

GAA
WHERE WE ALL BELONG



2020 Garvey's SuperValu County Senior Hurling Championship **SEMI-FINALS**

2020



ABBEYDORNEY v KILMOYLEY

Réiteoir: Mike Sexton (Limerick)

Tosnú: 2pm • Extra Time & Winner on the Day

CAUSEWAY v BALLYDUFF

Réiteoir: John O'Halloran (Limerick)

Tosnú: 4pm • Extra Time & Winner on the Day



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Ionad: Austin Stack Park, Tralee

Dáta: Dé Domhnaigh

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Fáilte an Chathaoirligh



A Chairde Uilig,

Normally I would begin my 'Fáilte' by welcoming you to the venue but today I welcome you to our online platform where you can access your free digital programme and you can live-stream these two games!

It is difficult for people to stay away from games particularly when it comes to the Garvey's Senior Hurling Championship. However we have endeavoured to provide opportunities for you to support your team through the streaming initiative and social media updates.

I want to wish the players and management from all four teams the very best this weekend. I am confident that the lack of supporters in the Stand or on the Terrace will in no way impact on your performance. Your focus will be to make the final and bring great joy and excitement to your respective parishes. It is a challenging situation but the GAA has risen to every challenge so far this year. We should be proud of ourselves and our clubs.

I wish to sincerely thank the Garvey Group for their continued sponsorship of this great Championship.

I wish to thank Ger O'Mahony and the team at Austin Stack Park for having the grounds in immaculate condition.

Wherever you are in the world, I hope you enjoy the live-streams and I wish the best of luck to the four competing teams.



Enjoy the games!

Le Buíochas

Tadhg Ó Murchú

Cathaoirleach, Coiste Chontae Chiarraí



Can Abbeydorney perform another giant killing act against favourites Kilmoyley?

By **MURT MURPHY**

The first semi-final at Austin Stack Park will see the giant killers in Abbeydorney take on the giants of Kerry hurling Kilmoyley and tradition and wisdom would suggest that Kilmoyley should win.

But remember every giant can fall as those of us who were fed the unlikely tale of David slaying Goliath believed was factual and some still do.

But what is factual is that it's only four years since Kilmoyley were champions and two years since they contested a final that they narrowly lost out to Lixnaw. When I tell you I was a teenager the last time Abbeydorney lifted the Neilus Flynn, then you know it was a long time ago, in fact it was 1974. Since then, they threatened a number of times to make the breakthrough with some very good hurlers but they have invariably fallen short with their fair share of bad luck thrown in.

But over the quarter-final weekend by common consent Abbeydorney were the most impressive performers on show and also outside of the other three clubs left in the competition, there is not a hurler in North Kerry who would begrudge Abbeydorney going all the way this year. Would it not be appropriate in this unprecedented and strange year that we would have winners that nobody could have predicted pre-championship? But regrettably it appears it will have to be played behind closed doors, so nobody could claim that they were there at the game to see the Abbeydorney Championship famine being ended.

But that is two hurdles away and those who follow horse racing can recount so many examples of counting your winnings before the winning line, right back from Annie Power of recent years to the infamous Devon Loch incident in the 1956 Grand National.

While Abbeydorney impressed against Lixnaw with Michael O'Leary playing like a giant, Kilmoyley were struggling to see off their neighbours St. Brendans, but survived thanks to Maurice O'Connor who was as accurate as a sniper on a rooftop. Kilmoyley have done a lot of work this year under John Meyler and appear supremely fit but they will need a better scoring spread up front. Maurice O'Connor I would imagine will not be given the freedom of Austin Stack Park by the sticky and tenacious Abbeydorney defenders.

Kilmoyley have a strong defence with John Brendan O'Halloran a solid keeper, fronted by the likes of Colman Savage, Seanie Murnane, Dougie Fitzell, James Godley and young Dáire Nolan. Paudie O'Connor ploughed a lone furrow at midfield in the quarter-final and may require Daniel Collins to help him out this time but Daniel could also line out on the forty. I am not convinced Tom Murnane is a forward and he may drop back but Maurice O'Connor is and unless Abbeydorney can shackle him without conceding frees they will be in trouble.

