

The County Final

Bunninadden vs. Coolera/Strandhill.

1st October 2000

Bunnanadden Emmetts' Club was founded in 1886 by Andrew Marren & John O'Dowd. John O'Dowd was a Nationalist M.P. for South Sligo.

Bunnanadden won the County Junior Title in 1953 when they beat Curry in the final. It was the first County title since 1891.

Pat Hunt and Gerry McManus, past members of Bunnanadden club won a senior Championship with Mullinabreena in 1958.

Bunninadden Player Profile

MICHAEL FINN: Age 32. Toolmaker. Goalkeeper. Won two Intermediate league medals, a senior league medal and a Pick and Choose medal with the club. Favourite player, Trevor Giles.

JOSEPH SCANLON: Age 30. Garda. Left half back. Was a member of the team which won the Senior League last season and also holds a Pick and Choose League medal. Favourite player, Seamus Moynihan.

SHANE GORMLEY: Age 18. Student. Defender. Holder of U.12 county Championship and Senior League medal. Has also won Junior Colleges honours. Favourite player, Padraig Joyce.

DEREK GORMLEY: Age 27. Student. Forward. Holds county U.21 and All Ireland colleges medal. Was a member of Bunninadden team which won the Senior League last season. Favourite player, Padraig Joyce.

KEELAN McMANUS: Student. Favourite position, centre forward. Holder of U.12 county championship and U.12 and U.16 league and championship medals. Favourite player, Trevor Giles.

STEPHEN McHUGH: Age 17. Student. Forward. Has won U.12 and U.16 county medals with club and also a Connacht Colleges medal. Favourite player, Michael Donnellan.

BARRY GILHOOLEY: Age 19. Student. Forward. Won senior league and Pick and Choose league medals with club last season. Favourite player, Derek Savage.

WILLIAM GORMLEY: Age 25. Computer Technician. Forward. All-Ireland Colleges medal winner and also holds two U.21 championship medals. Has also won Intermediate and Senior league titles with the club. Favourite player, Kevin Barrins.

KIERAN BRETT: Age 27. Bank official. Forward. Has won two U.21, two Intermediate League and one Senior League medal with club. Favourite player, Michael Donnellan.

MARK GORMLEY: Age 21. Student. Midfield. Was on the team which won the Senior League and Pick and Choose League double last season. Has also won two Connacht Schools medals and a Connacht Junior All-Ireland runner-up medal. Favourite player, Paul Taylor.

AIDAN KILLORAN: Age 23. Project Engineer. Corner Forward. Won a senior league medal with club last season. Also holds Intermediate and U.21 championship medals. Favourite player, Oisín McConville.

PAUL KERINS: Age 25. Civil Engineer. A talented wing forward, holder of three Connacht and one All Ireland medal with Benada Abbey. Favourite player, Maurice Fitzgerald.

PADRAIG DOOHAN: Age 25. Technician. Midfield. Three Connacht and one All-Ireland Colleges medal won with Benada Abbey. Also holds two U.21 county Championship medals and captained Sligo to success in the Connacht Junior Championship. Favourite player, Maurice Fitzgerald.

KEVIN FRAIN: Age 28. Lorry driver. Full forward. Won senior league and Pick and Choose medals with club last season.

FRANCIE O'DOWD: Age 32. NCF employee. Centre back. Senior League and Pick and Choose winner last year. Favourite player, Conor O'Grady.

LIAM 'OG GORMLEY: Age 20. Student. Right half forward. Won U.16 Manning Cup medal with Sligo and was a member of the Bunninadden team which won the Senior

League and Pick and Choose league last season. Favourite player, Padraig Joyce.

EMMET GILHOOLEY: Age 18. Student. Forward. Three Connacht Colleges and U.12 league and Championship medals to his credit. Also an accomplished soccer player who has gained representative honours with the local district league. Favourite player, Mike Frank Russell.

DAVID FLANNERY: Age 18. Roofer. Centre back. U.16 league and Minor Championship medals to his credit. Has also won three Connacht Colleges medals. Favourite player, Padraig Joyce.

KENNETH KEARINS: Age 16. Student. Favourite position, midfield. Has won U.12 and U.16 league and Championship honours. Favourite player, Eamon O'Hara.

STEPHEN RODDY: AGE 23. Sales Clerk. Corner back. Has won Connacht Colleges and U.21 Championship medals. Was a member of the team which won the senior senior league last season. Favourite player: Padraig Joyce.

ROSS McMANUS: Age 18. Student. Centre forward. Has won U.12 league and championship medals with club. Favourite player, Eamon O'Hara.

JOHN KILLORAN: Age 19. Student. Forward. Won senior league and Pick and Choose league medals with club last year. Also holds a county minor medal. Favourite player, Maurice Fitzgerald.

DAVID KILLORAN: Age 21. Blocklayer. Forward. Was on the squad which won the Senior league and Pick and Choose league last season. Also holds U.21 and minor championship medals. Favourite player, Trevor Giles.

JAMES McDONAGH: Age 34. Priest. Full-back. Won a Connacht Minor League medal with Sligo and is also the holder of two Intermediate league and one senior league medal. Favourite player, Padraig Doohan.

JOHN O'FLAHERTY: Age 29. Civil Engineer. Wing Back. Won two Trench Cup medals with Sligo IT and also holds U.21 Championship, Intermediate league and Senior league medals.

BRENDAN FLANNERY: Age 17. Student. Backs. Holder of U.12, U.16 and county league medals. Has also won a Connacht Schools senior Championship. Favourite player, Sean Og De Paor.

SEAN DURCAN: Age 28. Security official. Full back. Won U.21 medal with St. Nathy's. Favourite player, Mickey Linden.

JOE REYNOLDS: Age 31. Tool setter. Wing back. Won senior league and two Intermediate league medals with club. Favourite player, Ja Fallon.

JASON RODDY: Age 17. Apprentice toolmaker. Full-back. Has won U.12 and U.16 championship and league medals with Bunninadden. Favourite player, Anthony Tohill.

DONAL SPELLMAN: Age 27. Civil Servant. A member of the squad which won the senior league and Pick and Choose league double last year. Also holds two Intermediate league medals. Favourite player, Michael Donnellan.

FERGAL O'FLAHERTY: Age 24. Secondary School teacher. Midfield. Team captain. Holder of All-Ireland Colleges medal with Benada Abbey and five Connacht Colleges medals with the South Sligo school. Has also won two county U.21 Championship medals and was on the Bunninadden team which won the Senior league last season.



BUNNINADDEN, SLIGO COUNTY SENIOR CHAMPIONS 2000. Back Row (l/r): Kieran Brett, Stephen Roddy, Mark Gormley, Willie Gormley, Michael Finn, Shane Gormley, Francie O'Dowd, Emmet Gilhooley. Back row (l/r): John O'Flaherty, Liam Og Gormley, Paul Kearins, Fergal O'Flaherty (Captain), Aidan Killoran, Derek Gormley, Padraig Doohan.

Meet the Lads...



Bunninadden's Joint Managers, Richard Brennan and James Kearins

.....and their Managers.

Richard and James.

