

KILKENNY

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YEAR
BOOK
1973**



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THE GRASS ROOTS



Peter Holohan, Editor

THE FACT that attendances at all Ireland finals have increased more than ten fold in the past 60 years does not tell the full story of the progress made by our national games since Cusack and Davin founded the association almost 90 years ago. Real progress is evidenced by the fact that despite dramatic changes in the social life of the country the games have, if anything, grown in strength.

In Kilkenny we can say that hurling was never in a healthier state even though it has to contend with fierce opposition from other sports and other attractions for young people living in an affluent age. Hurling rather than football is Kilkenny's forte and despite heroic efforts by many people down through the years, football was not just caught on to the same extent as hurling. Tradition here favours hurling rather than football even though Kilkenny is not completely without a football tradition.

The present healthy state and the hopes for the future rest where they always rested, in the rural areas. The club officials, the members and players who have dedicated themselves so completely to the promotion of the national games have enriched the achievements of the past and ensured prosperity for the future.

It is probably fair to say that the work done at grass roots level is not fully recognised. It is they who have made the G.A.A. and it is due to their untiring efforts that the association has become one of the greatest amateur sports organisations in the world.

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Our Cover Picture shows Kilkenny's seven Carrolls All Stars: Noel Skehan, Phil Larkin, Pat Henderson, Liam O'Brien, Pat Delaney, Kieran Purcell and Eddie Keher.

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THE G.A.A. YEAR BOOK

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G.A.A. games.

The Chairman Looks Back

BY MICK O'NEILL
(Chairman Kilkenny County Board)

NOBODY is really happy to lose an all Ireland final and it is hard to convince people that you can have a good year when you do lose it. We lost this year's all Ireland final — that is the senior final —
— but we won two, minor and intermediate and the Kilkenny vocational schools won us another all Ireland title — their second in succession — and in these circumstances we ought to feel reasonably happy.

After our brilliant display in last year's final against Cork and our brilliant performance in the Leinster final we were widely tipped to retain the McCarthy cup. But we went into the final crippled by injury problems to an extent never before experienced by any county in an all Ireland final since the association was formed. And we can feel satisfied that in the face of this adversity we helped to provide a memorable final.

We lost Eamonn Morrissey at a crucial stage of the championship campaign and we were dealt another crippling blow when Jim Treacy sustained his Achilles tendon injury which has kept him out of the game ever since. Further disaster followed with Kieran Purcell having to undergo an appendix operation and then Eddie Keher had a collar bone injury.

If that was not enough two of our top players, Pat Delaney and Frank Cummins were only half fit — Frank Cummins eventually succumbed to his shoulder injury and had to retire a quarter of an hour before the end and a man on whom we pinned great hopes, Paddy Broderick was rendered ineffective by the rain fogging his glasses. Liam O'Brien sustained an eye injury after the throw in which certainly had an effect on his game. The fates could hardly have been more unkind.



*Mick O'Neill,
Chairman,
Kilkenny
County Board.*

GREAT MINORS

Our minor hurlers gave a great display when beating a very good Galway team in the all Ireland final. They were much harder pressed than when winning over Cork in the 1972 all Ireland final but they won impressively. It was very heartening to see our minors win their second all Ireland title in successive years.

We also made a break through in the intermediate grade. We had been trying to do this for some years past but with little success. Our victory this year was won all too easily simply because most of the traditional hurling counties had opted for the under 21 grade.

This year we had to make up our minds whether to take part in the intermediate or under 21 championship and much as we regretted that we could not take part in both the decision to opt for intermediate was, in my opinion the most appropriate. We were influenced in the decision by the fact that we have here a big number of players who have given long and faithful service to the game and we were presented with an opportunity of affording them a tangible

reward. We are very glad it came their way.

We would have preferred to have won against stiffer opposition but generally things went right for us once we got over the first hurdle.

HEALTHY STATE

Our games generally are in a very healthy state. In the under age grades we are continuing to make highly satisfactory progress and this makes the future bright. We have many promising young players and I am glad to say that more and more young people are being attracted to the game.

It seems a pity that football is not in the same healthy position. The schools are doing good work and we saw some useful under age football teams in action during the year. In a county with a limited population we naturally find it difficult to have top class teams in both codes but are hoping that progress in football will continue and that the promise shown by the younger players will eventually bear fruit.

Our handballers continue to show their talents and we brought home five all Ireland titles this year.

In paying tribute to the teachers and others in charge of schools I think it would not be out of place to pay a special tribute to the vocational schools on winning their second all Ireland title in succession. Like the other schools the vocational schools are doing excellent work and we are certain that we can look forward with confidence to the continuance of this very worthy contribution they are making towards the promotion of our national games.

The local championships have been very successful with the senior hurling again going to The Fenians and the senior football title going to Railyard.

Despite a very heavy programme we finished our championships in good time. We can thank the officials and players of the clubs for this. Their co-operation was a big help.

HURLING IS SECURE

We can look forward to the future with confidence. Hurling is secure—as secure if not more secure than ever in the past and Kilkenny will continue to uphold its proud tradition.

First Intermediate Title
KILKENNY won their first intermediate title this year. But the victory was robbed of some of its prestige by reason of the fact that several of the traditional counties like Cork, Tipperary, Limerick and Wexford, did not take part. They opted for the under 21 championship.

