



VOLKSWAGEN KILMACUD CROKES ALL-IRELAND FOOTBALL 7's

Saturday 16th September 2017



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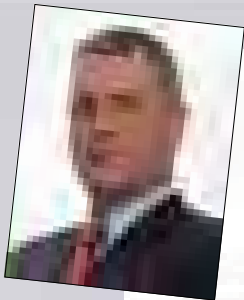
Arteon Range Fuel Consumption l/100km (high to low): urban 7.1 - 5.4, extra-urban 5.1 - 4.0, combined 5.9 - 4.5. CO2 emissions g/km (high to low) 152 - 115. Increased weight of a vehicle, including higher trim levels and the addition of options may have an effect on the fuel consumption and CO2 emissions produced. The CO2 and fuel consumption figures are the official figures obtained from tests under standardised EU test conditions. *Typical Finance Example: Arteon Elegance 2.0TDI 150HP. Recommended OTRP €46,770. Deposit/Part Exchange €13,669.43. 36 monthly payments of €489. Optional final payment €18,398.00. Total cost of credit €3,051.43. Subject to lending criteria. Prices are subject to change. Minimum deposit is 10%. This offer is made under a hire purchase agreement. Volkswagen Bank GmbH Branch Ireland is authorised by the Federal Financial Supervisory Authority in Germany and regulated by the Central Bank of Ireland for conduct of business rules. This offer does not apply to fleet sales. **Active Info Display is standard on Arteon Elegance and R line models only. Offers mentioned only apply to 172 retail orders before September 30th 2017. Model shown is for illustrative purposes only. Information correct at time of print. See www.volkswagen.ie for details.



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Forewords



Chairperson's Falte

It's that time of year again when the hopes and dreams of all football counties have narrowed down to two. The arguments have been had and the great tussles have produced two final teams standing who can lift Sam for 2017. We look forward to all matters being settled tomorrow in Croke Park and to a great game of football. Most of all we wish our members involved on the pitch a successful day. Your achievements bring pride to your Club.

But the All Ireland Final is not the only thing which makes the third weekend in September a wonderful time for football. The Kilmacud Crokes All-Ireland Football Sevens is a key event in the football calendar for over 40 years. It is a huge logistical operation made possible by the voluntary effort of our members and the goodwill and support in the form of pitches provided by our neighbouring schools and clubs. To all of those consistently reliable supports I would like to extend the gratitude of Kilmacud Crokes GAA Club.

For us in Kilmacud Crokes this is the third weekend in a month of national Sevens competitions. Glenalbyn in September hosts Hurling, Camogie, Football and Ladies Football Sevens. What a place to be in September!

I would like to welcome all of our visiting teams to our Club today. We hope you enjoy the day and enjoy the playing of our wonderful game of Gaelic Football in the open format that is Sevens. Only one team can win our trophy but we hope all of our visiting teams enjoy the day.

We welcome Football folk from across Ireland and further afield here today also. This is the day to meet old acquaintances and refresh old conversations and argue old points - all in a spirit of football camaraderie. We hope you enjoy the football and the hospitality of our club and most of all that you enjoy the relaxed atmosphere of this great occasion.

I would like on behalf of Kilmacud Crokes GAA Club to congratulate our Football Committee under the leadership of Sean Fox on successfully achieving the organisation of this event once again. In addition to the Committee a large number of club members have worked hard to make the day happen and will do the work on the day that makes the event run well. Your efforts bring pride to your club and we thank you for your commitment and incredibly hard work.

Finally, we are delighted that Volkswagen continue to be our Football Sevens sponsors. Volkswagen has been a part of the motoring landscape of Ireland for more years than most of us care to remember. Indeed many of us would lay claim to have set records for the greatest number of juvenile players that could be fitted into a Volkswagen Beetle as we travelled to matches as children !! The VW Beetle was a familiar vehicle of choice for GAA team transportation and for us it is great to have our great competition associated with and supported by the Volkswagen brand which has been seen on the sidelines of pitches for as long as there have been cars in Ireland. Thank you for your vital support and we look forward to a continuing friendship.

Kevin Foley

Chairperson,
Kilmacud Crokes GAA Club.

Forewords

Sean Fox

On behalf of the Football Committee, I am delighted to welcome everyone to the Senior All Ireland Football Sevens, the VW7s 2017. It is always an honour for us in Kilmacud Crokes to host so many teams who have travelled from all over Ireland especially to be here.

Last year we welcomed Volkswagen as our new sponsor. The tournament was deemed to be a great success for both ourselves and Volkswagen and we are delighted that they continue to sponsor the All Ireland Football 7s. VW is an iconic brand, their local dealer network reaches the 32 counties represented here today. We look forward to a long and mutually beneficial partnership.

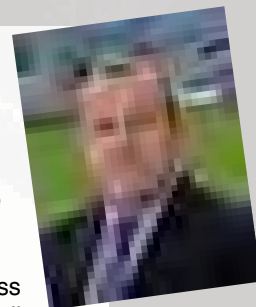
We have a top class list of referees to officiate, we thank them but the event could not be staged without the massive cross club support and spirit of voluntarism. Thank you all.

Thank you also to our neighbouring Club, Naomh Olafs, for once again generously providing facilities, on the field no quarter is asked for or given, but the support we get from other local clubs is testament to what we have in the GAA.

Enjoy the day, get in the raffle for that elusive All Ireland Final ticket!

Sean Fox

Chairman,
Kilmacud Crokes Football Committee



Gerrit Heimberg

On behalf of Volkswagen Ireland, it gives me great pleasure to welcome all of our teams, management, referees, media and supporters to Kilmacud Crokes for the annual Volkswagen 7's competition.

Now in its 45th year, this fantastic competition really has grown so much in recent years from where it started and Volkswagen is proud to be involved with this tournament. We have seen some great games with all teams returning year after year. We are delighted to be able to associate ourselves with such a prominent event and to support GAA at a grassroots level. This year 32 teams will all be competing for victory which we have no doubt will make for some great games and even better sportsmanship that embodies the core roots of GAA.

Volkswagen will also be supporting this sponsorship with the return of the innovative Volkswagen GAA TV whereby highlights from all key games will be shared across social media platforms as well as the big screen in Kilmacud Crokes.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Kilmacud Crokes and all the supporting grounds for hosting us today and ensuring the excellent conditions of pitches and facilities.

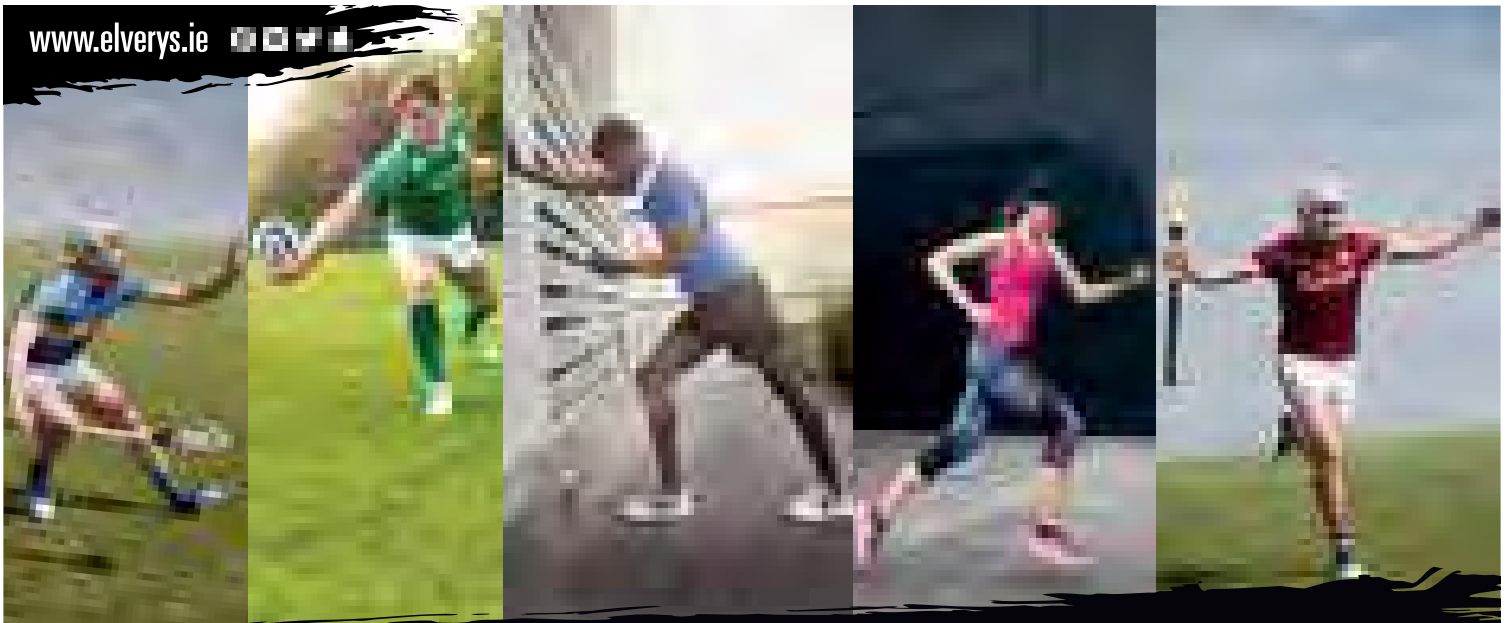
We would encourage you to take a look at some of our model range including the all new Arteon spotted around the grounds. Without a doubt you will be sure to find one that will fit all your family needs; you might even find the one of your dreams!

