

**1976**

Patsy Breen and Patrick O'Brien spearhead the revival of the Henry Joy McCrackens, Moneymore.

Chairman – Patsy Breen  
Vice Chairman – Tim McGurk  
Secretary – Patrick O'Brien  
Treasurer – Louis McIvor  
Registrar – Emmet Martin  
Underage – Brendan Devlin

### **Henry Joys Revived and Rarin' To Go**

Henry Joy Mc Cracken's, from Moneymore are on the move again...well almost. An application to enter Derry competitions will be forwarded to Secretary Pat Mullan within the next few days and no problems are envisaged.

The Henry Joy's have been out of football for around a decade but a revival spearheaded by former Derry chairman Patsy Breen and Paddy O'Brien has taken Moneymore by storm. Now the club is rarin' to go once more and they await the green light from the Derry County Board. Schoolmasters Breen and O'Brien are the men who launched the new drive. They called a meeting to gauge interest in the town and were agreeably shocked by the reaction.

"We thought we would be left with most of the work like managing the teams etc., but we found that there were lots of people willing to help. Over 30 turned up at the first meeting and we had no trouble forming a committee. We also drew up team panels and managers were appointed. Paddy and I found we weren't needed at all in this way" disclosed Breen, who was one of the best half backs Derry ever produced.

Patsy has been appointed chairman of the new club with O'Brien secretary. Treasurer is Louis Mc Ivor – he is also senior team manager – and the vice-chairman is another former Derry footballer, Tim Mc Gurk. Emmett Martin is the new registrar and ex-referee Brendan Devlin will be in charge of underage teams.

But Moneymore's gain is Ardboe's loss, Patsy Breen has been team manager of Ardboe for the past six years. "I talked the position over with Ardboe and they understood. They won four championships in the last six years so I'm sure they will be able to survive without Me." said Breen.

There's no scarcity of well known players about Moneymore either, Kevin O'Neill who played with Derry Under 21's in 1974 whilst with Bellaghy is joining the Henry Joy's and has been appointed captain of the first team., Kevin of course left Bellaghy and played with Magherafelt last season.

Former Derry minor Liam Harbinson probably better known nowadays in soccer circles will also don the yellow jersey, Irish schools Rugby player Ciaran O'Loane and Eugene Young and basketball international are other established sports men who will be lining up for Moneymore.

And there are also a few other Derry county players who live in the town but they have not, as yet indicated that they are prepared to switch clubs. Frankie O'Loane (Bellaghy), Seamus Hasson (Banagher) and Kevin Teague (Magherafelt) are all living in Moneymore. Mc Ivor's and Marshalls are families who should supply a few players, however.



Moneymore and Loup are part of the same parish and, ironically, present county chairman Dermot Devlin is a member of the Loup club. "Our major problem could be finance confessed Patsy Breen. We have no means of raising money as the youth club in the town organises a fairly full social programme but clubs have survived before and I just hope Moneymore can now.

Already plans are being made for their first match – a challenge game with St Patrick's Lisburn one of whose officials, Gerry Marshall is a former Moneymore star. Once permission for the comeback is granted the game will take place.

But the boys in Moneymore are not the only ones staging a revival as the girls of the town have got in on the act as well and formed a camogie club. Enthusiasm was so high at their first meeting they even picked their teams.

Well sure with these new Discrimination Acts why shouldn't the girls not get in line with the boys.



#### **Moneymore Team late 1970s**

**Back row: Danny McLaughlin, Kevin O'Neill, Mickey McFlynn, Kieran O'Loane, Pat Barker, Oliver McKee, Eddie John O'Neill, Sean Connery, Seamus Kynes, Brendan O'Neill**

**Front row: Malachy McIvor, Adrian Marshall, Peter O'Neill, Dickie Young, Paul Young, Brian O'Neill, Mickey McGurk, Gerard O'Neill**

#### **First Championship game**

Moneymore v Ballerin in Championship 1976.

Just to keep in the fashion, Ballerin and Moneymore finished all square in a very exciting game at Slaughtneil. The match was played in a splendid sporting spirit. Both sides were at it hammer and tongs and, in the end, Moneymore battled back to get a second bite at the cherry.

With lanky Eugene Young dominating the centre of the field, Ballerin were in trouble when the McCrackens opened up a two point lead. However when Ballerin employed an extra midfielder things began to turn their way and they began to knock over the points including two frees from over 50 yards from midfielder Bonner. At Half time Ballerin 0-6 Moneymore 0-2.



