

TUESDAY TALKING POINT



TEEHAN... U-turn

Leinster decision defended

By JASON BYRNE

LEINSTER COUNCIL chiefs have defended the decision to fix the SFC semi-finals for Croke Park.

Yesterday morning it was confirmed Kildare's clash with Westmeath and Meath's showdown with Dublin will be played as a double-header at GAA HQ on May 15.

Earlier this year Leinster GAA chairman Pat Teehan indicated that the Delaney Cup semi-finals would take place at neutral venues away from Jones' Road.

Speaking in March, he said: "We're looking at the strong possibility we won't have Dublin in Croke Park for the Leinster semi-final."

"We didn't make a decision on it at the time of the draw because semi-final pairings won't be known until later in the summer but the likelihood is that we'll consider that move."

"It would be better to have 20,000 in Portlaoise or Tuam or Nowlan Park than 30,000 in Croke Park."

But after consulting the participating counties, both games will take place at Croke, much to the dismay of many fans.

Leinster chiefs have confirmed the decision was made after speaking with all four counties in the wake of the draw on Sunday night.

Throw-in times for both games have not been confirmed but SunSport understands Kildare v Westmeath will start at 2pm, with Dublin's clash with Meath set for 4pm.

The games will not be broadcast live on TV as RTE are showing Waterford v Cork and Clare v Limerick in Round 4 of the Munster SHC that day. Dublin are bidding for their 12th consecutive provincial crown.

Meath were the last team to lift the Delaney Cup back in 2010.

THERE is an element of luck with any All-Ireland victory.

In the 1982 All-Ireland final, Offaly were fortunate that Seamus Darby got away with a nudge on Kerry defender Tommy Doyle before he buried one of the most famous goals in Gaelic football history.

Dublin rode their luck at the end of the 2011 decider, with referee Joe McQuillan awarding a questionable free which Stephen Cluxton scored to end a 16-year wait for Sam Maguire.

It is unlikely that Kerry would have got over the line in 2014 if not for a blunder by Donegal keeper Paul Durcan, which led to Kieran Donaghy's goal.

In 2021, everything appeared to break Tyrone's way on their route to All-Ireland glory.

Their campaign began with a home game against Cavan. Although the Breffni Blues were reigning Ulster champions, they were reeling after being relegated to Division 3 and were swept aside in Omagh.

Next up were Donegal in Enniskillen and Tyrone advanced in large part due to a crucial period just before half-time.

Donegal captain Michael Murphy hit the foot of a post with a penalty with his team 0-7 to 0-5 up at the time before he picked up a black card after previously being booked. The Red Hand made the extra man count and won by six points.

Feargal Logan and Brian Dooher's men had only a point to spare against Monaghan in the Ulster decider, with Covid-19 depriving them of players that day.

And the virus tore through their camp in the weeks that followed, meaning they felt they could not fulfil a semi-final date against Kerry on August 15.

After a stand-off with GAA chiefs, Tyrone were given an extra fortnight to prepare for the match, when there



YES

SAYS KEVIN COGHLAN

was the possibility that Peter Keane's side would have been awarded a bye to the final.

Tyrone came out on top in a classic encounter after extra-time. But the Kingdom came into that match without a competitive game in five weeks and lost star man David Clifford, who had scored 0-8, before the

end of normal time due to injury. The ball broke the Red Hands way in the other semi-final too, with Mayo memorably ending Dublin's bid for a seventh straight All-Ireland title.

James Horan's men entered the final in the unusual position of being marginal favourites and the pressure was again on them to end a wait for Sam which goes back to 1951.

The Connacht giants were without the lethal Cillian O'Connor, who missed last year's Championship with an Achilles injury.

And Mayo were also affected by a long gap between matches - they

had a four-week break between defeating the Dubs and the decider.

The width of a post denied Mayo forward Ryan O'Donoghue when he stepped up to take a second-half penalty with his side trailing by two points.

Five minutes later, Tyrone went up the field and scored a goal to put daylight between the teams.

Throughout 2021, they were good enough to take advantage of the breaks of the ball that went repeatedly in their favour.

But without those breaks, they would have been nowhere near winning Sam Maguire.