Finally, I would like to wish all the players the very best of luck today and remember to enjoy the games.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Heimberg'. The signature is fluid and cursive, written on a light-colored background.

Gerrit Heimberg
Director
Volkswagen Passenger Cars



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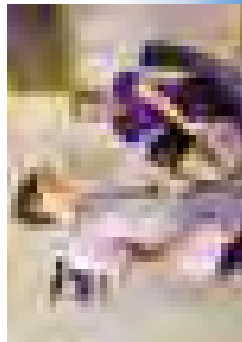
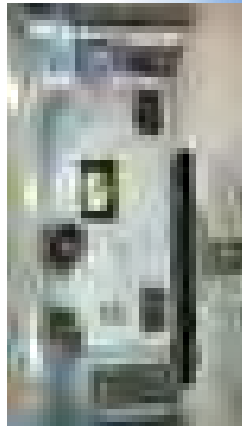
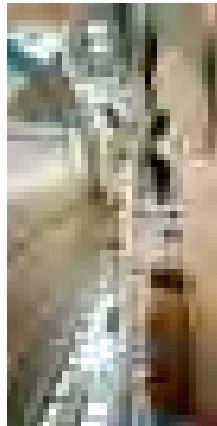
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Kilmacud Crokes Football 2017

Kilmacud Crokes Football Committee functions within the overarching Kilmacud Crokes GAA club. Our remit is to manage and guide the Mens football teams from U13 right the way through to Senior teams. This remit covers 19 teams with around 80 member volunteers contributing to these management packages. This is a huge volunteer effort which is supported by the Football Committee, which ironically consists of 15 club members (the retired non playing GAA team!!!). This team assists the squads in administration, financial support and coaching advice. We also work closely with our Coiste (12 and younger) to help in the transition to the Adult Section. Cosite similarly oversees U6 to U12

with approximately 40 distinct panels and 800 young footballers all under the guidance of Chairman, Vinny Peters and his committee.

The lead up to the Sevens day involves much preparation with a specific subcommittee in place from early July in conjunction with the huge effort on the day itself regarding stewarding, parking, first aid, security, programme co-ordination, marketing, communications, catering, cleanup afterwards and many more key activities. Many thanks to all our members who make this happen and present a professionally organised event to be enjoyed by all supporters.

Football Committee 2017 Team Layout

Sean Fox
(Chairman)

Martin McDermott
(Director of Football)

Micheal Mullin
(Secretary)

Michael Kelly
(Treasurer)

Ronnie Murray
(Registrar)

Dr. Pat Duggan
(Coaching Chair)

John Moriarty
(Commercial Officer)

Michael Durcan
(Football Rep on Executive)

Paraic McDonald
(Club Football Coach)

Dr. Pat Horgan
(Chair 13-18 &
Football Vice Chair)

Karl Manning
(Chair 8-12)

Ruairi O'Donnell
(CC2 Rep)

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U13 to Adult Team Management Packages

Team	Mentors			
U13A	Sean O'Shea	Brian Murphy	Tom Doran	Arthur McMahon
	Donal Keys			
U13B	Joe Burke	John Bradley	Ruairi O'Donnell	
U13C	Dave Walsh	Cormac Browne	Paul Merriman	Tom Crotty
U13D	Tom Reynolds	Shay Moran	Jim Sullivan	Anne Marie Hough
U14A	Peter Ward	Paddy O Donoghue	Andy Corbett	Niall Clancy
	John O'Loughlin			
U14B	Peter Donohue	Fergal Hennigan	Tony O'Brien	
U14C	Donal Donovan	Vincent Hargaden	Richie McMahon	Declan Ballantyne
U15A	Martin Byrne	Maurice Kelly	Sean Kelly	Dave Breslin
U15B	Adrian Sullivan	Martin Byrne	James Coghlan	James Barrett
U15C	Niall O Leary	David Moran	Bernard Keogh	John Ryall
U15D	Eamon O'Callaghan	David McGowan	Barry Brennan	James O'Donnell
U16A	Pat Duggan	Ruairi O'Donnell	Maurice Leahy	Fergal O'Connell
U16B	Simon Deane	Philip O'Dwyer	David Haran	
U18A	Robbie Behan	Robbie Leahy	David Dromey	Joe O'Brien
U18B	Pat Duggan	Ruairi O'Donnell	Ciaran McCormack	Fergal O'Connell
U18C	Tony Gallagher	Gerry Kelly	Enda Burns	
U18D	Eamonn O'Flynn	Paul Higgins	William Redmond	Mike Gannon
AFL1	Gabriel Bannigan	Nicky McGrath	Robbie Brennan	Colin O'Hare
	Karl Manning	Paraic McDonald		
AFL2	Mick Jones	Liam Dunne	John O'Callaghan	Nicky McGrath
AFL4	John Power	Denis Gorey	Vincent Brett	
AFL8	John Shovlin	Francis Hanrahan	Mark Duncan	
AFL9	John O'Loughlin	Gareth McGrath	Conor Noone	

2017 Sevens Subcommittee

A note of appreciation to the Sevens Working Group chaired by Dr. Pat Duggan, Sean Fox, Pat Horgan, John Moriarty, Gerry Greene, Paul Maguire, Martin Byrne, Dave Byrne, Robbie Brennan & Michael Kelly

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Backing Club and County



WELCOME TO THE VW7'S

BY CÓILÍN DUFFY

(CÓILÍN DUFFY MEDIA) @COILINDUFFY

32 teams have hopefully got here on time. It's 11am and throw-in time on eight pitches across three different venues - the Volkswagen Kilmacud Crokes All-Ireland Football Sevens is underway.

Plenty to come in the next seven and a half hours or so, before another Champion is crowned somewhere around 6.30pm. Although you get the feeling a club could end up just adding to their titles on the Roll of Honour, like St. Galls did here 12 months ago.

Sean Burke is back to skipper the Milltown Row side here today - a stiff Group 6 awaiting them, with All-Ireland Club winners in 2016 Ballyboden St. Enda's; O'Donovan Rossa from Cork, and Dromore of Tyrone, who have Cathal McCarron in their ranks - it's in many cases the group of death.

Just one of the Galls squad hasn't got an All-Ireland Sevens medal, and many of their side are multiple winners. People like Gaelgeoir Tomás Ó Ciarain, and Player of the Tournament Niall O'Neill are back in action eager for month, as is Niall's brother Terry - who has donned the blue of Galls on many an occasion here in Glenalbyn.

Speaking of brothers, there's plenty involved today.

Group one sees Roscommon starts Diarmuid and Ciarain Murtagh in action with their older brother Brian for St. Faithleach's.



EOGHAN O'FLAHERTY (CARBURY) IN ACTION AGAINST MARK KELLY (ST. GALLS) DURING LAST YEAR'S VW ALL-IRELAND SEVENS SEMI-FINAL.
PHOTO BY DAIRE BRENNAN, SPORTSFILE

Shane and Damien Connaughton tog out alongside former Galway player Eddie Hoare for St. Michaels. There's the Delargy's and Convery's of Roger Casement's in Antrim; the O'Flaherty's from Fingal Ravens in Dublin; the Gaughan's of Kiltane; the Hamills and Phillips of Glenavy; the O'Flaherty's of Carbury in Kildare (minus Eoghan, although he's bound to be watching on); the Fulham's and Cannon's of St. Anne's, Dublin; the McGourty's from St Galls, the Brady's of Longford Slashers; the McKinless's and Devlin's of Ballinderry Shamrocks; not to mention 50 percent of the Eoghan Rua, Derry squad which is made up by McGoldricks! and many, many more.

Club is family, and that family unit is certainly going to be very much in evidence here today.

Whether its your first time at the Sevens or you are a seasoned campaigner - it's a tough slog for players, officials and supporters alike. But once that final whistle sounds at 6.30, and barring penalties a winner will be crowned, and we'll be just willing the 46th Annual Sevens to be that bit closer than another 12 months around the corner.

Enjoy the games!

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THUAS SEAL... ACH AN MBEIDH NA DUBS THÍOS SEAL?

LE MARCUS Ó BUACHALLA, TRÁCHTAIRE GAA BEO, TG4

Na Dubs. Na dirty Dubs. Nó na mighty Dubs. Ag braith ar do dhearca. Agus an ceist mór do chách; cad a dhéanaimid fútha in aon chor?

Dos na Dubs ar Hill 16 níl ach freagra amháin. Tabhair conradh fiche bliana do Jim Gavin agus cuir blaincéad cadáis mór-thimpeall Ciarán Kilkenny agus Paul Mannion...agus faigh Rory O'Carroll thar nais mar lán chúlaí!

Ach tá neart cainte eile nach bhfuil leath chomh dearfach.

Ta siad ró-láidir. Dhá fhoireann atá uainn. Deisceart na cathrach. Tuaisceart na cathrach. Caithfear cúrsaí airgead a phlé chomh maith. Iomarca urraíocht acu. Agus iomarca fostaithe acu chomh maith. Conas gur féidir le éinne dul i ngleic leo nuair atá na hacmhainn seo ar fad acu? An meaisín seo...

Bhuel fág ar lár airgead, daonra, struchtúr agus aon ní eile, mura bhfuil foireann agat a chuirfidh dóthain ceisteanna ortha ar pháirc na himeartha, cad is fiú a bheith ag tabhairt amach faoi gach rud eile?

Cad is fiú a bheith ag tabhairt amach faoi buachaillí móra na príomh cathrach agus cad a bhfuil acu nuair a bhíonn formhór na contaetha sásta rud éigin eile níos luachmhara fós a thabhairt dos na Dubs.

An liathróid.

