

## GAA LIMERICK SENIOR FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL

# Drom show their worth to win it again



**Jerome O'Connell**  
In the Gaelic Grounds

Drom-Broadford	0-12
Newcastle West	0-10

YOU simply can't write off Dromcollogher-Broadford.

It is one of the most commonly used phrases across Limerick club football conversations, but really captures the spirit of a club that have constantly set the standard for everyone in the county since they emerged as a senior force with a first title in 2001.

And, they were clearly adamant that it would not be an unlucky 13th year as a senior club.

There was an early season hiccup when losing to Newcastle West in round one of the group phases but then six successive wins brought them to an eighth county final appearance.

Certainly they lived dangerously at times over the course of the 140-plus minutes of this dramatic county final but no one can deny they are once again worthy winners.

It only copper-fastens their stature as club kingpins that they still had the guile, energy and confidence to engineer three points from play in a four minute spell in the final exchanges of extra-time in a replayed county final to snatch victory.

Indeed they had only scored three points from play in the previous 75-minutes!

So after a two year absence Dromcollogher-Broadford are back on top of the pile in Limerick club football with their sixth title in the last 12 years.

And, their latest title win certainly was the most dramatic.

Just after 9.15pm last Friday night under the flood-lit skies of the Gaelic Grounds they finally sealed their first title of this decade with two late points from six-time champion Micheal Reidy in the closing minutes of extra time.

And, of course this was a replayed game in the Irish Wire Ltd sponsored

county senior football championship final.

So, in essence the winning scores came in the 138-140th minutes of the encounter.

As in the drawn game, Newcastle West looked on course for a first title in 20-years until a dramatic late equaliser.

In the first game it was Reidy that forced the replay and on this occasion it was a free from Garrett Noonan that forced the extra time with the game tied 0-7 each.

Even in extra-time there was no dividing the sides with the scoreboard reading 0-9 each at the end of the first 10-minute period.

Sub Ger Cremin looked to have Newcastle West in pole position but Micheal Brosnan equalised and it was Drom-Broadford that called on all their experience to find two late winning scores from Reidy.

In front of 2,521 all appeared to be coming together for Newcastle West.

They were slow starters but led 0-4 to 0-3 at the end of the first half of the game.

They had a thunderous strike from James Kelly's goal in the first half of the drawn game and the closest they came here was his fisted effort in the 26th minute when Keith Noonan did well under the dropping ball.

Indeed Drom-Broadford came closer but Reidy rattled the side netting in the last minute of the half.

This replay saw Drom-Broadford return to their trusted formation of seven defenders. They changed for the drawn game and always looked unsure at the back.

Drom-Broadford led 0-2 to no score after 13-minutes but added just another point by half time.

Newcastle West, though, had four points in the closing 12-minutes of the half to lead at the break. They lead could have been greater but for five first half wides.

It was a half that saw Drom-Broadford lose inter-county man Seanie Buckley to injury and the resulting switches saw Garrett Noonan move to attack.

Just like the first half, the second was tense rather than free-flowing.

Stephen Kelly opened a two point lead on the resumption but frees from Reidy and Pat Donnelly had the game level.

And, it was to remain level for the rest of the game.

Twice Newcastle West went ahead but twice they were pegged back.

Perhaps all could have been

different if a 56th minute effort from Brian O'Doherty had found the net. With his first touch the sub saw his low rolled effort came back off the upright when the goalkeeper was beaten.

Nonetheless Jamie Lee pointed two minutes later and his clinched fist and the cheers of the Newcastle West crowd demonstrated their belief the Casey Cup was town-bound.

But into injury-time Garrett Noonan stepped forward to kick the equaliser with a huge free off the ground.

In extra time Reidy had Drom-Broadford ahead for the first time since the opening quarter but still Paul Hannan and Thomas Quilligan ensured it was level at half time.

Then two minutes into the second period of added time Cremin was on course to be the Newcastle West hero with a fine point.

But they didn't add another score and up the field went Drom-Broadford and found three scores from play to grab victory from the grasps of their western rivals.

Brosnan levelled for the seventh time and then Reidy stole the show.