But John Meyler will be expecting more from Jordan Brick and Robert Collins, two top class hurlers as it is doubtful if Maurice O'Connor on his own will get Kilmoyley over the line. But they are a strong, experienced unit who are used to big days and big games and championship means everything to Kilmoyley, so they deserve the favourites tag.

Abbeydorney could be described as an enigma over the past two decades, promising so much but failing to perform on the day. But this Abbeydorney side appears to be different. They used the North Kerry Championship to try and get the right mix and in the process probably lulled the opposition into a false sense of security. But this breakthrough against Lixnaw was coming if one looked at their minor sides of recent years and this could be their year.

Kilmoyley, based on recent championship performances, will go in as favourites on the day but Abbeydorney have momentum...

While Michael O'Leary was a colossus against Lixnaw, he is unlikely to be able to put his unprotected hand into the air as often as he did against Lixnaw as James Godley or Dougie Fitzell with possibly a little bit of help from Tom Murnane will see to that. But he is a big unit and he will have a huge influence on the game no matter what. But Abbeydorney are not a one man team and now you can add in another O'Leary, with Brendan back from Canada so the three brothers Daniel, Michael and Brendan could be crucial and I have been told that Michael is banned from playing golf this week.

The Abbeydorney defence needs to repeat their heroics of the quarter-final with Niall O'Mahony, Stephen Egan and Mikey Clifford outstanding. Then you have the experience of Kieran Dineen and James O'Connor and the youthful Darragh Scanlon in the half back line.

Any combination of the O'Leary brothers and cousin Brian will suffice at midfield while up front the young guns Jack Sheehan and Michael Slattery will be supplemented by free taker PJ Keane and the Kilmoyley defence will have to be at their best.

What do both camps think? While many were surprised at Abbeydorney's shock win over Lixnaw, it did not exactly shock their manager William O'Leary. "Look I knew what they were capable of and I knew if they performed on the day, they would run Lixnaw pretty close. But they were on their game and they beat Lixnaw and I have been saying that any one of seven teams could win the championship and Ballyheigue with their minors this year will be in the mix over the next few years. It's a case of turning up on the day and Abbeydorney have often not showed up on the day and did themselves justice.

"We need to repeat our performance against Lixnaw and we have to even play better again if we are to have a chance of beating Kilmoyley. They are a very experienced and strong unit. Maurice O'Connor is the best forward in the county this year and he will take some stopping. But look at their half-back line with Dougie Fitzell, Paudie O'Connor at midfield, probably Daniel Collins on the forty, Tom Murnane, Jordan Brick so they are strong everywhere."

So what are the chance of another upset. "I think we will not be underestimated again so the element of surprise is gone. We just want to back up our quarter-final performance and if we can play to our potential I would be quietly confident that we could take them. But they are vastly experienced, raging hot favourites but we will have a go and that is all I can ask of the lads."

Kilmoyley PRO Ian Brick reckons that Kilmoyley will have to up their performance after that close call against St. Brendan's. "They would have expected a tough game against St. Brendan's and they didn't play as well as they had hoped. Look the main objective was to get to the semi-final and they got there in the end but there is plenty of room for improvement. Whether they will be allowed to that against Abbeydorney because they played them in the NK Championship a few

weeks ago and up to the last seven minutes, there was only three points in it and Michael O'Leary did not play at all that night. If Brendan O'Leary plays he will be a big asset to them because he is a seasoned campaigner.

"Maurice O'Connor was brilliant in the quarter-final but no team can be



dependent on one player because I am sure Abbeydorney will have a plan hatched to curb him. You would imagine that whatever six forwards play that they will be a better scoring spread and we will need a big performance on the day. Kilmoyley, based on recent championship performances, will go in as favourites on the day but Abbeydorney have momentum and are on a high and in this strange year, anything could happen."

