-11 |

GERARD MULREANEY
AT PEARSE STADIUM

A LAST-GASP winner from Matthew Barrett saw Mountbellew-Moylough beat St James' by a single point to move into the semi-finals of the Galway Senior Football Championships, following a thrilling battle at Pearse Stadium on Sunday.

A second-half goal from Colm Mannion was crucial in Mountbellew-Moylough's victory, as it saw the team come from a point down to go two points up at a critical period of the game.

Mountbellew-Moylough, five-time finalists since 2015, will be hoping to win back the title they last won in 2021. They have been a little inconsistent this season, beating both Claregalway and St Michael's, drawing with Dunmore MacHales, and losing to Tuam Stars in their route to the quarter-finals.

The game was played in wonderful calm conditions, an unusual occurrence at this time of year. The pitch was in fantastic condition, and with no wind about, there would be no excuses for either side.

Ahead of the game Patrick Kelly was named to the Mountbellew-Moylough starting fifteen following a long spell on the sidelines. St James', who's only defeat in the championship came at the hands of the reigning champions Moycullen, opened the scoring with a free from Jack Nolan in the second minute, before Eoin Finnerty levelled the scores with a well taken mark a couple of minutes later.

The city side, who also lined up without Eoin Concannon, were dealt a huge blow after six minutes when star midfielder Sam O'Neill was stretchered off after he sustained a knee injury. He was replaced by Stephen McCooley, who moved into the half-forward line, while Liam Melody dropped back into midfield alongside Paul Conroy.

Mountbellew-Moylough were constantly probing down the left-hand side through James Foley, Colm Mannion and Patrick Kelly, but the St James' rearguard held firm, with Duane, Jack Folan and Cathal O'Regan excelling early on. Finnerty and Folan in particu-

lar were having a ding-dong battle.

The battle for supremacy in midfield between Conroy and Melody, and Matthew Barrett and Shane Moran, was immense, but neither side managed to dominate.

St James' had further scores from Nolan, Connolly, McCooley and Folan, who went on a lung-busting run down the right-hand side, turned inside and scored left-footed, while Mountbellew-Moylough had scores from Barry McHugh and John Daly to leave the score 0-5 to 0-3 after 28 minutes.

The switching of Melody was a big loss to St James' in the forward area, while Lee Vahey's influence as an attacking force was also nullified by some excellent defending from Moran, Foley, and Colm Mannion.

St James' hustle in defence was outstanding, forcing Mountbellew-Moylough into taking numerous shots from distance, which didn't always pan out.

The sides then traded scores ahead of the half-time break.

First, it was Mountbellew-Moylough's John Daly, before an excellent move involving Duane, Connolly, Conroy and McCooley led to a high challenge by Foley. Conroy made no mistake with the free as St James' went in at half-time leading 0-6 to 0-4.



A PACY MOVE INVOLVING COLM MANNION AND FINNERTY ENDED UP WITH LEO DONNELLAN FISTING THE BALL OVER THE BAR

Mountbellew-Moylough started the second half strong, and scored two points in less than sixty seconds - John Daly notching a free and a point from play - to level the scores. However, St James' went back in front thanks to points from Nolan and Jack O'Neill.

The second-half continued in similar fashion to the first, with both sides trying hard to gain the upper hand. However, on 46 minutes, Mountbellew-Moylough scored the game's only goal. James Foley raced up the right-hand sideline and hand-passed the ball inside the cover



Mountbellew-Moylough's Colin Murray is about to get his pass away against Dan McNulty of St James' during Saturday's Senior Football Quarter-Final at Pearse Stadium. PHOTOS: JOE O'SHAUGHNESSY.

to Colm Mannion, and he made no mistake to guide the ball past James Egan to give them the lead.

Kelly dropped a little deeper in the second half to get more involved in the exchanges, and he was becoming ever more influential for Mountbellew-Moylough as the game wore on.

St James' goalkeeper Egan stepped up and levelled the scores once again when he popped over a long-range free off the ground with ten minutes to go. At this stage of proceedings, everything Mountbellew-Moylough were doing was through the experienced John Daly.

A pacy move involving Colm Mannion and Finnerty ended up with Leo Donnellan fisting the ball over the bar. Another free from John Daly gave Val Daly's men a two-point lead with just four minutes left on the clock. However, there was to be more drama. Dessie Hynes scored a cracking point under tremendous pressure before Egan once more scored a long-range free to draw the sides level.

Some good play by Michael Daly and Barry McHugh saw the ball get played into the inrush-

ing Matthew Barrett, and he scored left-footed in added time to send Mountbellew-Moylough through to the semi-finals.

Best for Mountbellew-Moylough on the day were the always excellent John Daly, Ronan Griffin, Colin Murray, Matthew Barrett, Shane Moran, Barry McHugh, and Patrick Kelly.

Following the draw for the semi-finals, which was made in Tuam Stadium on Sunday evening, Mountbellew-Moylough now face a mouth-watering clash with reigning champions Moycullen in ten days' time.

For St James' this loss will hurt, as they would feel like they deserved to get something from the game. Johnny Duane, Paul Conroy, and Cathal O'Regan in particular were outstanding, and they were ably assisted by Aaron Connolly, Jack Folan, Jack O'Neill, and Eoin Finnerty.