The first came when he swept up possession when Garrett Noonan's free fell short and then he capped off a Man of the Match display with a dummy along the endline and curled over from a tight angle.

A late challenge from Stephen Nix was him dismissed for a second yellow card but it was in injury time and the champions were ready to be crowned.

Albeit with one late scare - James Kelly winning a 21metre free. Mike Quilligan was faced with 14-players and opted to try and pass across goal but possession was lost and with it a second successive county final for Newcastle West.

**SCORERS - Dromcollogher-Broadford:** Micheal Reidy 0-6 (two frees), Pat Donnelly 0-3 (all frees), Derry McCarthy, Garrett Noonan (free), Micheal Brosnan 0-1 each. **Newcastle West:** Thomas Quilligan 0-3 (all frees), Stephen Nix, Michael Quilligan (free), Iain Corbett, Stephen Kelly, Jamie Lee, Paul Hannan, Ger Cremin 0-1 each.

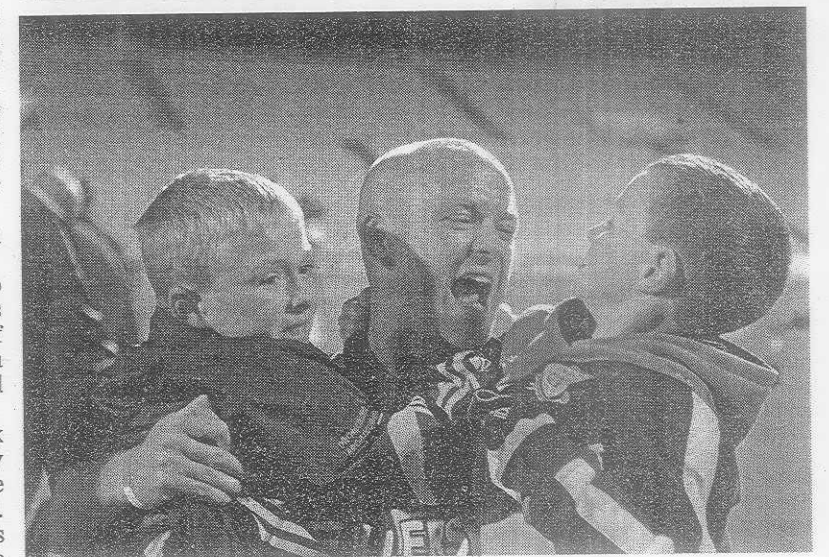
**DROMCOLLOGHER-BROADFORD -** Keith Noonan; Eoin Barry, Mike Boyce, Cillian Fahy, Garrett Noonan, Dee O'Leary, Gary Egan; Pat Donnelly, Jason Stokes; Tom McLoughlin, Seanie Buckley, Derry McCarthy, Ray Lynch, Micheal Brosnan, Micheal Reidy. Subs: Brian Noonan for Buckley, Inj (28mins), Seanie Buckley for Brosnan (57mins), Kevin Noonan for Buckley (e-t), Micheal Brosnan for Fahy (70mins).

**NEWCASTLE WEST -** John Joe Sheedy; Michael O'Keefe, Darragh Woods, Michael Dowling; Shaun Browne, Stephen Nix, Sean McAuliffe; Iain Corbett, Mike McMahon; Stephen Kelly, Shay Lyons, Michael Quilligan; Thomas Quilligan, James Kelly, Jamie Lee. Subs: Shane Kelly for Lyons (44mins), Paul Hannan for Dowling (52mins), Brian O'Doherty for McAuliffe (55mins), Ger Cremin for James Kelly (58mins), James Kelly for Stephen Kelly (74mins), Shay Lyons for McMahon (75mins), Gavin Reidy for Thomas Quilligan (79mins).