VERDICT: If Abbeydorney can repeat or better their performance against Lixnaw they could cause another upset and while the heart is telling me it's Abbeydorney's year, the head tells me that Kilmoyley are the more experienced outfit, have tradition on their side, and have more room for improvement. So it's Kilmoyley by a whisker.

PREVIEW

ABBEYDORNEY



Nigel Roche



Niall O'Mahony



Stephen Egan



Mikey Clifford



Kieran Dineen



Darragh Scanlon



Jamesie O'Connor



Brian O'Leary



Tomás Ó hAiniféin



Daniel O'Leary



Michael O'Leary



Ronan Donovan



Jack Sheehan



Michael Slattery



P.J. Keane (C)



FIR IONAIÐ

16. Seán Holden
17. Shane Donovan
18. Jack Parker
19. Eoin Egan
20. David Egan
21. Adam Maunsell
22. Stevie O'Sullivan
23. Brendan O'Leary
24. Cian McCarthy
25. Owen McCarthy
26. Dean O'Brien
27. Ruairi Donovan
28. Seán Murphy
29. Robert Murphy
30. Niall O'Connell

BAINISTÍOCHT:

Bainisteoir: William O'Leary.
Roghnóirí: Tony Maunsell,
Tomás Ó hAiniféin, Liam O'Sullivan.

	Cúil	Cúilíní	Seachaí	G5m	Saor Pocanna
1 Adh Leath					
2 Adh Leath					
tomlán					



KILMOYLEY



John B O'Halloran (C)



Seanie Nolan



Colman Savage



Flor McCarthy



Dougie Fitzell



James Godley



Matthew Flaherty



Tom Murnane



Paudie O'Connor



Jordan Brick



Daniel Collins



Robert Collins



Maurice O'Connor



Sean Maunsell



Philip Maunsell



FIR IONAIÐ

16. Aiden McCabe
17. Seanie Murnane
18. Kieran McCarthy
19. Daire Nolan
20. Liam Flaherty
21. John Godley
22. Kieran Regan
23. Joe McElligott
24. Eoin McCarthy
25. David McCarthy
26. Donal Kennedy
27. Luke Fitzell
28. David Godley
29. Richard Flaherty
30. Conor Fitzell

BAINISTÍOCHT:

Bainisteoir: John Meyler.
Roghnóirí: Maurice Murnane,
Richard Gentleman, Maurice Fitzgerald,
S&C: Shane McElligott.

	Cúil	Cúilíní	Seachaí	G5m	Saor Pocanna
1 Adh Leath					
2 Adh Leath					
tomlán					



CAUSEWAY



1
Tadhg Flynn



2
Tommy Barrett



3
Muiris Delaney



4
Evan Murphy



5
Sean Sheehan



6
Jason Diggins



7
Anthony Fealy



8
Joseph Diggins



9
Tommy Casey



10
Bryan Murphy (C)



11
Daniel Goggin



12
Keith Carmody



13
Gavin Dooley



14
Billy Lyons



15
Colm Harty



FIR IONAIÐ

16. John Mike Dooley
17. Paul McGrath
18. Mark Murphy
19. Padraig Harty
20. Jason Leahy
21. Kieran Leahy
22. Gerard Leen
23. Fergus Carroll
24. Sean Leahy
25. Gearoid Mahoney
26. Stephen Murphy
27. Adam Whyte
28. Eric McHale
29. Eamon Fitzgerald
30. Brandon Barrett

BAINISTIÓCHT:

Bainisteoir: Stephen Goggin.
Roghnóirí: David Leahy,
John Joe Canty, Danny Maguire.
Physio: Colm Duffy.