GAA

Scoreboard

RESULTS

DAVITT FOODS SENIOR LEAGUE

Bunninadden	1-19	Easkey	2-4
Eastern Harps	3-10	Cloonacool	1-6
Tourlestrane	2-12	Geevagh	2-8
Coolera	0-15	St. Mary's	0-8

INTERMEDIATE LEAGUE

St. Patrick's	4-6	Grange	3-5
St. Michael's	3-11	St. John's	1-6
Shamrock Gaels	1-11	Mullinabreena	0-6

JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP, ROUND TWO

Ballisodare	0-15	Eastern Harps	0-5
Grange	1-16	City Gaels	0-9
St. Mary's	2-12	Ballymote	1-12

FIXTURES

SATURDAY, AUGUST 19th, all games at 7.30pm

SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIP

Easkey v Bunninadden, at Tubbercurry, ref., E. Watters, linesmen, J. Finan and D. McKeon
 Eastern Harps v Geevagh, at Coola, ref. P. Hennessy, linesmen, A. McGowan and J. Taffe

INTERMEDIATE CHAMPIONSHIP

St. John's v Enniscrone, at Markievicz Park, ref. J. McLaughlin, linesmen, K. O'Donnell and M. Gorman

DAVITT FOOD SENIOR LEAGUE

Curry v Tubbercurry, T. Walsh

SUNDAY, AUGUST 20th, all games at 1.00pm
SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIP

Coolera v Tourlestrane, at Easkey, ref. M. Duffy, linesmen, Micahel Duffy and J. Kilgallon
 St. Mary's v Drumcliffe, at Markievicz Park, ref. E. Neary, linesmen, S. Kelly and G. Devaney

INTERMEDIATE CHAMPIONSHIP

St. Michael's v St. Patrick's, at Tubbercurry, ref. P. Conway, linesmen, J. Niland and M. Maher.

Clubs please note if any replays necessary they will be played the following weekend.

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP SPECIAL

Battle is on for semi-final places

EASKEY V BUNNINADDEN AT TUBBERCURRY, SATURDAY (7.30pm)

Easkey and Bunninadden renew rivalry

BY MICHAEL MORAN

WHILE an inappropriate sense of timing put the two sides into league opposition last week, Easkey and Bunninadden get down to the serious business of championship action on Saturday evening in an intriguing quarter-final tie at Tubbercurry.

Easkey booked their place in the quarter-finals as Group D winners, by gaining revenge over Tourlestrane for last year's defeat in the county final and they went on to overcome Curry by two points, in a game the South Sligo side had to win to remain in the competition.

Easkey, however, will be conscious of the fact that in

those two games, they only scored twice in the second-half of each tie and that might just not be enough as the championship race hots up.

On the other hand, having featured in the county final twelve months ago, Easkey would welcome another crack at capturing the title and player/manager, Fintan Feeney and his charges are in determined mood.

Easkey's injury worries have not eased, however, and they are likely to be again without David Rolston, Gene Curley, Fintan Feeney and David Burke. Rolston has the best chance of recovering in time to take his place in the squad. Feeney, meanwhile, made a late appearance

against Curry, replacing Patrick Clarke, but it now appears that he has aggravated a back injury.

James Rolston at full-back and corner-back Vincent Cuffe have been in good form of late for Easkey, while Eamonn Sweeney is another consistent performer in the centre-half back role. Kieran Brennan and Dessie Burke also feature in the half-back line.

While Noel McGuire and Shane Kennedy have appeared in centre-field, there could be switches in this department and Dermott Keaveney moved out to the middle in the latter stages of the Curry match and made a significant impact as Easkey gained some important

possession.

Dessie Sloyane provides the ammunition up front and hit 2-2 against Curry, but there was also a good scoring spread among the forwards, with Shane Feeney, Brendan McGrath and Shane Lavelle among those on the mark.

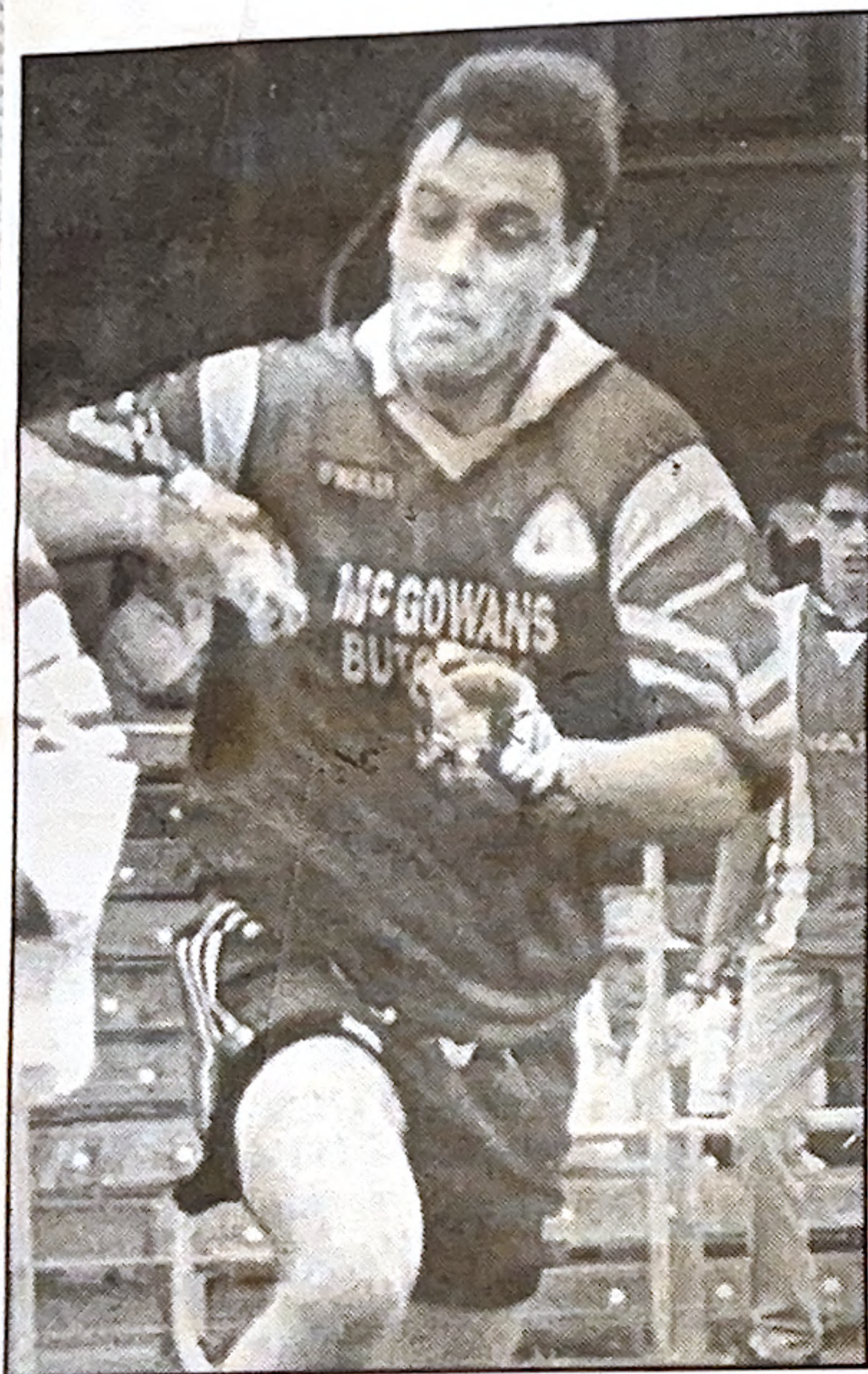
Bunninadden were beaten by Coolera/Strandhill in their final group game, but a victory over a poor Castleconnor team gave them the points which ensured they finished runners-up in the group.