Tá painéal ag Jim Gavin atá chomh maith le haon rud eile atá feicthe againn le pé méid bliain anuas. Agus tá foirne sásta an acmhainn is luachmhara dá bhfuil ann a thabhairt dóibh gan fiú brú a chuir.

Agus mé i mo leaid óg, tháinig foirne ar feadh cúpla bliain anseo is ansiúd. Ciarraí sna 80'aidí, an Mhí tamaillín níos déanaí, Corcaigh, Dún na nGall, Doire, an Dún, Gaillimh, Tír Eoghain, Ard Mhacha, ansin Ciarraí arís ar feadh tamaill, Corcaigh arís.

Ach is foireann iad na Dubs seo a d'fhéadfadh a bheith linn tamall eile. Tá siad chomh maith sin.

An ceist mhór mar sea...má tá siad chomh maith sin, cén fáth go ngéillfeá dóibh agus cad a dhéanfaidh Maigh Eo leis an acmhainn is luachmhara amárach i bPáirc an Chrócaigh? An dtabharfaidh siad dóibh é gan brú ar bith nó...

Agus sin an deacracht do Stephen Rochford agus é ag díriú isteach ar an gcluiche seo. Ba bheag ná raibh acu anuraidh agus cé go bhfuilid tar éis cúpla scrúdú a theip i mbliana táid fós ann amárach. Mar sea, cad é an rún? Cad iad na céadta dáin beaga breise sin a bhí in easnamh i 2016?

Beidh lá eile ag an bPaorach, nach mbeidh? Ach mura bhfuil meas ag an bPaorach ar an liathróid amárach, beidh sé ag fanacht tamall eile leis an lá céanna.





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THANKS

Thanks to all who contributed to the programme. It's our biggest one yet, so hopefully everyone enjoys it. To Daire Ó Braonáin, Sportsfile, Cólín Duffy, Niall Scully, Mike McCartney, Kevin Nolan, Sean Cavanagh, Marcus Ó Buachalla, Larry Ryan, Ronan Mac Lochlainn, Oisín Langan, Daragh Ó Conchúir, Robbie Moloney and others for help with articles or photos.

Also a massive thanks to Martin Byrne, Cólín Duffy and Eóin Keith at Sattal for all of their hard work in the publication. Loads of hours put in by all.

Social Media

Remember to keep up to date with everything at the Sevens check out and use the hashtag #VW7s on Twitter and Facebook. The Kilmacud 7s accounts on Twitter and Facebook, while Volkswagen Ireland, Kilmacud Crokes GAA, Bank of Ireland, Performa Sports, Cólín Duffy and Oisín Langan will also be very active on Social Media. Last year we got 4 Million impressions on Twitter during the #VW7s and we are aiming to top this today.

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WHAT IT TAKES TO WIN AT SEVENS

CÓILÍN DUFFY GOT THE VIEWS OF SOME FORMER
ALL-IRELAND SEVENS WINNERS

Gary Sice (Corofin, Galway)

[2004, 2013 Senior Sevens winner]

The Kilmacud Sevens have always been an extremely enjoyable experience. The highlight for me was finally getting to experience winning the competition in 2013 in an epic encounter with St.Galls . Walking out onto the main pitch for the final was fantastic and playing in the cauldron at Kilmacud was an experience not to be forgotten. It really is one of the most exciting events on the football calendar as it brings high scores, top class players and high tempo games together in a format that only concerns itself with one thing, winning!! I have enjoyed every adventure to the Sevens and hope to enjoy a few more in the near future.

Ciaran Brannigan (Bryansford, Down)

[2011 Senior Sevens winner]

To win the all Ireland sevens it takes 10 men willing to commit to their roles, when to rest on the ball and when to move it early. The group stages gets the blood pumping but the drive back after winning your group and entering Kilmacud sends the brain into overdrive on only winning 3 more games to become champions, it's a achievement that I'm delighted to have won.

Sean Cavanagh (Moy, Tyrone)

[2012 Inter Sevens winner]

The Sevens is a fantastic spectacle, because there is very few systems or thought. It's football in its raw state. It's that sort of off-the-shoulder, move the ball, score goals, excite supporters, excite players. It's probably much more enjoyable to play than 15's. Certainly when we won the Intermediate Sevens it will go down as the highest honour I have at club level for sure. It's enjoyable to play and enjoyable for supporters, and it's an enjoyable day out for everyone. I think that epitomises what the GAA is about - that day out mentality, when we are all here together and you bump into so many people from so many different counties, and walks of life but with that one unifying thing of being connected to the GAA community.



COROFIN CAPTAIN GARY SICE RECEIVES THE CUP FROM MARTIN SKELLY IN 2013. FITTINGLY GARY WORE SEVEN ON THE DAY!



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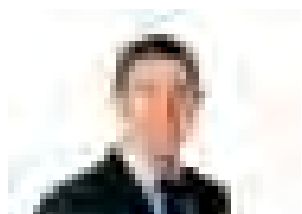
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Kilmacud Crokes
continued success in 2017 and into 2018**



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I AM THE MAN



"I am the GAA club player. I am the bottom of the food chain. I am the fella who must organise his whole life around the fixtures of an Inter County team I will never play for"

"I am constantly patted on the head by the authorities and the media but nobody really wants to do anything to improve my situation. I am the lifeblood of the association, so they say. Most of the time I feel like the whipping boy"

"I am the man who must tell the people at work that I am not sure when I want to take my summer holidays. It could be June, July or August. But I don't know until they are almost upon us"

"I am the man constantly telling his wife to rearrange the plans for the weekend away. What else am I supposed to do? I don't have a clue from week to week when our next match is. She knew that when we got married"

"I am the man who doesn't know how many matches I will get to play in any calendar year. In the next few weeks I will head back out to training with the club. The nights will be gloomy, often wet and there'll be evenings I wished there was heat coming off the floodlights around the field"

"I am the man who sits outside in the back garden on a fine Summer's evening and wishes we could play matches in that kind of weather. Last year, I counted a dozen beautiful dry nights when we neither had training nor a game at the height of the season"

"I am the man who once watched 112 days between championship matches and then expected to play twice in six days. Where else would you get it? What other sporting body would tolerate a situation in which 99% of the adult playing population must sit around twiddling their thumbs or playing challenge matches and waiting to get on a field for a game where something is at stake? Then getting told to go out and do it three or four weekends in a row".

"I am the man who watches his Inter County team play with mixed feelings. I want them to win because some of my club mates are involved but I know if they lose, I will get to play. It's the GAA club player's strange dilemma"

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Club Players Association



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2016 FLASHBACK

SEVENTH HEAVEN FOR GALLS



Belfast side St. Galls claimed their seventh All-Ireland Football Sevens title, after beating reigning champions Kilmacud Crokes following a penalty shoot-out in the decider. Indeed three of the four quarter-finals also needed spot-kicks to decide the winners.

St Galls (Antrim) 1-12
Kilmacud Crokes (Dublin) 3-6
(St Galls won 3-2 on penalties)

The Volkswagen Senior Football 7s came to a dramatic conclusion as the hosts Kilmacud Crokes saw their dreams of retaining the title dashed in a penalty shootout.

Kieran McGourty was the ultimate hero for St Galls, as he slotted his kick to give the Antrim men their seventh title.

Kevin Niblock will receive most of the plaudits though as he scored 1-8, including an equalising goal in the final attack, as the game ended 1-12 to 3-6, while Niall O'Neill

ST GALLS CAPTAIN SEÁN BURKE LIFTS THE CUP AFTER BEING CROWNED THE 2016 VOLKSWAGEN KILMACUD SEVENS WINNERS.

was outstanding too and was named man of the match.

It had looked for all the world like the Crokes would complete a 7s double, having also won the hurling equivalent a fortnight ago, as goals from Aidan Jones, Callum Pearson and Pat Burke (via a penalty) pushed them five points clear on 3-6 to 0-10.

But Niblock converted a couple of frees to get within three and the Antrim attacker was at the end of an excellent move to rescue his side.

ST GALLS: Kieran McGourty, Mark Kelly (0-1), Aidan Gribbon, Tomás Ó Ciaráin, Sean Burke, Kevin Niblock (1-8, 6f), Brendan Bradley, Conor Burke (0-2), Niall O'Neill, Ruairi Wilson (0-1).

KILMACUD CROKES: David Nestor, Aidan Jones (1-1), Eoin Culligan, Shane Horan, Andrew McGowan (0-1), Tom Fox, Stephen Williams, Callum Pearson (1-0), Cian O'Connor (0-2), Pat Burke (1-2, 1-0pen, 2f).

