

# Irish Independent

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36-PAGE SPORT PULL-OUT INSIDE

## Dubs break Mayo hearts

ALL-IRELAND FINAL SPECIAL - THE BEST WRITERS, THE BEST ACTION - PAGES 2, 3 & SPORT

### Painting the town blue as Dubs send Mayo packing

Lise Hand

lhand@independent.ie

**M**AYO midfielder Aidan O'Shea was curled up on the pitch, inconsolable and adrift in a sea of blue. The whistle had sounded a few minutes earlier, ending the match but not the agony of the men in green and red.

There was one point in it after 74 tense minutes. Just one more point would have secured a draw, and Mayo could have lived to fight another day.

They could have had another tilt at the 62-year-old windmill. They might have finally silenced all the doom-laden talk of curses instead of once more dispatching their legions of heartbroken supporters back along their own personal Via Dolorosa out of Dublin and towards the setting sun.

Or a last-minute goal would have propelled the Mayo men into the Hall of Heroes for posterity.

Instead, the team stood or slumped on the velvet surface of Croke Park and silently watched the Blues en fete again for the second time in three years.

Continued on Page 2 Dublin supporters Keith McCarthy and Jason Weldy celebrate Dublin's win at Croke Park. BARRY CREGG / SPORTSFILE



### Cholesterol drugs 'do more harm than good'

Eilish O'Regan  
Health Correspondent

MEDICINES that lower cholesterol may be doing more harm than good to otherwise healthy people.

A review by one of the country's leading vascular surgeons has found a lack of evidence to show that statins should be given as a means of prevention to healthy people who have high cholesterol but no heart disease.

Statins are taken by more than 250,000 Irish people to help lower "bad cholesterol", a risk factor for heart disease and stroke.

Sherif Sultan, of University College Hospital in Galway, warned that statin use can increase the risk of diabetes, cataracts and male impotence.

"They can also significantly increase the risk of cancer and neurodegenerative disorders," he said.

FULL REPORT: PAGE 17

## Revealed: one in four senators miss each vote

Fiach Kelly  
Political Correspondent

SENATORS are failing to turn up for votes in the Seanad with an average of one in four missing every time, the *Irish Independent* can reveal.

A comprehensive study of votes in the Seanad in the past 12 months has found shocking levels of absenteeism by senators, who are paid €60,000 a

year. Ahead of next week's Seanad abolition referendum, the finding that senators don't bother to turn up for one in four votes undermines claims about the Upper House's importance as a

INSIDE

FIONNAN SHEAHAN

If you don't want the job, give it up **PI4**



legislative chamber. Voting is a fundamental part of an Oireachtas member's functions.

Embarrassingly for the Seanad, some of the lowest turnouts were for votes on the Social Welfare Bill, which affects welfare rates; and the Personal Insolvency Bill, which is aimed at tackling the mortgage crisis.

But one of the highest turnouts was a vote on the future of the Seanad. Almost all senators turned up to

vote on the bill to have a referendum on the Upper House, which is taking place on Friday week.

The one party campaigning to save the Seanad - Fianna Fail - had the worst voting record of the main parties.

However, Independent senators, such as Taoiseach's nominees Fiach MacConghail, Mary-Ann O'Brien and Marie-Louise O'Donnell, have among the worst records of all.

Continued on Page 14

### Ex-ambassador son killed in Kenyan attacks

THE only son of the former Kenyan ambassador to Ireland was among the people killed by terrorists in a Nairobi shopping mall at the weekend.

Mbugua Mwangi, the son of Catherine Muigai Mwangi who recently returned home after a six-year posting here, was killed with fiancée, Rosemary Wahito on Saturday morning.

A large explosion rocked the Kenyan mall where Islamic extremists are holding hostages a day after attacking the shopping centre and killing 68 people.

Some 10 to 15 militants are in the mall holding an unknown number of captives.

