

# TCG AND CLARETS SET UP CUP FINAL

BY JAMIE CASEY

**T**IR CHONAILL GAELS will meet St Clarets in the final of the McArdle Cup after both sides produced four-point wins in their respective semi-finals at Montrose Playing Fields in Colindale on Sunday.

With the Murphy Cup Final having been called off in the wake of heavy rainfall upon Ruislip on Friday night, the McArdle Cup double header took centre stage on last weekend's junior club cup scene.

Indeed, it was just as well both games were well spectated, as the lack of organisation in terms of officials forced onlookers to fill the umpire roles, while club members of the opposing teams ran the lines.

That caused a slight delay to proceedings in the opening game – TCG against Thomas McCurtains – but the Gaels wasted no time in getting off the mark once the match finally began, with Aiden McGarvey storming through the centre of the pitch and drilling an effort in off the post for an emphatic start.

McCurtains pulled two points back through a pair of frees from Barry McHugh, though they were quickly cancelled out by a brace of points from Kieran Cunningham.

Tir Chonaill's sharper shooting was the difference in the opening 20 minutes, by which stage McCurtains were trailing by four points and they already had as many wides to their name.

Thereafter, though, the Gaels got stronger, and their task was aided by a penalty on 21 minutes, which Ryan Kearney tucked away after Liam Cunningham was hauled down inside the box.

A fine point by Paddy O'Neill ensured McCurtains went in five points down, with the half-time score 2-3 to 0-4 in TCG's favour.

After the re-start, McCurtains came out fighting and two points from Mark Gilsenan reduced the deficit to three. Ryan Elliot scored within seconds of coming



FINAL CALL: Ryan Kearney in possession for TCG

on as a substitute for TCG though, while Cillian Butler restored the five-point advantage.

The sides continued to trade scores, with Kieran Cunningham's free from a tight angle being the pick of the bunch, as TCG kept McCurtains at bay, ending up 2-6 to 0-8 victors.

## TARA V CLARETS

After that, McArdle Cup holders St Clarets took to the pitch, but they initially struggled to get to grips with a physical Tara side, who led for much of the opening period.

Tara opened the scoring with two frees, while Eamon Hughes registered the first point for St Clarets with a sublime effort off the outside of his boot.

After 25 minutes, Tara held a 0-4 to 0-2 lead, but Patrick Lynott began to impose himself on the game thereafter, following up John O'Connor's brilliant outside of the boot score with arguably an even better point

from the left flank.

By half-time, Clarets had gained control of the game and held a lead of 0-6 to 0-5.

Tara signalled their intent early in the second-half as Conor Butler reacted quickest to re-direct a deep ball into the box beyond the Clarets goalkeeper, edging them back in front.

However, they conceded a

penalty almost immediately afterwards, which Hughes neatly tucked away. On top of that goal, St Clarets added three unanswered points from play in quick succession, after which Tara lost their discipline and never recovered.

Mark Brady picked up his second yellow card and received his marching orders for his part

in a melee, one of two which broke out simultaneously in separate parts of the pitch.

Although the remaining 15 minutes were aggressive, Clarets kept their heads to keep their opponents at arm's length, with Lynott and Shane Buckley adding to their tally as they finished up 1-11 to 1-7 winners.

## TEAMS

**Tir Chonaill Gaels:** G McEvoy; J Nolan, D Kennedy, Antonio Pisano; Patrick O'Connor, Aiden McGarvey, R Jennings; R Kearney, Cillian Butler; C McCarthy, D Geraghty, K Clarke; K Cunningham, L Cunningham.  
**Thomas McCurtains:** C Mullrenan; S Conwell, Kevin D,

D Corrigan; P O'Shea, C Crow, S Quinn; P Murphy, P O'Neill; G Gallagher, B McHugh, B Horahan; M Gilsenan, Peter H, J Sean.

**St Clarets:** K O'Neill; P Donaghy, M Healy, P Donegan; R Gaughan, A Donaghy, E Colleran; P Donaghy, S Killeen;

P Lynott, J O'Connor, S Buckley; E Hughes, R O'Connell, A McNulty.  
**Tara: R Collins;** M McMahon, M Byrne, P McKenna; A Ward, D McDermott, A Nagle; K Harte, M Brady; C Kennan, P McArdle, L Brady; D Moore, C Butler, A Straffon.