Bunninadden's form has been somewhat indifferent, but they have players capable of making an impact and Easkey will be taking nothing for granted.

Liam Og Gormley, and the mid-field partnership of Mark Gormley and Padraic Doohan have also stood out this year and their joust with the Easkey pairing will be an interesting feature of the quarter-final.

Full-back Shane Gormley picked up an injury against Coolera/Strandhill, but could return, while others to figure in the championship team have been goalkeeper Michael Finn, Aidan Killoran, Paul Kearns, Fergal O'Flaherty and Stephen Roddy.

Both Bunninadden and Easkey will of course have hoped that none of their players picked up any knocks resulting from the senior league encounter.



Easkey's left half back, Patrick Clarke



Mark Gormley, one of the stars of the Bunninadden team.



Team captains, Fergal O'Flaherty (Bunninadden) and Eamon Sweeney (Easkey) pictured with Referee, Eddie Watters, before last Saturday's Championship game.

8.

Bunninadden stay on course for championship glory

BUNNINADDEN 1-11
EASKEY 0-8
BUNNINADDEN advanced to the semi-finals of the Sligo senior championship on Saturday evening last when they scored a decisive six points triumph over last year's runners-up Easkey in the quarter-final game played in very difficult conditions at Tubbercurry.

Easkey started with Shane Kennedy and Noel McGuire in this sector but they struggled badly and things did not improve much when Dermott Keveaney and Dessie Sloyane were drafted to the problem area.

In full forward Fergal O'Flaherty, Bunninadden had a matchwinner as he accounted for seven points



Bunninadden squad which beat Easkey on Saturday last to qualify for the semi-finals of the County Senior Championship.

their advantage with a point from a free by O'Flaherty after he was fouled by James Rolston. Easkey had their first score in the fifth minute, a point from play by Dermott Keveaney.

The winners had two more wides before Easkey missed a goal chance when Fintan Feeney blasted wide from the left wing. Fergal O'Flaherty was off target twice in as many minutes including a free. Noel McGuire missed from a good position at the end of the third quarter.

O'Flaherty missed again from play while Michael Kelly had similar luck at the other end. With ten minutes remaining, Easkey reduced the deficit to five points when Shane Feeney pointed a free after Dessie Sloyane was fouled.

A minute later Easkey should have set the scene for a grand stand finish when they split the Bunninadden defence but with only the keeper to beat Shane Kennedy fired wide from a tight angle. Heartened by the let off the winners came down field and Fergal O'Flaherty converted a free from the left wing. Noel McGuire had another wide from play three minutes from the finish.

Bunninadden had two more wides but in the final minute Fergal O'Flaherty pointed from play. Easkey had the final score, a point from play from Patrick Clarke, but it was only a consolation score and the men from the East held out for a deserved triumph.

Scorers: Bunninadden: F. O'Flaherty (0-7), D. Gormely (1-2), P. Doohan and L. Og Gormely (0-1 each). Easkey: P. Clarke, S. Feeney, D. Keveaney, D. Sloyane (0-2 each).

Bunninadden: Michael Finn, Stephen Roddy, Francie O'Dowd, Stephen Roddy, John Flaherty, Kieran Brett, William Gormely, Mark Gormely, Padraic Doohan, Derek Gormely, Liam Og Gormely, Paul Kearins, Emmett Gilhooly, Fergal O'Flaherty, Joe Scanlon.

Easkey: John Rolston, David Rolston, James Rolston, Michael Rolston, Kieran Brennan, Eamonn Sweeney, Dessie Burke, Shane Kennedy, Noel McGuire, Brendan McGrath, Shane Feeney, Shane Lavelle, Patrick Clarke, Dessie Sloyane, Dermott Deveney. Subs.: Fintan Feeney, Vincent Cuffe and Michael Kelly, for B. McGrath, D. Burke and S. Lavelle.

Referee: Eddie Watters.

Played August 19th 2000



Team captains, Fergal O'Flaherty (Bunninadden) and Eamon Sweeney (Easkey) pictured with Referee, Eddie Watters, before last Saturday's Championship game.

and he gave the Easkey defence a torrid time all through. He was well supported by Liam Og Gormely, Paul Kearins and Derek Gormely but they were given far too much space by a hesitant Easkey defence.

At the back Bunninadden were never fully extended by an inept Easkey attack which was never able to gather a breaking ball. Francie O'Dowd fisted everything in sight away from Dessie Sloyane and his colleagues were always there for the break with Stephen Roddy, John O'Flaherty, Willie Gormely and Kieran Brett vigilant all through the hour.

Bunninadden will realise they are far from the finished article and they will have to show a lot of improvement if they are to reach the decider. They shot a total of fifteen wides, an aspect of their game that they will have to focus on before Sunday week.

When they were eight points up towards the end of the opening half, they failed to kill off the opposition and twice in the second half, Easkey missed great goal chances. Had any of those hit the net, Bunninadden would have been under a lot of pressure to hold out.

It was Easkey who opened the scoring with a well taken point from Dessie Sloyane in the first minute after he took a pass from Kieran Brennan.

Within a minute, Bunninadden were on level terms when Padraic Doohan pointed from play after he took a pass from his mid-field partner, Mark Gormely.

Bunninadden were soon in front when Fergal O'Flaherty converted a free after David Rolston gave away a needless free. Dermott Keveaney sent wide from play for Easkey before they equalised in the eighth minute with a well taken point from play from

the right wing from Patrick Clarke after Shane Kennedy made the opening.

In the 10th minute Bunninadden were back in front when a mistake by Michael Rolston let in Derek Gormely who fired over the bar. Fergal O'Flaherty increased their advantage with a good point from play at the end of the opening quarter and at this stage the Easkey defence was being stretched to the limit.

He missed from play a minute later but soon after this he again found the target from long range. Derek Gormely increased their lead with another fine score from play and this was quickly followed by another from a free by Fergal O'Flaherty after an Easkey defender was penalised for a pick off the ground.

A minute later Easkey lifted the siege when Shane Feeney converted a free for a foul on Dessie Sloyane. Eight minutes from the break Noel McGuire fired wide from play when he should have done better. Liam Og Gormely extended the winners lead with a good point from play and they struck for the only goal of the game in the 25th minute when Derek Gormely provided the finish after poor defending by Dessie Burke gave him the opportunity to leave the winners with an eight point cushion.

They had four more wides in the remaining minutes while Easkey gave themselves some hope with a brace of points from play from Dermott Keveaney and Dessie Sloyane to leave the winners in front by 1-8 to 0-5 at the short whistle.