REFEREE: David Gough (Meath)



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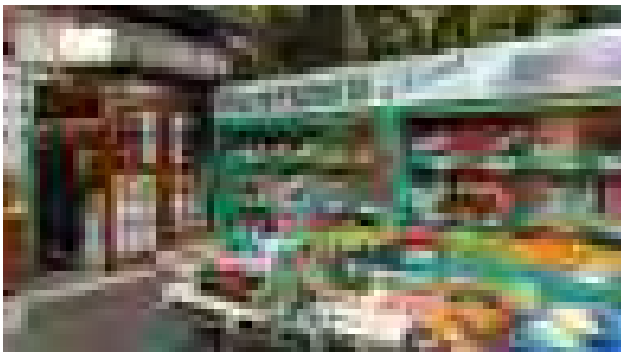

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2016 FLASHBACK

2016 VW ALL-IRELAND FOOTBALL 7S AT KILMACUD CROKES

GROUP 1

Thomas Davis 6-7 Portarlington 0-5
Glen 3-6 Trillick St McCartans 2-8
Glen 5-13 Portarlington 2-8
Thomas Davis 4-8 Trillick St McCartans 1-9
Trillick St McCartans 11-4 Portarlington 2-8
Thomas Davis 2-13 Glen 3-10

GROUP 2

Kilmacud Crokes 3-9 Claremorris 2-10
Coolaney/Mullinabreena 5-11 Ballysteen 3-7
Ballysteen 0-8 Kilmacud Crokes 0-8
Claremorris 7-8 Coolaney/Mullinabreena 1-9
Kilmacud Crokes 9-6
Coolaney/Mullinabreena 3-4
Claremorris 5-4 Ballysteen 0-7

GROUP 3

St Olaf's 5-7 Bryansford 1-12
St Michaels 6-6 Curry 0-7
Bryansford 14-3 Curry 0-8
St Olaf's 1-8 St Michaels 0-11
St Michael's 9-6 Bryansford 4-9
St Olaf's 15-4 Curry 1-4

GROUP 4

Bellaghy 3-11 St Maurs 2-10
St Faithleach's 12-9 Kingdom Kerry Gaels 1-4
Bellaghy 12-7 Kingdom Kerry Gaels 0-9
St Faithleach's 1-15 St Maurs 2-8
Bellaghy 1-14 St Faithleach's 0-12
St Maurs 7-7 Kingdom Kerry Gaels 3-9

GROUP 5

Cuala 3-8 Carbury 3-5
Mayobridge 3-7 Eoghan Rua 2-8
Carbury 6-6 Mayobridge 3-7
Eoghan Rua 4-12 Cuala 3-6
Carbury 2-9 Eoghan Rua 0-10
Mayobridge 5-2 Cuala 3-7

GROUP 6

Castlewellan 3-5 St Oliver Plunketts 1-8
Lavey 5-8 St Pauls 1-6
St Oliver Plunketts 7-8 St Pauls 1-5
Castlewellan 1-11 Lavey 2-7
Lavey 7-3 St Oliver Plunketts 3-9
Castlewellan 7-12 St Pauls 1-6

GROUP 7

St Johns 2-7 Corofin 2-6
Leixlip 7-4 Clan na Gael 3-10
Corofin 2-12 Clan na Gael 3-8
Leixlip 7-9 St Johns 1-11
Leixlip 5-7 Corofin 4-6
St Johns 7-4 Clan na Gael 4-3

GROUP 8

St Galls 3-8 Clonakilty 0-8
Greencastle St. Patrick's 5-7
Ballyholland Harps 3-13
St Galls 5-8 Ballyholland Harps 1-10
Greencastle St. Patrick's 3-10 Clonakilty 2-7
St Galls 4-8 Greencastle St. Patrick's 3-8
Clonakilty 8-4 Ballyholland Harps 4-6

Quarter-Finals

Kilmacud Crokes 1-12 Thomas Davis 1-12
(Crokes win 3-1 on penalties)
Bellaghy 2-10 St Olafs 2-10
(Bellaghy win 2-1 on penalties)
St Galls 2-8 Leixlip 2-8
(Galls win 3-2 on penalties)
Carbury 3-9 Castlewellan 1-14

Semi-Finals

Kilmacud Crokes 2-9 Bellaghy 0-10
St Galls 0-14 Carbury 1-9

Final

St Galls (Antrim) 1-12
Kilmacud Crokes (Dublin) 3-6
(St Galls won 3-2 on penalties)



HAND OF HISTORY PRESSING FIRMLY ON DUBLIN'S SHOULDER

BY COLM KEYS (IRISH INDEPENDENT)

Most of his fellow players and members of management had already left when Sean Cavanagh emerged for the last time from a Tyrone dressing-room. With 16 seasons and 89 championship appearances, 238 for his county across all competitions, behind him Cavanagh was finally dropping anchor on a glorious career that had yielded three All-Ireland titles, six Ulster titles, five Allstars and captaincy of an Irish international rules team. There was nothing on a football field that Cavanagh hadn't seen or experienced in that time. And yet, as he stood and shook his head at the events of the previous two hours on the afternoon of Tyrone's All-Ireland semi-final with Dublin last month, one of the giants of the modern game wore the expression of someone who had witnessed some apocalyptic vision of the future.

Cavanagh's words, vivid and expressive as they always have been since he emerged in 2002, were one thing but his face said even more, the sadness of departure merged with bewilderment at what he had come across. It had been six years since Dublin and Tyrone

had faced off in a championship match and in that time Dublin football has got itself in a great, big hurry. The illusion of Saturday night lights in Croke Park when Tyrone had more than held their own in 'spring series' matches had tricked them into believing they were close. How, Cavanagh wondered, had they got far ahead of the rest? How could they be so different? Tyrone, he emphasised, thought they had done everything right in terms of preparation - what they ate, how much they ate, what they lifted, how often they lifted. How then, he wondered, could those left behind do much more?

At a time when so many felt Dublin would come back to the pack, they have, it seems, gone further away. A championship campaign that has been close to flawless since their spluttering opening bow against Carlow takes them to the cusp of the first three-in-a-row in 30 years and the first for a Dublin team since the 1920s, a time when teams from the capital were heavily populated with country players. The discussion around this team has moved from being the best Dublin



has produced to being up there with the best ever. And in that regard, it now presents direct comparisons with the great Kerry team nurtured and advanced in two different tranches by Mick O'Dwyer in the 1970s and '80s. They are a team for all seasons and all challenges. Take them on aggressively and they'll match you and better you, go man-to-man with them and they'll outscore you, erect the defensive ramparts against them and they'll play the long and patient game brilliantly, eventually pulling you out of positions and prising open the gaps as they did against Tyrone. They've won four successive league titles, they have gone unbeaten through 36 games for over 25 months. They've won big games from the front and they've won coming from behind. They've thought their way out of tricky conundrums posed by Mayo and Kerry especially in championship and just about everyone else in the league. Clearly, the experience of the loss to Donegal in the 2014 All-Ireland semi-final has been more worthwhile than any in terms of how they learned not to be drawn in. Not one of the 'front eight' that day (two midfielders and six forwards) were among the 'front eight' against Tyrone. In fact, only Cian O'Sullivan started in defence having been at midfield alongside Michael Darragh MacAuley three years earlier.

How significant is it now that Ciaran Kilkenny was missing that season as he recovered from a cruciate ligament tear. Kilkenny has emerged over the last three seasons as Dublin's key architect in unpicking those locks

that opponents set for them. No other players clock up possession numbers like him as he switches the play from wing to wing and hits reverse when he has to. Together with Brian Fenton he has become commander-in-chief. The staggering note from the win over Tyrone was not who played but who didn't. Two ex 'footballers of the year', MacAuley and Bernard Brogan, on the bench, the most talented footballer of his generation Diarmuid Connolly getting a few token minutes. If ever evidence of a team's evolution was required it is wrapped up in those details. Rather than a big final push from the team that broke down barriers in 2011 and set them on a path in 2013 this season has looked more like a bridgehead to the next generation. And yet Dublin are putting opponents away with the same ruthless conviction as Kerry did in their peak year, 1979.

To watch Paul Mannion track back and make the tackles he did against Tyrone was to fully appreciate how much this Dublin team continues to change. The one missing item from their CV is a big All-Ireland final win. But for weather, they might have got that in 2015 against Kerry but in 2013 and 2016 (draw and replay) they were pushed to their limits, emerging with one-point wins on both days.

The common denominator is of course Mayo. By now the word resilient attaches like a prefix to them. To reach successive All-Ireland finals by the back door is unprecedented, underlining their spirit, courage and above

all football acumen. Since the replay against Roscommon they have discovered themselves again and, against Kerry in the All-Ireland semi-final replay, they brought their game to a level that has only manifested in segments of games, like the drawn 2014 All-Ireland semi-final, before that. They are the only team with the levels of aggression and athleticism to make tackles consistently count against this Dublin team. Like the Tyrone game Dublin will seek to avoid contact. But contact with Mayo is almost impossible to avoid. Watching David Clarke and Keith Higgins scramble to make those sequence of saves the last day or Colm

Boyle diving to smother a ball after Higgins had blocked James O'Donoghue at the end you could only marvel at the defiance and wonder 'will they stop at anything to fulfill their dream?' Some may tire at the familiarity of modern day football rivals and yearn for new teams, new faces and a more even spread of competitors. But the best meeting each other on the biggest day is what any championship is about. Right now, this is really the only show in town.

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MEATH WHISTLER GOUGH LOOKING FORWARD TO SEVENS

BY CÓILÍN DUFFY (CÓILÍN DUFFY MEDIA) @COILINDUFFY

David Gough may be a relatively new visitor to the Kilmacud Football Sevens, but the proud Meath whistler took to it like a duck to water last year, refereeing the final, in his first year officiating at the competition.

The Slane clubman was the Man in the Middle as St Galls took silverware last year with victory over Kilmacud Crokes in the final. The Milltown Row side taking their seventh title, after winning on penalties.

Gough says the Sevens is just as tough for officials as it is for players.

“It’s extremely tough. We arrive out in Kilmacud early in the morning to have breakfast and then sit down and get a briefing on the rules and that is the main focus for the morning.

“It’s a mindset change, because you are so used to refereeing inter-county games, and to a certain level and with certain rules, that you really have to focus on the changes in the rules.

“The players are expecting you to know the rules, and if you don’t know them how are they expected to know them.

“That’s the most difficult thing - to get your head around the rule changes, and to be confident to ensure that you know you can apply those.”

2016 was Gough’s first Sevens refing experience in Kilmacud, although he had officiated at the Intermediate counterpart in Ratoath previously.