It adds, however, to Kilkenny's list of all Ireland triumphs and it was a pity that this side did not have the opportunity of proving itself in better class. The break through, we never had any real success in the grade since it began some years ago, is a good augury for the future.

Kilkenny won all their games comparatively easily and in the final they beat London by 5-15 to 2-9 at Waterford. Kilkenny led by 2-7 to 0-5 at half time.

Jim Walsh (2-2); Jack O'Connor (1-3), Shem Muldowney (1-3), Frank Cleere (1-1), John Doyle (1-0), Pat Holden (0-2), Dicksie Burke, Pat Kavanagh and Tim Murphy (0-1 each) scored for Kilkenny while D. Hallisey (0-5), C. Danaher (2-0), P. Fahy (0-3) and F. Birrane (0-1) scored for London.

Kilkenny: Paddy Grace, Maurice Mason, Kieran Mahon, Michael Hoyne, John Dunne, Timmy Murphy, Tom Foley, Pat Kavanagh, Dicksie Burke, John Doyle, Pat Holden, Jack O'Connor, Frank Cleere, Jim Walsh, Shem Muldowney.

FIRST SET OF JERSIES

THE death of Mrs. Drennan, Conway Hall, Kells, Co. Kilkenny recalls the fact that her husband, the late Mr. John F. Drennan, a former chairman of Kilkenny Co. Council, presented the first official set of black and amber jerseys to the Kilkenny team.

This was in 1913 and it was a lucky omen for the black and amber men as they won the all Ireland final, their seventh since their first victory in the 1904 final, which was played in 1906.

In 1913 club colours were officially declared and teams were reduced from 17 to 15. Originally teams consisted of 21 players



KILKENNY : Leinster Senior Champions 1973

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MAIN EVENTS FOR 1974

MARCH 14 : 58th Annual Bull Show and Sale

JULY 27 & 28 : Annual Agricultural Show 2-Day Event

Further information from : **PHILIP FOGARTY**, Secretary.

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Kilkenny Set For Greater Impact

By Mick Dunne

IT'S never difficult to get Paddy Grace talking enthusiastically about hurling . . . and it certainly doesn't even have to be around All-Ireland final time. It just so happens that the week before the 1973 final I found him positively bubbling over with satisfaction at the state of Kilkenny hurling.

That may seem so strange that

it appears to be a contradiction when you remember the worries Kilkenny were burdened with in the last week of August as they prepared to meet Limerick. Already they knew they would be without two splendid defenders, Jim Treacy and Eamonn Morrissey, and by then they were fairly well resigned to the fact that

brilliant forwards Eddie Keher and Kieran Purcell wouldn't line-out at Croke Park.

There's hardly a Saturday evening that we don't have hundreds of young lads here in the park. And that's all to the credit of the priests and the brothers and teachers":

It would be presumptuous of me to expound on the state of hurling in Kilkenny in a publication like the Kilkenny G.A.A. Year-book. But I can state that having examined what lay behind Paddy Grace's enthusiasm it does strike me that Kilkenny is set to make an even greater impact than ever before.

Of course, the first Sunday of September was a set-back, but even Kilkenny folk welcomed the return of Limerick to a place of prominence in the championship. Then, as a friend of mine put it recently, "wasn't it great credit to Kilkenny that they could do so well for three-quarters of the All Ireland final without five of their best hurlers".

However, it's not the present, but the future that pleases most Kilkenny folk. They have never been without strong nurseries. St. Kieran's College and Kilkenny C.B.S. have, down the years provided a constant flow of great hurlers, readymade to step into the county's minor sides.

Now Callan C.B.S. is nearly as prolific and the resurgence in latter years of James Stephens has reawakened the city in such a way that hurling is a sporting way of life with the youngsters there. And you can see the hand of Father Tommy Murphy in there.

One flaw, perhaps, in Kilkenny's hurling make-up was the absence of organised effort at vocational schools level. Now that has not only been rectified, but hurling is so well looked after by the teachers in the Vocational schools that the county has been All-Ireland champions for the past two years.

So the county that has produced more supreme stylists than any other looks all set to continue doing so for many more years. And it's not because I'm a fellow Leinsterman that makes me say that pleases me no end. For Kilkenny was somehow woven into my youth — they played in the first All-Ireland final I attended (If I mention the year, I give away my age, so silence is safer) and I still remember how proud I

was when I could show-off Jimmy Langton's autograph to my Midland schoolmates.

Jimmy couldn't remember it, but I still cherish it as a memory the day when a heaving crowd coming out through the gates of St. Brendan's Park in Birr, carried me bang up against the great Kilkenny forward. John Wayne never got a six-shooter out of a holster faster than I whipped the autograph book out of my pocket that day.

THE CROTTY DISTINCTIONS

KIERAN Crotty is the only Kilkenny Dail Deputy and the only Kilkenny Mayor to have won a county senior hurling championship medal. He is also the only Deputy and Mayor to have a brother on an all Ireland senior hurling winning side.

His brother, Mick Crotty has a rather unusual distinction of having won senior county championship medals in two counties. He won the Cork county title with University College, Cork, and the Kilkenny senior championship with James Stephens.

Frank Cummins has also won county championship medals in two counties. He won the Kilkenny minor county medal with Ballyhale and the Kilkenny junior county championship with Knocktopher, and won a county senior championship medal in Cork with Blackrock.



