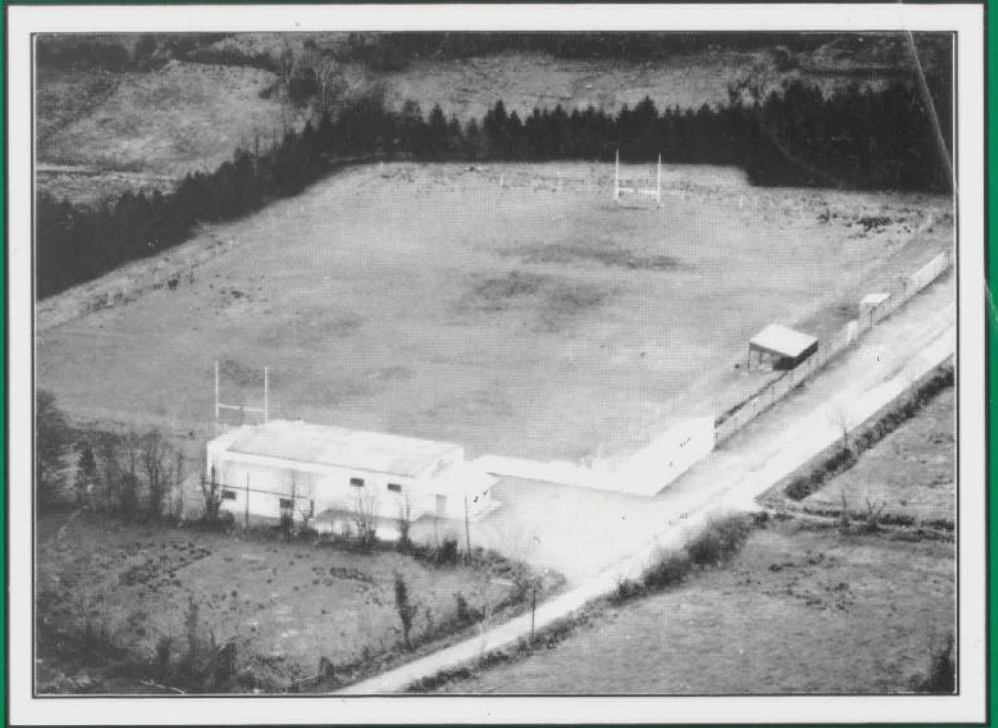


The
Gortletteragh
GAA Story
1889 - 1991



SCÉAL GORTLEITREACH



... Plus An
Assorted
History of
The Parish

Fearglass Victory Song

A famous game in the late 1930's, played in Hubert Reynolds' moor in Fearglass, between Tooman and Fearglass inspired a local poet, Frank Reilly of Dereen, to compose a song about the victorious Fearglass team. This game was referred by Jim Hannify of Drumlish, who was the postman in the upper end of the parish for many years.

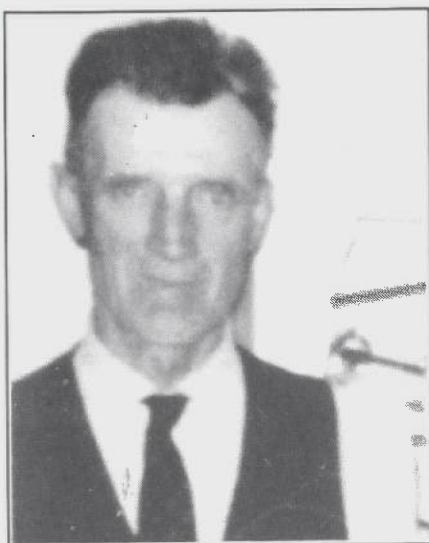
1.
Did you hear of this great football team, that started out of late?
They were out to win the silver cup, donated by the State.
John Bohan he is captain, an all round gentleman.
To place his men in humour, he'll do the best he can.

2.
John McManus he is the goalkeeper, and he has to be physically fit,
To keep the ball a rolling away from his own net.
The four Carleton Brothers were a credit on the field,
They were never known to flinch and certainly not to yield.

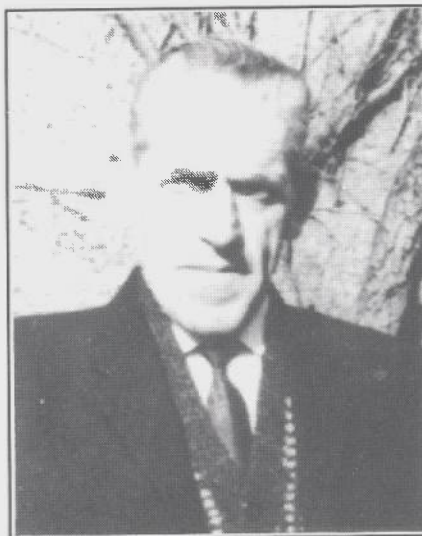
3.
Big John Clarke he had the spark, he's the boy could play the ball,
Because in the rush he had the push, and could take it off them all.
Joe O'Neill he never failed, he's the boy could make it go.
Along with Conefrey and Booth, the brave John Willie Donohoe.