Scores were in scarce supply in the second period. Bunninadden missed the first chance but they increased

BUNNINADDEN

Our senior team had a great victory over Easkey on Saturday evening last in Tubbercurry to reach the semi-final of the senior championship. The final score was 1-11 to 0-8. The team played exceptionally well and done to everyone involved, especially the players and management of the team. We now look forward to the draw for our opponents in the semi-final. The draw takes place this week and the semi-finals are due to be played on September 3rd.

Our minor and under-16 teams had easy victories over Drumcliffe and St. Pat's in the championship in the past week. Well done to all involved. For details of the next round or matches please check the minor board fixtures list.

"VICTORY"

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GORMLEY**

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BUNNINADDEN, COUNTY FINALISTS 2000. Back Row (l/r): Kieran Brett, Stephen Roddy, Emmett Gilhooley, Mark Gormley, Shane Gormley, Padraic Doohan, Mick Finn. Front Row (l/r): John O'Flaherty, Francie O'Dowd, Paul Kearins, Fergal O'Flaherty, Aidan Killoran, Willie Gormley, Derek Gormley, Liam Og Gormley.



A Bunninadden forward hold possession despite the close attention of two St. Mary's defenders during the county semi-final at Markievicz Park on Sunday.

Dramatic second half revival clinches historic victory

BUNNINADDEN 1-11 ST MARY'S 1-10

BUNNINADDEN powered their way into the final of the county senior championship for the first time in one hundred and nine years with this dramatic victory over St. Mary's at Markievicz Park on Sunday last.

By LEO GRAY

Six points in arrears a minute into the second half, Bunninadden's hopes of making the big breakthrough looked destined to end in failure. But with defeat staring them in the face, the South Sligo team dug deep into their reserves of energy and character to fashion an historic and thoroughly deserved victory.

The pattern of the game was transformed in a critical two minute spell midway through the second half at a time when St. Mary's led 1-8 to 0-6. The Sligo town outfit wasted a glorious opportunity to put the issue beyond doubt when Conor O'Grady shot wide with only the keeper to beat and almost immediately Fergal O'Flaherty converted a penalty at the other end to cut the gap to just two points.



St. Mary's forward, Pascal Bree in action against Bunninadden in the County semi-final on Sunday last.

From there on, Bunninadden took the initiative with Padraig Doohan proving an inspirational figure at centre-field. Some positional switches also paid off for Bunninadden. Paul Kearins moved to centre-half and added stability to a defence in which John O'Flaherty, Willie Gormley and Shane Gormley were all outstanding in the second half.

Sparkling form

Mark Gormley gave valuable assistance to Doohan at midfield while Liam Og Gormley worked tirelessly on the '40'. In the full-forward line, Aidan Killoran and Fergal O'Flaherty, who contributed a goal and nine points between them, were in sparkling form.

St. Mary's wasted no time in putting the Bunninadden defence under pressure and Michael Finn had to be alert in the very first minute to keep out a goalbound shot from O'Grady. Within two minutes, the Sligo town outfit edged in front thanks to a well taken point by David Downes following good approach play by Mark Brehony and O'Grady.

Fergal O'Flaherty put the sides on level terms from a free in the fifth minute but Mary's quickly restored their lead when Brehony pointed a free in confident style. Bunninadden were moving the ball around very well at this stage and their adventurous approach was rewarded when Killoran pointed a free after a penetrating attack.

Upper hand

The South Sligo side took the lead for the first time in the 10th minute, courtesy of a free from O'Flaherty but as fortunes fluctuated, Mary's quickly regained the upper hand. O'Grady scored from a free from his hands to level matters and then Downes rounded off a good move with his second point of the game in the 16th minute.

Aidan Killoran, who kicked some delightful frees throughout, squared things up again but Mary's took control in the last ten minutes of the first half as Peter Mullan and Seamus Burns got the upper hand at midfield.

A quickly taken free by Downes gave Brehony the chance to pick off a fine point in the 22nd minute and the same player found the range from a free in the 25th minute. Just before half-time, Mary's extended their lead to three points, 0-7 to 0-4, when Downes slotted the ball over the bar after Brehony and O'Grady had combined to unhinge the Bunninadden defence.

Without a score since the 17th minute, Bunninadden appeared to be in real trouble and they suffered a devastating blow within a minute of the restart. Pascal

Bree, one of Mary's better performers on the day despite sustaining a heavy knock in the first half, weaved his way through the Bunninadden defence before releasing O'Grady who crashed an unstoppable shot high into the roof of the net.

Spectacular shot

That put the Sligo town side six points ahead but Bunninadden gave a warning of things to come when Mark Gormley took a pass from Paul Kearins in his stride and unleashed a spectacular long range shot which rattled against the crossbar with Glen Young beaten all ends up.

Two points in quick succession from frees by O'Flaherty and Killoran gave the South Sligo side renewed hope but a pointed free by Brehony kept Mary's five points in front.

Then came a decisive moment in the match. Joe Campbell and Brehony sliced open the Bunninadden defence and O'Grady, completely unmarked just ten yards from goal, was left with only the keeper to beat. The full-forward cleverly sidestepped the advancing keeper but could only watch in despair as his shot trickled past the upright.

Almost immediately, Bunninadden broke upfield. Derek Gormley was bundled over and O'Flaherty held his nerve to plant the resultant penalty low to the net. From a situation where they could have been eight points down, Bunninadden now found themselves just two in arrears. Suddenly, we had a game on our hands.

Confidence

With Padraig Doohan emerging as the most prominent midfielder on the pitch, Bunninadden began to move with greater confidence. Derek Gormley set up Killoran for a well taken score in the 46th minute and then O'Flaherty put the sides level with a point from a free.

Doohan scored a terrific long range point to edge Bunninadden in front after 50 minutes but the scene was set for a gripping finish when Brehony put the sides on level terms three minutes later following another incisive run by Bree.

As the tension mounted, Willie Gormley put Bunninadden back in front with the score of the game, a brilliantly executed long range free. Killoran added on another score from a free to give Bunninadden some breathing space but there was still one last moment of drama to come.

With the game deep into injury time, Bree sent Brehony racing clear and the corner forward evaded three tackles before blazing over the bar.

It was a case of too little too late for Mary's and there was no denying gallant Bunninadden their hour of glory.

BUNNINADDEN: M Finn, S Roddy, F O'Dowd, S Gormley, J O'Flaherty, K Brett, W Gormley (0-1); P Doohan (0-1), M Gormley, D Gormley, L Og Gormley, P Kearins, A Killoran (0-5), F O'Flaherty (1-4), E Gilhooley. Subs: J McDonagh for Roddy (half-time); J Scanlon for K Brett (half-time); D Killoran for O'Dowd (55 mins).

ST MARY'S: G Young, D Keane, N Murray, T Carroll, D Carroll, D Downes (0-3), P Leonard, P Mullan, S Burns, A Colleary, P Bree, J Campbell, M Brehony (0-6), C O'Grady (1-1), J Davey. Sub: A Henneberry for Downes (52 mins).

Referee: M Duffy.