FULL REPORT: PAGE 4



SEASONAL SAVINGS ON CHILL-BUSTING ESSENTIALS

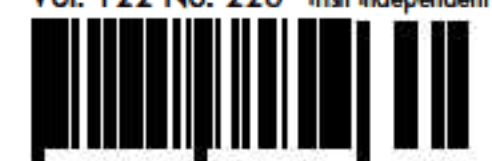
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Two suicide bombers blew themselves up outside a church in Pakistan as worshippers left Mass, killing at least 60 people in the deadliest attack on Christians in recent history. Page 20

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Bo Xilai, the maverick Chinese leader, gets life for taking millions of euro in bribes, embezzlement and trying to cover up the murder of the businessman Neil Heywood. Page 21

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# Wait goes on as Mayo

**Lise Hand**  
in Croke Park



**Continued from Page 1**

Maybe it was a portent of things to come when the capital found itself under a cloudless azure dome yesterday for All-Ireland Final day - an occasion that more often than not takes place under grey skies.

From early doors, the streets of Dublin were paved with green and red. Mayo had travelled in huge numbers, pouring out of Ballina and Ballyhaunis, Castlebar and Claremorris. They made the pilgrimage to the Croker crucible with a sense of conviction that Sam would cross the county borders for the first time since 1951.

But when the Dubs fans eventually fell out of their beds and headed for Croke, both sets of supporters milling around Jones's Road agreed on two things: firstly, that it would be a close contest, in all likelihood decided by a small handful of points, and secondly, it was sure to be a thing of beauty - flowing football by the two best teams in this year's championship.

In the end, the fans were half-right. But on the way in, most Dubs, Mayo supporters and neutrals were unwilling to make a guess at the final score.

"It's too close to predict," said Bertie Ahern as he strolled in.

A fan spotted the former Taoiseach and shouted: "Hey Bertie, are you sitting beside Enda?" (That would only happen over both men's dead bodies, one suspects).

Another former Taoiseach, John Bruton, was sporting a Mayo headband around his wrist. "My wife Finola is from Westport," he explained.

Jimmy Kirrane's shirt was getting a lot of attention, as it consisted of half a Dublin shirt and half a Mayo shirt sewn together.

**Arrivals**

"I'm from Drumcondra, but both my parents are from Ballyhaunis," he explained. And had he stitched his shirt himself?

"No, my mum made it," he confessed. But not all arrivals were so conflicted. Raymond O'Shea and Anthony Nelson, from Crumlin, had painted their faces dark blue.

"Dublin to win by two," reckoned Raymond. "It's a shame Mayo haven't won for so long, but they can wait a bit longer."

But everyone who was anticipating a classic encounter was to be sorely disappointed. On the pitch there were nerves in abundance, and mistakes abounded, too. The leaden weight of six lost finals was surely a heavy burden for the Mayo men, for all their swagger in the pre-match ceremony.

By half time, Mayo were ahead by a point. But nobody was lighting bonfires in Belmullet just yet. The formidable boot of Bernard Brogan and also the Dubs' ability to knock over points from all angles was too real a danger.

And the Dubs began to look more dangerous. As the clock ticked down, the action took on a frantic quality.

And then Ballintubber's Cillian O'Connor stepped up to take a 20-yard free, with four minutes' extra time already played.

He faced a phalanx of anxious blues crowded on to the goal-line. Only three points would do for Mayo. The ball sailed over the bar.

The final whistle went. Heads bowed, the Mayo fans trudged towards the exits, unable to look at Sam on the pitch.

The Dubs had been there for the taking, but Mayo had faltered yet again.

So off they set again, a caravan of mournful Mayo men and women snaking back along their boulevard of broken dreams.

In the stands, the singing followed the victorious team on their lap of honour and continued on the city streets as the sun set and night fell.

And a blue moon over the city.



