



**Media Report: Launch of All-Ireland 7's  
Coverage Update 01/07/22**

# Coverage Overview

PRINT	ONLINE
Irish Examiner x2	Irish Independent x4
Irish Independent	Sport for Business.ie
Irish Mirror x3	
Irish Daily Star x3	
Irish Sun	
The Herald x2	
The Irish Times	

# Print Coverage



# McGOWAN CAN'T WAIT FOR KERRY

ANDREW McGOWAN says Dublin — with him hopefully involved — will relish the “exceptional challenge” of facing Kerry for a place in the All-Ireland final.

The Kilmacud Crokes man hasn't featured for the Sky Blues in three years but was recently recalled to the squad.

McGowan made the matchday 26 for the Leinster final against Kildare and was on the bench again for last Saturday's All-Ireland quarter-final win over Cork.

The two-time All-Ireland medallist, who started the Super 8s game against Tyrone in 2019, impressed boss Dessie Farrell during Crokes' march to February's All-Ireland club final.

## Launch

Speaking at the launch of the All-Ireland 7s series, where Beacon Hospital was announced as the title sponsor, McGowan said he can't wait for the July 10 showdown with the Kingdom.

“Every game poses its own challenges and this one is going to be an exceptional challenge against Kerry,” he said.

“It was a wet day last Sunday and even so, Kerry showed how good they were against Mayo. It's going to be a huge challenge but the guys on that Dublin team, they love that challenge. They'll take it head on.”

McGowan could yet find himself playing a key role in proceedings if Farrell takes a punt on him.

The Duhs boss has already made Lee Gannon a regular in defence this season and handed hurling captain Eoghan O'Donnell his Championship debut against Cork — so

## ■ Paul KEANE

McGowan knows that opportunity is knocking.

The 2017 All-Ireland Under-21 winner said: “I played under Dessie before so he knows me and my brother Ross quite well. I feel like he is very good at what he does, he knows and sees if players are playing well.”

“We obviously had a very good run with Crokes so I think it was inevitable that he would be looking at some of the Crokes players.”

McGowan played in the 2018 and 2019 League and Championship campaigns before suffering a hip injury that

ruled him out for several months. Jim Gavin then stepped down as

Dublin manager and when new boss Farrell didn't retain McGowan's services, it appeared to be the end of the line.

“Up until about six weeks ago, I was just sticking with Crokes,” he admitted. “We were with Crokes when the National League was going and then it was probably a month or so after I got a call from Dessie.”

The next step is pushing his way into the lineup though McGowan reckons it'll cost him if he's too selfish in training over the next 10 days or so.

## Noticed

“You're not going to go out there and try to score four selfish points, you're going to go out there and train as a team to try to prepare everyone,” he said.

“It's noticed when you are that kind of a team player. When you are a team player it really does get noticed.”

“When you make selfish decisions, that'll be picked up on.”

O'Donnell, Cian Murphy and a fit-again David Byrne all got on ahead of McGowan during the 11-point win over Cork so he has his work cut out to leapfrog them.

“Getting into the 26 is difficult enough, to get into the 15 is even harder,” he explained.

“The subs set such a high standard when they come on, the people that finish the game could be starting the game.”

“It's very competitive but I think that's why they have had such success over the last 10 years.”

PLAYERS from 22 counties and four codes are gearing up to bring their passion to the pitch this year, as the All-Ireland 7s Series was officially launched, with Beacon Hospital announced as the title sponsor.

It is the first time hurling, football, camogie and ladies football will be supported by one title sponsor.



SUPPORT: Andrew McGowan, Issy Davis, Lauren Magee and Ronan Hayes at Croke Park for at the launch of the Beacon Hospital All-Ireland 7s Series

RECALL: Andrew McGowan in action for Kilmacud Crokes

# Crokes' McGowan just glad to be..

# BACK IN BLUE

**EASTERN  
BLOCK**... the  
last time Andrew  
McGowan lined  
out for Dublin  
was against  
Tyrone in 2019

**7s HEAVEN...**  
(from left) Iain  
Davis, Andrew  
McGowan,  
Niall  
Corcoran,  
Shane  
Cunningham,  
Ronan Hayes  
and Lauren  
Magee at the  
launch of  
the Beacon  
Hospital  
All-Ireland 7s

By GORDON MANNING

**AFTER two years away, Andrew McGowan has found himself tangled up in blue again.**

McGowan, an All-Ireland medallist with Dublin in 2018 and 2019, missed the 2020 season because of a hip injury and was not recalled to the squad for the 2021 campaign.