Bunninadden re-write the history books

THE RECORDS show that Bunninadden last won a county senior championship in 1891. It was the club's only title. In fact it was their only county senior championship final appearance.

It is little wonder that last Sunday's victory over St. Mary's was greeted with such euphoria when Marty Duffy blew the final whistle. The weight of history that suggested that county titles are only for the big guns was off loaded.

One hundred and nine years is a long time. The G.A.A. was only seven years old in 1891. No living person remembers that year. Few in the parish, I am sure, can ever remember meeting anyone who can recall that one and only county title.

I am delighted for Bunninadden. I know that St. Mary's followers will not interpret that statement as being anti-St. Mary's. It is merely that it is great to see a small rural parish where the G.A.A. means so much, at last making the breakthrough.

I grew up in a parish where the G.A.A. was central to our lives, yet we had to look back to 1929 for our last

county title. I know what success means to a close knit rural community. The great thing about the G.A.A. is that it enables you to identify a place called home. It gives a local community a sense of pride in the village and parish. It affords a platform to express the shared goals and ideals of a people.

Bunninadden has some of the most loyal G.A.A. followers this county has ever known. Where would you find more loyal Sligo followers than the Gormley family, or the Roddy's, the Doohans, the O'Flaherty or the Bretts? Brendan Gormley occasionally drops in to see me in Cartron and I know how much he loves the G.A.A. I know what success for Sligo would mean to him. Success for his club would be even sweeter given that there are five Gormleys, between brothers and cousins, on the Bunninadden team. Brendan's sister Margaret very kindly sends me a Christmas card every year.

Last Christmas she predicted in a footnote that the Owen B. Hunt Cup would be having a Bunninadden address this year. If it didn't seem a possibility then, it certainly

does now.

Bunninadden didn't enter Sunday's semi-final as raw novices. They are current league champions, and they had a comprehensive win over a fancied Easkey team in the quarter final. Easkey would have been many people's favourites for this year's title.

I saw last Sunday's games through the lens of a camera. I saw enough to convince me that the south Sligo men didn't do themselves justice in the first half. St. Mary's made the early running with Mark Breheny, Conor O'Grady causing serious problems for the Bunninadden defence.

David Downes, who was originally listed at centre back, operated as a roving corner forward with great success. He picked up a lot of loose ball, linked up well with his forward colleagues and scored three points from play. The winners kept in touch mainly due to the accuracy of captain Fergal O'Flaherty and Aidan Killoran. St. Mary's were three points ahead at half time, 0-7 to 0-4.

St. Mary's started the second half in whirlwind fashion and a goal from

Conor O'Grady stretched their lead to six points. The signs looked ominous for the men in green and white. It is a tribute to the character and courage of this Bunninadden team that they fought back.

The catalyst of their comeback was a penalty goal scored by Fergal O'Flaherty. Then Willie Gormley launched a massive free over the bar from away out in the country, the type of score that would lift any team. Pádraig Doohan was fielding magnificently at midfield and we began to see a transformed team as they grew in confidence. The loss of full back Francis O'Dowd, nephew of the legendary Nace, through injury was a severe blow but his team mates responded magnificently.

Let's hope that Francis will be fit in time for the county final on October 1st. He has given great service to his club.

GAA DIGEST

by the County Board PRO

Bunninadden's afore mentioned county final appearance in 1891 was against Strandhill. History came very close to repeating itself on Sunday last when Coolera-Strandhill were rather unlucky not to have beaten Eastern Harps in the second semi-final. It took the genius of Paul Taylor, who scored 1-5 of his team's total, to earn his team a draw with a last minute point from play.

Coolera had a dream start with a goal and a point from Karl Gilligan. The Harps looked sluggish early on or perhaps it was complacency, but the north Sligo men were 1-3 up before Paddy O'Grady opened his team's account with a point from play. Paul Taylor's goal settled the Harps and they dominated the last ten minutes of the first half as the Knocknarea men seemed to lose their shape.

The scores were level at

1-3 each at the break. Eastern Harps had the aid of the strengthening breeze in the second half and many felt that their vast experience and craft would see them through. However, Coolera displayed great character in the second half and carried the game to their fancied opponents.

Stephen Carty, who had moved out from full forward, was making a difference at midfield and Kieran Quinn, Karol O'Neill, John McPartland and the diminutive Paul Hegarty were causing endless problems for the Harps defence. Terry McMahon was sweeping up well behind midfield while team captain Shane O'Neill, Neil Carew, Barry Doyle and Tommie Cronin were very impressive.

Yet, when they look back on the game the Knocknarea men will rue the fact that they kicked thirteen wides in the game. It was a game

they know they should have won but they now also know that they are good enough to win. The replay will take place in Markievicz Park on Sunday evening next at 6 p.m. Eddie Neary will be in charge of the whistle. Extra time will be played if necessary.

Harps will once again enter the game as favourites. That is a situation that suits Declan McCabe and his charges. Declan has done a great job with this young Coolera team. They have always been fine footballers but at times they lacked self belief. I have a feeling they could just about do it on Sunday evening despite the fact that many people feel that they had left it behind them last Sunday.

INTERMEDIATE CHAMPIONSHIP:

It will be a clash of the saints in the Intermediate final on Sunday week when St. John's take on St. Patrick's in a novel final. The Carraroe men upset the odds at the weekend with a two point win over a fancied Shamrock Gaels team. This win emphasises the meteoric rise in the fortunes of the St. John's Club.

Not very long ago they were playing junior football. Now they are only one game away from senior competition. There is a wealth of talent in the club and it is only a matter of time before they make the big breakthrough.

St. Patrick's have a different story. Once the aristocrats of Sligo football in the days of Micheál Kearins, their fortunes have slumped in recent years. Recent good minor teams and some outstanding displays in the intermediate championship last year and this year suggests that they have turned the corner.

It should be a good final. It will be preceded by the senior hurling championship final between Tubbercurry and Craobh Rua.

PÁDRAIG JOYCE:

Galway full forward, Pádraig Joyce, surely the class forward of this year's championship, suffered a virus at the week-end. There were fears that it was something very serious but thankfully it was just a 'bug' and it is hoped that he will be fully fit to play against Kerry in the All-Ireland final.

Joyce's clash with Kerry's

Seamus Moynihan should be the highlight of the All-Ireland Final. Both players have been outstanding all year and whoever comes out on top on final day should be a strong contender for Footballer of the Year.

HURLING FINAL:

It is a low key All-Ireland hurling final and probably deliberately so. It is a difficult game to call despite Kilkenny's easy victory over Offaly in the All-Ireland final. There is a certain amount of pressure on the Cats this year after losing the last two finals. You can never underestimate Offaly.

The Faithfuls have a spirit that is almost unique. The best G.A.A. county in the country for its size by the proverbial mile. The only county in Ireland to have filled all fifteen positions in both hurling and football on All-Stars teams down the years.

It would be heartbreaking for Kilkenny to lose a third final in a row. It was never heard of before in the history of Kilkenny G.A.A. I have a feeling that they won't be going into the history books for the wrong reasons.



Political football. . . Clr. Margaret Gormley, Bunninadden, and Clr. Tony McLaughlin, Coolera, get to grips ahead of Sunday's Senior County Final between their respective clubs. Special five page big match preview inside.

