



# Provincial Junior Football Shield Final

**HERTFORDSHIRE**  
**v YORKSHIRE**

Frongoch, An Bhreatain Bheag  
Dé Sathairn, Meitheamh 18, 2016  
Throw-in 4.00pm

Luach €3.00

# Gaelic Football Returns to Frongoch

Winners of today's final of An Bhreatain's provincial shield competition will be presented with the Wolfe Tone Cup, a specially commissioned trophy to commemorate the 'Wolfe Tone Final'.

This game commemorates the fact that Gaelic football matches were organised and played by Irish internees in the aftermath of the 1916 Rising. While held in the Frongoch internment camp, the internees organised inter-hut and inter-county competitions which were all played on a football field the internees named Croke Park.

Locals in Frongoch still refer to this field as 'Croke Park' and it is on this very pitch that the provincial shield final will be played.



# RÉAMHFHOCAL ÓN UACHTARÁN

Is cúis mhór áthais dom na focail seo a leanas a scríobh ar ócaid speisialta seo agus muid go léir bailithe anseo i bhFrongoch sa Bhreatain Bheag.

Today marks a very special day in the programme of events organised by Cumann Lúthchleas Gael to commemorate and celebrate the events of 1916.

While the majority of these events took place on the island of Ireland, today's is particularly special in that it commemorates the incarceration of Irish men who pushed Gaelic games to the fore during their period in captivity.

It is hard to separate the GAA story and that of the island of Ireland and if anything exemplifies that, it's the central role our games played here on what was a former military detention centre. Not surprisingly hurling was not permitted! But football was organised and played with gusto and the competitive nature of some of the proceedings were headlines in the press at home in Ireland.

The instinctive organisation of games and competitions once again showed the importance of Gaelic games to those who had been transported here and it is no exaggeration to say that the time spent here had a profound effect not only on those who were detained but also on the next chapter in the story of Ireland's revolutionary period.

While neither 1916 nor its legacy are the sole preserve of the GAA it was always right and proper that the GAA would commemorate a period that gave rise to the emergence of modern Ireland.

Our Laochra event on April 24, the day of the Allianz League finals, was a huge success and I would like to acknowledge the work of our History and Commemorations Committee, chaired by Noel Treacy, for the programme of events they have worked on since their appointment.



The GAA Summer School focussing on the period will take place between June 30 and July 2 at Croke Park.

I would like to acknowledge the British Council of the GAA for their role in organising today's event for the Shield finalists Hertfordshire and Yorkshire who will compete on the field used by the men of 1916.

I do hope the players involved will look back fondly in years to come recalling the day and I believe the event will also help shine a light on an important strand of our history.

*Aogán Ó Fearghail*

**Aogán Ó Fearghail**  
Uachtarán  
Cumann Lúthchleas Gael



# GAELIC GAMES IN FRONGOCH 1916

By Mark Reynolds

In the aftermath of the 1916 Rising, approximately 1,800 Irishmen suspected of involvement in the rebellion were interned in the Frongoch internment camp in North Wales. Originally a distillery, the makeshift camp (which was divided into two sections – North Camp and South Camp) held German POWs until they were moved out of it and replaced with Irishmen in 1916. Until their release in December 1916 the Irish internees were granted de facto prisoner-of-war status.

Internees were allowed associate with one another, each hut nominated its own leader, while commandants were elected for both camps. A routine of military discipline was established with a series of programmes initiated to stimulate the men physically, politically and culturally. Mass, breakfast and military drill were followed by afternoons of classes, with the internees drawing from their own reservoir of talents.



For recreational purposes concerts were held twice a week while Gaelic football was the main sport played by the internees. Amongst those interned in Frongoch were the inter-county footballers Dick Fitzgerald (Kerry), Frank Burke (Dublin), Frank Shouldice (Dublin), Paddy Cahill (Kerry), Brian Joyce (Dublin) and Seamus Dobbyn (Antrim). These men were crucial to organising Gaelic games behind the barbed wire. While there were some complaints about the unsuitability of the hilly camp for football matches, the internees quickly adapted to the landscape and established a dedicated football pitch called Croke Park (which sloped towards one set of goals) where they enthusiastically held a large number of Gaelic football matches on a daily basis.

A Gaelic football competition was organised amongst four Frongoch teams with each team playing six matches. Teams from the South Camp wore a blue stripe while teams from the North Camp wore red stripes. Three of the teams were named after the executed leaders of the 1916 Rising, but it was Dick Fitzgerald's team, called 'the Leprechauns' due to the small stature of some of its players, that won the competition. Football competitions were also organised along inter-county lines.