He was not involved during the league this term either as Kilmacud Crokes advanced to the All-Ireland club final in February.

The versatile ace was a supporter watching on as Dublin beat Wexford and Meath in the Leinster Championship but then in the build-up to the provincial decider Dessie Farrell picked up the phone.

McGowan said: "I first got on the team in 2018, after the Sigerson. I had all my debuts that year, then I was involved in 2019, but come 2020 I had a big issue with my hip and it kind of stopped me from playing."

"That was the kind of switch-

over between Jim Gavin and Dessie Farrell, so it wasn't a good time to get injured.

"Up until about six weeks ago I was just sticking with Crokes.

"It was the week before the Leinster final (when I got the call). Then I was brought in and started training from then on.

"I played Under-21 for Dessie, so he knows me and he knows my brother quite well. I feel like he is very good at what he does, he knows and sees if players are playing well."

"We obviously had a very good run with Crokes so I think it was inevitable that he would be looking at some of the Crokes players, with the year that they have had."

"But you could never say never as you go through playing football that you are not going to get a chance again to come back or even to get

called up." He has already forced his way on to the match-day 26 and was on the bench for both the Leinster final win over Kildare and last Saturday's All-Ireland quarter-final victory against Cork.

The Crokes player said: "It is one of the most difficult 26 to get in, it's a fantastic team, a very competitive team, so you've got to take it step by step."

"Getting in the 26 is difficult enough, to get in the 15 is even harder. They set such a high standard for the subs when they come on, the people that finish the game could be starting the game."

"It's very competitive but that's why they have had such success over the last ten years."

He featured against Roscommon in the 2018 Supers Eights clash, while in 2019 he played against Tyrone in

Omagh.

And all of his focus now is on trying to prove himself, while improving the squad, ahead of the last-four clash against Kerry.

McGowan explained: "For myself and anyone trying to break into the team, it's not just about us trying to break into the team."

"It's about us trying to get the lads, like, you have your starting 15 and you're doing your best to prepare them for the game, because you're not going to go out there and try to score four selfish points, you're going to go out there and train as a team to try to prepare everyone for the game that's coming up."

"Every game poses its own challenges. This one is obviously going to be an exceptional challenge against Kerry."

"It was a wet day the last day and even so Kerry showed how good they are. So yeah, it's going to be a huge challenge but the guys that are on that Dublin team, they love that challenge. They will take it head on."

● ANDREW MCGOWAN was speaking at the launch of the All-Ireland 7s Series, where Beacon Hospital was announced as the title sponsor. The 7s series will take place on the eve of the All-Ireland finals.



**DEFYING GRAVITY:** Camogie player Issy Davis at the launch of the Beacon Hospital All-Ireland 7s Series 2022 at Croke Park yesterday. The annual fixture takes place on the eve of the All-Ireland finals. Games are played across a number of pitches in the local area with the cumulation of the final, which is played on the home pitch of Kilmacud Crokes, Páirc de Burca.

Picture: Ramsey Cardy/Sportsfile

# BRENNAN'S READY

BY **PAUL KEANE**

ROBBIE BRENNAN insists last year's under-20 controversy wouldn't turn him off potentially getting involved with the Meath senior management.

The Leinster club SFC title winning Kilmacud Crokes boss is reportedly part of Bernard Flynn's proposed backroom team to take over the Royals.

Flynn was nominated by a number of Meath clubs to succeed Andy McEntee. The pair teamed up in a similar

arrangement last year when Flynn briefly managed the U-20s though he and his backroom quit following a dispute with McEntee over player availability.

Speaking at the launch of the Beacon Hospital All-Ireland 7s series, Brennan (inset) said: "Obviously I've spoken to Bernard etc but nothing more on it really, no,"

said Brennan, who shook his head when asked if the U-20s situation had soured things.



# 'CHALLENGE IS EXCEPTIONAL'

BY PAUL KEANE

DUBLIN defender Andrew McGowan is preparing for an 'exceptional challenge' from Kerry on Sunday week - and hoping to play some part.

The Kilmacud Crokes man hasn't featured for the Sky Blues in three years but was recently recalled to the squad.

