

The Dramatic Influence of

Scór

Seán Ó Suilleabháin

Scór and its younger version, Scór na nÓg, have been without doubt the most significant organised social development on the Irish scene over the past 25 years.

It has had a wondrous effect on the spread of Irish cultural activity and on its appreciation by young and old. The presence of a GAA-club in every parish and the desire of clubs to be represented in the various activities have meant that hundreds of youngsters have been put on stage dancing, singing, reciting, playing music etc.

Scór has been the single biggest influence in the revival of set dancing; it has been the means of putting ballad groups together, it has sparked off question-time competitions and it gives a first opportunity to a great many youngsters to perform on stage.

Because of its County, Provincial and All Ireland structure it is the most prestigious competitive activity on the Irish cultural scene. This arises from its being compared to football and hurling and the status that winning a County or Provincial title has. The enormous impact of Scór in Leitrim can be gauged by the wide variety of well-known people who have won Scór titles.

"The nights Bornacoola won County and Connacht titles in Set Dancing ... it was like Croke Park in September!"

ENTERTAINERS

Charlie McGettigan won a Leitrim Scór title in Ballad Group, in 1974, with Allen Gaels, twenty years before he won the Eurovision. Eleanor Shanley of De Dannan fame won solo singing in Scór na nÓg twice, in 1973 and 1975, with Kiltubrid. Maurice Lennon of Stockton's Wing won instrumental music in Leitrim in 1977, with Melvin Gaels.

FOOTBALLERS

The huge involvement of GAA players is also a most significant feature. Many of the present Leitrim team have County Scór awards. Goalkeeper Martin Mc Hugh won a couple of County titles in Set Dancing with his club Aughnasheelin. All Star full back Séamus Quinn took part in Novelty Act with Gortletteragh. Padraig

McLoughlin who played Railway Cup football this year was also a set dancer with his club Aughavas in Scór as well as taking part in Novelty Act. Brendan Guckian was another to represent his club St. Mary's in Novelty Act. Gene Bohan another member of St. Mary's club on the Leitrim panel took part in Figure Dancing. Ciarán Mahon from Seán

Ó Heslins was on question time teams. However most significant of all was the achievement of Aidan Rooney from the Glencar/Manorhamilton club, he won an All Ireland Scór title in figure dancing in 1993 and a week later he scored the winning point in Leitrim's first defeat of Galway in the Connacht Championship in 44 years.

GAA OFFICIALS

There is hardly a GAA club Chairman or Secretary in the County that hasn't taken part in some event or other in Scór. At County Board level in Leitrim, County Secretary Tommy Moran has won a couple of All Ireland medals in Novelty Act. Co Chairman Tony McGowan has taken part in question time and music. All Ireland Referee Séamus Prior has won County titles in Novelty Act.

SCÓR SINSEAR ALL IRELAND WINNERS

Seán O Heslins	(4) Novelty Act 1984, 1994 Recitation 1985, 1989
Carrigallen	(2) Novelty Act 1988 Recitation 1994
St Mary's	(1) Recitation 1971
Annaduff	(1) Question Time 1982
Mohill	(1) Recitation 1988
Glencar/Manorhamilton	(1) Figure dance 1993

SCOR NA NÓG ALL IRELAND WINNERS

Seán O Heslins	(2) Question time 1988, 1991
Carrigallen	(1) Instrumental Music 1989

COUNTY COUNCILLORS

About half of the members of Leitrim Co. Council have taken part in Scór at some time or other. Current Cathaoirleach of the Council, Seán McGowan, won a Scór title in Ballad Group. His predecessor Senator Pascal Mooney took part in question time. Leitrim's other Senator, Gerry Reynolds, took part in Solo Singing. Other Councillors who won County Scór titles are Farrell McElgunn in Question Time, Tommy McCartin in Recitation and Charlie Cullen in Novelty Act.



GLENCAR-MANORHAMILTON SENIOR SCÓR 1995

Senior Team who reached the All Ireland Finals in Athlone R.T.C on April 18th with **Dance Teacher Claire MacMorrow** and Musicians, **Joanne and Oliver Lee, John James MacMorrow**

Dancers Front Row: **Nora O'Rourke, Suzanne Gilligan, Caroline Kennedy, Muireann Duignan.**

Glencar/Manorhamilton. All clubs bar Aughawillin, Ballinaglera, Drumkeerin and Eslin have won County Scór na nÓg titles.