He says there’s a great mix of referees involved with the Sevens, and that it’s always nice to be a part of All-Ireland Final weekend.

“It’s always nice when you get the text from Sean Fox to be asked to be included on the referees list, and there is a mix,” Gough said.

“It goes from inter-county referees, to retired inter-county referees, to referees in Dublin and from the Leinster panel.

“It’s nice that we are there and we are involved. We get to mix together. We don’t get to see each other very often in such an informal capacity, so it’s nice that we are able to spend the day together and chat and to meet one other - not in that very high intensity atmosphere that we would be used to meeting each other in.”

And it’s no different when it comes to meet the players at the Sevens either.

“I’m not sure if it’s friendships that are formed on the day, but the players definitely see us as being more human anyway!,” Gough joked.

Good luck to Kilmacud Crokes!

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“It’s nice that we are able to have a chat with them, before or after the games, because they just see you as the sole arbitrator there the whole time.

“It’s nice just to be able to have a quiet word with them afterwards and get to meet them. They will be asking you stuff about your own life, and how you are finding refereeing and training and bits and pieces, so it’s nice to be able to get to know that side of the player as well.”

It’s been a busy week for the qualified Primary School teacher, who returned to his alma-mater this week to take up a GAA Development Officer role in St. Pat’s in Drumcondra - a quiet campus this week where we conducted this interview, before an influx of students hit the books next Monday.

Gough taking over from the legend Tom Fitzpatrick, better known as ‘Tom Fitz’. It’s a role he’s hugely looking forward too.

“I would often say I am who I am within the GAA, because of my involvement here,” he said.

“I am still a Meathman, I will always be a Meathman, I will always wear my Meath jersey.

“I love this place and I was thrilled to be offered the job by Leinster Council and the GAA to come back and work here on St. Pat’s Campus. I’m really looking forward to the next three years to see what I can bring to the GAA and to the lives of primary school teachers that are trying to enhance the GAA in the schools across the country.”

It’s in St Pat’s that Gough started refereeing. The usual case of being stuck for a ‘man in the middle’ and Gough filled that breach.

“It was just by accident. I was sitting 100 metres away on a Tuesday afternoon when a referee didn’t turn up for a primary school game on the pitch, and I went out and I was asked to referee.

“The then Games Promotion Officer Tom Fitzpatrick was a national referee tutor and he asked me to go and do my course and I did. I went from Meath onto Leinster and now onto the National Elite Panel, so it all just snowballed after being in here.”

Referees need to get at least 94% in their referees assessments to stay at the top, and Gough is consistently among those in the upper grade.

“Nobody knowing what we do would actually want to be a referee,” Gough said.

“You always fall into it by accident, and there are certain things that are a given at this stage when we are on the elite panel.

“Our fitness is never a question, we pass our tests twice a year. Our knowledge of the rules is never a question because we have to pass tests twice a year up to 94% and above.

“It’s our application of those rules and our judgement calls, and the psychological side of the game that needs to be worked on the most.

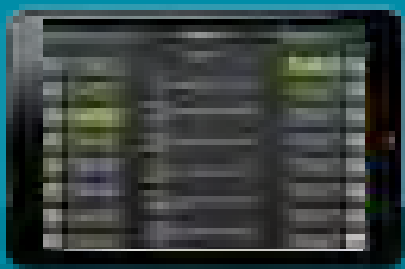
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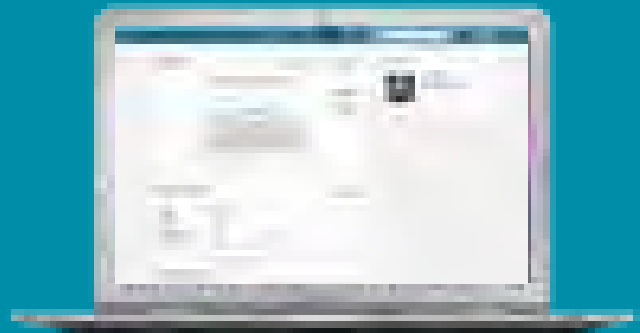


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“They are the things that we find most difficult.”

He’s admitted some mistakes publicly in the past in big games, but there’s no doubting Gough is a top official.

“We are only human and we do make mistakes, and I would often say to players in a game ‘look I am the wrong side of the player to make that call, you might have been able to see that, but I couldn’t’.

“It’s been highly publicised about the incident in a Dublin game where I just couldn’t see the impact when it happened, but we all make mistakes. Players make mistakes in a game.

“We just try to get the key game decisions right all of the time.”

Watch Gough in action today from close range and you’ll see his no no nonsense style, his strong ability to communicate with players, and while he’s likely to produce a card or seven! (his average in the Championship this year!), you’ll find it hard to argue with his calls.

All the best to all our 11 referees today. Without them we wouldn’t have a sevens so whether you are a player, official or supporter - give them the respect they deserve, and play your part in ensuring yet another enjoyable Volkswagen Kilmacud Crokes All-Ireland Senior Football Sevens.

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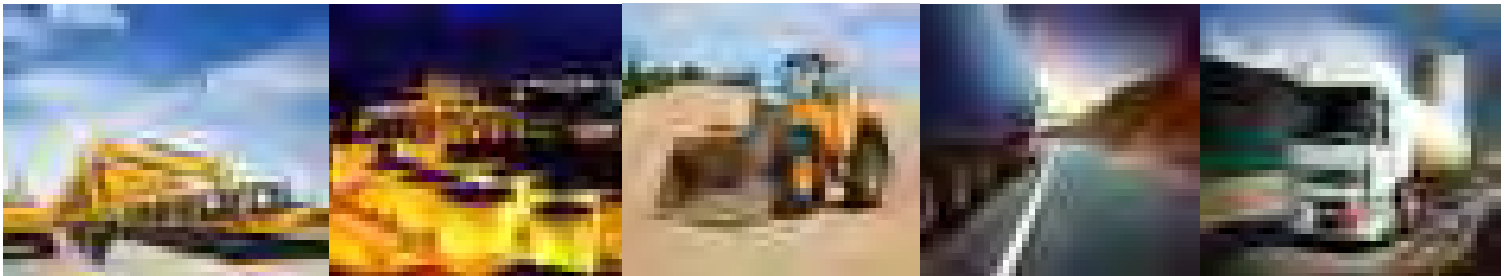
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The Competition Rules



1. The Competition is a one day tournament, to be run on the eve of the All-Ireland Football Final each year. Games will be played at various grounds as arranged by the host Club - Kilmacud Crokes G.A.A.
2. Entry to the competition will be by invitation only. An entrance fee will be payable to help defray running expenses of the tournament.
3. The competition will be confined to properly registered G.A.A. Club's and all players must be registered members of their clubs.
4. The Executive Committee of Kilmacud Crokes G.A.A. Club, who are ultimately responsible for this competition, will appoint a controlling committee to run the tournament on the day. This competition committee will make all decisions in relation to the running of the competition.
5. The referees to be used will be drawn from the current inter-county panel of referees and will be submitted for approval to the Games Administration Committee.
6. The teams will be arranged in groups of four and each team in the group will play the other three teams on a league basis, 2 points for a win, 1 for a draw. The winner of each group will proceed to the knock-out stage of the competition. In the event of two or more teams tying on the top of a group the team with the highest aggregate score after deducting all scores conceded, will qualify for the knock-out stage. Should there be equality of scores the team with the highest aggregate scores will qualify and should there still be equality the team with the most goals will go ahead.

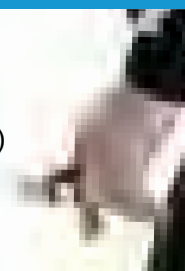
The Fourth Round, Quarter-Finals, Semi-Finals and Final will be run on a knock-out basis. In the event of a draw in the knockout stage three penalties shall be taken by each team using three different players to decide the winning team. Goals only shall count in the penalty contest. If the sides are level after three penalties are taken by each team the penalty contest will continue, using other players on a "sudden-death" basis - each team taking alternative penalties until one team gains the advantage. This team will then be declared the winner of that game. The number of different players to be used is six - if necessary. Thereafter players may take a second penalty.
7. All games shall be 10 minutes each half.
8. A team fielding 15 minutes late is liable for disqualification subject to the decision of the official in charge of the ground.
9. A panel of 10 players must be submitted by each team on an official registration form to be provided by the Organisation Committee before the commencement of the first-game. Only the players on this panel may be used throughout the competition. Any team using a player outside this panel is automatically disqualified from the competition.
10. The panel lists will be retained by the Organising Committee. One copy of each team list will be submitted to the Games Administration Committee within 3 days of the Competition.
11. Official match report forms will be provided by the Organising Committee. The referee must complete his match report immediately after each game and hand it to the Organising Committee. A copy of each report will be submitted to the Games Administration Committee within three days of the Tournament.
12. Normal playing rules will apply with the following exceptions: The ball may not be played backwards to a player who is in his own half of the pitch. Substitutions can be made as often as wished but only with the consent of the referee, at a break in play and from the centre of the side line.
13. In the event of a colour clash, one team chosen by the toss of a coin will wear an alternative jersey to be provided by the Organising Committee.