McGowan made the matchday 26 for the Leinster final against Kildare and was on the bench again for last Saturday's All-Ireland quarter-final win over Cork.

The two-time All-Ireland medallist, who started the Super 8s game against Tyrone in 2019, impressed boss Dessie Farrell during Crokes' march to February's All-Ireland club final.

Speaking at the launch of the All-Ireland 7s series, where Beacon Hospital was announced as the title sponsor, McGowan said he can't wait for the July 10 showdown with Kerry.

He said: "Every game poses its own challenges and this one is obviously going to be an exceptional challenge against Kerry. It was a wet day last Sunday and even so, Kerry showed how good they were against Mayo."

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find himself playing a key role in proceedings if Farrell takes a punt on him.

The Dubs boss has already made Lee Gannon a regular in defence this season and handed hurling captain Eoghan O'Donnell his Championship debut against Cork - so McGowan knows that opportunity is knocking.

The 2017 All-Ireland U-21 winner said: "I played under Dessie before so he knows me and my brother Ross quite well. I feel like he is very good at what he does, he knows and sees if players are playing well."

"We obviously had a very good run with Crokes so I think it was inevitable that he would be looking at some of the Crokes players, with the year that they have had."

The next step is pushing his way into the line-up though McGowan says it'll cost him if he's too selfish in training.

He said: "When you are a team player it really does get noticed. When you are selfish, that'll be picked up on."



READY IF NEEDED Dublin panellist Andrew McGowan

# ROBBIE: DISPUTE ISN'T A CONCERN

■ Paul KEANE

ROBBIE BRENNAN insists last year's Under-20 controversy wouldn't turn him off potentially getting involved with the Meath senior management.

The Leinster club SFC title-winning Kilmacud Crokes boss is reportedly part of Bernard Flynn's proposed backroom team to take over the Royals.

Flynn was nominated by a number of Meath clubs to succeed Andy McEntee and would have Brennan by his side if selected.

The pair teamed up in a similar arrangement last year when Flynn briefly managed the Under-20s, though he quit following a dispute with McEntee over the availability of players.

Speaking at the launch of the All-Ireland 7s series, where Beacon Hospital was announced as the title sponsor, Brennan (above) confirmed the Flynn link.

"Obviously I've spoken to Bernard but nothing more on it really, no," said Brennan, who shook his head when asked if the Under-20s situation had soured things.

Unique



"That was a unique situation that 20s whole thing, it was very difficult at the time.

"Bernard at the time felt it was in the best interest of where he was coming from for us to step down and ultimately if you are part of that management, that's what you have to do.

"I'd know a lot of people still involved in committees and people who are doing huge work in the county underage, people like Barry Horgan, and they're really starting to put some brilliant structures together in the county.

"It will be a massive benefit going forward. You mightn't see it over the next few years but certainly they're beginning to tick all the right boxes so they'll be back."

Asked if he'd considered going for the manager's position himself, Brennan said: "No, and to be fair, Dunboyne rang me and asked me did I want to be nominated but I said no, I was committed to where I was in Kilmacud."

IRISH DAILY  
**STAR**

## McGowan and Dublin relishing 'huge challenge' of taking on Kerry

Donnchadh Boyle

DUBLIN'S Andrew McGowan insists they will relish the challenge of facing Kerry after they cruised into another All-Ireland semi-final over the weekend.



Dessie Farrell's men had 11 points to spare against Cork on Saturday night in their All-Ireland quarter-final clash, meaning they have won their championship matches against Wexford, Meath, Kildare and the Rebels by an average margin of just over 15 points.

Kerry have had a similarly smooth path and both sides will represent each other's toughest test to date when they clash in a fortnight's time. But McGowan (above), who was added to the panel in recent weeks on the back of his efforts for Kilmacud Crokes in their run to the All-Ireland final, believes they will respond to the task.

"Every game poses its own challenges," McGowan said. "This one is obviously going to be an exceptional challenge against Kerry. It was a wet day the last day and even so Kerry showed how good they are. So yeah, it's going to be a huge challenge but the guys that are on that (Dublin) team, they love that challenge. They'll take it head on."

Having previously played under Jim Gavin under whom he made his championship debut in 2018, McGowan was recalled by Farrell in recent weeks and made the bench against Kildare and the Rebels.

