

Football **U** UNDER-12 A FINAL

Lucky 13 for Wolfe Tones

Wolfe Tones 3-6
St Breckan's/Ballyvaughan 0-2
@ Páirc Naomh Mhuire, Quilty

WOLFE Tones confirmed their status as the rising force in Bord na nÓg Peil thanks to this facile win over the north Clare amalgamation made up of St Breckan's and Ballyvaughan.

The foundations for this 13-point win were laid in the first half as they stormed away to a 2-2 to 0-1 interval lead. Both goals were scored by full-

forward Ian Collins who topped the scoring charts over the hour with a hugely impressive tally of 3-1.

However, Collins was just one of a number of Tones players to shine on the night. John Howe distinguished himself in goal, while Shane Mullaney and Daragh McMahon starred in the backs; Ross O'Connor and Eoghan Gough dominated the midfield exchanges while Aaron Shanagher was another star turn in the attack.

Wolfe Tones

John Howe, Kevin Justice, Shane Mullaney, James Stade, Darragh McMahon, Daniel Clare, Michael Hayes, Ross O'Connor (0-2), Eoghan Gough, Jack Cunningham (0-1), Aaron Shanagher (Capt), Jack Lynch (0-1), Evan O'Gorman (0-1), Ian Collins (3-1), Aaron Rudd. **Subs** Gary Cusack, Sam Legge, Brian O'Connor, Dean Devanney, Brian Conway, Eoghan Maxwell.

Player of the Game

Ian Collins (Wolfe Tones)

Match Official

Michael Rock (Ennistymon)



Football **U** UNDER-16 DIVISION TWO FINAL

Clondegad cruise to title

Clondegad 3-16
Ennistymon 0-06
@ Cooraclare

Eoin Brennan

CLONDEGAD just proved too strong for Ennistymon last Tuesday to claim the Under 16 Division 2 title in emphatic style. It was cruel on Ennistymon who suffered their second successive final defeat at this grade after going down to Lissycasey last year but as Clondegad captain Conor Gavin stressed in his acceptance speech, Clondegad could empathise with Ennistymon as they had lost the Under 14 equivalent two years previous to Kilmihil themselves after pulling back a ten point half-time deficit.

There was no major comeback here though as the powerful three-way

partnership of midfielder Gearóid O'Connell, centre-forward Eoin Donnellan and the roving Tony Kelly ensured that Clondegad never allowed a shred of complacency to enter their mindset.

They were 1-10 to 0-02 ahead at the break, with Niall Deasy grabbing the goal after 27 minutes when he flicked on Tony Kelly's pass to the net. Ennistymon will point to a luckless half in which Ryan O'Halloran thundered a shot off the post as well as having a goal disallowed for a square ball.

That decision was magnified when Eoin Donnellan scored a similar goal in the 42nd minute to push Clondegad 2-12 to 0-5 clear and they grabbed a third goal only four minutes later when Eoin Glynn's shot was excellently saved by goalkeeper Liam Slattery and Tony Kelly kicked the rebound to the net. Ennistymon

had no luck in the Division 2 Under 12 final either, going down to 3-9 to 1-1 to An Boithrin from Ennis.

Clondegad Darren Cleary, David Brassill, Kevin Donnelly, Kieran McCarthy, Conor McNelis, Conor Gavin (Capt), Shane Harkin, Gearóid O'Connell (0-3), Joe Neylon (0-1), Stephen Enright (0-1), Eoin Donnellan (1-2), Kieran Moore (0-1), Eoin Glynn (0-1 1f), Niall Deasy (1-1), Tony Kelly (1-6 2f) Stephen Long for Moore, Niall Gavin for Glynn, Tadhg Lynch for Enright, Darragh Crowe for Deasy

Ennistymon Liam Slattery, Brian Davies, Michael Lee, Ryan Doyle, Thomas Kinch, Enda Ralph, Declan Sexton, Oisín Vaughan, Claran Devitt (0-4 3f), Kevin Falvey, Ryan O'Halloran, Cathal McConghley (0-1 1f), Paddy Healy, Joey Rouine (0-1), Eoin Davis Subs Kevin Hehir for Healy, Criostóir McCaw for Davis, Cathal McDonagh for Rouine (Inj), Liam Hogan for Falvey, James Keane for Davies

Player of the Game

Tony Kelly (Clondegad)