## FIXTURES

**LONDON Senior Football Championship**  
April 23, 4.30pm, North London Shamrocks v Round Towers, Ruislip  
April 23, 3.30, Fulham Irish v KKG, Scrubs P1  
April 24, 2.30pm, St Kiernan's v Tir Chonaill Gaels, Ruislip  
April 24, 1pm, Parnell's v Garryowen, Tottenham

**Intermediate Football Championship**  
April 23, 3pm, Harlesden Harps v St. Joseph, Ruislip  
April 24, 1pm, St. Antony's v Cu Chulainns, Ruislip  
April 24, 2.30pm, Neasden Gaels v St Brendan's, Tottenham  
April 24, 2.30pm, Heston Gaels v Moinearg, Scrubs P2

**Junior Football Championship**  
April 23, 3.30pm, Tir Chonaill Gaels v Eire Og, Colindale  
April 23, 5pm, Shalloe Pearse v Dulwich Harps, Colindale  
April 24, 4pm, St. Clarets v Tara, Ruislip  
April 24, 1pm, Fr Murphy v Crawley and Brighton Gaels, Scrubs P2

**Ronan Cup R2**  
April 23, 3.30pm, Fr Murphy v Brothers Pearse, Scrubs P2  
April 24, 1pm, Kilburn Gaels B v St. Declan's, Scrubs P1  
April 24, 2.30pm, St. Gabriel's B v Granuaile, Scrubs P1

**WARWICKSHIRE Junior Football League**  
April 23, 5pm, James Connollys v John Mitchels, Pairc na hEireann  
April 23, 5pm, Erin Go Bragh v St Brendans, Erdington  
April 23, 5pm, Roger Casements v Sean McDermotts, Sphinx  
April 24, 4pm, St Barnabas v Naomh Padraig, Nottingham

**Div 1**  
April 24, 2.30pm, St Barnabas v Naomh Padraig, Nottingham  
April 24, 2pm, Sean McDermotts v Roger Casements, Pairc na hEireann

**Div 2**  
April 24, 3.30pm, Four Masters v St Josephs, Holbrooks, Coventry  
April 24, 3pm, St Mary's v Erin Go Bragh, Wolverhampton

**LANCASHIRE Senior League**  
April 24, 1pm, John Mitchels v Oisín, Greenbank  
April 24, 1pm, St Brendans v St Peters, Trafford

**Pennine League 2**  
April 24, 3pm, Cu Chulainn v Wolfe Tones, Beeston  
April 24, 1.45pm, Hugh O Neills v St Lawrences, Beeston

## RESULTS

**LONDON McArdle Cup Semi-Finals**  
April 17, St Clarets 1-11 Tara 1-7  
April 17, Thomas McCurtains 0-8 Tir Chonaill Gaels 2-6

**Collins Cup Group 2**  
April 17, Sean Traceys 1-8 Fulham Irish 2-12, R2

**Div 2 Football League**  
April 17, Cu Chulainns 1-7 Garryowen 0-13, R1  
April 16, Neasden Gaels 2-3 St Brendans 3 - 11, R1

**Tipperary Cup**  
April 17, Parnells 0-10 Kingdom-Kerry Gaels 1-20, R3  
April 16, Round Towers 0-8 North London Shamrocks 1-7, R3  
April 16, Tir Chonaill Gaels 0-11 Fulham Irish 0-9, R3

**Intermediate Hurling League**  
April 17, Fr Murphys 0-13 St Gabriels B 0-13, R5

**Ronan Cup Group 2**  
April 16, Thomas McCurtains 7-17 Robert Emmetts B 2-7, R2

**WARWICKSHIRE Junior League**  
April 17, John Mitchels 2-11 Naomh Padraig 0-04  
April 17, Roger Casements 0-13 St Barnabas 1-06  
**Division 2**  
April, 17, Erin Go Bragh 3-06 St Brendans 1-08  
April 17, St Josephs 4-09 St Mary's 4-16

**LANCASHIRE Senior League**  
April 17, John Mitchels 2-09 v 0-10 St Brendans  
April 17, St Peter's v Oisín, OFF

**Pennine league Division 2**  
April 17, Liverpool Wolfe Tones 1-10 v 2-08 St Benedicts  
April 17, St Lawrences 1-05 v 0-10 Cu Chullains

# point clear in Warwickshire's Division Two

Warwickshire's hurlers embark on their Championship campaign this weekend, with a trip to Carrick-on-Shannon to face Leitrim in the first round of the Lory Meagher Cup.

Last year Warwickshire were narrowly edged out by the Ridge County at home in the early stages of the competition but this season they will be looking to build on their experience at a higher level of hurling in the National League earlier in the Spring, throw-in on Saturday is set for 2:30 p.m.

## TEAMS

**Erin go Bragh:** S Flanagan; J Langthorn, M Lambe, A Ruffinato; T Kelly (0-1), J Boxwell, J McDermott; K Boxwell (0-1), J Harrigan (0-5); C Gibbons, F Niblock (0-1), D Casey; M Harrigan, A McLinden (1-5, 2f), M Fleming (2-1).

**Four Masters:** D Harkin; James

Harkin, B Tiernan, M Moyles, JJ Harkin, J Alden, J Connolly (0-3, 3f); L Connolly (0-2, 1f), G Treacy (0-3); S Walton (0-2), L Davin, B Treacy; B Harkin (0-1), John Harkin, D Keogh (2-0).

**REFEREE**  
M McLoughlin

## Division Two table

Team	P	W	+/-	Pts
Erin go Bragh	5	4	+50	8
St Brendans	5	3	+39	7
St Marys	5	2	-7	5
Four Masters	4	1	+9	4
St Josephs	5	0	-91	0