Clockwise from main: Dublin's Alan Brogan, his son Jamie, and goal hero Bernard Brogan with the Sam Maguire after the game; Alex Bailey and father Mark; fans Amy, Mary and Christine Lynch; John Walsh and Matthew Walsh (7), both from Co Limerick; Mayo supporters Cianna Flynn, left and James McNeive; a Mayo fan during the second-half. Inset, Enda Kenny.

SPORTSFILE, COLL. INS and DAMIEN EAGERS



L to R: Grainne and Sile Seoige; a Mayo man with Brian Cowen; Michael Flatley; Mayo fan Liam O Rahilly;

FULL COVERAGE: SEE SPORT



# dealt a dose of the blues

## Capital's streets transformed into sea of blue as Sam returns

Fiona Ellis

IT came down to the wire but in the end the Boys in Blue clinched Sam for yet another year.

Dublin fans were buoyant after the win and streamed out of Croke Park stadium, a sea of blue chanting and cheering.

Elaine Jordan from Tallaght and Mary Moriarty from Rathfarnham said they were on the edge of their seats for the duration of the clash.

"It was heart racing stuff," said Mary. "It was very tense, but it still was a great atmosphere. My nails are gone."

"Amazing, it was great," said Elaine. "It was a really good result in the end for the Dubs."

Dublin fans for life, Emma Garrett and Rachel Feeney, both 16, from Santry said the Dublin squad picked up the pace in the second half.

"They really came out in the second half. I really thought Mayo were going to get it, but in the end Dublin turned up and they played the way we know they can play," said Rachel.

"We play gaelic ourselves, and we wouldn't miss the final," said Emma. "We almost

didn't get tickets but we got two at the last minute so we were so happy."

Paul Pollard from Dublin and daughter Stella, (10) have been to all the games in the championship together.

"I thought it was fantastic, it was a very tight game," Paul said. He said he was on tenterhooks "until the final whistle."

"The fans were fantastic, on both sides I must say. When Dean Rock came on it really changed the game for Dublin, it really upped the pace."

Mayo supporter Una Cashman from Rathfarnham attended the game with her two sons Ciaran (14) and Enda (12) who are both die-hard Dublin fans. Una said her sons give her a hard time for supporting "poor" Mayo "all the time".

"There's no dinners in our house all this week," she laughed.

"It was a close game," said Ciaran. "In the second half Dublin played much better I think." The game was "class" his brother agreed.

The most colourful Mayo fans on the day were Martina Loftus and Pauline Daly decked out in jerseys, flags and a novelty hat. They stayed upbeat despite their team's

close defeat at the hands of The Boys in Blue.

"We thought Mayo would get a goal at the end and put us right after 62 years but we'll have to wait another year. With the help of god we'll be back," said Martina

"I just thought the Dubs were as dirty as normal," said Pauline. "It was a great game but a lot of decisions didn't go to Mayo."

### THE MAYO FANS

\* THEY had waited 62 years, convinced that this would be the year to break the curse, but as the final whistle blew yesterday, desperate Mayo fans could hardly believe the outcome.

Fr Peter Quinn, who helped Mayo to victory back in 1951 described the loss as the worst yet.

"I haven't been as disappointed as I am today. They had everything going for them. They had good training and a good team but it just didn't happen.

"The team will be back again next year and I'll be here if I'm still alive. But they should have been here this year to lift that cup," he added.

In Castlebar, fans met the end of the match with a moment of silence – despite their valiant efforts, their wait went on.

But they were adamant that they would turn out in their thousands to welcome the team home tomorrow.

"I'm devastated but they played a blinder. It's so hard but they did us proud. We'll be there to meet them when they get home," said Aoife Moran from Castlebar who had made her own jersey for the day.

"It was hard and cruel to watch. I really thought this was the year. It was a good game and it came right down to the wire but it was an awful pity.

"I'll go to the homecoming and show them the support they still have. We will be back," said Sandra Joyce also from Castlebar.



Mary Cuffe and Susan Mannion.



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