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HAVE WE DEPARTED FROM DAVIN'S IDEAL?



Paddy Grace

COUNTY Secretary, Paddy Grace in a hard hitting article calls for the scrapping of the Activities Committee and the restoration of full powers to a Central Council composed of county representatives, as in the past.

When Maurice Davin founded the G.A.A. nearly 90 years ago his ideal and the ideal of those associated with him was that the Irish people should play their own native games, speak their own native language and promote their own native culture. Down through the years the G.A.A. has played a powerful role in fostering these ideals and the national games flourished beyond the wildest dreams and hopes of the founders.

The G.A.A. to-day is a strong and virile organisation. It is so because of its strength at grass roots level. The hard work and dedication of club members and officials has helped to maintain it as one of the great amateur sports organisations.

As far as hurling is concerned this county never had it so good. The game is stronger here now than ever before. For this we have to thank the clubs, their members, officials and players. We also owe a deep debt of gratitude to the very enthusiastic workers in St. Kieran's college; Kilkenny and Callan C.B.S.; the De La Salle Brothers; the vocational schools and the primary schools.

HEALTHY STATE

In the under age grades, particularly, Kilkenny is in a very healthy state and the teachers are doing wonderful work. These same teachers are also doing great work for football and if football is ever to make progress it will come through the encouragement football is getting from these teachers.

While all this is very encouraging, things at the top are not as we would like them to be. That is why I think the Activities Committee should be scrapped and full power restored to a Central Council composed of county representatives. Instead of concentrating on building office blocks. Building office blocks is not and should never be a function of the association. It leaves it open to our enemies to make insinuations of intrigue against us.

As far as I can see the Activities Committee seems to be concentrating its attention mainly on devising scheme of raising money and leaving it to the County Boards to operate the schemes.

One thing the Activities Committee could do would be to provide proper playing fields. Admittedly a lot of money has been spent for this purpose — not all of it too wisely, perhaps — but in the case of Nowlan Park something should be done to relieve the County Board of a continuing crippling burden.

If we were relieved of this responsibility we could concentrate more on promoting the games and social activities which will more and more become part of the association's activities. We could be doing a lot more to encourage young people to play the games.

THE WEAKER COUNTIES

Another thing about which I am concerned is the lack of attention to hurling in the weaker hurling counties. Something has been done about this but not nearly enough and I greatly fear that if we continue to concentrate on building office blocks and neglect the games we could well find ourselves in the position that hurling would suffer even in the

traditional hurling counties.

These are the things that really matter. We want more and more young people playing the national games and we want to give them every possible encouragement. This applies particularly to our under age players. Without them we can have no future. Unless we can get the young players interested we cannot hope to continue as a strong, virile organisation.

We have too many commissions set up to deal with stated problems. Our problems are simple. Our main problem is Nowlan Park and if that was solved we could settle down to do an immense amount of good work for the association within the county.

If the G.A.A. is to survive its strength must lie in the rural areas where it began. We cannot get away from the fact that the G.A.A. depends and must continue to depend on the clubs throughout the country and the bulk of our members come from the rural areas.

In this county we are fortunate that we have club members, officials and players dedicated to the national games and prepared to work hard to maintain them. We have the full support of the schools and the teachers and the clergy. We have a very high local standard and we have a great tradition of sportsmanship. We have, in short, the nucleus of a powerful organisation and we intend to maintain it.

NO WORRIES

We are in the happy position too that we have more people attending our games and so long as we continue to provide good fare and maintain public support we will have no worries here in Kilkenny.

The Railway Shield

HOW many visitors to the council chamber of the Kilkenny City Hall bother to look at the shield which adorns one of the walls. In 1905 the Great Southern Railway Co. presented a shield for a hurling competition between the four provinces. The provincial champions in each province were given the right to select the provincial team.

The shield had to be won twice in succession or three times in all before it could be won outright. Kilkenny won it twice in succession and three times in all and that is why it now hangs in the city hall.

The results of the four years of the competition were: 1905: Leinster (Kilkenny selection); 1906: Munster (Tipperary selection); 1907: Leinster (Kilkenny selection); 1908: Leinster (Kilkenny selection).