**REFEREE -** Mike Meade (Ballylanders).



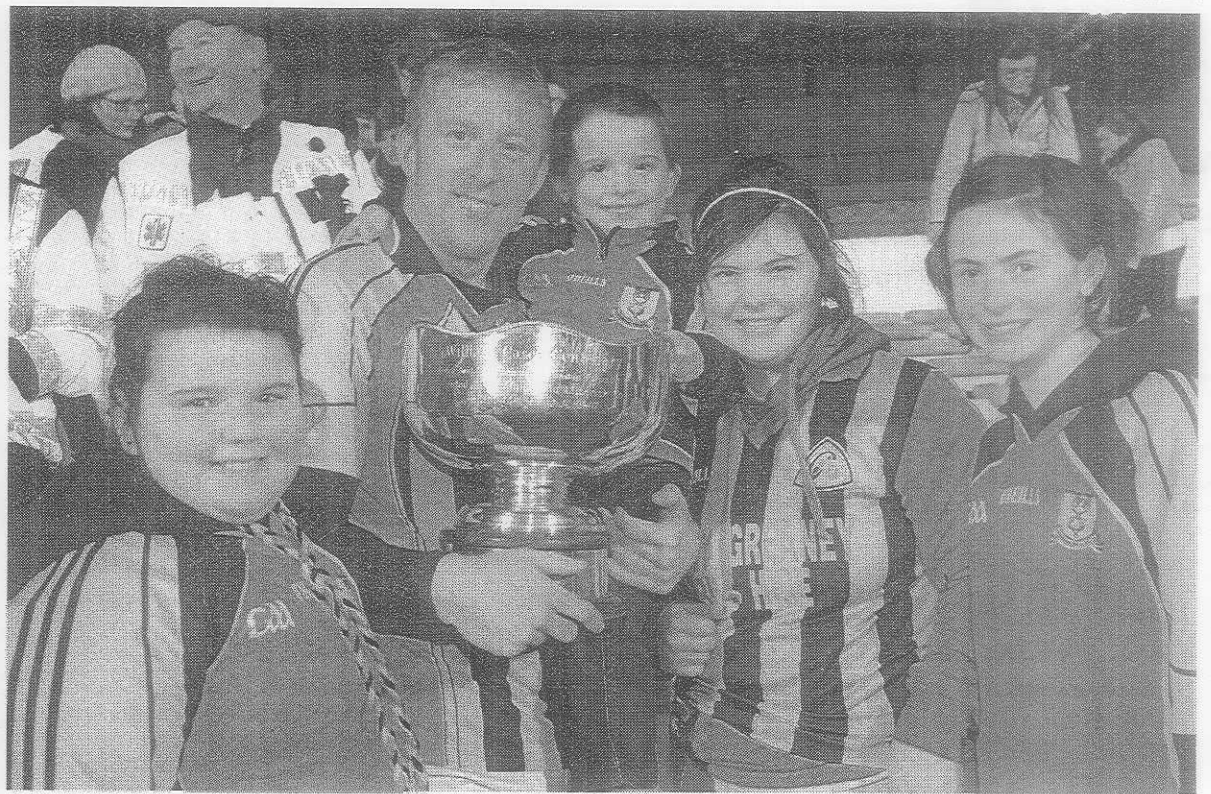
Let the party begin: Dromcollogher-Broadford captain Patrick Donnelly lifts the Fr Casey Cup after their Limerick SFC final win over Newcastle West in the Gaelic Grounds last Friday  
Pictures: Dermot Lynch



Clockwise from above: Young Drom-Broadford supporter Jack Willis gets his hands on the trophy; Ray Lynch celebrates with his boys Robbie and Kenny; another young Drom-Broadford fan shouts on encouragement  
Pictures: Dermot Lynch



# GAA LIMERICK SENIOR FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL



Happy days: Drom-Broadford captain Pat Donnelly (above) with young supporters Chloe Farrell with Emma, Denise and Shane Browne; clockwise from below - Michael Reidy with his man of the match award; Jason Stokes in action for Drom-Broadford; Michael Quilligan takes on the Drom defence

## IN BRIEF

### MAIN MAN - MICHEAL REIDY

Not content to kick the equaliser in the drawn game, Reidy again came up trumps in extra-time to kick the two winning scores. In total he kicked five points from play in a game where there were only 14 scores from play. He also kicked two frees and was fouled for frees that Pat Donnelly converted. And, all that was achieved as he acted as the lone attacker for long periods.

### TURNING POINT

Four minutes from the end, sub Brian O'Doherty shot for goal with his first touch with the sides level 0-6 each. He did everything right to keep his shot low and left Keith Noonan stranded. But the shot came back into play off the base of the upright. Newcastle West did snatch the lead through Jamie Lee.