"For myself and anyone trying to break into the team, it's not just about us trying to break into the team, it's about us trying to get the lads . . . like, you have your starting 15 and you're doing your best to prepare them for the game, because you're not going to go out there and try to score four selfish points, you're going to go out there and train as a team to try to prepare everyone for the game that's coming up."

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# Being able to bring likes of Peter Duggan back.. that's a game changer

## MODEL BOSS SAYS CLARE ARE RIGHT IN THE MIX AFTER RETURN OF MAIN MAN IN ATTACK

BY PAUL KEANE

**WEXFORD coach Niall Corcoran reckons the return of powerhouse forward Peter Duggan**

**has been a 'game changer' for All-Ireland semi-finalists Clare.**

The 2018 Championship top scorer missed the 2020 and 2021 seasons after moving to Australia

though has proven a key figure again this summer.

Former All-Star Duggan has lined out in each of their six Championship games, registering 1-22.

Few teams know the strengths of Clare quite like Wexford who have been knocked out of the last three Championship campaigns, and four of the last five, by the Banner.

Clare came from behind last Saturday week to overwhelm Wexford with a late scoring blitz, securing an All-Ireland semi-final clash with Kilkenny this weekend.

Speaking at the launch of the All-Ireland 7s series where Beacon Hospital was announced as the title sponsor, Wexford coach Corcoran (right) said: "I think having the likes of Peter Duggan back is a real game changer.

"He's a real focal point now for them in attack. They can go long and he's a big handful in there. I

think players like Ryan Taylor, for example, have really developed too. And Rory Hayes, another fine defender.

"They've found a really good style where they can play it short and play it long. Again, that's where Peter Duggan in there gives them something extra.

"They're comfortable on the ball. They like to play off the shoulder but now they have the option to go long and deep because of Peter Duggan. Ian Galvin, guys like that are there. Shane O'Donnell seems to be involved not so much as a finisher now but as a real worker, a real ball winner for them.

"I think David Fitzgerald too, he's really developed again this year."

Galway native Corcoran, a Leinster SHC winner with Dublin, said Wexford got joy from going direct to Lee Chin in the full-forward line against Clare, a tactic Kilkenny could replicate.

He said: "Maybe that'll suit the traditional Kilkenny style. We would have used Lee around the pitch but because of a hamstring tweak we just left him in there at full-forward and it just happened to

work out. It definitely wasn't a tactical masterstroke.

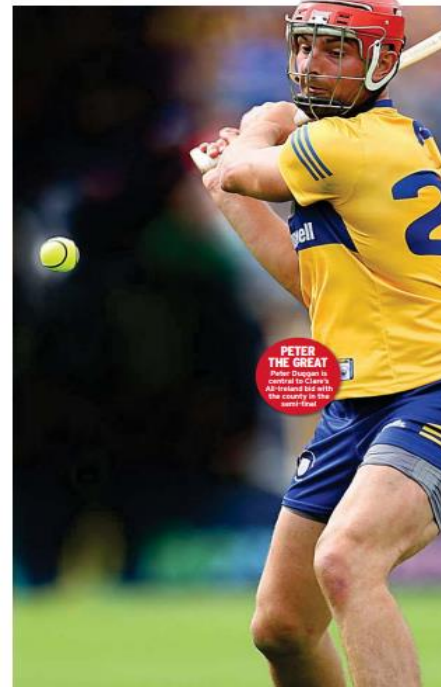
"It'll be interesting to see if Kilkenny replicate that. I've no doubt Clare are going to have a plan for that possibility and maybe they might rejig their backs a small bit to be ready if Kilkenny go that way."

Corcoran first hit the inter-county scene with his native Galway, playing in the 2000 All-Ireland minor final win over Cork, before later transferring to Dublin.

He reckons the pressure is off for Henry Shefflin's Tribesmen ahead of Sunday's All-Ireland semi-final against Limerick - and has tipped them to play with freedom.

He said: "If I was a player myself I'd love this game because you're written off and you can just have a pop and those are the games where you produce your best at times."

"I suppose if I put myself into the shoes of the likes of a Cathal Mannion or a Padraic Mannion, they're going to say, not that it's a free shot, but we have a chance here, we're not going to be favourites for the game and yet I think Galway are a team where physically they can match Limerick."