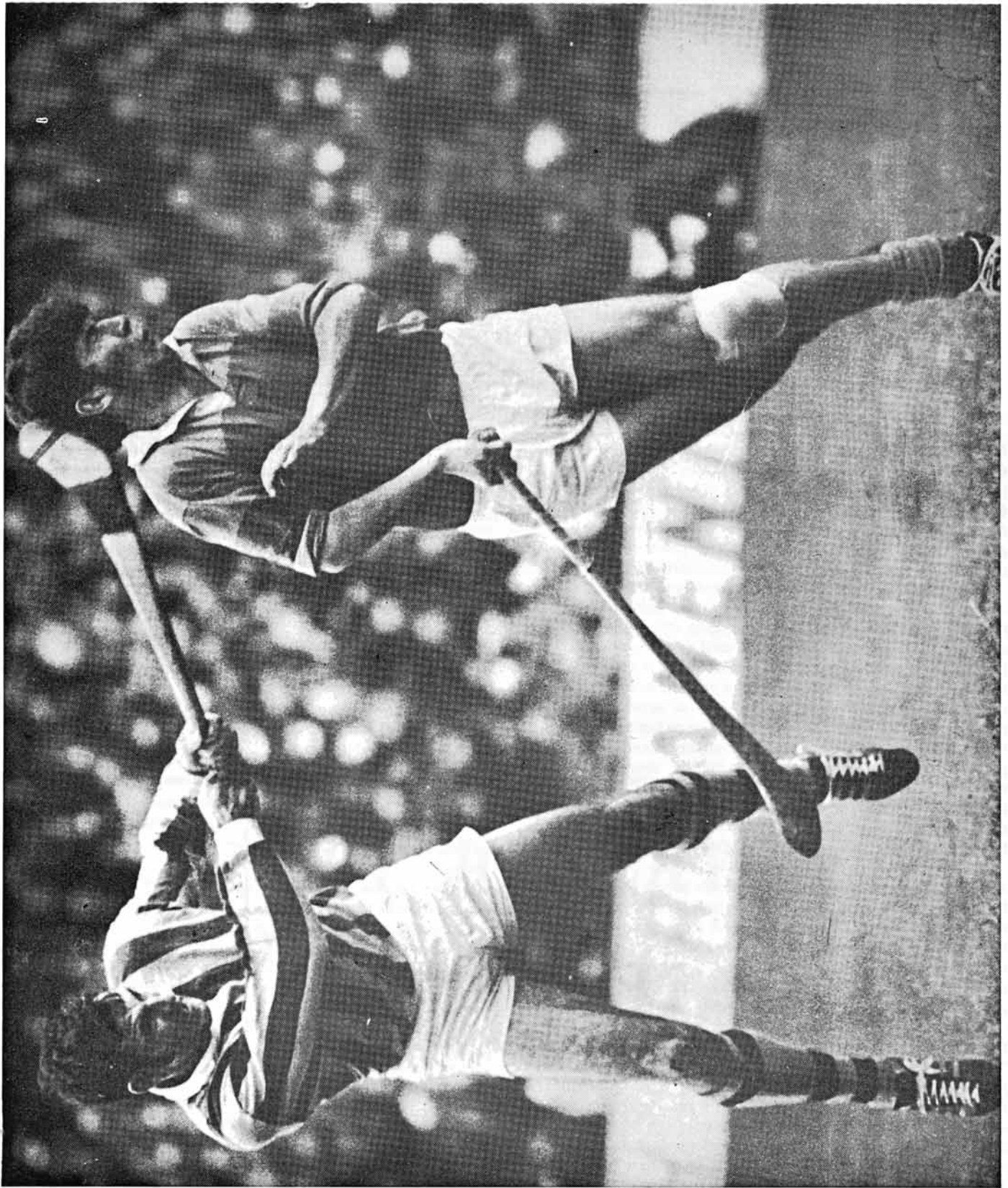
For those games Kilkenny relied almost entirely on Kilkenny men.

Matt Gargan had the distinction of having played with Leinster and Munster in the Railway shield. Incidentally it is worth recalling that one of the best goals in hurling history was scored by the same Matt Gargan.

Usually picked for midfield Matt roamed all over the place and in the 1912 all Ireland final between Kilkenny and Cork (which Kilkenny won by 2-4 to 1-2) he scored a goal with a ground stroke from centrefield. Sim Walton scored the other Kilkenny goal.

THE FOUNDERS

The seven men who founded the GAA were: Maurice Davin, Carrick on Suir; Michael Cusack, Naas; John Wyse Power, Naas; John McKay, Cork; P. J. O'Ryan, solicitor, Callan and Thurles; J. K. Bracken, Templemore and St George McCarthy, Templemore.



OUCH!

A Wexford player's head seems to be at the receiving end of Kieran Purcell's hurley in the Leinster final

Picture: AIDAN O'KEEFE, SUNDAY WORLD.

Nineties Were Negative

In Mooncoin *BY PADDY PURCELL*

Ah, the mists of memory mellow now,

*The sun sweet days of childhood,
When the gorse was always golden,*

*In our quiet Iverk glen,
Where we gathered at the crossroads,*

*As the silver moon came climbing,
Round the shoulders of Sliabh Coillte,*

*And we talked of hurling men,
For hurling was a life blood,
To lissom lads whose fathers,
Had climbed the road to glory,*

*In the barren years of yore,
Whose clashing ash made music,
To the sweet song of the sliothar,
Through the villages and valleys,*

Of Kilkenny by the Nore.

WHEN I was a young lad growing up in the Suirside parish of Mooncoin in the 1920s the memory of the men who had striven so valiantly but so vainly on the hurling fields of the '90s were still kept fresh and green. Billy Rockett, Mickey Walsh from Ballygorey, 'Foxy Billy' Walsh from Licketstown and Jamesy Keeffe, the Woodranger, who had charge of Moonveen Wood and had been the 'Hartigan Aluinn' of Fr. Dollard's book 'The Gaels of Moondharrig', were all men on in middle age when I first remember them, but the stories of their great deeds in the past were always being regaled to us youngsters by the men of the generation in between.

But, truth to tell, the 'Nineties were almost entirely negative as far as hurling in Mooncoin was concerned for the parish failed to capture a single county championship through the decade. Yet the hurlers were there, as was proved by their appearances farther afield.

INVASION TEAM

A Mooncoin man, Johnny Fox from Old Luffany (the family later moved to Ballymountain) had been on the Irish hurling team that 'invaded' America in 1888, so it was only fitting that another should participate in the first G.A.A. Invasion of London in 1896.