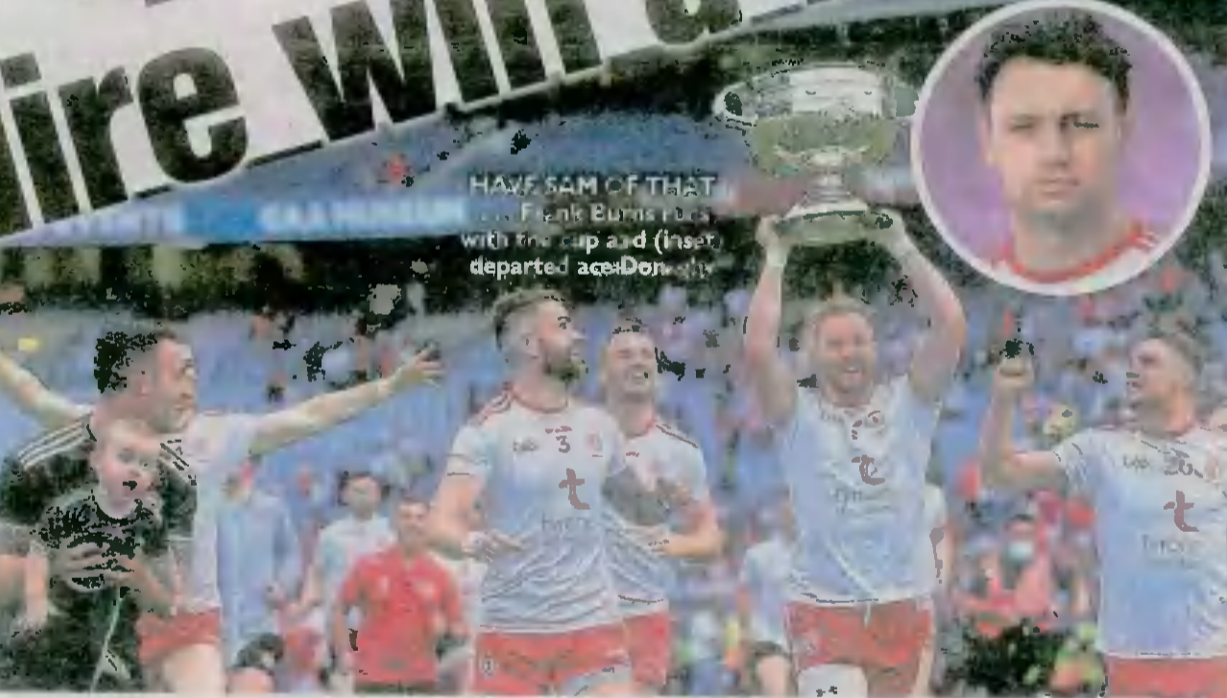
GREEN 'N' RED MISSED

Ryan O'Donoghue's penalty wide of the post in last year's All-Ireland semi-final.



CRAMP UP PRESSURE ... Clifford (right) went off injured

Was Tyrone's Sam Maguire win a fluke?



HAVE SAM OF THAT ... Frank Burns poses with the cup and (inset) departed ace Donaghy



NO

SAYS JASON BYRNE

TYRONE came crashing back down to earth on Sunday - but last year was no fluke.

The Red Hands were a shadow of themselves and Derry arrived at Healy Park smelling blood.

The Oak Leafers produced an amazing Ulster SFC performance when they tore apart the All-Ireland champions, 1-18 to 0-10 in Omagh.

Rory Gallagher's Derry were exceptional. They could have beaten the hosts by more and made a mockery of the 1-7 odds the bookies placed on the side managed by Brian Dooher and Feargal Logan.

Yes, the wheels came off for Tyrone on Sunday.

There is a hangover from last year and losing so many players on top of that led to their downfall at the weekend.

In March, Paul Donaghy became the seventh player to leave the panel since the 2021 triumph, joining Lee Brennan, Mark Bradley, Hugh Pat

McGeary, Tiernan McCann, Ronan O'Neill and Michael Cassidy in opting out of the squad.

No team in any sport would not be affected after losing so many players.

The reasons for some of those exits remain unclear, but Donaghy's was down to a lack of game-time.

Even if the Dungannon Clarke's clubman was not getting enough minutes, players like him were always in the background getting the best out of those who were.

It is very much a squad game and any successful team has a number of players away from the limelight driving standards every single night at training - and that is vital. Their

fall from grace on Sunday was quite something, but expect Tyrone to still have a say in this Championship in a snake pit of a qualifier route that already includes Mayo, with a few more heavy hitters to come.

But Tyrone lifted Sam Maguire last September on merit. They came through a bruising Ulster Championship campaign and took out Cavan, Donegal and Monaghan before their All-Ireland semi-final against Kerry.

All signs pointed to a Kingdom victory, but Tyrone did what they do best and ignored the script to gun down the favourites 3-14 to 0-22 after extra-time at Croke Park.

A bit like Derry on Sunday, it was an ambush. They saw things differ-

ently and took full advantage of Kerry's defensive weaknesses to win.

It was extraordinary given the Covid-19 outbreak that blitzed their panel before and after the Ulster final victory over the Farny County.

They ignored the talk of Mayo's fairytale finally coming true in the decider and dismantled James Horan's men with a 2-14 to 0-15 victory.

It was comfortable in the end, and they were worthy winners.

Sometimes, everything just clicks. It happened for Derry on Sunday and it happened for Tyrone last September.

There can be no complaints about either.

Legal Notices

South Dublin County Council

Notice of the Council's decision to grant planning permission for the proposed development of a residential building at the site of the former St. Vincent's School, 100-102, South Circular Road, Dublin 12. The Council has decided to grant planning permission for the proposed development on the basis of the information provided to it and the representations made to it. The Council's decision is subject to the conditions set out in the attached schedule. The Council's decision is subject to the conditions set out in the attached schedule. The Council's decision is subject to the conditions set out in the attached schedule.