WELL KNOWN PEOPLE

Many nationally known figures from Leitrim have competed in Scór. Among those who won County titles are Ivan Doherty former Fine Gael General Secretary, who danced in All Ireland Finals. Pádraig Griffin, former president of BLE won a Scór title in the inaugural year of 1970 in motion speaking for Ballinamore. RTE reporter Carol Coleman has County titles in Ballad Group, Novelty Act and Solo Singing.

ALL IRELAND SUCCESS

Leitrim clubs have had great success in reaching and winning All Irelands over the past decade in particular. Seán O'Heslins from Ballinamore have been the most successful, winning four senior and two Scór na nÓg titles. Carrigallen came next with two Senior and one Scór na nÓg success. Four other clubs, St Mary's, Annaduff, Mohill and Glencar/Manorhamilton have one title each.

SCÓR SINSEAR

At County level every one of Leitrim's 22 GAA Clubs (23 if you include the now defunct Kiltyclogher club) have taken part in Scór at one time or other. All except Aughavas, Ballinaglera, Cloone, Fenagh, Kiltubrid and Eslin have won at least one Scór Sinsear title. The top clubs, up to 1995, in terms of success at County level are Glencar/Manorhamilton and Seán O'Heslins with Bornacoola closely following.

SCÓR NA NÓG

Dromahair were the top club in Scór na nÓg for many years. Despite the fact that they hadn't won a County Scór na nÓg title since 1984 they still headed the winners chart until 1995. Bornacoola are now the most successful club in Scór na nÓg followed closely by Dromahair, Seán O'Heslins and

HUGE INTEREST

Scór draws huge crowds to venues throughout the county. It has its own following, some of whom are people who would not be interested in football or hurling. It builds friendships and friendly rivalries and the competitive element is quietly forgotten about as everyone enjoys the nights of Irish cultural entertainment.

NIGHTS TO REMEMBER

Some memorable achievements stand out such as the night in 1984 when Leitrim took seven of the eight titles at a Connacht Final in Benada. An incredible individual feat was that of Cathal Reynolds of Bornacoola who won Leitrim trophies in five events on the one night in 1990. While a number of Ballinamore participants have won two all Ireland awards, Carrigallen's Gus Ward has won All Irelands in two different events, Novelty Act and recitation. For excitement and fever who could ever forget the nights Bornacoola won County and Connacht titles in Set Dancing. It was like Croke Park in September

SCÓR COMMITTEE

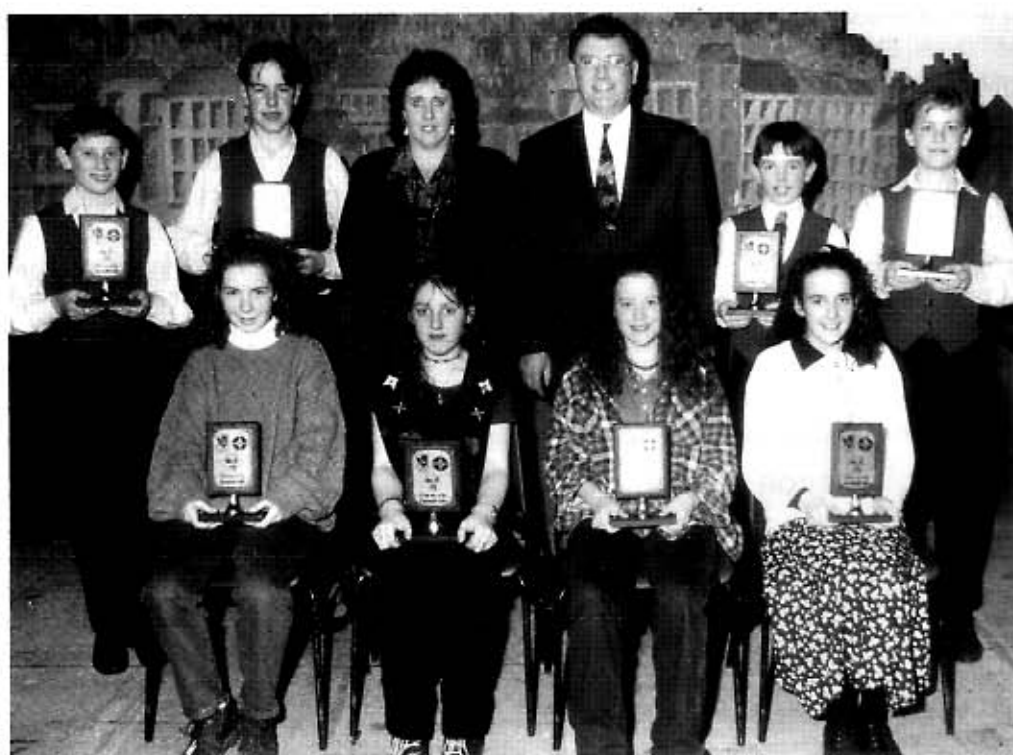
Tá obair iontach ar siúl ag Scór sa Chontae. Tá buíochas as sin ag dul do na hoibrí éagsúla a bhí taobh thiar de Scór ar feadh na blianta. Faoi láthair siad na daoine atá i mbun Scór sa Chontae ná Cormac MacGiolla, Cathaoirleach; Pádraig O'Cléirigh Rúnai; Seán Ó Meiscill, Cisteoir; Seán Ó Suilleabháin, Oifigeach Caidrimh agus Seán O Caoimheannaigh. ■