At this stage an attempt was being made, very successfully as it proved, to organise Gaelic Games in the English capital, so teams of hurlers representing Munster and Leinster, a number of athletes, and some few footballers, travelled over for a Festival of Gaelic Sport staged at Stamford Bridge, now the Chelsea Football Ground, on Easter Monday, April 6, 1896.

The Munster v Leinster hurling match was the first official inter-provincial game ever staged under G.A.A. auspices and resulted in a win for Munster by 5-7 to 2-8. Kilkenny was represented by the Tullaroan pair, Pat 'Fox' Maher and Jim Grace, while the Mooncoin man was Pat Foley from Rathkieran. But Mooncoin had another link with that Leinster team.

Also on the side was Tipperary-born John O'Dwyer of the Dublin Commercials who, in later years, became proprietor of the 'Royal Oak' bar in Pat Foley's native townland of Rathkieran. The 'Royal Oak' is run today by one of John O'Dwyer's sons, who is married to a daughter of a famed Mooncoin and Kilkenny captain of later years, Wattie Dunphy, who died recently.

But, to get back to 1896, both teams that day wore the jerseys that have since become traditional. Munster, blue with three crowns in gold, and Leinster green with a gold harp.

Munster, captained by the legendary Mickey Maher of Tubberadora included a host of then famous names. They had Paddy Riordan from Drombane who, in some accounts is credited with the entire Tipperary total of 6-8 in their victory over Kilkenny in the all Ireland final of 1895 which had been played just a fortnight before the London game.

There also was Tom Irwin of the Redmonds, a Cork all Ireland man in both hurling and football, who was also an international cricketer, became Secretary of the

Cork County Board, more than 20 years later and, after that again, emigrated to Australia where he lived to a ripe old age.

There were famous Athletes, John Flanagan, from Kilmallock later world and Olympic champion with the hammer, and Tom Kiely from Ballyneale, who was to become all-round athletic champion of the world. And, just for variety, Munster had Mike Ryan from Rockwell, better remembered as a very rugged Irish forward in international rugby. Then there was Pat Lee from Cappamore who, years and years afterwards, was well known to South Kilkenny folk as railway station-master in Waterford.

Following the hurling game, the very first international Gaelic football match was played between Ireland and London Exiles.

Ireland won readily, though the strength of their side can be gauged from the fact that the team included John Mangan, a 20 stone weight thrower and tug-o-war man from Kilmuckridge in the County Wexford, and Dick Blake from Navan, the General Secretary of the G.A.A. who was well past his first youth. But iron men must have been plentiful in those days for Mike Ryan, Tom Kiely and Tom Irwin took part in the football game as well as in the hurling match, as did Willie Ryan from Arravale, reputed to be the greatest footballer ever seen on a Gaelic field in the oold days.

Nor were the footballers of Ireland without a Kilkennyman that day. His name was Dick Kealy. Does that name mean anything now to anyone in his old county?

The 1897 all Ireland championships were not played until 1898 and Kilkenny reached the final only to go down to Limerick in Tipperary town in November of that year by three points, after having led by seven points at half time. Mooncoin had not been represented on Kilkenny teams that had been defeated in previous all Ireland finals. But this time at

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least two Mooncoin men, Pat Fielding from Rathkieran and Big Jack Quinn from Portnahully, were there that day, while 'M. Merry' was I think another Mooncoin representative from Corludly.

HURLING REVIVAL

Something of a hurling revival seems to have begun in Mooncoin around this time and reached a successful climax when the parish won the county title of 1900, the first to go to the Suirside since 1888. Therefore, Mooncoin, for the first time led Kilkenny in an all Ireland championship. Their first outing was against Carlow at Borris on May 12, 1901, when Kilkenny won by an overwhelming margin, 4 16 to 0 2. The referee was a Kilkennyman, Jim Nowlan, who soon afterwards became President of the G.A.A. an office he was to hold for 20 years.

Kilkenny's next outing was in the semi final at Abbeyleix on July 20 when they defeated Offaly, 1-12 to 1-5. Referee that day was Joe Knox from Waterford who had a hardware shop in Barronstrand Street . . . and was a native of Kilmacow.

In the Leinster final of 1900, played at Wexford Park on August 25, 1901, Kilkenny defeated Dublin after a sensational game that was reckoned the greatest provincial final until then. Before 3,000 spectators, Dublin led by 15 points, 4-9 to 2-0 at half time, but the Kilkennymen staged a wonderful second-half recovery and snatched victory by a single point, 4-11 to 4-10.

But the all Ireland semi final was not played for the best part of a year, finally taking place on June 30, 1902, together with the football semi final in which Kilkenny and Tipperary also met, the Slatequarry miners against the Clonmel Shamrocks, but that match and its consequences would need a complete article to itself.

So we can here deal only with the hurling game, played before 8,000 spectators, a crowd that must have taxed to the limits the capacity of Maurice Davin's field at Deerpark. Alas, that August Sunday was the hottest day of a warm summer, and so their long lay-off hit Kilkenny hard. They led at half time by 1-6 to 0-4 but their stamina failed them in the last

quarter and they were eventually beaten, 0 14 to 1 8.