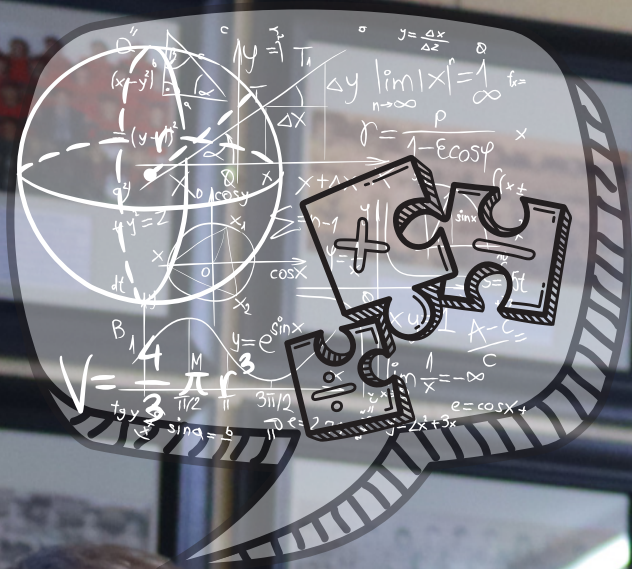
Mountbellew-Moylough: D. Boyle, M. Mannion, C. Murray, B. Mannion, R. Griffin, J. Daly (0-4, 0-2 frees), J. Foley, M. Barrett (0-1), S. Moran (0-1), S. Miland, B. McHugh (0-1, free), C. Mannion (1-0), P. Kelly, E. Finnerty (0-1, mark), P. Donnellan. Subs: M. Daly for P. Donnellan (34); L. Donnellan (0-1) for R. Griffin (44); G. Sweeney for S. Miland (56).



Stephen McCooley of St James' on the ball against Mountbellew-Moylough's Ronan Griffin at Pearse Stadium.

St James': J. Egan (0-02, free); J. Folan (0-1), C. O'Regan, A. Lee, L. Vahey, J. Duane, E. Finnerty, P. Conroy (0-1, free), S. O'Neill; J. O'Neill (0-1), L. Melody, D. McNulty, D. Hynes (0-1), J. Nolan (0-3, free), A. Connolly (0-1). Subs: S. McCooley (0-1, free) for S. O'Neill (6); F. Cooney for L. Melody (51); D. O'Connell for J. Nolan (56). Referee: Austin O'Connell

DARRAGH LEONARD AKA DR. STRANGE



**"I WENT FORWARD IN TIME...
TO VIEW ALTERNATE FUTURES.
TO SEE ALL THE POSSIBLE
OUTCOMES"**

MARVEL

THE MANAGEMENT



BARRY

DARRAGH

HENRY

MUL

TOOLERS

SÍNEAD

PAT



MINOR FOOTBALLERS SEASON

TEMPERS FLARE OUT WEST

PATHWAY TO THE FINAL

R1



Clashmore
1994

Naomh Séamus

4-10

1-6



UARÁN MÓR MEARAÍ

R2



Clashmore
1994

Naomh Séamus

2-15

2-13



Seilg i Measc na nAlp
1940
Cumann Micheál Breathnach

R3



Clashmore
1994

Naomh Séamus

1-8

1-11



AN CHEATHRÚ RUA

R4



Clashmore
1994

Naomh Séamus

4-12

0-12



C.L.G. AN SPIDÉAL
BRÓDÚIL, CROÍÚIL, GAEILCHÍ

1-5

0-12

WEST SEMIS

R5



Clashmore
1994

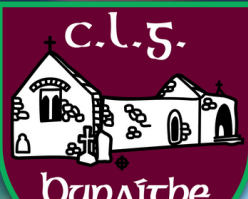
Naomh Séamus

1-10

2-6



UARÁN MÓR MEARAÍ



Clashmore
1994

Naomh Séamus



AN CREAGÁN MAIGHLEOCHA

WEST FINAL

COUNTY FINAL

R6



Clashmore
1994

Naomh Séamus

2-10

1-11



AN CHEATHRÚ RUA



WEST

THANKS TO MINOR MAIN SPONSOR
JASON QUINN OF GALWAY TROPHY CENTRE

2023



L-R PATRICK O'CONNOR (JOINT MANAGER), MARK FARRAGHER (CPT), DANIEL QUINN, CATHAL WALSH (JOINT MANAGER) AND DAVE HENRY (CHAIRMAN)

LADIES FOOTBALL

FEATURE

3

2

1

JAMES'



LGFA

LADIES GAELIC FOOTBALL



LEAGUE WINNERS



INTERMEDIATE CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS



ROUND 1



1-7

1-12

A TOUGH ENCOUNTER OUT WEST



LEITIR MÓIR



ROUND 2



8-10

4-11



AN IMPRESSIVE WIN AT HOME



MERVUE

ROUND 3 JIMMIES PREVAIL AND ADVANCE TO THE SEMIS



0-11



1-4



TÁ



MERVUE



1-7

2-13



COUNTY SEMI-FINAL



ANNAGHDOWN ADVANCE TO THE FINAL



ANNAGHDOWN

UNDERAGE SUCCESS



Dolores Stankard Memorial WINNERS 2023



St. James' LGFA
Dolores Stankard
Memorial Cup
Presented by St. James' LGFA to the winners of the St. James' LGFA Underage Cup



