

1885:

FOOTBALL

A meeting was held in the reading room, on Friday evening, to start a Football Club in Castlebar, and was numerously attended.

Mr. W. Jordan, being moved to the chair, the undermentioned officers were unanimously elected:-

W. De Exeter Jordan, Capt.

R. Allshire, Vice - Capt.

W.F. Gill, Secretary

A. Cunningham, Treasurer.

COMMITTEE

B. Knett	B.R. Parsons
P.J. Staunton	P.J. Greene
T.P. Quinn	P. Flannelly
M. Gallagher	G. Lavelle
R. Bent	M. Flannery
J. Pullam	

Previous to the meeting a most enjoyable game took place in the Pigeon Park, by the kind premission of Mr. Larminie, from the form displayed there is every promise of a most successful team.

TAKING FROM: Connaught Telegraph , December 19th 1885.

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CONNUGHT TELEGRAPH - 12TH MAY, 1885

GAELIC ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

CASTLEBAR READILY TRIUMPHANT AGAIN

On Sunday last, for the second time, the 'John Mitchel' team from this town proceeded to Swinford (where on that day week, they had defeated the Ballina 'James Stephens' and Ballaghaderreen "Faugh-a-Ballaghs") and came back in the evening laden with far more brilliant success than even that which they had previously achieved. Contrary to all forms of regularity or terms of justice the decision of the referee on Sunday 29th ult, awarding the victory to the 'Mitchels' was reversed by a few gentle men in Ballina on a pretended objection by the 'Faugh-a-Ballagh' captain against the proceedings of the previous Sunday and some days after Mr. Mulhern (Hon Sec of the Mitchel Club) was coolly informed that by the unanimous decision of the County Committee his team should, on the following Sunday, again engage the Ballaghaderreen "Faugh-a-Ballaghs"! "Unanimous decision of the County Committee certainly had a lofty sound about it; but looked rather small when inquired into! Mr. Mulhern himself is one of the eight elected members of that same County Committee, yet he never, till receiving this famous ultimatum, had got the slightest intimation that such a meeting (from which, by the way, this curious "unanimous decision" had emanated) was to be held! Dr. Nally of Balla - also a member of that committee, and the member who received by far the highest number of votes at the County Convention - was equally ignorant of that "unanimous decision" being contemplated, as he received no notification of that precious meeting referred to, so that in reality the 'Mitchels' laughed at the second order to meet a second time a team they had already defeated.

They went, however, to Swinford with brakes and cars, making a goodly turn-out and enjoying a beautifully fine day; but Mr. Mulhern on principle, steadfastly refused to let the Castlebar team again engaged the Ballaghaderreen, as it would be giving a semblance of right to an audacious usurpation of power by a few persons who had no authority to call themselves the County Committee, but who had dared to make a one-sided quasi - "Unanimous decision" without letting the parties most interested know anything about it! At length by the interference of some friends, (who urged that as both teams were on the ground it would be "too bad to spoil sport") the "Mitchelites" agreed to kick the match under protest, and well, indeed were it for the Costello men that they had rested content with the defeat of the previous day instead of thus courting more flagrantly remarkable disaster! The score at the end of the hour was for the 'Mitchels', 3 goals 4 points; and for the Faugh-a-Ballaghs, no goal and 1 solitary point.

The Swinford "Sextons" and Ballina "James Stephenites" next kicked a friendly match in which the latter team came off victorious by 3 points, after a very well contested hour's work. There are some splendid kickers among the "Stephenites" and certainly the "Sextons" show great promise of action for a comparatively new team as they are.

The Ballina "Commericals" and Castlebar "Mitchels" next engaged; and really their performance was a sight well worth seeing, as, for the first half hour, there was no appreciable advantage, each side having scored a single point. With the change, however, there was an apparent alteration and the "Commericals" added no more to the point they had already gained so the victory was awarded to the 'John Mitchels' whose score at the end of the hour, was one goal and 7 points, to the single point of their opponents, thus securing the County Championship to Castlebar'.

This terminated a most interesting day's amusement, and the various teams marched in a long and attractive procession to the town, which is nearly half a mile distant from the grounds. The splendid Brass Band of the Ballina Mechanics Institute enlivened the proceedings during the lively the exceedingly well rendered and appropriate marital music of the Gael.

The green uniforms of the 'Stephenites' men, with the green and gold of the 'Mitchels' and the black and yellow of the 'Sextons' formed a pleasing contrast in the lengthy procession.