I have no record of the team that played Tipperary but the men who won the Leinster title 10 months before were, Dick Walsh (captain), Dick Deady, Jack Quinn, Bob O'Keeffe, Bobby Collins, Tom Butler, Johnny Butler, Andy Hanrahan, John Fielding, Pat Fielding (Mooncoin), Fox Maher, Jer Doheny (Tullaroan), Ned Hennessy, Tom Murphy (Threecastles), Pat Moran, J. Maher.

Bob O'Keeffe later helped Leinster to win the Railway Shield, starred for Laois when they won the all Ireland title of 1915, and later again was President of the G.A.A.

O WAS DICK WALSH?

But I wonder is there any old-timer down in Mooncoin who can solve this mystery for me? Who was the Dick Walsh who captained Kilkenny that day? Was it 'Drug' who was to win so much fame between 1904 and 1913? I doubt this because he would have been a very young man in 1900.

Or was it Dick Walsh from Ballygorey, better known in later years as the Manager of Kilmacow Creamery and who, a quarter of a century afterwards was the first man to pay his way through the side-line gate at the first match ever played in Nowlan Park?



Famed Tullaroan Man's Memories

TWENTY four years in top class hurling. That is the proud record of famed Tullaroan and Kilkenny hurler, Dick Grace. He played in his first all Ireland final in 1909 (he came on as a sub) at the age of 18 and figured in his last county final at the age of 42. In this final Mooncoin beat Tullaroan.

Life for Dick Grace began when he was able to swing a 'crannog'—an ash root turned at the boss something like a hurley, and he graduated to become one of the best defenders in the game. He rose at 6 a.m. when he was a boy to bring in the cows and in summer he went barefooted. He brought the crannog and a ball with him.

At 83 he is still mentally and physically alert and helps on the family farm at Leugh, Threecastles. It was at his Threecastles home that I recently had the great pleasure of listening to his entertaining reminiscences.

It would be an over simplicity to suggest that any one man could be named as the greatest hurler of all time but Dick Grace is included in the short list of hurlers who might be given the accolade. He nominated three or four himself Jim; Kelleher of Cork, Pat (Fox) Maher, Jack Rochford and Sim Walton. Of present day hurlers he has a tremendous respect for Jim Treacy.

After he had come on as a sub in the 1909 all Ireland final Dick Grace made a permanent place for himself on the Kilkenny side and played a veteran's part in the 1926 all Ireland final when he was 35. In this game Cork beat Kilkenny.

Dick Grace won five all Ireland medals, 1909, 1911, 1912, 1913 and 1922, and he is not quite certain whether it is 11 or 12 county championship medals he won. He gave all his medals away to his friends 'girls like to make brooches out of them'.

The Doyles apart, Dick and his brothers Jack and Dr. Pierce, have established a unique family record, seven all Ireland football medals and eight all Ireland hurling medals. Dick won five hurling, Jack won five football with

Dublin and Dr. Pierce won three hurling titles with Kilkenny and two all Ireland football medals with Dublin. Pierce was the only Kilkenny man to win all Ireland medals in both codes.

Dedication helped Dick Grace to become a hurler. 'We lived for nothing else in my day except hurling. We used to have 200 men in the sportsfield in Tullaroan training. Then we would have a practice game and two best teams would play each other'.

But his dedication goes further than that. He recalled that when Paddy Phelan, Paddy filled the same position as Dick, left half back, was starting his hurling career the two used to try shooting the ball through a window in Grace's haggard.

"It was a long haggard" said Dick "and I took a window out of the barn so that we could try to drive the ball through it. Three times out of 10 we succeeded. Out of that we developed the follow through with the arms which makes for accuracy. Eddie

AS IN 1972, Kilkenny handballers brought home the bacon in no small way this year, winning nine all Ireland, and 14 Provincial titles, as well as regaining the Convention Senior Cup again.

Paddy O'Reilly and Paddy Delaney, who in 1972 captured the JSBS and JSBD titles, were in winning form early in the year winning the Senior Convention Cup at Birr from the top players in Leinster, but had to be content with these honours as they failed narrowly to Wexford in the Championship ties. At intermediate level, Anthony Greene and Christy Young (Talbot's Inch) took care of all opposition winning the All Ireland Intermediate Doubles title, while Greene took the Provincial Singles title at this grade.

St. Canice's found a new star in David O'Hanlon who came through Leinster and the All Ireland series without ever looking even like coming close to los-



DICK GRACE

Keher has the same follow through with the arms".

No game gave Dick Grace greater satisfaction than the 1922 all Ireland final. "We got seven points in the last 10 minutes. I remember we got a free and I took it. I sent it to Matty Power who passed it to John Roberts. Roberts drove it to the net. I always liked to make a point of playing the ball to Matty Power. You could always depend on him to do the right thing with it. He was a great bit of stuff".

Despite the glamour associated with Cork-Kilkenny clashes

down the years Dick preferred to play against Tipperary any time. "I suppose that is because I always remember the great final of 1913 when we beat the Toomevara Greyhounds and the 1922 final when we came from behind to win although Tipperary supporters had left Croke Park some minutes before the end convinced the title was their's."

of present day hurling he is fairly critical. He dislikes the solo run. "In my day it was practically all ground hurling. I remember in the 1912 final when we beat Cork the ball travelled the length of Croke Park five times without hitting the ground".

What attributes go to make a good hurler. In Dick Grace's book there are three: He must be able to use both hands perfectly and use his feet as well. He must be able to take punishment and give it according to the rules, he must never strike a player deliberately. He must have heart and determination. If he hasn't he is not a hurler. Dick himself had all these qualifications in full measure.