4.
Jimmy Reilly from the Longford border, was appointed for to score,
But he seldom ever was at his best, we think he should have done more.
Pee Leslie was a tower of strength, and Francie Reilly played with pride.
As they outplayed the opposition, who fell like grass before a scythe.

5.
They have two subs appointed now, wherever they may go,
One of them is Bartley Bruen, and the other is Patrick Rowan
So here's to you John Bohan, and your gallant Fearglass boys.
Three time ye have beaten Tooman now, ye fill our hearts with joy.



JOE O'NEILL, GUBADORISH - he never failed, he's the boy could make it go.



JOHN P. CLARKE, FOROSA - he could take it off them all.



The brave JOHN WILLIE DONOHOE of Fearglass

THIS PAGE IS SPONSORED BY:
OLIVER & EILEEN DOONAN, FENAGH, G.A.A.

The three sets of medals were presented the following spring in the social centre by the great Kerry trainer Mick O'Dwyer.

SENIOR VICTORY SONG 1981

1. Many clubs how they boast of their victories, and the titles they have won down the years.
Now Gortletteragh has won their third title, after losing in three in a row.
'81 all came right in the final, for the boys in the green and the gold
For they brought back the cup to Gortletteragh, where it had been just eleven years before.
And now we honour our heroes, and we welcome the cup back once more
We will give them some praise for their efforts, I'm sure there are some of them sore.
2. In the goals is Mick Dorrigan from Tooman, and he claims he owns the small square
He commands like a Sergeant Major, and he drills his backs from the rear.
Number two is Phil Higgins from Cattan, a man with an old fashioned style
As he drives his kick outs to mid field, Oh they hang in the air for a while.
Jack Colreavy centre half for a decade, just this year he moved in centre full
And his blocking and stopping and kicking make Gortletteragh supporters go wild.
Gerry Moore is now in the corner, and he shines like a light in the dark
For there isn't a forward in Leitrim that is trouble for Gerry to mark.
Our half backs how they lorded the hour, with Pat Flynn supreme all the way.
On his left Paddy O'Neill is so speedy, he led his great team on the day.
On the right is Joe Dorrigan from Tooman, how he keeps his man always at bay
For he'd follow a forward to Fenagh, and be still there to watch for a stray.
3. Centrefield is the stronghold of power, where Ciaran Fallon and Mick Flynn held sway
It would do your heart good to watch them, pull the ball from the clouds in the fray.
On the forty Jimmy Ward is a hero, he plays with the air of a champ
As he strides past the backs with a vengeance and he lays the ball on to his flanks.
On the left is top scorer Shane Heslin, he got three vital points on the day
And his solo runs always caused panic, and left Fenagh half back all astray.
On the right James Flynn, he's a flyer he knows all the great skills of the game
And he scored two great points when needed, to bring home the old cup once again.
Paddy Reilly, Frank and Sylvester were the full forward line on that day
How they gave of their best for the hour, and took the chances when they came their way.
4. Oh the game it was keenly contested, and Fenagh fought

hard all the way
But the subs that went in for Gortletteragh, made victory their way on the day.
Albert Clarke was fielding superbly, and he turned this big game right around.
Paddy Kane went in for the finish, and scored a point and him half spun around.
Sean Sorohan defended so bravely, he was ready and raring to go
To help out his team mates when needed, and leave the Fenagh boy low.
So Gortletteragh have broken the hoo-doo, it was fourth time lucky they say
We are now in the eighties for glory, and the best team in Leitrim today.

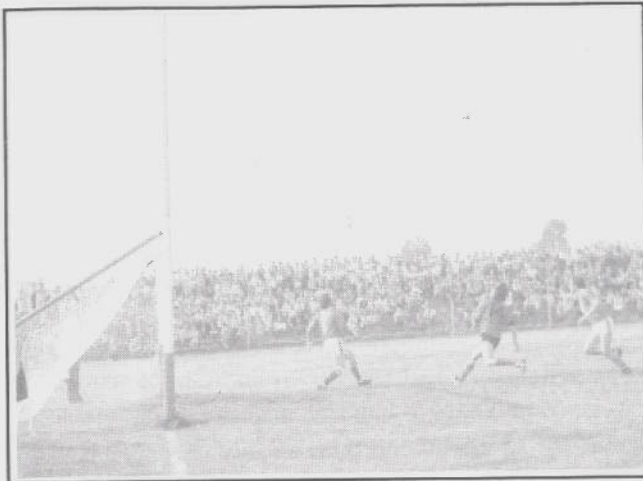
Composed by: Michael McGarry.