	Cúil	Cúilíní	Seachaí	G5m	Saor Pocanna
1 Adh Leath					
2 Adh Leath					
lomián					

BALLYDUFF



1
P.J. O'Gorman



2
Darren O'Connor



3
Paud Costelloe



4
Thomas Slattery



5
David Goulding (C)



6
Darragh Slattery



7
Padraig O'Grady



8
Kevin O'Connor



9
Anthony O'Carroll



10
Paul O'Carroll



11
Eoin Ross



12
Jack O'Sullivan



13
Dylan Moriarty



14
Padraig Boyle



15
Kevin Goulding

FIR IONAIÐ

17. Padraig Walsh
18. J.P. O'Carroll
19. Darragh Goulding
20. Daniel O'Carroll
21. Kyle O'Connor
22. Aidan Boyle
23. Michael Boyle
24. Michael Hussey
25. Stephen O'Carroll
26. Johnny Regan
27. Padraig Slattery
28. Jonathan Ross
29. Andrew Murphy
30. Liam Boyle
31. Daniel Kennelly

BAINISTIÓCHT:

Bainisteoir: Garry O'Brien.
Roghnóirí: Joe Murphy,
John Paul Leahy & Stephen Carrig.
Physio: Eoin Lucey.

	Cúil	Cúilíní	Seachaí	G5m	Saor Pocanna
1 Adh Leath					
2 Adh Leath					
lomián					



Champions Causeway put their title on the line against fierce rivals Ballyduff

By MURT MURPHY

Two sides from the same parish will battle it out in the second semi-final when champions Causeway take on age old rivals Ballyduff in what promises to be a cracker.

Causeway ended a twenty one year wait for the Neilus Flynn last year and will be favourites to beat their fierce rivals, knowing that until last year Ballyduff enjoyed a long period of dominance that sees them on top of the SHC roll of honour with 25 titles, while Causeway have 8.

Some would suggest that Ballyduff are not the force they were and with some justification but when it comes to championship, you write off Ballyduff at your peril. They had it easy enough against Ballyheigue who are in transition, but they did it without their talisman Mikey Boyle. He broke a bone on his hand in a football game and then last week he damaged his ankle so his participation is in doubt.

But when you ask the Ballyduff management will he be back, Omerta kicks in but I reckon Mikey will play even if it's on one leg such is his commitment to his club and his value to Ballyduff. Even by just having him on the field, cannot be underestimated.

But Ballyduff under Stephen Goggin have developed into a potent unit and having seen them play in the Munster Club last year down in Dungarvan and how close they were to winning, just emphasizes how much they have improved. They are missing Brandon Barrett though and while he may make an appearance at some stage, he is unlikely to start.

But Causeway just got past Crotta O'Neill's after an epic battle though it was played in a deluge and this made life difficult for both sides.

Ballyduff had it easy enough against Ballyheigue winning 1-20 to 0-15 with Padraig Boyle scoring

0-11 and young Dylan Moriarty scoring 1-3 and when you add Kevin Goulding, you have a lethal line, though the corner lads are very young.

Causeway's full-back line is well geared to curb that threat, with Sean Sheehan having the pace of youth to add to the strength and experience of Muiris Delaney and Tommy Barrett and that adds to probably the area where the game will be decided.

But Causeway have power in every line with Jason and Joseph Diggins, Bryan Murphy, Colm Harty, Dan Goggin, Keith Carmody and Thomas Casey (missing last year) along with Billy Lyons and Gavin Dooley also well able to hit the target so

they have a real strong unit and will be keen to improve on their quarter-final performance.

Ballyduff have a nice blend of youth and experience with youngsters Dylan Moriarty, Kevin Goulding, Darragh Slattery, JP O'Carroll and Kyle O'Connor all stepping up to the plate and even if they don't win on Sunday, these are the future of Ballyduff hurling and the experience they will gain will be invaluable.

Interestingly both managers Stephen Goggin and Garry O'Brien are close friends having managed the Kerry Camogie side for two years and regularly play golf together but as Garry says "we both know we are lying to each other when we talk hurling!"