BUNNINADDEN

PREPARATIONS for the county final with all official club flags being sold in the premises listed last week. The polo shirts with the official logo are now on sale in Cafferky's, the Millers Inn, Perry's and Kennedy's. Everyone is now looking forward to the county final on Sunday in Markievicz Park against Coolera. We wish the players and management the best of luck on the day. We are hoping for a big vocal support on the day. It is great to see all the flags and colour in the parish and surrounding areas.

One hundred and nine years since Bunninadden's last title

SOME OF those at the match probably lived through the Great Famine and many of those who were to perish on the Titanic hadn't even been born. That puts into some sort of context the timespan dividing the present day and Bunninadden's last and only senior championship triumph in 1891.

The Gaelic Athletic Association was still in its infancy when Bunninadden Emmets beat Strandhill Young Irelanders 0-5 to 0-2 in the final at Phillips' field, Collooney, one hundred and nine years ago.

According to the Sligo GAA Centenary History, edited by John C McTernan, eighteen clubs entered the Championship that year. These included two teams from Achonry, Red Hughs and Davitts, and two from Ballymote, Round Towers and Father Matthews. Strandhill was the only entry

from North Sligo while Dromard were the sole representatives from Tireragh.

The Strandhill team comprised players from the then defunct Knocknarea and Sligo clubs and the final took place in Collooney on May 3rd with Mr James A Flanagan of Ballymote as referee.

By all accounts, the final captured the imagination of the sporting public as a record crowd turned up for the match. It was, according to the Sligo Centenary History, a keenly contested and very sporting contest with Bunninadden taking the honours with three points to spare.

The game did not go off without a touch of controversy, however. Strandhill had what they felt was a legitimate goal disallowed but subsequent demands for a replay were

unsuccessful.

The winning Bunninadden team was as follows: A Marren (captain), J O'Dowd, P Cowan, T Killoran, A Doyle, M Marren, J Gildea, J Wynne, P Leonard, T Leonard, J Davis, M Preston, E Healy, M Davey, M Marren.

The triumphant team celebrated their victory at a banquet in the village and the occasion was marked by the rendering of a specially composed long ballad by local bard, Fergal McHugh, entitled The Bunninadden Gaels.

Thanks to the Sligo Centenary History, we can reproduce the opening two stanzas which went as follows:

*'Hurrah for Bunninadden
And its gallant football
team
Of all our Sligo athletes
The very pink and cream*

They style themselves the Emmets

*From the hero true and brave
Who died upon the gallows high*

*His native land to save
Their captain, Andrew Marren,*

Is a sprinter stout and bold,

*The way he tips the leather
Is most charming to behold;*

Their goal man is Jim Davis

*From Bunninadden town
Who on many well-fought battlefields*

Right nobly won renown'

Bunninadden made their first appearance in the County Championship the previous season. They didn't reach the final that year but the decider between Tubbercurry and Sobey was played in Bunninadden with John O'Dowd as referee.

BUNNINADDEN 1891

Bunninadden's only senior title was won on Sunday, May 3rd, 1891 in Phillip's Field, Collooney, when Bunninadden Emmets defeated Strandhill by 0-5 to 0-2.

In that era football teams were 17 a-side. Most of the training was done by moonlight as there was no time (due to hard work) to do it by day.

At half time every player was given a glass of poitin. Poitin and horse embrocation was used as a rub for injuries also. There was no physio in them times.

Mark Gormley, a member of that team was great grandfather to the present Gormleys. Pat Coen, who hailed from Doocastle,

was great grandfather of Paul Kerins, vice-captain of today's team.

Andrew Doyle was grandfather of Mick Marren, the former Bunninadden player and county player of the 1960's. Paddy Coen, Doocastle, grandson of Pat Coen holds the only surviving medal from that time.

The Team

Andrew Marren (Capt.)

John Gildea

John Wynne

Pat Leonard

Tom Leonard

John Davis

Mick Preston

Ned Healy

Mick Davey

Mick Marren

Farrel Scully,

Charlie Gallagher

Dean Cawley

Pat Coen('Long Pat')

Mark Gormley

Gerry Roddy

John O'Dowd

Tom Keenan

NED Noel Mc Gettrick AUGHRIS.

Andrew Doyle



Andrew Marren (Capt) and John O'Dowd, members of the Bunninadden Emmets team that won S. F. Championship of 1891.

-Picture Courtesy, Sligo GAA Centenary History

A little bit of history--

"One of the relics of old decency".

The Sligo Champion

AL SPECIAL



Paddy Coen, Doocastle, proudly displaying the county championship medal won by his grandfather, "Long" Pat Coen, in 1891

Paddy's unique medal provides historic link with past glories

UNTIL THE conclusion of Sunday's game at least, this is the most famous medal in County Sligo. Paddy Coen from Doocastle proudly displays the medal won by his grandfather, "Long" Pat Coen, as a member of the Bunninadden Emmets team who were crowned county champions 109 years ago.

BY JIM GRAY

The historic medal, the only one remaining from Bunninadden's last championship success in 1891, was actually lost for over thirty years until Paddy uncovered it while digging in his garden about twenty years ago.

"It came out of the ground as a lump of rust, but I wouldn't part with it for all

the money in Sligo", Paddy declared as he looked forward to more county medals coming to the Bunninadden parish this week-end.

"The medal is a family heirloom. My grandfather, who was the local postman, carried it with him everywhere, and it was a sad day when we thought it was lost. Fortunately, I came across it again while digging the garden, and I immediately realised what it was.

"It's always been of precious sentimental value to us, but with Bunninadden back in a county final after such a long time, there's been a lot of public interest in it over the past few weeks", he said.

There is a direct link with the famous medal in the

current Bunninadden team, as defender, Paul Kerins, is a great grandson of the man who won it all those years ago.

"It would be a lovely family double if Paul were to win the first county medal of the new Millennium to place alongside the old medal", says Paddy.

Like all Bunninadden supporters, Paddy is anticipating a glorious end to the story on Sunday.

"If the occasion doesn't get to the lads, I think they can do it", he says. "There's been a lot of hype in the build-up, so the players will be under a bit of pressure, but they've shown in earlier rounds that they can handle it, and, hopefully, they won't be overawed on Sunday", he says.

Bunninadden's key backroom team

A HARD working backroom team and a thriving under-age policy have paved the way for Bunninadden's big breakthrough this year.

While joint-managers, James Kearins and Richard Brennan, and the players fashion the results on the pitch, the people behind the scenes, the unsung heroes of the club, play an equally important role.

People like Chairman,

Chris Marren, Secretary, John O'Flaherty,

Treasurer, Brendan Gallagher, PRO, Wilfred Brennan and County Board delegate, Tony Perry, ensure the smooth running of the club on a week to week basis.

Many of the players on the current senior team are the product of a magnificent under-age structure at the club which has produced two U21 titles with St. Nathy's in

recent years. Paddy Kearins, Sean Anderson and Sean Durcan, who guided the club's U16s to two Championships in the last two years, are among the men actively involved in the under-age section of the club.

