

# Finnerty says Oughterard 'best in the land'

## AIB All-Ireland Club IFC

**Oughterard (Galway) 2-16**  
**Magheracloone**  
**(Monaghan) 0-12**

**Paul Keane**  
Croke Park

Oughterard manager Tommy Finnerty hailed his team the 'best in the land' and blasted critics who'd suggested they wouldn't even get past Kerry's star studded Templenoe in the semi-finals.

A powerful performance from the Galway champions — in which the Tierney brothers, Galway U20 Mat-

thew and the elder Enda, once again delivered — helped secure the AIB All-Ireland club intermediate title at Croke Park.

It was put to Finnerty afterwards that it was a win against the odds considering Templenoe, with Kerry senior quartet Tadhg Morley, Gavin Crowley, Adrian Spillane, and Killian Spillane in their team, were considered the best team left in the competition.

"Well the best in the land is us," countered Finnerty, a former Galway senior coach with Kevin Walsh. I think it was lazy journalism — and lazy by those who set the odds — because what I noticed was

that all the talk was about the Spillanes and the Spillanes are only breaking into the Kerry team. They have a long way to go before they're like Pat, Tom or Mick."

An All-Ireland win would have come as a welcome pick-me-up for Magheracloone whose grounds were destroyed by a sinkhole which opened up in 2018, the same year they were relegated from the senior ranks.

The Monaghan champions did lead 0-4 to 0-2 initially with Tommy Freeman, just shy of his 39th birthday, scoring two of those points.

But they were pegged back to level terms on four occa-

sions up to 0-4 apiece before Oughterard pulled clear with an unanswered 1-4 to lead 1-10 to 0-7 at half-time.

Magheracloone got the margin back to three points but another unanswered burst of scoring from Oughterard, 1-3 this time, including a goal from sub Conrad Clancy, put them clear.

"For a manager it's a dream situation when you're practically pulling up with five minutes to go," said Finnerty.

**Scorers for Oughterard:** C Clancy (1-1); N Lee (0-4, 2 frees); E Lee (1-0); E Tierney (0-3, 2 frees); P Walsh, R Monaghan and C Monaghan (0-2 each); I Gibbons (1 free) and M Tierney (1 free)(0-1 each).

**Scorers for Magheracloone:** T Freeman (0-5, 3 frees); G Doogan (0-2); J Ward, R Farrelly, M Metzger, J Doogan, P McMahon (0-1 each).

**OUGHTERARD:** J Waller; C Hanley, E O'Sullivan, L Moran; R Monaghan, C Monaghan, R Molloy; E Tierney, PJ McGauley; B Lambert, M Tierney, E Lee; N Lee, Patrick Walsh, Paul Walsh.

**Subs:** C Harte for Molloy (15); D Kenny for Lambert (h/t); C Clancy for McGauley (55); D Gibbons for R Monaghan (black card), P Gibbons for Patrick Walsh (60); I Gibbons for N Lee (62).

**MAGHERACLOONE:** D Kirk; M Jones, P Ward, P McArdle; K Rudden, J Ward, J Doogan; J Kieran, G Doogan; B Kieran, A Kieran, P McMahon, R Farrelly, T Freeman, M Metzger.

**Subs:** C McKeown for Rudden (h/t); L Og Murray for Metzger (40); A McCahey for J Doogan (45); P Tuite for B Kieran (50); N Marron for A Kieran (61).

**Referee:** S Lavery (Antrim).