Let's hear what both lads had to say.

CAUSEWAY - Stephen Goggin (Manager)

"It's not looking good for Brandon Barrett. He was down with us last Friday night week but he hasn't been able to train with his knee so it would take some sort of a miracle to happen if Brandon was to line out on Sunday. We had a major concern about Jason Diggins who tweaked his hamstring against Crotta but played on of course. But he returned to training last Friday night week after undergoing extensive physio and he appeared to be going ok

and unless he has a reaction I fully expect him to be playing on Sunday. Other than that we have a clean bill of health but after a tough championship game, we had the usual knocks and bruises."

Stephen reckons that Causeway will have to up their performance again from their win over Crotta O'Neill's in the quarter-final if they are to beat Ballyduff. "When you are playing Ballyduff in a county semi-final you will have to improve. Ballyduff are the kingpins of the SHC in Kerry and even though some people reckon that they are not the force they were, we are not buying into that. I know they have introduced a few younger lads this year but tradition is a major factor in semi-finals of a championship and when they play in Austin Stack Park on semi-final day, they are a different animal that anything people say earlier on. They will love being underdogs and if they can take us out, they will grow in confidence.

"As for ourselves our game plan appeared to go out the window against Crotta and I know the evening was bad. But we wasted lots of ball and were not clinical enough in front of goal. We need to be more direct and we have the players to punish

teams if they perform on the day. On the flip side I thought our defence played well and we still had five of our forwards scoring, two midfielders and our centre-back so we had a good scoring spread. We have been working on moving the ball a bit faster and hopefully that will improve us on Sunday. I was delighted with the form showed by Dan Goggin and it's obvious that his football exploits with Na Gaeil helped. Joe Diggins is a very under-rated player and he rarely has a bad game."

What about taking on Ballyduff without Mikey Boyle. "I want Mikey to play because if you are going to win a county you must meet and beat the best and Mikey is an inspirational figure. I reckon he will play on one leg and we want Mikey playing. It will be a battle and we are just hoping that the experience from last year will stand to us."

BALLYDUFF - Garry O'Brien (Manager)

"I hope that Mikey Boyle, Aidan Boyle and Daniel O'Carroll will be fit to line out. At the moment with a week to go to the game I would only rate their chances as fifty-fifty. I am worried about

them right now. We had very few knocks after the quarter-final win over Ballyheigue so everybody else is fit and raring to go."

Garry is looking for a bit more from the team than they showed against Ballyheigue. "I thought we could have been more aggressive against Ballyheigue and maybe should have played with more intensity. I thought we should have been faster in to contest or collect breaking ball. We still posted a good total but we also conceded too many scores and we have been working on that area of our game. Look we are training nicely, we are going well and other than the three lads I mentioned, everybody else is fit. But the attitude has to be right when you taking on the reigning champions.

"They are raging hot favourites and I was playing golf during the week and he was telling me lies

but I was trying to hood wink him, it was gas. We are great friends but we won't be for an hour next Sunday. In fairness Stephen has done a great job with Causeway.

Look, if we have the right attitude and enjoy a bit of luck that you always need, and remember we are not just going into Tralee to make up the

numbers, we will give it a right rattle."

VERDICT: This should be a real physical battle and expect sparks to fly. Stay well back from your laptops as no quarter will be asked nor given. Causeway look the stronger all round side with a better bench but they must fight fire with fire. Ballyduff come alive at this stage of the championship but they have a lot of young lads who may need a couple of more years to really shine in the cut and thrust of senior championship where any weakness is exploited. But as always the Boyle brothers will be huge players in this game and while Mikey may play, his injuries and the fact that brother Aidan may have to start on the bench means Padraig becomes the central figure and he can be a match winner on his own. While this could go either way, Causeway just gets the nod.

This should be a real physical battle and expect sparks to fly. Stay well back from your laptops as no quarter will be asked nor given.



PREVIEW



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