

SCÓR 2002 IN LEITRIM

Brid Sullivan

IN 2001 THE CELEBRATIONS in Dromod and Ballinamore went on for months after the great achievements of the Bornacoola Scór na nÓg quiz team and Seán O Heslin's Novelty Act, Group winning the All Ireland titles. We all thought it could not be repeated, but it was.

2002 started for Scór na nÓg in early December and the competitiveness was as strong as ever. All but four clubs in the county entered the competition in some form or other. Leitrim representatives in the Connacht finals in Drum Co. Roscommon were strong contenders but the solo singer from the Eslin club, Deirdre McCabe, was the only qualifier for the All Ireland Finals in Athlone. Deirdre sang beautifully and her experience from the previous year was evident. However the adjudicators did not select Deirdre on the night and that closed the curtain for Scór na nÓg for another year.

Now it was time for the Mammies and Daddies and in some cases sons and daughters to start preparing for Scór Sinsear with thoughts of a final spot in the Gleneagles Hotel in Killarney at the end of April. For the first time in the history of Scór the county finals took place in the Corn Mill Theatre, Carrigallen. This was an ideal location and a memorable occasion. The top clubs in Leitrim came through stiff opposition in singing, acting, question time, recitation and ballad group. Disciplines in music and dancing were somewhat weaker than in previous



*Aughnasheelin-All-Ireland Scór '02 Ballad Group Finalists:
Sinéad Egan, Sheila McNulty, Brendan Sammon, Cait Sammon/Cullen & Fiona McNulty*

years. Claremorris was the next stop and out of that venue came Aughnasheelin Ballad Group, Seán O Heslin's Quiz Team and Seán O Heslin's Novelty act as Connacht champions.

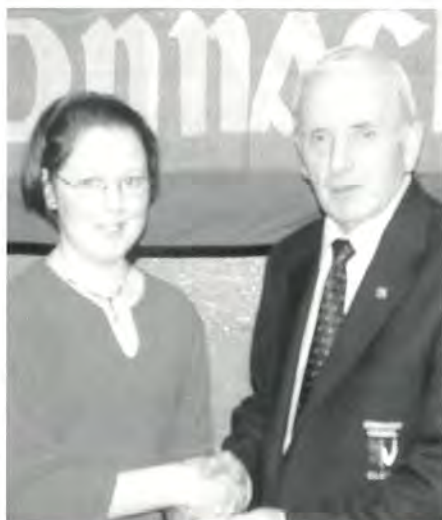
Both clubs eagerly awaited Killarney and fundraising commenced immediately, tickets in pocket, accommodation and buses booked and off we went. The support from both clubs

was fantastic and Aughnasheelin Ballad Group were first to perform. They looked a real professional outfit and sounded the same but when judgment time came it was not to be their day. Next on stage was the Seán O Heslin's Quiz Team. This team had been there twice before and came home losers. This time they were determined to go one better and spent many hours preparing

Seán Ó hEislin-All-Ireland Scór '02 Novelty Act Winners

Back Row: Tommy Moran, Cathaoirleach Lar Coiste Scór, Ruari Sullivan, Seán Ó Suilleabháin, Seán McCague, Uachtarán CLCG, Raymond McHugh, Seán McKeon & Denis Burke, Bus Éireann (Sponsor). Front Row: Leigh Murphy, Brid Sullivan, Brendan Brennan & Michael Fanning.





Deirdre McCabe of Eslin being presented with her Connacht Scór nÓg medal for Solo Singing by National Scór Chairman, Tommy Moran.

for the ultimate prize. Andy Duffy, Walter Sharpley and Seán O Suilleabhain were declared All Ireland Champions. It was a very emotional time for this trio and mobile phones were ringing all around Killarney and Ballinamore to spread the news. However our trip was not yet complete, we still had to bury the Celtic Tiger.

In the Novelty Act section Seán O Heslin's are probably feared by many clubs when their name appears on the programme and comments such as "Are ye here again this year?" or

"Do ye not get fed up winning?" This is part of the crack back stage. Every year Seán O Heslin's try to get a new act for this competition and there is no doubt but it helps. Every economist in the country was telling us the Celtic Tiger was dead, but nobody was prepared to foot the bill to bury him. Well he went out in style with all the trimmings in the Gleneagles Hotel in Killarney on the 20th of April.

The Novelty Act group of Brendan Brennan, Seán McKeeon, Raymond McHugh, Michael Fanning, Ruairí O Suilleabháin, Leigh Murphy and Brid agus Seán O Suilleabháin were declared All Ireland Champions for the two-in-a-row record for the club. This achievement brought the club to the top spot in Ireland in Scór.

The homecoming brought bonfires, speeches, handshakes and celebratory drinks. We often thought on these occasions what would happen if Leitrim ever won an All Ireland



*Seán Ó hEislin-All-Ireland Scór '02 Question Time Winners
Back Row: Seán McCague, Uachtarán CLCG, Tommy Moran, Cathaoirleach Lar Coiste Scór & Denis Burke, Bus Éireann (Sponsor). Front Row-the team: Andy Duffy, Seán Ó Suilleabháin & Walter Sharpley.*

Football Title but this was our All Ireland and it will always be remembered. The tour of the town on the open top lorry, the congratulations and good wishes, the invites to perform, are all part of the celebrations, until the curtain has to be pulled down for another year and now it is almost here again. Scór, for children and adults, is a great activity and I'm sure winners and losers alike will admit that you win some and lose a lot but it is all wonderful entertainment.

Literary Award Winner 2002



Tommy McCartin presents the Leonard Perpetual Trophy to Des Keegan, winner of the MJ McManus Literary Award 2002

Pic: Willie Donnellan