In his 42 years in hurling Dick Grace adorned the game he loved so deeply. He will be remembered among the greatest men the game has known.

HANDBALL REVIEW BY TOMMIE O'BRIEN

ing a game, thus regaining the under 14 singles title, and winning for St. Canice's their first ever all Ireland. In this respect, club officials Jimmy Leahy, Martin Dullard, and new Co. Secretary, Tom Brennan, deserve great credit for their work in this club. In under 14 doubles, Eugene Downey and Des Crowley (Talbot's Inch) captured the provincial title.

It was however, at minor level that our imprint was most felt. Ollie Harold and John Barron (Talbot's Inch), and Peadar Hughes (Clogh) were almost unbeatable. The 'almost' is inserted to cover our only defeat in minor this year, when John Barron was surprisingly beaten in the Leinster Final of Softball Singles. In Softball Doubles, Barron and Harold realised a long awaited ambition when they won the All Ireland title from Mayo in a thrilling final. Barron then teamed up with Peadar Hughes to retain their handball doubles title at the ex-

pense, once again, of Mayo, while Hughes added our third minor title when he won the Handball Singles title by beating, would you believe it, Mayo. This climaxed a great year for Peadar who earlier in the year had won the Colleges' Senior Singles title for Presentation Convent, Castlecomer.

Still on the National scene, Eddie Mahon of Clogh, put up a creditable show in Under 16 (being beaten by the eventual winner) and was chosen on form to appear in a 1974 T.V. Juvenile Handball series. In under 12, our representatives, Mark Cantwell, Michael Delaney, and Billy Bourke, were beaten in the Leinster Final.

At local level, Anthony Greene and Christy Young (Talbot's Inch) won the Intermediate Doubles, Michael Hayes (St. Canice's) won the intermediate Singles, St. Canice's also won

Turn to page 18

RAILYARD : Senior Football Champions



GLENMORE : Senior Football Finalists



SHAMROCKS : Junior Hurling Champions



JAMES STEPHENS : Senior Hurling Finalists



COON : Intermediate Hurling Champions



GRAIGNAMANAGH : Intermediate Hurling Finalists



FENIANS WIN COUNTY FINAL AGAIN

THE FENIANS provided the grand finale. Storming back after being led by 10 points, 4-6 to 2-2 at half time they put in a storming finish to beat James Stephens by 7-8 (29 points) to 5-10 (25 points) in one of the most entertaining county finals we have seen for some time. It was not surprising that it drew a record crowd of over 9,000.

Sheer determination carried the day in this see-saw battle. The Fenians looked completely disorganised in the first half when a rampant James Stephens side had control of the situation in all parts of the field and it looked like developing into a complete rout.

But the winners in bringing the fourth title to Johnstown, the third since the club adopted the name, The Fenians, proved themselves worthy champions and though The Village fought every inch of the way and had the last two

scores there was no doubt that victory went to where it rightly belonged.

It was a courageous fight by James Stephens but they failed to maintain the pace they set in the first half.

The Fenians defence tightened up in the second half and P: J: Ryan in goal, Nickey Orr, Martin Fitzpatrick, Pat and Ger Henderson and Pat Murphy all showed up better after half time. Pat Henderson was a tower of strength at centre half back and though James Stephens centre half forward continued to show himself an improved attacker there was little looseness when The Fenians defence steadied up.

Ger Henderson one of the young players in The Fenians side also figured prominently and shows considerable promise.

The James Stephens pair, Liam O'Brien and Mick Power, es-

pecially Liam O'Brien were in powerful form at midfield in the first half but switches by The Fenians which brought Mick Garrett from the full forward line was an important factor in the switch of emphasis in the game in the second period.

Dick Dowling, captain of the side, had a splendid second half but Frank Hawkes did not find the going to his liking and Gerry Murphy came into the side in the second half. Mick Garrett did very useful work when he moved out.

Another switch which worked wonders was the placing of Pat Delaney at full forward and he quickly roused The Fenians morale when he slammed a John Moriarty centre to the net. Billy Watson benefitted from a change of position and Paddy Broderick, Johnny Moriarty and that very promising young forward, Billy Fitzpatrick, made a big impression. The scores came freely.

Mick Moore was caught on the wrong foot for one of the Fenians goals but he upheld his reputation as net minder for the losers. Phil Larkin at right full back played the part of two men and he did his most valuable work when The Fenians pressure increased in the second half.

Dinny McCormack at right half was another young player to make a big impact while Brian Cody, Eamonn Cody, Niall Morrissey and Paddy Larkin showed up well in the first half.

Mick Crotty, Tom Ryan, Des Murphy, Mick Leahy and Ned Byrne, caught the eye in the James Stephens attack and they showed fine team work in the first half. Joe O'Dwyer had a goal while he was there.

P: J: Ryan, Shem Delaney, Nickey Orr, Martin Fitzpatrick, Pat Henderson, Pat Murphy, Dick Dowling, Johnny Moriarty, Pat Delaney, Paddy Broderick and Billy Watson played in all three county senior finals won by The Fenians.

Scorers in the county final:

The Fenians:

Billy Fitzpatrick 3-0, Pat Delaney 2-1, Johnny Moriarty 1-2; Paddy Broderick 0-2; Billy Watson 1-0, Dick Dowling, Gerry Murphy and Mick Garrett 0-1 each.