REFEREES

Brian Crowe (Cavan)
Pat Fox (Westmeath)
David Gough (Meath)
Noel Hand (Louth)

Gary McCormack (Dublin)
Chris Mooney (Dublin)
Keith Tighe (Dublin)
Cormac Reilly (Meath)

Ciaran Brannigan (Down)
Fergal Kelly (Longford)
Tony Lambe (Dublin)



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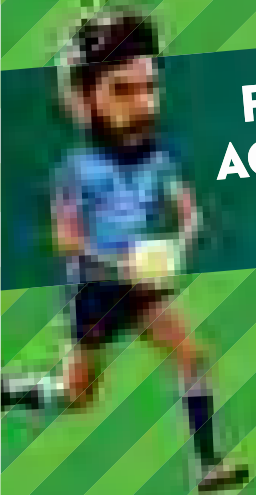
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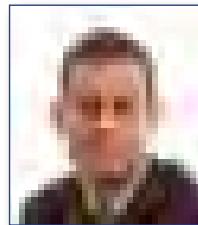
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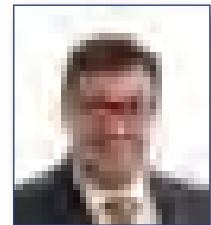



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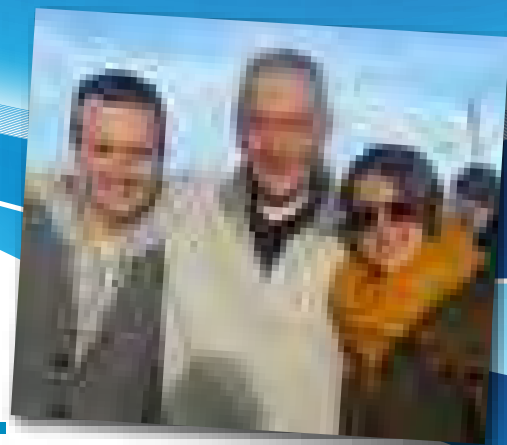
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Just like the Senior competition, the team that looks likely on paper is rarely the team to run out winners! 7s football is special, and this is really special, integrating all teams, all levels, introducing people who would never meet, creating new stories linking players, officials, young and old. The level of recognition around the club skyrockets, the feeling of “club” greatly enhanced. The support for the senior team is enhanced, but now they are bought into the other grades. Young players and not so young can pit themselves against the best in the club, and in some cases, the best in the country!

The players get a limited edition jersey, as the number on the back rises, so does the size! The first year Minor players do the admin, put the nets up and do umpire duties. The level of competition is fierce and the Bar does not get troubled until teams start exiting the tournament. Stories abound, the

inter county footballer who wouldn’t play on unless an O’Neill’s ball was introduced. Minor C footballer who becomes young player of the tournament. So many stories and so many stories of Gerry Collins. The football committee decided to honour one of our former players and managers by renaming our in-house 7s tournament The Gerry Collins Memorial Football Tournament.

Gerry replaced Manchester United bound, Kevin Moran, at centre back for Dublin, his highlight being losing the 1980 Leinster Final. This in an era that saw his Kilmacud Crokes team rise from Junior to Senior football.

“Clean cut and well presented”, was a phrase he used a lot in his work and he always was! Sharp suit, immaculate shirt, shiny shoes, pastel shade ties, forever getting his hair cut! A tall, athletic, handsome man, we honour Gerry not alone for his contribution to the club over his long association with us, but also for his immense contribution to the “Quit Smoking” Campaign.

There are now more quitters than smokers. His legacy is not only the hundreds of thousands who contacted the HSE about quitting smoking but the thousands who have played a Senior Football Club because he was on that first great team and the junior footballers whom he coached and managed who now influence so many others.

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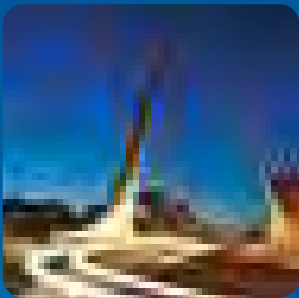
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SEVENS PART OF A SPECIAL SEPTEMBER

BY CÓILÍN DUFFY (CÓILÍN DUFFY MEDIA) @COILINDUFFY

You may not be too familiar with the name, but you certainly know the voice. Mike McCartney has been doing more patrolling of the sidelines than most managers in recent Summers for RTÉ Radio, and has also become a regular fixture here in Glenalbyn on Sevens September Saturday's - something which he finds truly special to be a part of.

All-Ireland Final preparations in some respects begin in May, with the long build-up to September, but for Mike the weekend really kicks-off at the Kilmacud Sevens where there is a wealth of opportunities for great interviews.

"I always describe Kilmacud as a hidden paradise," he said.

"When you come up from the country and you are stuck in traffic or whatever, and then you drive down that laneway you take a deep breath, because of the way the trees are done out there, and the way that the ground is. It's beautiful out there!

"It doesn't matter if it is pouring out of the heavens or the sun is splitting the rocks - it still has that charm - that welcoming charm.

"Then there's people that you don't see for 12 months who are delighted to see you.

"I can imagine parents dropping off their children and knowing that they are going to be safe out there.

"All of the volunteers are there, and everybody has a job to do and there are no arguments and fighting. They are very friendly and they are always offering you cups of tea or whatever.

"It's something that I look forward too. I would spend perhaps three or four weeks in a row out there every September, and I would be looking forward too it for months, once the Championship is announced.

"It's a case of it sort of being a home in Dublin. If I was living around Dublin I suppose Kilmacud Crokes would be the place I would go to be a club member."

When people ask what is special about the GAA, there's so many things that they can point too - no different about the Sevens.

"I think what is special about the Sevens is - the people of Ireland have become very educated on club players in the past few years, thanks mainly to the AIB Club Championships and the finals at Croke Park on St. Patrick's Day," McCartney says.

"As a result a lot of people go out to Kilmacud looking for the old familiar faces and seeing ex-players coming out there and people who don't play inter-county any more, but still play for their clubs.

"Then you are looking for the clubs, and you know who is involved and expecting to see Tom, Dick or Harry turn up out there.

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“That is the attraction. You’d never guess who you are going to see out there, and nine times out of ten you are going to be amazed time and time again.

“Then of course you are looking at clubs that you know well, and you are keeping an eye on them, and you are kind of hoping that they are going to do well.

“The day before the All-Ireland Hurling Final seeing Beagh do so well, a club that stayed up Senior and struggled for a little while, and now they are on their feet and they have some great players.

“To see them winning a few weeks ago and Burgess at the Camogie and getting to meet some of the inter-county players and past inter-county players, and they making themselves available to go on National radio to give a forecast on the finals in Croke Park is excellent too.”

The St. Thomas’s Galway man was certainly proud to see near neighbour David Burke lift the Liam McCarthy Cup after a long absence this September.

Indeed it couldn’t have been more special, given that Mike was on sideline duty for RTÉ Radio at the game, while it was also Mike’s birthday!

“Every minute has to be covered. You get your instructions and you know what they want off you and after a while they don’t have to tell you. You know when they look for something you have to have it done, and you are there and you have to have it in the bag.

“Sometimes you get it wrong! There would be people out there that you would expect that would be great, and they might be terrible. Then there’s people who you wouldn’t expect to be good, and they would be excellent!

“Then they start a bit of a conversation with you, and you find out that you know somebody that they knew.

“That’s the first part of the day, and then there’s the OB at the Croke Park Hotel, and there’s work to be done there every before you get into the grounds.

“Then when you are in the grounds then there’s other bits and pieces that you have to send and then when it’s time to go to the dressing rooms for the Marty Squad you make your way down with Marty and you go back and edit it and send it to RTÉ.

The addition of the Marty Squad in recent years to RTÉ Radio 1’s coverage has meant that along with commentary duties, and doing a report for the 6.1 News and Sport on TV, it’s a hectic day too for Marty.

“I love working with him. He is a really nice person, and I’d say if he knocked on anyones house in Ireland - 99.9% of the people, unless they are new to the country would know who he was!

“The players and the managements have great respect for him, and when you are going around with Marty you are learning from the best.

You’ll see Mike floating around Glenalbyn here today, with that familiar Zoom in hand and the Blue RTÉ Sport micflag on top, while the ISDN line will also be firmly put to good use.

Say hi, who knows you might end up on RTÉ Radio 1 Saturday Sport!

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CROKES INSPIRES

BY NIALL SCULLY (EVENING HERALD)

DUBLIN'S famous disco venue – Wesley. The iconic Weso, on the banks of the Dodder in Donnybrook.

It was a few weeks ago now. An AIG Press Call during the Women's Rugby World Cup. A midweek afternoon.

Sadly, these days, the old Music Hall is silent. The venue has seen a million Leinster Schools rugby matches.

On and off the pitch!

Molly Lamb was there to teach the New Zealand rugby players a few tricks with the round ball.

Before he hit the big-time, Michael Buble performed in Wesley. People who worked at the gig said he had the few words for all-comers, on stage and off.

Now when he's back in town, it's the Aviva. As Brucie might say, "didn't he do well." Molly and the Dubs have a big gig themselves coming up.

Arriving at Wesley on that afternoon, she had driven down the road from coaching at the Summer Camps in Kilmacud Crokes. Her home from home.

She still has the fondest childhood memories of the Kilmacud Mini All-Ireland's. And especially Hot Dog Fridays!

She began playing football and camogie at Crokes when she was five.

"My three older brothers were at Crokes, so I grew up on the side of pitches watching them," she recalls.

"I couldn't wait to get started myself. I was born into it. My parents, Pat and Daphne, were also very much involved."

The Crokes footballers would enjoy the best

of times. "It was great going on the bus from the club following them in the Leinster and All-Ireland campaigns.

"We'd all have our faces painted. And there was such excitement going to the different venues. They were wonderful times."

Her brother, Conor, played on the side that won the All-Ireland Club title in 2009 under Paddy Carr.

In the Dublin Senior Football Championship final replay that season, Crokes pipped St Oliver Plunkett's/ER with two late goals from the great Jonny Magee at a packed Parnell Park under the lights.

