

Mohill County Senior Champions & More

Maureen Lynch

On October 3 at approx 6.20 pm this year, all hell or was it heaven broke loose in Pairc Seán MacDiarmada when Ronan (Chic) Kennedy scored a last minute goal to win the County Championship for Mohill. This goal sent thousands of Mohill supporters at home and abroad into ecstasies. Shannonside's John Lynch captured the mood of the crowd with his enthusiastic account of the last few seconds of the game. His commentary and accompanying video of Ronan's goal went viral with many thousand hits. The people of Manorhamilton were the only ones disappointed on that great day as most of the other clubs were glad to see

■ **Ronan Gallagher, Man of the Match, with his family and girlfriend Stephanie Reynolds**



■ **Packie McGarty with the Captain of the Mohill team, Danny Beck**

Mohill win the Ellis Cup at last. But the Manor people, always gracious winners are also good losers and did not begrudge us our day in the sun. Indeed it was not from the lack of talent that

Mohill had been unsuccessful in the last few years. Many players represented the Club on the County Senior and Underage teams. But they got the reputation of being soft, no bottle, inclined to fold up under pressure.

However, on that wonderful day in October this year we put all those demons to rest. Success is never achieved without pain and since the Longford trio of Padraic Davis, Trevor Smullen and Pete McWade took over the management of the team in January, blood sweat and tears have been shed in the Philly McGuinness Park Mohill.

The first step was the acquisition of a gym and thanks to Baxters Centra an area was made available and was fully





fitted out in double quick time. Training commenced in February and has continued non-stop since, at home and in Athlone to facilitate the away players. Challenge matches, League games, an away training week-end in Lucan as well as fundraising by the players themselves, led to the formation of a close-knit set of young men who had a single goal in mind, to win the County Championship for the parish of Mohill and in doing so

honour their young friend the late Philly McGuinness.

They won all their Championship games in the run up to the Final. The drawn game with Glencar Manor was one of the best games of the year, while the replay was a dull affair. Nonetheless the Dick Ellis Cup was brought home to Mohill thanks to Ronan's goal and with some help from above. Crowds gathered in the

■ **Mohill team, winners of the Senior Championship 2015. Inset: Celebrating on the balcony**

town to greet the team as they came down the Main Street on Johnny Kennedy's trailer. Turlough O'Carolan togged out in the Mohill colours sat on his pedestal playing on his promised strings. People in Kerry or Kilkenny may talk of the joy of being All Ireland Champions and indeed it is a wonderful

■ **Mohill team Div 3 League**





achievement but how could it compare with the joy of winning the County Senior Championship for your Club and Parish?

Footnote

In the 1930s the GAA Park in Mohill was dedicated and named after the saint of the Parish St Manchan. In January this year it was renamed The Philly McGuinness Park. Since then the Club has broke all national records as regards collecting silverware. Following the Senior County Championship win in October, Mohill have added the Division 1 League title plus the Junior A and Minor Championship. Earlier in the year the Club had lifted the Minor League and Division 3 Cups. Add an Under 12 League and Championship and the fact that most of these finals were won by a point, there can be only one explanation! Somebody up There likes us!



■ Above: St Manchan Minor Champions

■ Left: Presentation U-12s Champions

■ Below: ILEO Junior Final Captains Stephen Conaty & Niall McCann receive cup from Terence Boyle