In early July 1916 a 'Gaelic football and athletic carnival' was held in the camp, with Kerry's one-point victory over Louth in the 'Wolfe Tone Final' being the 'principal feature' of the carnival, while later in the month, on 16 July 1916, representatives of Dublin beat Wexford by 1-8 to 2-3 in the 'Frongoch (Leinster) Championship.'

Frongoch Prison Camp



Athletic competitions were also popular amongst the internees. In August 1916, an 'eventful' afternoon of sports 'under GAA laws' was held in Frongoch that 'excited great interest and gave an opportunity to many athletes to display their prowess in a goodly number of contests from the favourite 100 Yards Dash to the 16lbs. "push." When accusations were later made in the House of Commons about the sub-standard quality of food within Frongoch, Major Newman was able to point out that the internees were so well nourished that they regularly engaged in athletics and sports events.

The playing of Gaelic games in Frongoch served a number of important functions. The purpose of the internment camp was one of containment rather than punishment or rehabilitation. Gaelic games were used as a cultural weapon by those interned by the British. Against the backdrop of British captivity, Gaelic games were uniquely played as a means of reaffirming an Irish identity. *The Kerryman* reported that 'the intense Gaelicism of the Irish prisoners of war at Frongoch Internment Camp is clearly demonstrated in their eager attendance at Irish language classes...and their zest in pursuing the

Gaelic games arranged by well-known GAA men in their midst.'

On a more practical level, Gaelic games provided much needed relief and staved off the boredom that normally accompanies an unspecified period of detention. When several Kerry internees were released from Frongoch in July 1916, they reported that 'taking everything into consideration...they had a fairly good time. Concerts, football matches, and other amusements broke the monotony of their deportation.'