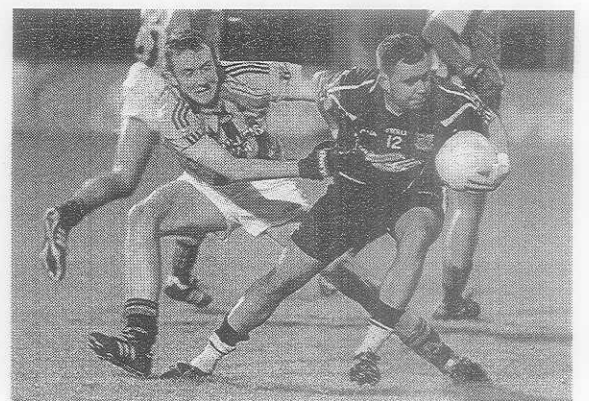
But Dromcollogher-Broadford were to level when Garrett Noonan stepped up to a long range free. He kicked brilliantly off the ground to force extra time and is just seemed as though Newcastle West couldn't kill off their western rivals.

### TALKING POINT

There is no denying that the drama in the closing seconds of the drawn game was a topic of conversation for those in the stands. But to be fair to the players they went about their business in a professional manner. There were a few niggly flash points but some sensible refereeing from Mike Meade ensured there were no dramatic scenes.

### WEDDING BELLS

Thankfully Newcastle West's Shay Lyons emerged unscathed through the game ahead of his wedding the following morning. It was also a nice touch from Pat Donnelly to wish him well during his acceptance speech.



## REACTION MICHEAL REIDY

# Reidy heads select group of Drom-Broadford players with six senior wins

### Jerome O'Connell

MICHEAL Reidy had the scars to prove it - this Limerick SFC final had been a battle.

But with six winners medals, Reidy and his Dromcollogher-Broadford colleagues had once again proven that they remain the team to beat in Limerick.

Eight players have been on the panel for all six wins - Reidy, Tom McLoughlin, Jason Stokes, Tommy Stack, Pat Donnelly, Ray Lynch, Mikey Clancy and Garrett Noonan.

Indeed, Reidy and some colleagues have now played in 11 Limerick SFC finals - six wins, two defeats, two draws and an abandonment.

"It was a tough - that was a

battle and I'd say it was a great advertisement for Limerick club football. It was a very tough game and fought very hard with some brilliant play from both sides. In a way I would have loved to have been a spectator there for the last two matches with some fantastic football," said Reidy after collecting his Man of the Match award.

"It was great to be involved and obviously to come out on the winning side," he said of his sixth success, to add to the intermediate and junior championships he has also won in the last 15 years.

"County finals in most cases aren't easy to win and it certainly wasn't. Those games are brilliant to come out the right side," said the former

Limerick senior football captain.

In the end it was Reidy's extra-time points that sealed victory for Mike Fahy's men.

**"It's probably down to experience and being here before and coming out of tight results. You need calm heads and I suppose we have been there before and if you panic you make mistakes."**

Twice Dromcollogher-Broadford

fought back to equalise in the dying seconds after 60-seconds of football and Reidy said that experience was vital.

"It's probably down to experience and being here before and coming out of tight results. You can't do anything about the score that goes over, you just have to win possession and try and get back up the field and respond - get your hands on the ball and come again," he explained.

"You need calm heads and I suppose we have been there before and if you panic you make mistakes. And I guess Newcastle West had a few errors in the second half and we were able to punish them and that was the difference between the two sides in the end," he said.

Without a final appearance since 2009, Drom-Broadford redoubled their efforts this season with a new management team.

"Every year is a new year - what happens the year before is gone. We were very disappointed for the last two years to get knocked out in the semi-finals. We knew we weren't finished this year and wanted to get through because the championship starts at the quarter-finals and semi-finals. We had a tough semi-final this year and we were battle hardened," he recalled of their route to victory.

Ominously for all others, Reidy and Co aren't finished yet.

"I don't think there is anybody contemplating retirement - I think we are fresh enough," he smiled.