Every club needs strong financial back-up to keep the show on the road and in this regard Bunninadden held a very successful fund-raising effort earlier this year. Gerry Perry, Brendan Gallagher, Dermot Gormley, Michael Finn and David Killoran were key figures in the success of this venture.

Another key man in the Bunninadden success story is groundsman, Sean Cunningham, who has the playing pitch in impeccable condition every week.

"It's a real team effort, on and off the pitch", says joint manager, Richard Brennan. "Everybody, from club officials down to the players, has made important contributions to the club and we are fortunate to have a great sponsor in Peter Gallagher".



Bunninadden's Joint Managers, Richard Brennan and James Kearins

Bunninadden's five decade footballer

ONE OF Bunninadden's legendary servants is Pat Hunt, who could be described as the club's five decade footballer.

Pat represented Bunninadden with distinction in the 1940s, 1950s, 1960s, 1970s and 1980s and also featured regularly on the Sligo senior team in the 1960s.

One of his best displays in the county jersey came in the Connacht Championship in 1960 when he played at midfield on the Sligo team which gave the reigning Connacht champions and defeated All-Ireland finalists of the previous year, Galway, a great run for their money in Tuam. Galway emerged with a hard-earned 1-8 to 1-3 but Hunt was one of the stars of the match.

On the club scene, Pat won county junior titles with Bunninadden in 1953, 1963, 1973 and 1979.

He is regarded as one of the greatest ever players to don the famous green and white colours of Bunninadden and is an ardent fan of the team to this day.

His contribution to the club was recognised when he was honoured with the Club's Person of the Century award at the GAA Millennium Banquet last year.

Richard and James....

*We musn't Disappoint
you!*

Don't forget

Pat Hunt...



COUNTY FINAL SPECIAL

The Sligo Champion

LEO GRAY
PREVIEWS THE BIG MATCH



BUNNINADDEN, COUNTY FINALISTS 2000. Back Row (l/r): Kieran Brett, Stephen Roddy, Emmett Gilhooley, Mark Gormley, Shane Gormley, Padraic Doohan, Mick Finn. Front Row (l/r): John O'Flaherty, Francie O'Dowd, Paul Kearins, Fergal O'Flaherty, Aidan Killoran, Willie Gormley, Derek Gormley, Liam Og Gormley.

COOLERA'S
LAST TITLE
1907

BUNNINADDEN'S
LAST TITLE
1891



COOLERA, COUNTY SENIOR FINALISTS 2000. Back Row (l/r): John McPartland, Kieran Quinn, Stephen Carty, Aidan Carty, Barry Doyle, Tony Watters, Terry Mahon. Front row (l/r): Gavin Foley, Karl Gilligan, Neil Carew, Paul Hegarty, Shane O'Neill (captain), Tommy Cronin, Karl O'Neill, Liam Healy.

From the mists of history for a date with destiny

A PAIRING fashioned by the mists of history promises to produce a match of vintage quality as Bunninadden and Coolera battle it out for the right to become the first senior Champions of the Millennium at Markievicz Park on Sunday next. (throw-in 4pm).

Bunninadden last won the coveted title way back in 1891 while Coolera are seeking their first senior championship crown since 1907. The last time any of these teams appeared in a senior final was 1946 when Coolera lost to Tubbercurry.

An added touch of nostalgia comes in the fact that when Bunninadden won their only senior title one hundred and nine years ago, the opposition was provided by Strandhill.

All of this will hardly be of much relevance to the respective managers as they prepare their teams for what promises to be an emotional and passionate occasion yet there is no escaping the echoes of the past in the build-up to Sunday's final.

Interest

Rarely has a county final evoked such interest and there is every reason to expect that, for once, the occasion will match the hype.

Neither Bunninadden nor Coolera were regarded as genuine contenders for the

ultimate prize when the competition got under way in August but both have reached the final on merit and have the capacity to produce a memorable contest.

As the respective managers, James Kearins and Richard Brennan of Bunninadden, and Declan McCabe of Coolera, have been at pains to point out during the week, neither side contain outstanding star players but possess a healthy work ethic combined with efficiency and energy. Team work is the key in both squads.

The sides have met on three occasions already this season. One game ended all square and Coolera won the other two, most notably an earlier Championship meeting when the North Sligo side had three points to spare, 0-9 to 0-6.

Motivated

It was Coolera's first outing in the Championship and they were probably more highly motivated on the day than Bunninadden who already had one win under their belts and were well on the way to qualification for the quarter-finals.

There was little between the teams for much of the match but a late scoring burst by Coolera proved decisive.

It could be argued that the result gives Coolera an important psychological advantage for the final but the manner in which Bunninadden bounced back from that defeat suggests that they have got the setback well and truly out of their system.

The South Sligo club produced one of their best displays of the season when

accounting for Easkey in the quarter-finals and then went out to fashion a memorable win over St. Mary's in the semi-finals.

Energy

They trailed the Sligo town club by seven points early in the second half but dug deep into their reserves of character and energy to pull off a dramatic victory.

If the performance against Easkey underlined the quality of the team, the win over St. Mary's reflected the never-say-die attitude of the players, a quality which will be vital on Sunday.

Coolera's march to the final has been no less impressive. They toppled last year's Champions, Toulestrane, in impressive style, in the quarter-finals before

accounting for title favourites, Eastern Harps, in the semi-final.

Like Bunninadden, Coolera had to pull out all the stops to claim a place in the final. After drawing with Harps in the first instalment of the semi-final, there were many who believed they had lost their chance. However, the team came up trumps in a low-scoring replay to chisel out a deserved win.

Desire

It wasn't a free-flowing display by Coolera but there was much to admire about the way they set about their task and the hunger and desire of the side was clearly evident.

Neither of the two finalists are prolific in front of goal and depend to a large extent on frees for their scores.

Fergal O'Flaherty and Aidan Killoran are the top marksmen for Bunninadden while John McPartland and Karl Gilligan are the chief scorers for Coolera.

Around midfield, the teams would appear to be evenly matched. Fergal O'Flaherty and Padraig Doohan form a very solid partnership in this area for Bunninadden while Coolera are more flexible, using any two from Kieran Quinn, Stephen Carty and Terry McMahon in midfield, and sometimes all three. They tend to alter their formation during the course of matches and a feature of their best displays this season has been that their level of performance improved when Carty moved to midfield.

Both sides are particularly strong in defence, which

serves to add weight to the suspicion that we could be in for a low scoring final.

Whatever about the regularity of the scoring, there will be no lack of intensity and it should be an intriguing confrontation between two evenly matched sides.

With no major injury worries from either camp, both teams will be at full strength.

No injury worries

Bunninadden full-back, Francie O'Dowd, sustained a knee injury in the semi-final win over St. Mary's but is expected to be fit enough to start on Sunday.

Coolera's only doubt surrounds the availability of resourceful defender, James Joyce. He emigrated to America two weeks ago but

the club are hoping will be able to make arrangements to return for the final.

Predictably, both teams are approaching the final in an upbeat mood.

