

# Sam Maguire Cup

The Sam Maguire Cup is the cup awarded to the winners of the All Ireland Senior Football Championship. The game takes place every year on the third or fourth Sunday of September in Croke Park, Dublin. It is one of the most coveted cups in the Gaelic Athletic Association. The winners of the All Ireland Football Final take home the Sam Maguire Cup to their home county with great pride. As reigning All Ireland champions, they can keep it for the year before returning it for the next finals.

The Sam Maguire Cup is named after the London Hibernians player, Sam Maguire, an avid Irish republican who was Chairman of the London GAA in the early 1900s and who was captain of two London All Ireland finals teams. The Sam Maguire Cup is often called 'Sam' or 'The Sam', and there have been numerous chants and songs referring to it over the years. One of the more well known Sam Maguire songs is 'Sam is Coming Home' by the Merry Ploughboy band, which was first sung at the 2011 final between Dublin and Kerry and celebrates the success of the Dublin footballers in recent All Irelands.



The winning captain of the All Ireland title each year lifts the cup in celebration. Famous captains to lift Sam include Paidí O Sé of Kerry, Peter Canavan of Tyrone, and Michael Murphy of Donegal. Since 1928, 88 captains have lifted the Sam Maguire Cup and have brought Sam home for a celebratory tour of their county.

When Sam Maguire died of tuberculosis in 1927, at the age of 49, a number of his friends came together and commissioned the making of the Sam Maguire Cup in his honour. In 1928, the first Sam Maguire was designed and

cost around £300. To make a replica today would cost about €22,000. Quite a difference! The cup was made by Matthew J. Staunton, a silversmith at Hopkins and Hopkins jewelers of Dublin. The 1928 Sam Maguire Cup was based on the Ardagh Chalice. Interestingly, small hammer marks can be seen on the cup. This isn't because it's been damaged; it's because it was hand-beaten into a bowl shape from a flat piece of metal!

### The first

In 1928, Kildare won the very first Sam, beating Cavan 2-6 to 2-5. Sam didn't fare well in the intervening years and had to be retired in 1988 because it was damaged. It now has pride of place in the GAA museum. There are now three different Sams – the original, its replacement and a replica.



The last captain to hold up the old Sam Maguire was the Meath captain, Mick Lyons in 1987. The following year, Mick's replacement as Meath captain, Joe Cassells lifted 'Sam Óg', or Young Sam. Steven Cluxton of Dublin holds the record of winning captain, with Dublin winning the trophy under his captaincy three times (2013, 2015, 2016).

## Top 5 Winners of the Sam Maguire Cup (All Ireland Senior Football Champions)

	Winning Team	Won after 1928*	1887 - 1928 (pre-Sam)
1	Kerry	30	7
2	Dublin	15	14
3	Galway	8	1
4	Meath	7	0
5	Cork	5	2

\*as of 2019

Did your favourite team win this year? Who do you think will be the captain holding the trophy aloft at Croke Park next year?

# Questions

1. Who was Sam Maguire?

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2. When was the Sam Maguire Cup first made?

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3. Name three famous captains to lift the Sam Maguire Cup.

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4. Who made the first Sam Maguire Cup and where did he make it?

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5. The Sam Maguire cost £300 to make in the 1920s. How much would it cost to make today?

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6. Why did the GAA decide to replace the original Sam Maguire in 1988?

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7. Who or what is 'Sam Óg'?

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8. Complete this table

	Team	Total All-Ireland Senior Football Championship Wins
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		

# Answers

1. Who was Sam Maguire?

Example answer: Sam Maguire was an ex GAA player. He was chairman of the London GAA and captain in two finals. He was also an avid Irish republican.

2. When was the Sam Maguire Cup first made?

The Sam Maguire Cup was first made in 1928.

3. Name three famous captains to lift the Sam Maguire Cup.

Three famous captains who have won Sam are: Mick Lyons, Joe Cassells and Steven Cluxton.

4. Who made the first Sam Maguire Cup and where did he make it?

Matthew J. Staunton made the first Sam Maguire Cup in Dublin at a company called Hopkins and Hopkins.

5. The Sam Maguire cost £300 to make in the 1920s. How much would it cost to make today?

Today, the Sam Maguire would cost around €22,000 to make.

6. Why did the GAA decide to replace the original Sam Maguire in 1988?

The original cup was becoming damaged, so the GAA decided to replace it

7. Who or what is 'Sam Óg'?

'Sam Óg' is the replacement for the original Sam. (It's not the replica.)

8. Complete this table

	<b>Team</b>	<b>Total All-Ireland Senior Football Championship Wins</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Kerry</b>	<b>37</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Dublin</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Galway</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Cork</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Meath</b>	<b>7</b>