

## SPORT

Mayo will be aiming to avoid a sixth successive All-Ireland SFC final defeat by beating Donegal on September 23

GAA

## Homegrown Tir Chonaill Gaels force their way into JFC final

**TIR CHONAILL GAELS** 2-11  
**ST. ANTHONYS** 2-7

TIR CHONAILL GAELS stormed into this year's London JFC final, the young Greenford side withstanding a late rally from St Anthonys to secure a four-point victory.

With a nine-point lead at the end of normal time, the Gaels looked pretty comfortable but a spirited St Anthonys side refused to lie down and accept defeat. They hit 1-2 during the four minutes of added time but it was too little, too late.

Tir Chonaill Gaels, a team comprising of all British-born players, full deserved this win, with the likes of Liam Gavigan, Clive Mills and Ryan Elliot in outstanding form.

It was nip-and-tuck throughout the first-half as neither grabbed the game by the scruff of the neck and pulled ahead.

Tir Chonaill Gaels led by 0-6 to 0-4 in the 28th minute when Elliot reacted quickest after a shot by Liam Cunningham was blocked by a St Anthonys defender. Elliot finished the ball to the net to give the Gaels the momentum.

Gavigan finished off a fluent six-man move shortly afterwards to grab his fifth point of the afternoon and send TCG in at the break with a six-point cushion: 1-7 to 0-4.

Gavigan and Mills both had white flags raised again in the third quarter before a good response by the men from Reading.

The Gaels' defence was cut wide open in the 44th minute as Mike McGrath stormed through before firing emphatically to the net, leaving goalkeeper John Flynn with no chance whatsoever.

Gavigan and McGrath exchanged points before Donal Geraghty kicked a fine score on the break for Tir Chonaill Gaels and a St Anthonys revival seemed unlikely.

TCG's second goal came when substitute Brendan Scannell cut in from the left wing and slotted the ball past Anthony's keeper Cathal Keane on the cusp of full-time. But Anthonys weren't finished.

A speculative long ball played into the Gaels' square was somehow punched on by substitute Denis Lynch and it looped into the air and fell behind John Flynn and into the net.

McGrath quickly sent a point over from the right wing and in the dying seconds Brendan Gribben bore down on goals but his shot went a few inches too high.

Tir Chonaill Gaels: J Flynn; C McGarvey, K McFadden, S Carr; G McEvoy, C Geraghty, S Butler; P Butler, P Flynn; R Elliot (1-1), L Cunningham, T Moriarty; C Mills (0-2), L Gavigan (0-7, 3f), R Fortune. Subs: O Hayes for Carr; B Scannell (1-0) for Fortune, D Geraghty (0-1) for Moriarty; K Cunningham for L Cunningham.

St Anthonys: C Keane; N Burke, G Webb, E Carroll; G Power, M Keogh, P McPhillips; B McMahon (0-1), B Gribben (0-2); M McGrath (1-3, 1f), J Reilly, J Spollen; S Doherty, P Finnegan (0-1), C O'Shea. Subs: D Lynch (1-0) for O'Shea, A Loughrey for McMahon.

Referee: Brian O'Hara.



POLL POSITION: Paul Tierney carries the ball forward for North London Shamrocks, who were never behind in their tightly-fought clash with St Josephs.

# Smart Shamrocks keep Joes at arm's length

**NORTH LONDON SHAMROCKS** 0-11  
**ST JOSEPHS** 0-9  
London VGC Group IFC semi-final

BY RONAN EARLY

NORTH London Shamrocks will take a fair bit of stopping in the final. They have many fine footballers but, more crucially, are a well-functioning unit.

Impressive performers here include Lannan O'Meanchoir and Graham Carr in the half-back line, James Power at midfield and full-forward Ciaran Collory. The star man, though, was undoubtedly Jarlaith Glynn. The centre-forward roamed, often dropping back to midfield, linked play and picked off some exquisite scores. He finished with four points, all of them crucial, three of them beauties.

In the third minute he curled one over to put his side three points ahead. On 12 minutes, Glynn raised a white flag a minute after St Josephs had cut the gap to a point through Ambrose Stafford. In first-half stoppage time, he landed a monster, from the right touchline. That

score put Shamrocks three ahead at the break.

Joes had the breeze behind them in the second half. With eight minutes to go the gap was two points. The game was genuinely in the balance. Joes had scored the last three points, momentum was very much on their side.

It needed something abrupt and a bit special to halt their charge. That something came when Glynn sent a high curling shot into the wind from distance. It started well outside the right post at the clubhouse end but kept turning until it dropped onto the top of the net.

His teammates could not but be inspired by such a score; Joes could only have lost a small but vital amount of pep as the white flag flew.

Glynn's most formidable opponent was himself. He got booked in the first half, ref Harry Bartlett was administering stern warnings but still Glynn struggled to keep it zipped. Any time he neared a potential flashpoint thereafter there was a sense of desperation in the cries from the bench to "Let it go Ja". "Don't get involved Ja."

North London's chances of glory have a lot to do with Glynn doing what he

does best: kicking scores.

They are far from a one-man team, however. The team ethic of industry and overall good sense is their greatest asset.

Shamrocks box clever. Rarely do they take silly options that give opponents the impetus. If you want the initiative, you have to wrestle them hard for the privilege. They got ahead of Joes in the second minute and never gave up that lead.

Joes threatened to steal a march a couple of times but whenever they did NLS picked them off with a counter punch. Joe Sweeney pointed in the 10th minute after Stafford had got Joes' second point. That made the score 0-4 to 0-2. Stafford scored another point to cut the gap to the minimum but Glynn responded to keep Shamrocks out of reach.

Points from Collory and Andrew Power stretched Shamrocks' lead to nine points to four after half-time. It was hard to see Joes recovering a five-point lead, but they had their chances.

Stafford stumbled at the crucial moment when a break from a free presented him with an open goal from a yard or two from the target.

Joes went down swinging though.

Their run of three points — frees from Mark McNulty (two) and Michael Colleran — cut the gap to two points.

But then up stepped Jarlaith Glynn.

A Colleran free on the hour mark closed the gap to two points again. But as stoppage time ebbed away, the necessary Joes goal looked a distant prospect and sub Pat Lynch stretched the lead to three once more.

After six added minutes, Colleran shot for goal from about 25 yards, his effort high and over the bar. Then came the whistle and jubilant scenes on the Shamrocks line. St Josephs were shattered.

NLS: Daniel McDermott; Paddy Maddigan, Brian Galvin, Declan Treanor; Lannan O'Meanchoir, Graham Carr (0-1), Patrick Tighe; James Power, Eamonn Scanlon; Paul Tierney, Jarlaith Glynn (0-4), Andrew Power (0-1); Joe Sweeney (0-1), Ciaran Collory (0-2), Shane Gallagher (0-1). Subs: Pat Lynch (0-1) for Maddigan, Mark Anderson for Tighe, Ryan Higgins for Gallagher, Adam Holden for Power.

St Josephs: Gabriel Egan; Donal Coppinger, Anthony Duffy, Dara Walsh; Conor McHugh, Mark Donnellan, Aodhan Reaney; Gavin Conway (0-1, 4f), Alan Fee; Ambrose Stafford (0-2), Mark McNulty (0-3f), Sean Lacey; Eugene McLoughlin, Tom McGahern, Michael Colleran (0-3, 2f). Subs: Colm Foody for McGahern, Kyle Mongan for Lacey, John Boyle for McLoughlin.

Referee: Harry Bartlett.