"There's a terrific atmosphere in the locality and everybody is looking forward to a wonderful occasion. Having come so far, it would be great to complete the journey by winning the Championship for the first time in one hundred and nine years", said Bunninadden joint manager, James Kearins. In Coolera, manager, Declan McCabe, is equally optimistic.

"We know we need to play well all over the pitch for the entire match but if we hit our best form we'll be in with a great chance", he says.

Novel County Final in prospect

THE STAGE is now set for the eagerly awaited first county final of the new Millennium which will feature two teams who last met in a final over one hundred years ago in 1891.

Both clubs were founded in 1886, two years after the G.A.A. was founded. Bunninadden Emmets won their only title in 1891. Ironically, they defeated Strandhill in the final. Strandhill, by this time renamed Knocknarea or the 'Knocks' won an 'unofficial' county title in 1893 but it isn't recognised. As there were no official competitions in the county between 1893 and 1904 some clubs remained active by playing challenge and tournament games. Ballymote Round Towers, who had won the title in 1892, were most anxious to defend their crown against any challengers in an unofficial championship for a set of medals. The 'Knocks' challenged them to a contest and the offer was readily accepted.

The game was played in Collooney on March 3rd, 1894 and Knocknarea were leading by 0-3 to 0-2 when the game was abandoned

seven minutes from the end because of failing light. The teams met at the same venue on 8th April. Although the game commenced at 4p.m., for reasons unexplained, it did not conclude until 6.30p.m. at which stage the 'Knocks' were in front again by 1-1 to 0-1. They declared themselves the unofficial champions of the county. That title is not recorded in the records of Sligo football, so, like their opponents on Sunday next, Coolera have to settle for one title which they won in 1907.

Sports editor, Leo Gray has prepared a comprehensive preview of the big game. The interest this final has generated shows how much getting to a county final means to a parish and a community. Many neutrals feel that it is a pity that two 'new' teams should be in the final. It is a pity that there should be a loser. Most people would be delighted with either a Bunninadden or Coolera win. But there can be only one winner. Unless, of course, the game ends in a draw which wouldn't surprise me.

I have had a long and happy association with the Coolera Club. I saw players

like Shane O'Neill, James Joyce, Stephen Carty, Karl Gilligan, Liam Healy, and many more of the present panel come up through the ranks of under-age football. I know how much a senior championship would mean to them. I also know that it would mean a lot to Bunninadden. I will be diplomatic and wish both teams the best of luck on Sunday. I hope it will be a great game and a fitting showpiece for Sligo football. One thing is certain, there will be great excitement after the final whistle when either Fergal O'Flaherty or Shane O'Neill lift the Owen B. Hunt Cup.

All-Ireland Final.

I didn't get to the All-Ireland final on Sunday last. I thoroughly enjoyed the television coverage, particularly the second half of a great game. It was a strange final in many ways. I sat and wondered what was happening to Galway in the first twenty minutes. They were destroyed at midfield where Kerry were winning almost every ball and were picking up the breaks. The Kerry forwards were finding



GAA DIGEST

by the County Board PRO

gaps in the Galway defence that weren't exploited so far this year. The Galway full back line in particular was under fierce pressure and Martin McNamara behind them didn't inspire confidence. I had felt all year that Ray Silke would be 'roasted' before the end of the championship and certainly on Sunday, Mike Frank Russell exploited his lack of pace in a big way. The Kerry forwards cut lanes through the Galway defence and as they piled on the points I wondered where the Galway hunger and flair had gone. Nothing seemed to be going right for the Tribesmen. When the score stood at 0-8 to 0-1, I felt that it was like the Galway v Sligo game in reverse. This time Galway were at the receiving end. If Kerry had got another score at that stage it would be hard for Galway to come back.

Then John O'Mahony produced his trump card, Kevin Walsh. The big garda won the first ball and Galway hearts lifted. Padraig Joyce was now operating on the 'forty and the tide' began to flow in the other direction. Amazingly, the Kerry midfield pair seemed to disappear and Galway began to gain control. Ironically, Galway could have won the game in the end. Three or four good chances were landed on Declan O'Keefe's chest and Derek Savage could have made more of a good chance when Padraig Joyce was running ahead of him for a pass. Instead, Savage kicked with his weaker right foot and the Kerry goalkeeper gratefully accepted the pass.

Kerry people will argue that they should have won. It would be hard to imagine a Kerry team of the 1970's and '80's losing a seven point

lead. This has been the pattern of Kerry's play all year. They start as if they are in a hurry to get the game over and then, for some reason, their form drops and they let their opponents back into the game. It happened against Cork, against Clare and against Armagh.

I had a strange feeling coming up to the game that it would be a draw. In the end of the day, a draw was probably a fair result. It will be hard for both teams to lift themselves again for the replay but it should be a great game again. I doubt if Kerry will race into a seven point lead next time round. I think Galway are now in the driving seat and I think they will just about do it the next time. It wouldn't surprise me though if it goes to extra time.

Ladies Gaelic

Football.

CloonaCool juniors who won the county championship will play either the Galway or Mayo champions in the Connacht club championship on Sunday two weeks, 15th October. If their opponents are the Mayo champions the game will be at home but they will have to travel to play the Galway champions.

Roscommon Final.

The Roscommon county final will be played on Sunday. Like Sligo, a new team features that hasn't appeared in a county final in ages. Kilbride, which is the area around Four-Mile-House, were a force at the beginning of the century and won three titles in a row from 1907 to 1909. They won their last county title in 1914. It must be over sixty years since they last contested a final. Ironically, they wear the exact same jerseys as Bunninadden, green and white. They have fine players in the Lohan brothers, Eddie, Stephen and Gerry as well as minor star, Seamus O'Neill. They hammered Clan na nGael in a

second replayed semi-final by 3-13 to 1-9. Their opponents, St. Brigid's (Kiltom) last won the championship in 1997 when John O'Mahony was their manager. Their best known player is Frankie Dolan.

Mention of Roscommon football, I hear that former Galway star, John Tobin has just been appointed manager of the senior team. Many names were mentioned including Val Daly, Matt Kerrigan, Tommy Lyons and inevitably, Martin McHugh. Tobin will have his work cut out but he has had a good track record in colleges' football.

Ladies' Final.

The Ladies' All-Ireland final will be played on Sunday next between champions, Mayo and Waterford. Mayo had a surprise win last year over the more experienced Decies girls, but they will find it more difficult this year. Waterford seem to be really up for this final and will be anxious to avenge last year's defeat. It should be a great final. Certainly, if Cora Staunton is in the same

shooting form as he displayed in the semi-final, the Waterford backs will have a busy afternoon.

County Final Programme

It is early on Tuesday morning as I write this. I have to tie up the loose end of the county final programme. I would like once again to record my very grateful thanks to the officials of both Bunninadden and Coolera/Strandhill for all their help and co-operation. Both P.R.O.'s, Wilfred Brennan of Bunninadden and John McTernan, Coolera, have been absolutely brilliant and it was a pleasure working with them. Thanks also to the officials of St. Mary's and Ballisodare who play in the junior final as a curtain raiser to the senior decider.

By the time you read this the programme will be with the printers, much to my relief. I opted for a sixty four page programme this year but I am sorry that I didn't go for seventy two pages. I hope it turns out alright.