

**BLACKROCK NATIONAL HURLING CLUB**

**ALAN BROWNE**



**STANDING ON THE  
SHOULDERS OF GIANTS**

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# Alan Browne



**3**

**COUNTY  
CHAMPIONSHIPS**

**3**

**INTER COUNTY  
MUNSTER  
CHAMPIONSHIPS**

**1**

**NATIONAL  
LEAGUE**

**1**

**INTER COUNTY  
ALL-IRELAND  
CHAMPIONSHIP**

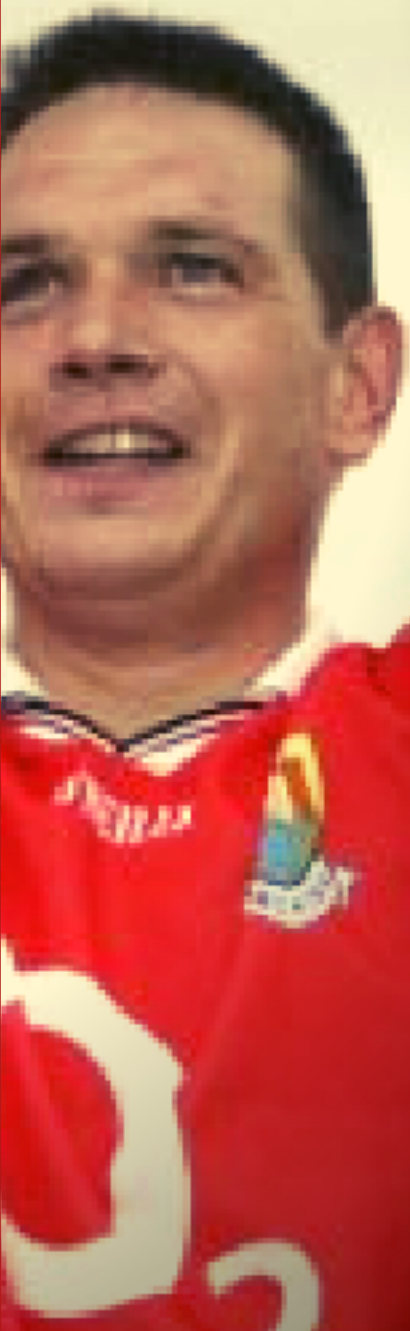
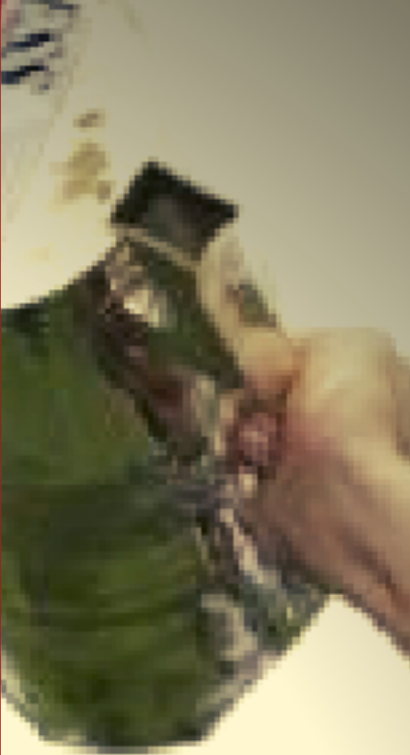
# TARGET MAN

Two men share the modern era record for scores in a Cork County Final. The first of these is Christy Ring, the second is none other than the Rockies' own Alan Browne. Alan scored 3-08 in the 2001 County Final - a record that will no doubt take some beating. In fact Alan's scoring record in his three victorious county finals totals six goals and fourteen points. Alan could always be relied on to deliver when it most mattered and he did so in spectacular fashion.

They don't make leaders like Alan anymore. Vocal on the pitch, he was the bane of many a defender, referee and sometimes his own teammates. Alan demanded the best from all around him and consistently led by example.

An upcoming contest with Alan must have left defenders around Cork with sleepless nights. Relentlessly physical, relentlessly prolific on the scoreboard and unstoppable at his peak. He was renowned for bringing others into the game by winning ball and drawing defenders. An almost telepathic partnership with Brian O'Keeffe in the County Championship yielded multiple scores for The Rockies. Chaos created by Browne was regularly capitalised on by 'Junior' who was one of the best finishers in the County at the time. Their combined brilliance was the sharp end of the spear in a great Blackrock team.

Alan was part of the Cork side that defeated Kilkenny in the 1999 All-Ireland Final and was handed the honour of captaining Cork to Munster glory in 2003. A collective sigh of relief from full backs around Ireland could be heard the day Alan retired.



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# THE INDIVIDUAL

Alan Browne

## **What are your first memories of hurling for Blackrock?**

Saturday morning coaching was always the highlight of my week when playing underage hurling. The street league finals held every year were a very special occasion as they are now. Its great to see the tradition going strong and seeing the different areas of the parish competing and having fun.

## **What was your favourite position to play and why?**

Full forward. I suppose you could say it suited my "style" of play and I enjoyed contributing in dangerous areas and trying to manufacture scores.

## **Besides your immediate family, who had the biggest influence on your hurling career and how?**

I had some very memorable underage and senior coaches. The one that had the biggest influence on my career was Canon Michael O' Brien RIP. He coached me with Blackrock, UCC and Cork U-21. He was a very interesting man and a larger than life character and we were lucky enough to win some titles together.

## **What is the best advice you have been given in your hurling career?**

Vary your play so as not to become too predictable. Always keep your marker guessing as to what you are about to do next.

## **What do you think was your greatest attribute as a player?**

I always gave my best and competed with whoever I was up against. My most effective attribute was probably catching the ball. Winning possession cleanly close to the goal immediately puts the opposition under pressure and opens up options for our forwards.

## **Out of all your achievements, which one stands out as the most significant and why?**

Winning the county final in 1999. The club had not won it since 1985 and the win brought a huge amount of joy to both the younger and older members of the club. It was obvious how much it meant to everyone involved to see the club back at the top.



# THE TEAM

Alan Browne

**How do you think your teammates would have described you as a teammate?**

That's a tough one. Hopefully they appreciated my willingness to win and I always tried to lead by example.

**Who was the best teammate you ever had and what made him so special?**

I was lucky to play with some very committed and talented hurlers in Blackrock. Brian Junior O' Keeffe played corner forward next to me and we had a great understanding when playing.

**Which characteristics do you most value in a teammate?**

Those who gave their all for the team in training and games.

**What do you think made the teams you were part of so successful?**

We had a very strong backbone to our team. Our backline was full of quality players and they ensured as steady supply of ball to the forward line. Backs and forwards in training was always very competitive.

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**What three words would you associate with Blackrock National Hurling Club?**

Progressive, inclusive, Successful

**What are the characteristics you would always want to see in a Blackrock team?**

Committed players who have a great determination to win.

**How would you like to be remembered in Blackrock National Hurling Club?**

As a committed team player who did his best when representing Blackrock Hurling Club.

**What does Blackrock National Hurling Club mean to you?**

Blackrock Hurling Club has played a huge part in my life. I have some brilliant memories, made some great friends and have a great sense of belonging from being involved in the club.

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