They were two marvellous matches. Dublin football at it's very best.

That Crokes side brimmed with quality. And character.

Jonny is a Kilmacud legend. His brother, Darren, could rise to the sky to out jump a 747. Or Mick Leahy.

Now Jonny's daughter, Lauren, is a county colleague of Molly. And Aoife Kane too.

Dublin hurling and camogie teams have also felt the sweet touch of the Stillorgan ash. Giants of the timber like Richie Stakelum and Mick Noctor.

And Jim Gavin's men include Crokes calibre like Cian O'Sullivan and Paul Mannion.

That's all a testament to how well Kilmacud are doing. And how good they are at nurturing talent.

"It's a great club, and we are lucky to have two such brilliant full-time coaches in Páraic McDonald and Niall Corcoran."

Páraic and Niall turn Páirc de Burca into the Fun Palace. They are so good at the job that the kids don't even realise they are learning.



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Molly is also a talented hockey player. She excelled at the sport when she went to school at Loreto, Foxrock.

Her mother played hockey for Ireland. Molly states that sport can be so important in life.

“You see that Lidl ad where so many girls give up sport when they are about 14. And the fall-out rate from sport among girls is very high in secondary school.

“I meet so many girls that I played with, and they say to me is ‘Oh, I wish I should have stayed playing.

“My advice to young people is to keep involved in sport. It’s such a blessing in life. Stick with it and you won’t regret it.”

The Lamb family have stuck at it. Pat and Daphne. Year after year. Standing on hundreds

of side-lines. Going to a thousand meetings. Inspiring others. Opening the gate to golden memories.

Sevens Saturday is part of the fabric of the All-Ireland final weekend. Teams will arrive from all over the country.

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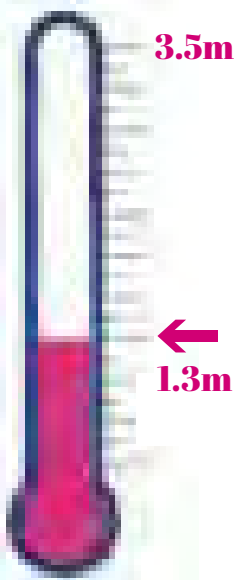
The children under Paraic and Niall’s colourful umbrella could one day play in the Sevens too.

And maybe even for the Dubs. Or, like Daphne, play for Ireland.



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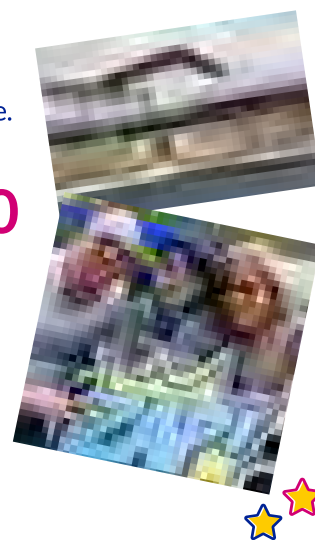
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ST GALLS MAGNIFICENT SEVEN(S)

BY CÓILÍN DUFFY (CÓILÍN DUFFY MEDIA) @COILINDUFFY

[WITH ARCHIVE CONTENT FROM A HISTORY OF KILMACUD CROKES AND DARAGH Ó CONCHUIR]

St Galls have been certainly kingpins of the new Millennium at the All-Ireland sevens, winning six titles since 2005 - their other title coming 20 years earlier, for a magnificent seven at the Sevens to date, to top the Roll of Honour.

Indeed they have won every second year since 2008, and have featured in seven of the 10 finals since 2007.

Down's Bryansford and Castlewellan and the hosts Kilmacud Crokes are next closest on the Roll of Honour to the Belfast outfit, with five titles each. Here we take a brief look at Galls seven titles to date.

1985 St Galls 4-21 Knockmore 4-11 AET

Having lost the previous years final to Bryansford, St Galls made amends in 1985 picking up their first title with a 10-point win over Knockmore, Mayo after extra-time.

Knockmore led for the bulk of normal time, before a late point from Galls forced extra-time. Led by captain Gerry Higgins (2-4), Galls came good in extra-time, Knockmore were well served by Eugene McHale (1-5) and Seamus Weir (1-3).

2005 St Galls 2-11 Castleblayney Faughs 3-8 (Galls win 1-0 on pens)

St Galls won their first title in 20 years after a testing battle with Monaghan's Castleblayney Faughs.

This game was close, with a late Kevin McGourty point forcing extra-time. In the penalty shootout McGourty saved all three Castleblayney penalties, while Kevin Niblock converted to give Galls silverware.

2008 St Galls 1-11 Glenullin 0-13

St Galls took silverware after a hard earned one-point win over Glenullin in Glenalbyn.

Galls burst into an early five-point lead, but Eoin Bradley's sideline point from Glenullin helped them mount a comeback. Bradley added two more points, but Galls fired back. The sides were level before scores from Kevin Niblock and Karl Stewart pushed Galls two points clear. Bradley added a score for Glenullin, but Galls held out.

2010 St Galls 3-9 Bellaghy 2-5

For the second time St Galls overcame a Derry side to take All-Ireland Sevens silverware in Glenalbyn.

This win saw Galls become the first club to pick up the All-Ireland Club Championship and Sevens titles in the same year.

Eoghan Brown was outstanding for Bellaghy and his goal pushed them into a first half lead, but a crucial Anto Healy major gave the winners a 1-4 to 1-3 interval advantage.

Ger Doherty slotted a penalty to give Bellaghy, who had to overcome Bryansford, Clonoe and Caherlistrane in the knock-out rounds,

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a two-point advantage, but Conor McGourty converted from the spot at the other end before Colin Brady walked the ball to an empty net to seal the win for St. Gall's.

2012 St Galls 0-13 Corofin 1-10 (Galls won 2-0 on pens)

St Galls won the 40th All-Ireland football Sevens title in dramatic circumstances against luckless Corofin at Glenalbyn.

The Antrim men were trailing by a point in the dying embers of the final when Corofin were penalised by Cormac Reilly for playing a back-pass from a dead ball.

Kevin Niblock was outstanding throughout, scoring three points in the first half, and he was given the responsibility of grasping this late opportunity from tight on the left sideline.

Niblock's kick went over in the last act of normal time to bring the final to penalties.

CJ McGourty converted the first kick before Kevin McGourty saved the effort of Gary Sice.

Niblock continued his clinical shooting to make it 2-0 and when Kevin McGourty saved Colm O'Donovan's effort, St Gall's had secured their fourth title in eight years, and their fifth in total.

2014 St. Galls (Antrim) 1-11 Bryansford (Down) 1-10

St Galls bounced back from losing the 2013 decider, with a slender one-point win over five-time winners Bryansford, to pick up a record sixth title in Glenalbyn.

Seven different players were on target for the eventual winners, including Andrew McLean whose 1-09 to 1-07 lead, after Conor Maginn netted for Bryansford.

Galls were unbeaten through the day, but little separated the sides in the final, but they just held that extra edge, and went two points clear late on thanks to Kevin Niblock.

Bryansford never gave up, and although Chris Clarke cut the gap to the minimum with a late point, it was the final kick of the game, with referee Cormac Reilly signalling full-time soon after.

There was some consolation for Bryansford, as Ciaran Branagan was named Player of the Tournament.

2016 St Galls 1-12 Kilmacud Crokes 3-6 (Galls won 3-2 on penalties)

Galls claimed their seventh title at the hosts expense, by beating the reigning champions on a penalty shootout in Glenalbyn.

Kieran McGourty was St Galls hero with a place kick earning his side silverware after a penalty shoot-out, with the teams inseparable in normal time.

Kevin Niblock scored 1-8 in this game, including a goal which forced extra-time, while Niall O'Neill also impressed for Galls and claimed the Player of the Tournament Award.

Goals from Aidan Jones, Callum Pearson and Pat Burke (penalty) all claimed goals as Crokes led by 3-6 to 0-10 before a strong Galls finish in normal time.

The win saw Kieran McGourty pick up a record sixth All-Ireland Sevens medal.

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OISIN LANGAN



As I write this, there are only a few days to go until the All Ireland final is upon us once more. I'm struck by the notion that no matter what I manage to scribble down won't be original. Already today I've read 3 different articles in one newspaper about the final and it's only Tuesday.

So here's what I've gathered; Aidan O'Shea won't be full back, Dublin have an awesome bench and a methodical manager, while Mayo are resilient and will have to bring an intensity beyond belief to have any chance. Depending on who you listen to, watch or read, Mayo should or should not push up on the kick outs but no matter what they do, Stephen Cluxton's only weakness is Kryptonite so it probably won't even make a difference.