**PETER THE GREAT**  
Peter Duggan is Clare's All-Ireland top scorer with 1-22 in the semi-final

# DUGGAN A REAL GAME CHANGER

■ Paul KEANE

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## Handful

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"They've found a really good style where they can play it short and play it long. Again, that's where Peter Duggan in there gives them something extra. "They're comfortable

on the ball. They like to play off the shoulder, but now they have the option to go long and deep because of Peter Duggan, Ian Galvin, guys like that are there.

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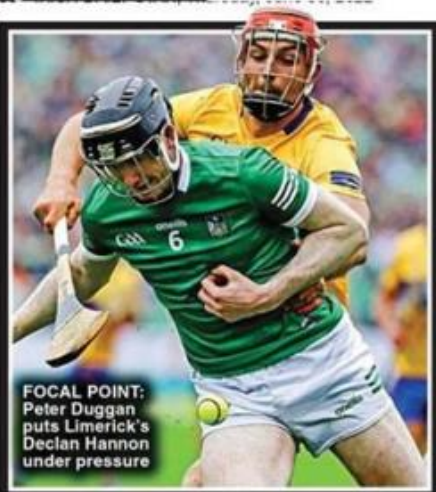
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Those are the games where you produce your best at times.

## Match

"If I put myself into the shoes of a Cathal Mannion or a Padraic Mannion, they're going to say, not that it's a free shot, but we have a chance here, we're not going to be favourites for the game. Yet, I think Galway are a team where, physically, they can match Limerick.

"Whether they have the pace, because Limerick have the pace, but physically they can go toe to toe with Limerick. I think what they will need is just to get more forwards onto the scoreboard. This reliance on Conor Whelan, I'm sure Henry and the lads are working on that."



FOCAL POINT: Peter Duggan puts Limerick's Declan Hannon under pressure

# Return of Duggan a 'game-changer' for Clare

Paul Keane

Wexford coach Niall Corcoran reckons the return of Peter Duggan to the Clare attack has been a game-changer for the All-Ireland semi-finalists.

The 2018 Championship top scorer and All-Star missed the last two seasons after moving to Australia, though has proven a key performer again this summer.

Powerful full-forward Duggan made just three substitute appearances in the National League but has lined out in each of their six Championship games, registering 1-22.

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Clare came from behind last Saturday week to overwhelm Wexford with a late scoring blitz, securing their place in Saturday's semi-final against Kilkenny.

"I think having the likes of Peter Duggan back is a real game changer," said Corcoran, speaking at the launch of the All-Ireland 7s series where **Beacon Hospital** was announced as the title sponsor.

"He's a real focal point now for them in attack. They can go long and he's a big handful in there. I think players like Ryan Taylor, for example, have really developed too. And Rory Hayes, another fine defender.

"They've found a really good style where they can play it short and play it long. Again, that's where Peter Duggan in there gives them something extra.

"They're comfortable on the ball. They like to play off the shoulder but now they have the option to go long and deep because of Peter Duggan, Ian Galvin, guys like that are there. Shane O'Donnell seems to be involved not so much as a finisher now but as a real worker, a real ball winner for

them. I think David Fitzgerald too, he's really developed again this year."

Galway native Corcoran, a Leinster SHC winner with Dublin in 2013, said that Wexford got joy from going direct to their full-forward line against Clare, a tactic he believes Kilkenny may replicate.

"Maybe that'll suit the traditional Kilkenny style," he said, explaining how Wexford shifted Lee Chin to full-forward for the second-half against Clare because of a hamstring injury.

"We would have used Lee around the pitch but because of his hammer we just left him in there at full-forward and it just happened to work out. It definitely wasn't a tactical masterstroke. It'll be interesting to see if Kilkenny replicate that.

"Clare are constantly getting better and they're still learning. I've no doubt they're going to have a plan for that possibility and maybe they might rejig their backs a small bit to be ready if Kilkenny go that way." Shane Reck largely kept tabs on Tony Kelly though the Clare icon burst into life late on, helped by Reck's injury enforced withdrawal.

"Sure you're never going to keep Tony Kelly quiet for the full game," shrugged Corcoran.

Meelick-Eyrecourt man Corcoran reckons the pressure is off for Henry Shefflin's Tribesmen ahead of Sunday's All-Ireland semi-final against Limerick and has tipped them to play with freedom.