Match Official Michael Howe

From the Ditch

with Joe Ó Muirheartaigh

'Bridge lower their blade over fixtures

IT seems that down on the banks of the O'Garney River the hurlers on the ditch, and out on the field for that matter, are far from happy with the brains trust that are those denizens of the Clare GAA Fixtures Committee. Indeed, you could go so far as to say that hurling aficionados there have little faith in the said Fixtures Committee. Proof of this fact was posted up on www.sixmilebridgegaa.com after the weekend action that saw a calamitous series of events where the 'Bridge and appointed referees were concerned. "The 'Bridge Seniors travelled to Gurteen on Saturday morning for a 12 noon throw in," notes the website. "The game was down to be refereed by Johnny Healy but no referee turned up and calls were made, with Ger Lyons answering the call and getting proceedings underway at 12.50. It turned out Johnny Healy was on holidays and had informed the county board of his unavailability earlier in the week," the website adds.

The 'Bridge blast doesn't end there though: "One can forgive a single mistake but when the exact same thing happens on Sunday morning to the intermediates you have to wonder what is going on with the county board and the fixtures committee," says the website as it lowers its blade still further. "The 'Bridge Intermediates turned up in Scariff on Sunday for their Cup game against the home side which had a 1pm throw in. Johnny Healy had been originally pencilled in to ref the game but as explained above was unavailable. No referee turned up and so the game was called off and rescheduled for tonight (Monday)."

At the time of going to press the result of that game wasn't yet in, but at least the 'Bridge were preparing for the worst beforehand by sending an SOS out to everyone in their catchment area who knows how to blow a whistle. "All referees around East Clare keep your phones on tonight in case you get a call to ref a game in Scariff around 8pm."

Top honour for Clare hurler?

The Sunday Game this coming Sunday which will feature a Munster Hurling Final Special that could turn out to be a real Clare affair. To start with it will be presented by Dessie Cahill, who is the son of a Corofin man. One of his studio guests will be hurling's premier analyst Ger Loughnane, while Marty Morrissey will be in Hayes' Hotel providing a live link up to the show. However, the icing on Clare's cake will come if a Clareman gets the gong as top Munster hurler over the past 25 years. There has to be a number of Clare candidates for the job – Anthony Daly as the only Munster man in that period to captain two All-Ireland winning teams; Brian Lohan who marked himself down as one of the greatest full-backs in the history of the game; ditto Seanie McMahon who is one of the greatest ever to wear the number six jersey; Jamesie O'Connor, who along with Brian Lohan is the only Clare player with four All Stars. Who knows, the honour could also go to Loughnane – he might not have hurled on the field since his final championship outing for Clare in 1988, but off the field he did more to change the course of hurling history than anyone else by masterminding Clare's All-Ireland wins in 1995 and '97. And, picking Loughnane wouldn't be an unprecedented move – after all the greatest manager of them all, Kevin Heffernan, was named Texaco Footballer of the Year in 1974. Heffo didn't kick a ball that year, but his Dubs certainly did.

Below: Brian Lohan, Seanie McMahon, Ger Loughnane and Jamesie O'Connor



Clare's diaspora reach Croke Park

CLARE'S chances of making it to Croke Park in 2009 will all be down to how they fare against the Tribesmen on Saturday week in Cusack Park, but even if that result goes the wrong way, Clare players will grace headquarters later in the summer. It's all thanks to Clare's hurling diaspora who were in action at the weekend. Ogonnelloe's Henry Vaughan was London's star turn as they booked their place in the Nicky Rackard Cup final. Vaughan lined out at right-corner-forward in the Exiles' 1-19 to 2-8 win over Fingal. Vaughan bagged an impressive 1-5, while his Ogonnelloe clubmate Kieran Forde chipped in with a point from midfield. Vaughan's goal four minutes into the second half was the catalyst for the Exiles' comfortable win. Vaughan and Forde are following an Ogonnelloe tradition where the Nicky Rackard Cup is concerned. Brian Forde was on the London team that beat Louth in the 2005 final in Croke Park. Meanwhile, Diarmuid Williams from St Joseph's Doora-Barefield who works as a journalist for *The Longford News* was in action for Longford against Tyrone in the Lory Meagher Cup semi-final on Saturday. A final date with Donegal in Croke Park was up for grabs, but the tie went the way of the Red Hand County who scored a 3-16 to 4-9 victory.