

From the AIB website.....

## **EXCITING AIB CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP CLIMAX IN STORE**

Spring is in the air and, following a two month break, the AIB All-Ireland club championships are heading for an exciting climax. The football semi-finals take place next Sunday with the hurling semi-finals to be decided on Sunday week to clear the way for the finals in Croke Park on St.Patrick's Day.

The draws are as follows:

### **Sunday 18th February**

Bellaghy (Derry) v Crossmolina (Mayo) at Enniskillen (2.30)  
Nemo Rangers (Cork) v O'Hanrahan's (Carlow) at Clonmel (2.30)

### **CROSSMOLINA v BELLAGHY**

Bellaghy, who last reached the AIB All-Ireland club final in 1995, when they lost to Kilmacud Crokes (Dublin), face up to Crossmolina, who will be attempting to reach the final for the first time, at Enniskillen. Crossmolina, backboned by Mayo county stars, James Nallen and Ciaran McDonald, will be appearing in the semi-final for the second consecutive year, having lost to Na Fianna (Dublin) last year. They beat Kilbride, Bunninadden and Corofin to reach the All-Ireland semi-final. Their win over Corofin was particularly impressive, as the Galway champions were a very experienced outfit, having won the All-Ireland final in 1998. However, they were no match for Crossmolina who, despite losing the influential Ciaran McDonald early on were always in control and ran out easy winners. Bellaghy got a bye into the Ulster semi-final, due to the fact that no Antrim team were allowed to take part in the competition this season. Bellaghy saw off Gowna in the Ulster semi-final and were then far too good for Errigal Ciaran in the final.

Path to semi-final:

### **BELLAGHY**

Bellaghy 0-9 Gowna (Cavan) 0-6  
Bellaghy 1-10 Errigal Ciaran (Tyrone) 1-4  
Average For: 0-11 Average Against: 0-7

### **CROSSMOLINA**

Crossmolina 2-14 Kilbride (Roscommon) 0-9  
Crossmolina 1-12 Bunninadden (Sligo) 1-6  
Crossmolina 1-10 Corofin (Galway) 0-5  
Average For: 1-13 Average Against: 0-8

### **NEMO RANGERS v O'HANRAHAN'S**

The most successful club in the 30-year history of the All-Ireland championships takes on semi-final newcomers in a fascinating clash at Clonmel. Nemo Rangers, who have won the All-Ireland title on six occasions, face O'Hanrahan's, who will be appearing in the semi-final for the very first time.

The Carlow champions were outsiders against Na Fianna (Dublin) in the Leinster final last December but produced a great performance to oust the 2000 beaten All-Ireland finalists by two points, having earlier accounted for Dicksboro, Coralstown-Kinnegad and Moorefield. The Leinster final was a particularly stirring performance by the O'Hanrahan's squad, under the expert tuition of former Laois star, Michael Dempsey. It has been a fairytale rise by O'Hanrahan's who have taken over from Eire Og as Carlow's impressive

standard bearers in the club championship.

Nemo, manager by former Cork coach, Billy Morgan, will be looking to inter-county stars, Colin Corkery, Stephen O'Brien, Joe Kavanagh and Martin Cronin to provide them with match-winning inspiration but they will have to be at their very best to match a well organised and highly committed O'Hanrahan's side. Nemo last appeared in the All-Ireland semi-final in 1994 when they beat Errigal Ciarain (Tyrone) in a replay to qualify for the All-Ireland final where they beat Castlebar Mitchels (Mayo).

Path to semi-final:

### **O'HANRAHAN'S**

O'Hanrahan's 2-10 Dicksboro (Kilkenny) 0-5

O'Hanrahan's 2-9 Coralstown-Kinnegad (Westmeath) 3-6 (draw)

O'Hanrahan's 1-12 Coralstown-Kinnegad 1-11 (replay - after extra-time)

O'Hanrahan's 0-13 Moorefield (Kildare) 0-12

O'Hanrahan's 1-7 Na Fianna (Dublin) 1-5 (Leinster final)

Average For: 1-11 Average Against: 1-8

### **NEMO RANGERS**

Nemo Rangers 2-10 Eire Og (Clare) 0-5

Nemo Rangers 0-11 Glenflesk (Kerry) 0-7

Average For: 1-11 Average Against: 0-6