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■ Players from 32 counties and four codes are gearing up to bring their passion to the pitch this year, as the All-Ireland 7s Series was officially launched, with Beacon Hospital announced as the title sponsor. A milestone sponsorship, it is the first time all four codes of hurling, football, camogie and ladies football will be supported by one title sponsor, Beacon Hospital.



Niall Corcoran at the launch of the Beacon Hospital All-Ireland 7s Series at Croke Park.

Picture: Ramsey Cardy/Sportsfile

Gaelic Games All-Ireland SHC

# Duggan's return gives Clare valuable extra option – Corcoran

Wexford coach believes improving Banner are a potent force

PAUL KEANE

We could easily be sitting here talking to Niall Corcoran about Wexford's All-Ireland semi-final preparations, about how they plan to take down Kilken-

ny. Instead, it's a discussion about their old foes, Clare, and how the Munster finalists might fare at Croke Park this Saturday afternoon.

Corcoran, the Galway native and former Dublin defender who is now coaching Wexford, was pretty much powerless to prevent his side from relinquishing a six-point lead against Clare with barely 10 minutes to go in Thurles earlier this month.

Clare won by four in the end, a 10-point swing on the scoreboard that left Wexford supporters with that most familiar of feelings, defeat to Clare in a knock-out championship game.

It was the third year running that their season ended with defeat to Clare, the fourth time in five seasons, so who better to assess the Banner County's All-Ireland semi-final credentials than the Wexford coach.

One of the big differences with Clare this year, says Corco-

ran, is the return of 2018 championship top scorer and All-Star Peter Duggan, the powerhouse full forward starting all six of their summer games and registering 1-22 having missed the 2020 and 2021 seasons.

"I think having the likes of Peter Duggan back is a real game-changer," said Corcoran, speaking at the launch of the All-Ireland Sevens series where [Beacon Hospital](#) was announced as the title sponsor.

## 'Handful'

"He's a real focal point now for them in attack. They can go long and he's a big handful in there. I think players like Ryan Taylor, for example, have really developed too. And Rory Hayes, another fine defender. "They've found a really good style where they can play it short and play it long. Again, that's where Peter Duggan in there gives them something extra.

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Wexford's Shane Reek largely kept tabs on Tony Kelly though the Clare icon burst into life late on, helped by Reek's injury-enforced withdrawal.

"Sure you're never going to keep Tony Kelly quiet for the full game," shrugged Corcoran. "That ball he caught near the

end, falling to the ground and then he had it over the bar in seconds, that's just class and you have to allow for the fact that he's going to score those."

## The pressure

Meelick-Eyrecourt man Corcoran began with his native Galway, playing in the 2000 All-Ireland minor final win over Cork, before switching to Dublin. He reckons the pressure is off for the Tribesmen ahead of Sunday's All-Ireland semi-final against Limerick.

"If I was a player myself I'd love this game because you're written off and you can just have a pop and those are the games where you produce your best at times," he said.

"If I put myself into the shoes of the likes of a Cathal Mannion or a Padraic Mannion, they're going to say, not that it's a free shot, but we have a chance here, we're not going to be favourites for the game and yet I think Galway are a team where physically they can match Limerick.

"Whether they have the pace, because Limerick have the pace, but physically they can go toe to toe with Limerick. I think what they will need is just to get more forwards on to the scoreboard. This reliance on Conor Whelan, I'm sure Henry and the lads are working on that."

■ Players from 32 counties and four codes will bring their passion to the pitch this year, as the All-Ireland 7s Series was officially launched, with [Beacon Hospital](#) announced as the title sponsor.



■ Clare's Peter Duggan and Limerick's Seán Finn battle for possession in the Munster final. PHOTOGRAPH: LORRAINE O'SULLIVAN/INPHO

# LADIES FOOTBALL AIG

WITH NIAL SCULLY

OFFICIAL SPONSOR OF DUBLIN GAA

## HAPPY TO BE HOME AND TO CATCH THE ROUND BALL

THEY were mowing the grass in Croke Park. Lauren Magee had a good view. From Level 6 of the Hogan Stand.

She was at the launch of the Kilmacud Crokes All-Ireland Sevens, which is being sponsored by The Beacon Hospital.

Lauren grew up in the midst of those September Saturdays. The club is in her blood.

She talks fondly of two of

wearing the jerseys of Dublin and Kilmacud, and going to college. Making the welcome adjustment back to the round ball. And the Irish climate!