JUNIOR VICTORY SONG 1981

1. In the month of November, on a cold stormy day
The junior decider, Gortletteragh did play.
Aughawillan were champions, and favourites likewise.
Thought they just had to go out, to pick up their prize
But they reckoned without Gortletteragh's commitment and pride.
And at the end of the hour, were a well beaten side.
So let's ring out their praises, as we sing out each name
And we say a well done to sub keeper Mick Keane.
Charlie Shanley was injured on semi final day
He went down in the goalmouth on a rasper he saved.
His leg it was broken, but he passed out the ball
Only for that, would we see a final at all.
2. Willie Reilly at right full with his kickout so grand
Beyond centre field each one it did land.
Huby at left full, no man did he fear.
With left foot and right his lines he did clear
Mick McGarry at full back, so safe and so sound.
When the pressure was strongest, he still stood his ground
The Dorrigans were wing backs in this vital game.
Gerry was brilliant and Albert the same.
Big Raymond Campbell was a pillar of strength
And he cleared every ball with great height and great length.
Sean McGrath was our Captain on this vital day
With great help from Quinn at midfield, they held sway
The Aughawillan midfielders were a much vaunted pair.
But with Seanie and Peter they couldn't compare.
Sean Clarke on the forty, was well to the fore
And finished the game with a penalty score.
With Reynolds so speedy and Woods like a rock
The Aughawillan half backs got a terrible shock.
They tried every tactic and trick that they knew
But they hadn't a look in with Mel, Sean and Joe.
3. For right full Colreavy the future looks bright
When faced with an option, Sean always choose right.
Kevin Masterson at full forward, with strength and with guile
And his shooting so accurate in old Keaveney style
Noel Reynolds fought hard for what he could get
And finished a ball to the back of the net.
Mick Masterson our sub was a bundle of tricks
As he baffled his man with his dummies and kicks.
To the rest of the subs we must now salute
For their part in this victory we cannot dispute.
They were fit and they were eager to step in the side
If we needed a fresh man to help turn the tide.

4.
So cheers to you Pat Clarke our chairman so true
You had your reward when the last whistle blew.
We are champions of junior and senior champs too
What a year for Gortletteragh, roll on eighty two.

Composed by: Sean Clarke.



Mick Dorrigan and Jack Colreavy close in on the Fenagh full forward in the 1981 County Final.

back P. Flynn was deemed to have fouled F. Heavey and S. O'Heslins pointed the free and so we had to settle for a draw 1 - 9 each after being clearly the better side. We certainly hadn't surrendered our title easily. It was one of those days when a couple of the referee's decisions didn't go our way but some days they do, others they don't and its history now so let's forget about it. For the replay we had junior full forward K. Masterson in from the start but he, like all the rest of the team, didn't play anyway near as well as in the drawn match and indeed our mid field barely broke even this time and Ballinamore, despite not scoring in the second half, held on to win 2 - 3 to 0 - 7 and so we had only one championship to show from 5 finals - not a great record but the statistics were to improve before the end of the decade.

Line out in that replay was:

| | | |
|--------------|--------------|---------------------|
| | M. Dorrigan | |
| P. Higgins | P. Flynn | G. Moore |
| Sean Sorohan | P. O'Neill | J. Dorrigan (Capt.) |
| | J. Ward | A. Clarke |
| | (0 - 1) | |
| S. Flynn | M. Flynn | J. Flynn |
| (0 - 5) | | (0 - 1) |
| F. Flynn | K. Masterson | P. Kane |

Subs.: S. McGrath for G. Moore; G. Dorrigan for K. Masterson; W. Reilly for J. Dorrigan

1982

JUNIOR DOUBLE

Officers elected were:

Chairman: P. Clarke
Secretary: J. Keenan
Treasurer: R. Campbell
Senior Captain: J. Dorrigan

Senior Selectors: M. McGarry, P. Flynn and C. Shanley.

The club had a new secretary and two new selectors. The seniors had a good run in the league which was now on a double round system, collecting 11 points out of a possible 20 but not enough to qualify for the final. In the championship victories over Mohill and Cloone in rounds 1 and 2 took us into the semi-final against Carrigallen where we won easily enough by 5 points and so to the county final for the fifth year in a row and our opponents were Sean O'Heslins. We got off to a glorious start in that final with a F. Flynn goal after a mix up in the opposition defence and with the wind to our back we were ahead at the interval by 3 or 4 points but hardly sufficient for the amount of play we had plus the wind factor. The team was readjusted at half time with the half back line now reading: J. Dorrigan, P. O'Neill and S. Sorohan and Kevin Masterson was introduced up front. The rearranged defence gave a masterful display in the 2nd half against the wind and rain, repelling attack after attack as did the mid field pairing of A. Clarke and J. Ward. Ballinamore gradually whittled down the score and drew level but not to be outdone S. Flynn pointed a 40 yards free (one of the few we seemed to get that day) to put us back in front but on the stroke of time our full



The drawn County finalists 1982. Back row: F. Flynn, P. Kane, P. Higgins, A. Clarke, S. McGrath, M. Flynn, J. Ward, S. Flynn. Front row: S Sorohan, P. Flynn, G. Moore, J. Dorrigan (Capt.), P. O'Neill, M. Dorrigan, J. Flynn

The Juniors went one better than last year and won both the league and championship double with a great team captained by Kevin Masterson who around those years was a law onto himself in junior and always got a bag of scores. They beat Aughawillin in the league final in Cloone on Saturday evening,