Gaelic football game in Stafford Jail 1916

# HERTFORDSHIRE



**1** Néill Mac Dhaibhéid  
NIALL McKEVITT

**2** Stiofán Ó Dearáin  
STEPHEN DORAN

**3** Seasamh Ó Mongáin  
JOE MANGAN

**4** Néill de Búrca  
NOEL BURKE

**5** Seán Mag Aoidh  
JOHNNY MCGEE

**6** Séamus Ó hAodha  
SÉAMUS HAYES

**7** Mairtín Mac Conmhara  
MARTIN McNAMARA

**8** Seán Mac Congail  
SEÁN MCGONIGLE

**9** Warren Ó Beacháin  
WARREN LITTLE

**10** Fiachra Mac Giolla Andréis  
FIACHRA LANDERS

**11** Piaras Mag Fhloinn  
PIERS MCGLYNN

**12** Stiofán Mac Labhraí  
STEPHEN LAVERY

**13** Páidi Mac Conmhara  
PAT McNAMARA

**14** Marcas Ó Riain  
MARK RYAN

**15** Stiofán Mac Cathasaigh  
STEPHEN CASEY

## FIR IONAIÐ

**16.** Gearóid Ó Luasa  
GEARÓID Ó LUASA

**17.** Tomás Mac Giolla  
TOM GILL

**18.** Dónall Ó Suilleabháin  
DAN O'SULLIVAN

**19.** Aodhán Dayson  
AIDAN DAYSON

**20.** Tomás Mac Grifín  
TOMMY GRIFFIN

**21.** Seán Ó Muíreasáin  
SEÁN MORRISON

**22.** Pól Ó Suilleabháin  
PAUL O'SULLIVAN

**23.** Eamonn Ó Doibhilin  
EAMONN DEVLIN

**24.** Pól Ó Coinn  
PAUL QUINN

**25.** Jorge Lima  
JORGE LIMA

**26.** Caoimhin Ó Muireasa  
KEVIN MORRISEY



# YORKSHIRE

**1** **Tomás Ó Dúfaigh**  
**TOM DUFFY**

**2** **Tomás Ó Condúin**  
**TOM CONDON**

**3** **Nicolás Ó Flannagáin**  
**NICKY FLANAGAN**

**4** **Blaine Ó Ruain**  
**BLAINE RUANE**

**5** **Peadar Ó Mantáin**  
**PETER MANTON**

**6** **Lorcáin Ó hEára**  
**LORCAN O'HARA**

**7** **Criostóir Spence**  
**CHRIS SPENCE**

**8** **Tomás Mac Lannchaidh**  
**TOM CLANCY**

**9** **Séamus Ó Deá**  
**JACK DAY**

**10** **Cathal Ó hAodha**  
**CATHAL HUGHES**

**11** **Criostóir Ó Caiside**  
**CHRIS CASSIDY**

**12** **Séamas Ó Mocháin**  
**JAMES MONE**

**13** **Conchúr Huoton**  
**CONNOR HUOTON**

**14** **Nollaig Ó hEidhin**  
**NOEL HYNES**

**15** **Riain Ó Caoilte**  
**RYAN SMALL**

## FIR IONAIÐ

**16. Aindriú Mac Maoláin**  
**ANDY MULLAN**

**17. Seán Ó Ciaráin**  
**JOHN KEARNS**

**18. Doimnic Mac Tomáis**  
**DOMINIC THOMPSON**

**19. Séamas Mac Giolla Rua**  
**JAMES KILROY**

**20. Dónall Ó hAodha**  
**DAN HAYES**

**21. Fionnbhar Ó Fiannaí**  
**FINBARR FEENEY**

**22. Eoin Mac Muiri**  
**EWIN MURRAY**

**23. Ciarán Mac Conmhail**  
**CIARAN McCONVILLE**

**24. Seoirse Mac Úistín**  
**GEORGE KITCHEN**

# THE FORMATION OF THE PROVINCIAL COUNCIL OF BRITAIN 1927

By Mark Reynolds

Britain, as Ireland's closest neighbour, has long been the destination for Irish emigrants. As with other countries, Irish emigrants brought their culture and pastimes with them when they left Ireland.

Evidence of Gaelic games in Britain can be found as early as 1775 when a large group of Irish people "gathered together and played a hurling match on a sports field near to Camden Town in North London". In 1876 *The Graphic* newspaper reported that on Saint Patrick's Day "the Irish residents of London postponed their rejoicings until Saturday, when they met in force at Muswell Hill, and took part in the sport of hurling." Gaelic games, even before the 1884 formation of the GAA, played a role in the lives of the diaspora in Britain.



William MacCarthy



The playing of Gaelic games in Britain was sporadic and impromptu - it was not until 1896, following an exhibition of Gaelic games at Stamford Bridge, home of Chelsea Football Club, that an official GAA Board was formed in London. In 1897 this London board had 10 clubs affiliated to it. Also in 1897 'a large and enthusiastic meeting' of Irishmen in Glasgow resulted in the formation of the Red Hugh O'Neill GAA Club, the genesis of the GAA in Scotland.

In 1901 efforts were made by the Central Council of the GAA to organise the GAA in Britain along provincial administrative lines: at the annual convention the motion was passed that 'England be considered a Province' with Luke O'Toole, General Secretary, writing to the London County Board 'directing them to form a Provincial Council'.

On the playing fields too, efforts were made to better organise the GAA in Britain. In 1900 the decision was taken to include England in the All-Ireland Championships, in both football and



hurling. The arrangement was that the winners of the All-Ireland Championship (the “home champions”) would play the All-England champions for the title of All-Ireland. Between 1902 and 1906 the London footballers and the London hurlers took part in four All-Ireland finals each: in the 1901 hurling championship (played in 1903) London (Selection) won their first, and to date, only All-Ireland senior hurling title. In 1906 the decision was taken, largely on financial grounds, to restrict the championships to the four “home” provinces.

Between 1906 and 1926 the activities of the GAA in Britain can be described as sporadic, at best. The outbreak of World War I (1914-1918) severely curtailed the activities of the GAA in Britain. There is however some evidence that the GAA sought to remain active.

At the GAA’s 1911 Annual Convention a London motion, calling for the repeal of the “foreign games rule”, was defeated - William (Liam) MacCarthy wrote to this Annual Convention stating that although he was Chairman of the London County Board, and their nominated representative to attend the Congress, he could not do so as he was fundamentally opposed to the London motion. In 1912 Central Council gave permission to four clubs in London to form a new county board as the existing one consisted of members who persisted in playing “foreign games”. Outside of London, the Central Council provided hurls and equipment for a 10 team hurling league in south Wales, while affiliation records show that nine clubs were established in Glasgow.

It was not until 1926 that the Provincial Council became truly representative of Britain; in November 1926 Central Council decided to call a conference for London in December with representatives from

Portsmouth, Southampton, Liverpool, Manchester, Wales and Scotland invited to attend. Frank McGrath was appointed to represent the Central Council at this meeting.

At the January 21, 1927 Central Council meeting McGrath reported that the Provincial Council for Britain had been formed at this conference with Jas Collins (London) as President; Cyril McGough (London) as Secretary and Jas Ryan (Liverpool) as Treasurer. McGrath highlighted the need for financial assistance and suggested ‘either the voting of £100 or the sending over of the Cork and Tipperary teams to play exhibition matches at Liverpool and London.’

The Council decided to send the two hurling teams, in doing so they started a tradition of Irish teams travelling to Britain.