Lauren Magee in action for Dublin

the inspirational figures at Stillorgan, her grandmother, Daisy, and John Sheridan.

Then there was her father Jonny, and her uncle Darren. She'd go to their training sessions with Crokes and the Dubs "trying to imitate the warm-up routine of the players".

She has four All-Ireland medals now. And she has played in five All-Ireland finals, losing

the 2016 final to Cork on her debut season.

Then came the four-in-a-row. Playing at midfield with Olwen Carey, Siobhán McGrath and Jennifer Dunne.

Lauren brings such energy and mobility to the Dublin side. Running a marathon in every match. Doing the simple things. And doing them very well.

Her athleticism earned her a call to Melbourne. She spent two years in the AFLW. "It was a good experience. I gave it a crack. And it's always there in the future if I want to go back."

But, for now, she will focus on

# Online Coverage



## ‘Serious’ players on way up in Meath – Robbie Brennan



In attendance at the launch of the Beacon Hospital All-Ireland 7s Series 2022 at Croke Park were from left, Andrew McGowan, Issy Davis, Lauren Magee and Ronan Hayes. Photo: Ramsey Cardy/Sportsfile

 **Donnchadh Boyle**    
June 28 2022 02:30 AM



Kilmacud Crokes manager Robbie Brennan insists there are “serious players” in Meath after he was named as part of Bernard Flynn’s managerial ticket as the former Royal County star looks to replace Andy McEntee as the county’s football boss.

Brennan is set to act as assistant manager should Flynn be successful and while he hails from Dublin, he has strong connections to Meath.

His father played with the Wolfe Tones club while Brennan himself played for Dunboyne, where he now lives.

He was also briefly involved in the county’s U-20 management team in 2021 which was headed by Flynn before they walked away due to a row over player access.

And having seen the talent on the way up in the county, he’s convinced there are better days ahead for Meath.

“I go to a lot of the club games in Meath watching Dunboyne and there are some guys who were on the 20s, the likes of Niall Finnerty and these guys, they are serious, serious players they just need the chance to go and show and hopefully whoever is in there (as manager) will give them that.

“But they will be back for sure,” said Brennan, who was speaking at the launch of the Beacons Hospital-sponsored Kilmacud Crokes All-Ireland Sevens Series.

And while the U-20 stint ended badly, he believes Meath are righting the ship.

“That was a unique situation that whole 20s thing really, it was very difficult at the time and whatever happened and the agreements that were there or weren’t there, Bernard, at the time, felt it was in the best interest of where he was sitting for us to step down,” added Brennan.

“And ultimately if you are part of that management that is what you have to do.

“I’d know a lot of people in the county who are doing huge work underage and with Barry Horgan (the county’s general manager of underage football) in there they have really started to put together some brilliant structures in the county and it will be a massive benefit going forward.

“We mightn’t see it over the next few years but they are beginning to tick all the right boxes so they will be back.”

# Independent

<https://www.independent.ie/sport/gaelic-games/gaelic-football/serious-players-on-way-up-in-meath-robbie-brennan-41796596.html>

# Andrew McGowan and Dublin relishing ‘huge challenge’ of taking on Kerry



Andrew McGowan at the launch of the Beacon Hospital All-Ireland 7s Series 2022, at Croke Park in Dublin. Photo by Ramsey Cardy/Sportsfile



**Donnchadh Boyle**  

June 28 2022 02:30 AM



Dublin’s Andrew McGowan insists they will relish the challenge of facing Kerry after they cruised into another All-Ireland semi-final over the weekend.

Dessie Farrell’s men had 11 points to spare against Cork on Saturday night in their All-Ireland quarter-final clash, meaning they have won their championship matches against Wexford, Meath, Kildare and the Rebels by an average margin of just over 15 points.

Kerry have had a similarly smooth path and both sides will represent each other’s toughest test to date when they clash in a fortnight’s time. But McGowan, who was added to the panel in recent weeks on the back of his efforts for Kilmacud Crokes in their run to the All-Ireland final, believes they will respond to the task.

“Every game poses its own challenges,” McGowan said. “This one is obviously going to be an exceptional challenge against Kerry. It was a wet day the last day and even so Kerry showed how good they are. So yeah, it’s going to be a huge challenge but the guys that are on that (Dublin) team, they love that challenge. They’ll take it head on.”