Moneymore took a second half gamble by bringing on injured star Kevin O Neill but it paid off. He inspired his side to a determined fight back and scored a couple himself to take the game to a replay. While neither side have any hope of winning the championship, both are capable of providing entertainment and playing enjoyable football.

Over the hour, Ballerin hit the bar three times and missed several more open goals and were defied by O Neill the Moneymore keeper, but on the other hand, Moneymore missed quite a few long range efforts. The replay is anybody's game and should be well worth seeing.

**1976/77**

## **Records of Secretary Patrick O Brien**

### **Reformation of club 30/11/75**

### **Annual Convention 30/01/77**

Preliminary meeting called by P Breen and P O Brien to see what interest there would be in, and what support there would be for the reorganising and developing of the local Gaelic club. Seven adults and nine juniors attended. The small attendance was put down to inadequate publicity. However there was obvious enthusiasm and it was decided to hold another meeting which would be given greater publicity.

### **30/11/75**

It was decided to retain the traditional title and colours of the club.

### **08/02/76**

The Field – L Mclvor and P O Brien reported that that they had spoken to Miss A.T. Devlin about the use of the field and she had given her permission if the man who had rented the field agreed ( P, Breen had seen W. Rea and has his permission).

### **18/03/76**

J McGlinchey pointed out that Miss Devlin had the right to refuse us permission to use the field at any time and so we should be prepared by having an alternative ready. He suggested Mr Eddie Corey be approached to see if he had a suitable field he would let us use.

A circular from the county board required each club to have active referees. M Mc Flynn agreed to put his name down.

### **06/05/76**

T McGurk chaired a short meeting at which it was decided to give all committee members of a meeting on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> to discuss two main points 1) meetings 2)finance. Meetings attendance was poor. We were having to meet in the cars. Perhaps once a week was too often.

### **13/05/76**

Chambers luxury coach had been hired to go to a match against Dolans. It had broken down at Foreglen. D Chambers had come and fixed it and told the driver he could take it on but he said he would rather not and instead took a mini-bus. However this meant that 32 people had to return home in the mini-bus. B Devlin objected strongly to the driver refusing to take the bus when he had the owner's permission, especially when it meant so many travelling in a mini-bus when it was not insured once there was more than 14 in it. B O Neill, K O Neill and L Mclvor agreed with this but J Brown thought if there was a danger of ruining some expensive machinery he did the right thing. There was an objection to the speed that the mini-bus had been driven. L Mclvor said that everyone had a responsibility to



caution the driver. T McGurk and B Devlin said they had done so but it hadn't made much difference. All these points were made to the driver who came in to the meeting.

Miss Devlin was raising some objections to the field and the grass was getting too long but we were unable to cut it. J McGlinchey repeated that we should be on the lookout for an alternative field.

#### **19/05/76**

B O Neill said that as there was a terrible lack of organisation. There was not enough transport. He had 18 boys in his car to Magherafelt. L McIvor and E Martin said they would try and have their cars available for future matches. B O Neill said the team should be in the cars first. However the problem was the team wasn't picked before hand and there wasn't even a definite panel as there had been no practice during the week.

#### **06/10/76**

There were several complaints about the band. They had started to play rather late (11.30) and were extremely unmannerly. There was a difference of opinion of having younger members at the dance. Some thought that if they supported the club and paid the 80p they should be allowed at the dance. Others thought they were a nuisance and discouraged older members from attending and dancing.

Unanimous votes of thanks were given to the ladies, the doormen and Mr & Mrs A McKee who had looked after the minerals.

#### **1978 – Graham Cup Winners**

In 1978 Henry Joy McCrackens Moneymore GFC created history when they won their first ever trophy – the Graham Cup – by defeating Ogra Colmcille by 3-4 to 2-6 in Magherafelt in a tremendous replay. The first game ended all square a number of weeks previous. (team photograph in centre pages)



#### **Moneymore Schoolboys 1977**

**Back row: Declan McDonald, James OBrien, Kevin McNaney, Michael Devlin, Peter Young, Peter Woods, Paddy McFlynn.**

**Front row: Michael McKeown, Geroid McNaney, Don Mc Gurk, James O'Neill, Con Donaghy, Enda Hasson.**