The Liam MacCarthy Cup

# The Kerryman

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One Halfpenny

## KEEP THE FLAG FLYING FOOTBALL GAMES AT FRONGOCH INTERNMENT CAMP KERRY AND DUBLIN VICTORIOUS SPECIAL DESCRIPTION BY "THE CARP"

The intense Gaelicism of the Irish prisoners of war at Frongoch Internment Camp is clearly demonstrated in their eager attendance at Irish language classes organised under the direction of capable teachers and their zest in pursuing the Gaelic games arranged by well-known GAA men in their midst. Gaelic football has been taken up with a great degree of enthusiasm and a large number of matches are being played daily. Already a Gaelic football and athletic carnival has been held, of which an exciting game between teams representative of Kerry and Louth was the principal feature.

A **Narrow Win for Kerry** by a point indicates the closeness and interesting nature of the contest. On Sunday last, 16<sup>th</sup> July, another great game was played in the Frongoch (Kinsister) championship, when Dublin and Wexford lined up under the whistle of Mr. D. P. Walsh, Tipperary. Great enthusiasm was manifested in the game, and a large and appreciative attendance cheered the outstanding incidents of the play as the game progressed.

The football pitch was a fairly level one, there being a slight slope towards one goal. The wind, blowing down on this slope was availed of by Dublin, in the first half, and at the line up the following players joined hands:-

**DUBLIN** - J. Tracey (Mitchels) capt., J. O'Loughlin (goal), P. Christie, O. McDermott, P. Joyce (Parnells), J. Donovan, T. Taylor (Clan Lir), D. Meade, J. Tuke (Bullins), D. Brophy (Lusk), B. McAlister (St. Doloughs), J. Beggs (Skerries), J.M. Stanley (Geraldines), J. Mullan (Donores), J. Quinn (Hibernian Knights).

**WEXFORD** - J. Vize, capt., goal (Blue and Whites), J. Whelan (Ross Geraldines), J. Murphy, E. Synnott (Stanley Harriers), P. Boland, T. Barnes, J. Kelly (2), J. Connors, B. Kinsella (Ferns), D. Murphy (Volunteers), E. Heron (Irish Brigade), Matt Furlong (Wexford), J. Weafer (Ezra'scotthly), T. Carran (Newtownbarry).

With long, swinging strides, the **Dublin Forwards Raced Away** from the throw-in, and a strong bout of attacking ensued. The pressure being sustained on the Wexford post, they eventually succumbed to the tune of a point, per Meade.

The breeze assisted Dublin materially in the next few minutes, and fine centrefield work by Tracey put Beggs in position to score a second point. The pace was very fast and Wexford, per Boland, forced the struggle into Dublin territory where McAlister intervened, however, and put Dublin attacking once more. By the time the game was fifteen minutes old, Dublin had added two more points, per McDermott and Brophy. The character of the play for the remainder of the first half was pretty similar, Dublin having slightly the better of the argument, their play being very nippy and well balanced. The passing movement among the forwards were very neat and effective, and but for the **Fine Defence of Vize** in goal many more scores would have been added. Vize was a tower of strength to his side, and he found a fine partner in John Kelly at full. Half-time score:-

Dublin ..... 6 points  
Wexford ..... nil

On turning over, very exciting play took place at centrefield, but Dublin were first to make an impression, and dashing play by Meade, Quinn and Tracey resulted in the latter scoring a point. Wexford now rallied, and in a manner that indicated that they meant business, they pressed Dublin back to their posts, and Weafer had the distinction of opening the scoring, a fine long kick going squarely over the centre of the bar for a point. Crotie, McDonovan and McAlister were hard pressed in the metropolitan back division after this, but they were unable to stem

the **Strong Wexford Rushes** and Heron got through in fine style for a goal. Boland and John Connors peppered the Dublin posts after this, Boland being particularly smart at catching and fielding, and eventually he advanced his side another point. Dublin came up to the scratch gamely, and from the kick out Tracey secured from a host of opponents and gave Stanley an easy task to secure their eighth point. The Wexford goalkeeper again distinguished himself in warm exchanges, and several strong attacks were successfully repulsed and Wexford again attacked, and an exciting situation was created when Heron set through a goal for Wexford, equalising the scores.

Now ensued some **Grand Football** and the spectators were worked up to the highest pitch. Dublin by a supreme effort forced play to Wexford end, and nice passing between Tuke and Quinn put Meade in position to give them the lead with a goal. Wexford were continually pressing after this, but could only increase their total by a further point, and the final situation was:-

Dublin ..... 1 goal 8 pts  
Wexford ..... 2 goals 3 pts

It was a fine interesting tussle and from the point of view of interesting features nothing was left to be desired. The Gaels of Frongoch are keeping the flag of the G.A.A. to the front in exile, and from the whole camp one could easily pick a team second to none in Ireland.



**GAA  
MUSEUM**  
CROKE PARK

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For more information and to purchase tickets  
please visit [crokepark.ie/summerschool](http://crokepark.ie/summerschool)



