

# AUGHAWILLAN SENIOR COUNTY CHAMPIONS 2016

## ACHADH MHAOLÁIN ABÚ!

*Tracy McTague Aughawillan PRO*

LEITRIM SENIOR FOOTBALL Final 2016—With three minutes to the final whistle of full time, an unbelievable point by Manor sees Aughawillan falter momentarily, on a game that they had controlled though out the match, always leading, point after point, surely at this late stage, the game was not to be taken from them. Screams of desperation by the Aughawillan fans matched by cheering adulation of Manor fans, all sides swept by the announcement of three minutes of injury time. Agonisingly close, every club supporter in the grounds, heart in mouth, willing on their team, wishing for their time, their victory. With two minutes of injury time played, Mark Plunkett steps up to the plate and puts Aughawillan back in front with a 45 that sailed between the uprights. Aughawillan 1-10 to Glencar Manor 0-12. It's Over! Willies Abú!

The intense pride, adoration and joy felt seeing your club win a County Final is the pinnacle of sporting celebration in Club Football—and this year Aughawillan were to the fore in County Leitrim. Aughawillan, a small rural community beset by emigration, city relocation and strapped resources were made so proud by the strength, determination, hard work and unity demonstrated by their Club.

Achieving success in a Club Final is quite



different to the feelings generated when supporting the county on a national level. Within small communities, feelings of belonging, identity and community support are intertwined within the GAA Club.

It takes every man, woman and child to get a team ready for a County Final. And in Aughawillan it is no different. In the weeks before the big game, the national school was busy painting and making banners, old men searched out even older vehicles to be painted.

Excitement and anticipation was evident on the faces of young and old, and football the only "chat" that could be talked, outside church gates, whist drives and in the local supermarkets, as family members now living in big cities planned their return for County final weekend.

Supporters placed flags, banners and bunting on every conceivable pole, chicken coop and gate in the area.

I do not believe anything quite matches watching your club win a county final, because as a community everyone has a share in the celebration, this moment of history that sees your nearest and dearest go down in the history books.

Thankfully our year was this year and so I give you our heroes, the Aughawillan 2016 Senior County Champions.

*Congratulations to our Players;*  
**Colin Maguire, Declan Mc Govern, Noel Plunkett, Fionbarr Quinn, Michael Quinn, Barry Prior, Seán Quinn, Pearce Dolan, Seán Fox, Morgan Quinn, Niall Beirne, Michael Prior, Stephen Gilheaney, Gary Plunkett, Ciarán Gilheaney, Fergal McTague, Paul Prior, Mark Plunkett, Rory Mc Tague, Seán Flanagan, Kieran O'Haire, Ronan Maxwell, Kevin McTague, Jason Prior, Peter Prior, Devin Quinn, John Gilheaney, Gerard McGovern & Paul Prior.**