As some of you may be aware, I'm a Waterford man. If there's one thing I learned ahead of the hurling final it's that debate is incredibly fun but ultimately, futile. I lost hours of sleep pondering game plans leading into the match two weeks ago despite that fact that no matter what I came up with Derek McGrath would not require my advice! So why do we do it? It's because sport is much more fun than real life. It provides an escape and a subject to debate that we can all disagree on vehemently knowing it won't cause a riot (in most cases). In the lead up to the hurling I knew all the

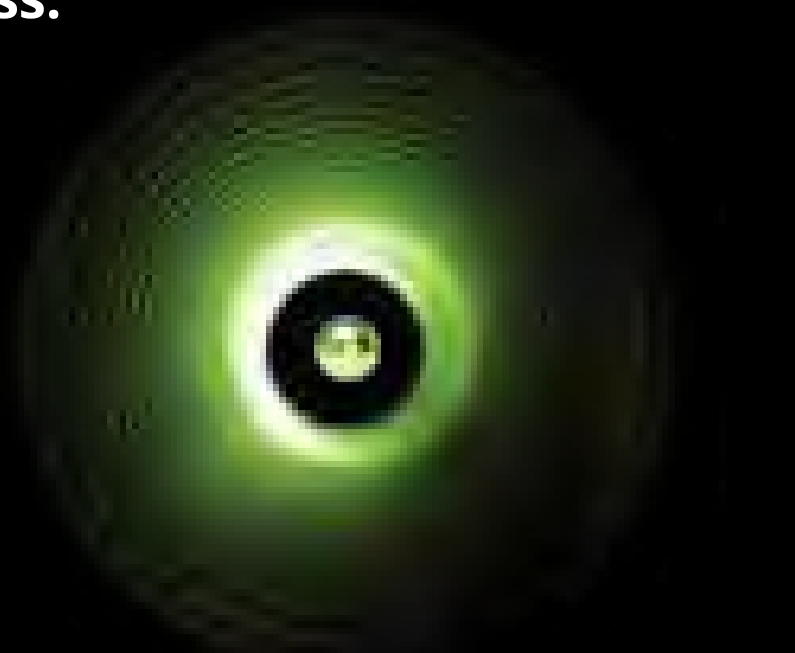
debate was irrelevant. Questions like who'll play in what role and what impact, if any, the excitement levels around the county would have, if everyone was sorted for tickets and if everyone had seen that funny picture from the Comeraghs of the mountain goat in the Waterford jersey (Up the Deiseeeee) .

Don't try to make the build to the final logical just enjoy it. Your team might win, or you may lose, but that in some ways is not important. What is important is to not let the build-up pass you by. Mayo fans never lose hope, history tells us either way they'll be back. Dublin fans, don't take the current success for granted. History tells us no same team will win it every year but no matter where you're from just enjoy it and embrace the excitement. Remember, you're lucky enough to be part of the ride, there's 30 other counties (less if you discount Kilkenny, more if you add New York and London!) who'd love to feel the build-up, and ultimately, the agony and the ecstasy of All Ireland Sunday.

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Good luck to all the competitors taking part in the Kilmacud Crokes Football 7s from EY



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DUBLIN SFC COMES BACK INTO THE LIMELIGHT

BY RONAN MAC LOCHLAINN (EVENING HERALD)

With the Dublin Senior Football Championship due to resume in the coming fortnight, now seems as good as time as any to run the rule on the eight teams remaining and their relative chances in terms of landing the Clery Cup.

St Vincent's remain the standard bearer in the county and three titles in the past four years reflect their position of dominance in recent times.

However, they are far from unbeatable, as Ballyboden St Enda's proved in the 2015 final, and their defence has proved far from watertight at times this year.

Conceding three goals to a game but limited Round Tower Clondalkin team in the 1st round highlighted that concern and although they enjoyed a clean sheet in their 2-11 to 0-12 win over Na Fianna in Round 2, that was more down to some inspired goalkeeping from Michael Savage than any noticeable improvement in the Vinnies rearguard.

Whether St Sylvester's have enough attacking potential to threaten Savage is open to debate but they'll take huge confidence from their 2nd round win over a constantly competitive Lucan Sarsfields team.

Of course, it would be amiss not to mention Diarmuid Connolly in the context of this match or when assessing St Vincents' title defence ambitions and if their talisman hits the heights that he has regularly shown in club colours, than Vinnies should cruise into the last four.

Who join them at the semi-final stage is open to debate but Ballymun Kickhams remain many people's favourites to topple the champions in 2017.

There is little question that they possess the most talented set of players in the county with the more proven performers in Dean Rock, James McCarthy, Philly McMahan and John Small being augmented by the potential of goalkeeper Evan Comerford and Paddy Small in attack.

However, the issue of discipline, or rather ill-discipline, remains valid when discussing Ballymun with needless cards issued to Davy Byrne and Jason Whelan in last year's semi-final against St Vincent's effectively sealing their fate.

Their opponents in the quarter-finals are a St Brigid's team that have enjoyed a resurgence of sorts this year after a couple of disappointing campaigns.

In John O'Loughlin, they possess the most consistent championship midfielder over the past six years or so and their attack is potentially lethal through the presence of Paddy Andrews, Philly Ryan and Monaghan import Darren Freeman.

Whether their presence is enough to cause an update remains to be seen but it will certainly be a far from straightforward win for Kickhams, irrespective of what the bookmakers believe. The tightest anticipated clash looks set to be

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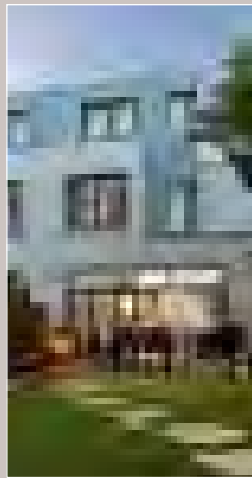
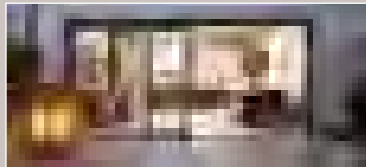
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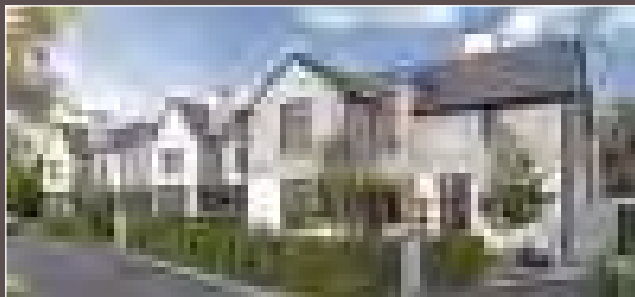
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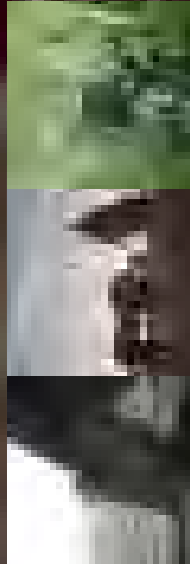
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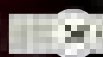


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CROKES CLUBMAN NOLAN WOULD LOVE TO BE BACK IN BLUE

BY CÓILÍN DUFFY (CÓILÍN DUFFY MEDIA) @COILINDUFFY

Kilmacud Crokes clubman Kevin Nolan is still very much in his prime, and would love to be back in the Blue of Dublin, and is backing his former charges to take another All-Ireland title tomorrow.

Life takes over and Nolan has been spending his Summer's in America of late, but he's not ruling out a possible Summer donning the Sky Blue and Navy of Dublin.

"I would love to be involved, and I've said it before that I would love to swap any of the Summer's I've had in New York for involvement with Dublin again," he said at the launch of the 2017 Volkswagen Kilmacud Crokes All-Ireland GAA Senior Football Sevens.

"Things have happened, things have changed and there's other walks of life that I sort of have to focus on now. I'm recently engaged, so all that planning is going to start coming to the fore over the next couple of months."

Focussing on Dublin he's impressed with how things have been motoring this Summer.

"Looking in from the outside they seem to be tipping along nicely. I just can't see past them at the minute.

"I would have thought Tyrone would have put it

a bit more up to them than they did. Talking to Sean Cavanagh I don't think Tyrone expected Dublin to be as good as they were.

"I still think that they had another gear to go too if they really needed."

It's deja-vu from 12 months ago, with Dublin again facing Mayo in the decider. Nolan isn't surprised that this is the case, and isn't ruling out another replay.

"You look over the last couple of years there's only been one or two points between them. There's been a couple of draws in there, so you wouldn't be backing against it.

"I think Mayo are best prepared for them, now how prepared they are I just don't know. My head and heart says Dublin will win it, but Mayo are experienced and are well used to playing against this Dublin squad.

"Maybe mentally not having beaten them it could be a factor, but you are looking for a competitive game for Dublin.

"I don't think that they have been fully tested all year, and not that they will mind that, because the in-house games that they do have amongst themselves will be just like a Championship game in itself.

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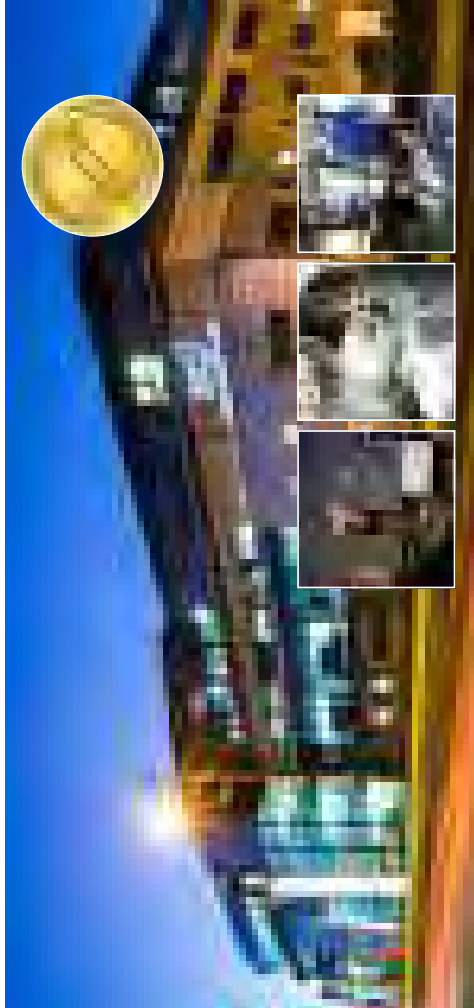
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