Having previously played under Jim Gavin under whom he made his championship debut in 2018, McGowan was recalled by Farrell in recent weeks and made the bench against Kildare and the Rebels.

“For myself and anyone trying to break into the team, it’s not just about us trying to break into the team, it’s about us trying to get the lads . . . like, you have your starting 15 and you’re doing your best to prepare them for the game, because you’re not going to go out there and try to score four selfish points, you’re going to go out there and train as a team to try to prepare everyone for the game that’s coming up.”

Independent

<https://www.independent.ie/sport/gaelic-games/gaelic-football/andrew-mcgowan-and-dublin-relishing-huge-challenge-of-taking-on-kerry-41796566.html>

## Kilmacud Crokes Sevens returns

The popular Kilmacud Crokes All-Ireland 7s series returns this year after an enforced two year hiatus.

A launch today in Croke Park confirmed that 1,100 players across four codes will compete in the Beacon Hospital sponsored games.

Hurling is up first on July 16, followed by football on July 23. The ladies football and Camogie competitions will be playing on July 30 and August 6.

More than 7,000 people are expected to attend the events with Crokes in football, Emyvale in ladies football, Portroe in hurling and De La Salle in Camogie all out to defend their crown.

**Independent**

<https://www.independent.ie/sport/gaelic-games/something-from-the-weekend-echoes-of-history-for-jack-oconnor-separate-entrances-in-croke-park-and-return-of-the-sevens-series-41794576.html>

## Four Into Sevens as Beacon Steps Up Sponsorship

Jun 28, 2022 | GAA, News Members, Sponsorship



Players from 32 counties and all four codes of Gaelic Games are gearing up to bring their passion to the pitch this year, as the All-Ireland 7's Series is officially launched, with Beacon Hospital announced as the title sponsor.

A milestone sponsorship, it is the first time all four codes of hurling, football, camogie and ladies football will be supported by one title sponsor, Beacon Hospital.

Given the Series has been postponed for two years as a result of the pandemic, there is great anticipation and excitement for its return this summer, with the series launched yesterday at Croke Park.

Earlier this year, Beacon Hospital also became the main Club sponsor of the largest GAA club in Ireland, Kilmacud Crokes, who have hosted the event for over 50 years.

The annual fixture takes place on the eve of the All-Ireland Finals. Games are played across a number of pitches in the local area with the culmination of the final, which is played on the home pitch of Kilmacud Crokes, Pairc de Burca in Stillorgan.

"The Beacon Hospital All-Ireland 7s Series is a testament to the community spirit and camaraderie that GAA brings players from all codes across the country," said Michael Cullen Chief Executive of Beacon Hospital.

"With our partner Kilmacud Crokes, we intend to bring our combined passion for physical health, teamwork and the well-being of hearts and minds of local teams to life, and we are delighted to support all four codes as they return for the Series after two years."

"Since we embarked on the sponsorship with Kilmacud Crokes, we have met so many players, backroom teams and supporters, who are incredibly passionate about their sport. We are very much looking forward to meeting more through this Series and sharing our expertise and knowledge in health and wellbeing."

"The Beacon Hospital All Ireland 7s Series will attract visitors from around the country and abroad to great days in the Hurling, Football, Ladies Football and Camogie calendars," added Kevin Foley Chair of Kilmacud Crokes.

"This coming together across all four Gaelic codes is a tremendous innovation and is a significant statement in support of equality of participation between men and women in sport."



[https://sportforbusiness.com/four-into-sevens-as-beacon-steps-up-sponsorship/?utm\\_source=rss&utm\\_medium=rss&utm\\_campaign=four-into-sevens-as-beacon-steps-up-sponsorship](https://sportforbusiness.com/four-into-sevens-as-beacon-steps-up-sponsorship/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=four-into-sevens-as-beacon-steps-up-sponsorship)

# Lauren Magee ready for big Donegal tes

Scenic Carrick-On-Shannon venue for quarter-final tie



Dublin footballer Lauren Magee at the Kilmacud Crokes All-Ireland Sevens Launch. Credit: Sportsfile

Niall Scully

July 04 2022 10:00 PM



## Happy to be home and to catch the round ball

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Independent

# Social Coverage







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Beacon Hospital becomes title sponsor of the All-Ireland 7's Series - more details at - [kilmacudcrokes.com/club/beacon-ho...](https://kilmacudcrokes.com/club/beacon-ho...)

