

The South County Swing

BY BRENDAN BOYLAN

I read a piece some time back penned by a well known local columnist referring to the way, where rivalries are concerned, that one team can enjoy spells of dominance over the other. Meath and Dublin, Kerry and Dublin and Cork and Kerry would be three that immediately spring to mind, but the same principal can also be applied to the current trend in Meath club football.

Back in the fifties, Skryne and Dunboyne had many battles, unfortunately from our perspective, the Tara men usually came out on top.

They were the dominant side of the era as county titles were brought back to Fr. McManus Park by teams, which were backboned by our own Brian Smyth and Michael and Paddy O'Brien. Indeed, famously, one such titled was garnered in the Board after Skryne were awarded following Martin Quinn's refusal to leave the field having been dismissed.

"Big Martin" and the rest of the Mighty Quinn's had a major say in where the Keegan Cup went for much of '60's as our neighbours Kilbride established themselves as the team to beat, capturing the spoils three times close to the end of the decade.

The successes of the seventies were divided, to an extent, between Walterstown and Summerhill. The 'Hill went on to tackle the then mighty St Vincent's of Dublin in a provincial decider and were rather unfortunate not to take the silverware.

However, the Royal County didn't have to wait long to capture Leinster honours as the men of Walterstown made Meath club football their own, capturing three titles in the 1980's and got a provincial as well.

That period signalled an upturn in fortunes for the north of the county as a star studded Navan O'Mahony's outfit put four titles back to back at the end of the eighties and beginning of the nineties, with Gael Colmcille also getting in on the act in 1991.

Towards the end of the last century there was a definite south county swing with regard to where the titles went.

We will never forget October 11th, 1998 as Enda McManus lifted the Keegan for us and since then Skryne and Dunshaughlin have kept the flag flying for this end of the county.

Before a ball was kicked in the quarter finals this weekend, Skryne, Blackhall Gaels, Dunboyne and Dunshaughlin remained in contention for outright honours, so this area looks like being the home of Meath football for a while yet!

Read all Brendan's reports at www.dunboynegaa.com

BAD DAY AT THE OFFICE!

Unless there's a draw, either Eamonn Barry or Mark Crampton are going to have to endure a bad day at the office tomorrow as they are both work colleagues in the Gardai!

Senior Football Championship

Quarter Finals

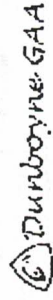
Dunshaughlin

v

Blackhall Gaels

1st September 2002
@ Dunboyne

Referee: Seamus McCormack
(Walterstown)



Dunshaughlin

(1)	Ronan Gogan	(4)	Ciaran Byrne
(2)	Fergal Gogan	(5)	Ronnie Yore
(3)	Ken McTighe	(6)	Aidan Kealy (Capt.)
(7)		(8)	Dermot Kealy
(8)		(9)	Niall Kelly
(9)		(10)	Martin Reilly
(10)		(11)	Michael McHale
(11)		(12)	A.N Other
(12)		(13)	Richie Kealy
(13)		(14)	Ray Maloney
(14)		(15)	Trevor Dowd

SUBS: (16) Chris Carey, (17) Stephen Claire, (18) Graham Dowd, (19) Kevin Kealy, (20) Brendan Kealy, (21) Shane Kelly, (22) Kevin Moyles, (23) John Crimmins (24) Declan O'Dwyer, (25) Damien Burke, (26) Keith Mangan.

Selectors: Eamonn Barry (coach), TP Toolan, Brendan Kealy

Previous Meetings

Dunshaughlin and Blackhall Gaels have crossed paths quite a bit in recent years, with varying results.

In 1997, a late Tiernan O'Rourke goal saw Dunshaughlin through to an ultimately successful IFC final appearance against a Duleek side that were, incidentally, trained by Eamonn Barry.

In 2000, Dunshaughlin again came across the Batterstown/Kilcloon brigade on an ultimately successful title hunt when convincingly outpointing them, 0-21 to 0-07 at Skryne in the first round of the SFC.

It's not all doom and gloom for Blackhall though, a Mark Crampton inspired display did see them emerge victorious on a 1-10 to 1-07 score in last year's Feis Cup clash, which, co-incidentally was played in Dunboyne.

Semi-final Pairings

The semi-final pairings are as follows.

Blackhall Gaels / Dunshaughlin

V

Skryne / Seneschalstown

and

Trim / Walterstown

V

Dunboyne / Simonstown

For all the news from Blackhall Gaels, log on to www.blackhallgaels.com

Blackhall Gaels

(1)	John O'Brien	(4)	Andrew Dalton
(2)	Thomas Dalton	(5)	Barry Moyles
(3)	Owen Creevey	(6)	Nigel Nestor
(7)		(8)	Mark Ferris
(8)		(9)	Anthony Moyles
(9)		(10)	Barry McKeown
(10)		(11)	Tadhg Brosnan
(11)		(12)	John Callanan
(12)		(13)	Tony Regan
(13)		(14)	Paul Nestor
(14)		(15)	Mark Crampton

SUBS: (16) Paul McNulty, (17) Martin Wheelan, (18) John Fitzgerald, (19) David Barker, (20) Stephen McGovern, (21) Liam O'Doherty, (22) John Joyce, (23) Kevin Maye

Selectors: Leo Turley (Coach), Kevin Nestor & Niall Brosnan

Congratulations to the Meath Minor footballers and hurlers on their respective qualification's for an All Ireland Final and in particular to our local heroes, Tommy O'Connor, Johnny O'Connor and Barry Comer and to Caoimhin King of St Martin's. Tommy and Caoimhin are in with a unique chance of doing an All Ireland double, being part of both squads, while John Crimmins, a sub on the Dunshaughlin panel today, is a key member of the hurling team.

Today's Other Fixtures

If you want to go to other matches around the county, here is a list of all this evening matches

Skryne: Dunboyne v Simonstown, SFC Quarter final - 6.45

Skryne: Dunboyne v Dunsany, JFC Quarter final - 5.30

Kilmessan: Dunderry v Skryne, JFC - 6.45

Kilberry: Nobber v Navan O'Makonys, JFC - 6.45

Duleek: St. Pat's v Seneschalstown, Junior B - 6.45

For all the news from Dunshaughlin GFC, log on to www.dunshaughlingfc.com