LEE LYDON ON THE
MOVE FOR THE JIMMIES
AGAINST BARNNA IN
THE U14
DEVELOPMENT LEAGUE



SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER

MOTM SHANE FAHY U15 B WEST FINAL



U14 MILLTOWN CUP WINNERS



COLM COOPER CUP RUNNERS UP



U12 TEAMS REFLECT ON A GREAT YEAR

A WORD FROM HEAD COACH ALAN O'DONNELL

“For the first time in the history of the club, the Jimmies fielded three teams at u12 level in the development leagues. The A team was made up mainly of u12 players with a handful of u11 players, likewise for the B team, while the C was made up exclusively of u11 players. The 3 teams had very productive and successful seasons.

The A team won 3 games and lost 1 to a strong Oranmore side in the group, they met Oranmore again away in the final, losing 3-9 to 3-7. The game was a very high standard with the Jimmys finishing like a train and were just denied. Overall, the management were delighted with progress, some of the kick passing and football played was beautiful to watch.

The B team lost their first 3 games in the group but won their last 2 to come third in the group, this meant a plate final at home to Barna. In an epic contest in Mervue, the Jimmys prevailed against a good Barna side, the improvement in this group since the first game was immense and the lads deserved their victory, with skipper Colm Perry lifting the cup on a beautiful Sunday morning in Mervue.

The C team were also brilliant in the group stages, winning 3 and losing 2. The games they lost were against a Loughrea side far too strong for the division and a narrow loss also to Corofin. They did however finish second in the group which meant they had to travel to Loughrea for the final. Whilst Loughrea proved too physical on the day, our lads demonstrated no end of skill throughout the campaign and being eligible for u12 next year, they will no doubt have learned from the experience.

Whilst the development league was a big part of the season, we also had a trip to the dome early in the year, numerous trainings and challenges throughout the year and plan to finish the season with an introduction to S&C. Bring on 2024!!! Thanks to all the u11/u12 coaches for their assistance all year – there are approx. 10 coaches involved with these age groups, too many to name but they know who are and are doing a tremendous job”.



St. James' GAA

AweSome!



MERVUE

A TEAM ON THE RISE - JIMMIES U6



THIS GROUP OF PLAYERS ARE COACHED BY HEAD COACHES EGIN CONCANNON, OLGA CONCAR MURPHY & DAVE HENRY. THEIR SEASON WILL CONCLUDE NEXT WEEKEND FOR HALOWEEN.THEY HAVE BEEN TRAINING CONSISTENTLY SINCE MARCH EVERY SATURDAY AT THE ACADEMY .LOTS TO COME FROM THIS GROUP IN THE FUTURE NO DOUBT.



WIN A MAGICAL FAMILY TRIP TO LAPLAND THIS CHRISTMAS WITH ST. JAMES' GAA

St. James GAA, a community-centric GAA club, is thrilled to announce their upcoming fundraiser, the opportunity for a family of two adults and two children to experience the magic of Lapland this Christmas valued at €6000.

This extraordinary experience to make unforgettable family memories, includes flights and accommodation, will take place from December 21st to December 23rd, offering the winning family a unique chance to celebrate Christmas in one of the most enchanting destinations in the world.

Club Chairman, Jimmy Newell, said, "We hope that our members and the wider community get behind our big fundraiser this year. The Lapland giveaway is a fantastic way of raising much-needed funds for the club as well as giving a lucky family a trip of a lifetime. For €20, someone is going to have a very festive run into Christmas."

St. James GAA Club, with their clubhouse in Mervue, covers the parishes of Renmore (including Roscam & Rosshill), Mervue, Ballybane (including Ballybrit), and Good Shepherd Parish (Doughiska). The east-side of the city club has had many successes over the years and with funding they hope to continue their grassroot developments starting from their underage players all the way up to their senior teams.

Tickets are priced at €20 for one ticket, with package deals of 3 tickets for €50 and 7 tickets for €100, giving everyone a chance to participate and win.

Tickets can be purchased through authorised St. James GAA representatives, on Eventbrite.ie (<https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/win-a-trip-to-lapland-for-a-family-of-4-tickets-710952176097?aff=ebdssbdestsearch>) or through our official website stjamesgaa.ie

The raffle draw will come to a close on November 26th at midday. The live draw will take place at the St. James GAA Clubhouse on November 27th at 6 pm.

Terms and conditions apply.





WIN A TRIP TO LAPLAND

Win a family trip to Lapland - 2 Adults & 2 Children

TRAVEL 21ST - 23RD DEC

Tickets

1 for 20 euro

3 for 50 euro

7 for 100 euro

Golden Ticket
#winatriptolapland



Draw ends 26th Nov & Live Draw 27th Nov

SCAN ME



**TO BE
CONTINUED...**



GAA