Scór Sinsear: COUNTY WINNERS

	Figure Dance	Solo Singing	Recitation	Novelty Act	Question Time	Music	Ballad Group	Set Dance	Motion Speaking	Total
Allen Gaels		2	1		2	3	2			10
Annaduff	1		1		4	2	1	4		13
Aughavas										—
Aughawillan			2			1				3
Aughnasheelin	4	2	2	2	1		3	3	1	18
Ballinaglera										—
Bornacoola	4	5	2	1	2	1	7	7		29
Carrigallen		3	2	2						7
Cloone										—
Dromahair	1	1		1		2				5
Drumkeerlin				1			1		1	3
Drumreilly		4		1						5
Eslin										—
Fenagh										—
Glencar/Manor	12	1	1	4	5	6		7		36
Glenfarne				1		2				3
Gortletteragh			2			4				6
Kiltubrid										—
Kiltyclogher							1	1		2
Melvin Gaels		1	3		1	1				6
Mohill		2	5	1		1				9
St. Mary's	3		1	1	4	1	4			14
Seán O'Heslin's	1	5	3	8	7	2	7	2	1	36
Motion speaking existed for 3 years only										

**GLENCAR
/MANORHAMILTON**
SCOR NA NÓG
Dancers who reached
the All Ireland Scór Na
nÓg finals in Athlone
R.T.C. on Feb 18 1995.

Team with *Dance
Teacher Clare Mac-
Morrow* and Connacht
Scór Chairman *Joe
MacDonagh* are:
Back Row: *Fergal
Kelly, Seán Casey,
Seán Joyce, Cathal
Sharkey*. Front:
*Annette MacDonald,
Marie Claire MacMor-
row, Aolfe Duignan,
Amanda Sweeney*



Scór na nÓg: COUNTY WINNERS

	Figure Dance	Solo Singing	Recitation	Novelty Act	Question Time	Music	Ballad Group	Set Dance	Total
Allen Gaels	1		1	1	2	1	1		7
Annaduff				1	2	2			5
Aughavas		2	4		3	1	2	2	14
Aughawillan									—
Aughnasheelin	2	2	2	1			3	4	14
Ballinaglera									—
Bornacoola	3	4	2	2	2		2	8	23
Carrigallen		4		2		4	2		12
Cloone				1					1
Dromahair	5		5	6	1	1			6
Drumkeerin									—
Drumreilly	2	2				1	1		6
Eslin									—
Fenagh					2				2
Glencar/Manor	8	1	2		3	3	1	2	20
Glenfarne						2			2
Gortlettragh		1	2	1		1			5
Kiltubrid		3							3
Kiltyclogher						2			2
Melvin Gaels						5			5
Mohill		1	3	1					5
St. Mary's	3	3		4	1		7		18
Seán O'Heslin's		1	1	3	7	1	5	2	20

St. Joseph's Junior Choir, Mohill.



St. Joseph's Junior Choir was formed in 1993 and despite only two years old have achieved much success having been honoured at the Slogadh Competitions in Wexford in April 1995 followed by a Gold medal at the Sligo Feis.

In August last the Choir took part in the Competition at Mosney and were rewarded by receiving Silver.

The group is made up of 20 girls from 3rd class at St Joseph's National School and from up to 3rd year girls from the Marian College. They deserve our sincere congratulations for all their achievements in such a short time and much credit also goes to their musical director and teachers, Sr. Immaculate McGoldrick, Mary Scollan, Siobhán Lavin and Sr Nora Keenan.