James Stephens:

Tom Ryan 3-1, Mick Crotty 0-4, Ned Byrne 1-1, Joe O'Dwyer 1-0.

Mick Leahy and Tom McCormack 0-1 each.

SCORES BY THE CLOCK

30 sec: James Stephens points (L: O'Brien); 1 min: James Stephens point (M: Crotty); 5 min: James Stephens goal (J: O'Dwyer); 6 min: James Stephens goal (Tom Ryan), 8 min: James Stephens point (M: Crotty); 10 min: The Fenians goal (W: Fitzpatrick); 13 min: James Stephens point (M: Crotty); 14 min: James Stephens goal (T. Ryan); 15 min: James Stephens point L. O'Brien).

17th min: The Fenians point (J: Moriarty); 20 min: The Fenians point (P: Broderick); 21 min: James Stephens point (T: Ryan); 25 min: James Stephens goal (E. Byrne); 30 min: The Fenians goal (J. Moriarty).

HALF TIME

JAMES STEPHENS 4-6 THE FENIANS 2-2

Second Half:

1 min: The Fenians goal (P: Delaney); 4 min: James Stephens point (M: Crotty); 5 min: The Fenians point (D: Dowling); 6 min: The Fenians point (G: Murphy); 9 min: The Fenians point (M: Garrett); 10 min: The Fenians goal (W: Watson); 11 min: The Fenians goal (W: Fitzpatrick); 12 min: James Stephens point (M: Leahy); 13 min: The Fenians point (J: Moriarty); 15 min: James Stephens goal (T: Ryan); 17 min: The Fenians goal (W. Fitzpatrick); 19 min: The Fenians goal (P. Delaney); 20th min: The Fenians point (P: Delaney); 23rd min: The Fenians point (P. Broderick); 30th min: James Stephens point (T. McCormack); 31st min: James Stephens point (E. Byrne).

From Page 15

Junior Singles through the efforts of Willie Pratt, while Eugene Jordan and Jim McEvoy (Talbot's Inch) took the singles title at this grade. John Barron (singles) and he and Ollie Harold (doubles) won the minor titles. Mothel pair Nicky Mulhall and Ned Butler won the Under 21 doubles title, and went on to win the Provincial title at this grade.

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SENIOR TITLES

1904:

Pat (Fox) Maher (goal), Paddy (Icy) Lanigan, Jack Rochford, Eddie Doyle, Jack Hoyne, Dan Stapleton, Pat Fielding, Jim Lalor, Dick (Drug) Walsh, Pat Saunders, Dan Grace, Jack Anthony, Martin Lalor, Jer Doherty (captain), Sim Walton, Dick Doyle, Dick Brennan. Sub: Jim Dunne.

1905:

Ned Teehan (goal), Paddy Lanigan, Jack Rochford, Eddie Doyle, Dan Grace, Dan Stapleton (captain), Dan Kennedy, Jack Hoyne, 'Drug' Walsh, Jim Lalor, Tom Kenny, Dick Doyle, Jack Anthony, J. J. Drennan, Sim Walton, Martin Lalor, Jimmy Kelly. Sub: Tom Murphy.

Jack Glennon and Matt Gargan played in the first game which was disputed and a replay ordered. Ned Teehan and Dan Grace came on for the replay.

1907:

John T. Power (goal), Jack Keoghan, Jack Rochford, Dan Grace, Dan Stapleton, Dan Kennedy, Eddie Doyle, Paddy Lanigan, Drug Walsh (captain),

Matt Gargan, Tom Kenny, Dick Doherty, Jack Anthony, Dick Doyle, Sim Walton, Mick Doyle, Jimmy Kelly. Sub: Dick Grace.

1909:

Jim Dunphy (goal), Jack Keoghan, Jack Rochford, Paddy Lanigan, Dan Kennedy, Drug Walsh (captain), Eddie Doyle, Joe Delahunty, Matt Gargan, Jim Ryan, Mike Shortall, Bill Hennessy, Mick Doyle, Dick Doyle, Dick Doherty, Jimmy Kelly. Sub: Dick Grace.

1911:

John T. Power, Paddy Lanigan, Jack Rochford, Eddie Doyle, Jack Keoghan, Dan Kennedy, Dick Grace, Drug Walsh, Matt Gargan, Tom McCormack, J. J. Brennan, Pierce Grace, Mick Doyle, Dick Doyle, Sim Walton, Dick Doherty, Jimmy Kelly. Subs: J. Corr, Dick Brennan.

(Kilkenny got a walk over from Limerick in 1911 and this team beat Tipperary in a substitute final).

1912:

John T. Power, Jack Keoghan, Jack Rochford, Paddy Lanigan, Dan Kennedy, Drug Walsh, Dick Grace, Matt Gargan, Pierce Grace, Tom McCormack, J. J. Brennan, Eddie Doyle, Mick Doyle, Dick Doyle, Sim Walton (captain), Dick Doherty, Jimmy Kelly.

1913:

John Power, Jack Keoghan, Jack Rochford, Dan Kennedy, Jack Lennon, Drug Walsh (captain), Dick Grace, Matt Gargan, Pierce Grace, J. J. Brennan, Sim Walton, Dick Doherty, Dick Doyle, Jimmy Kelly, Mick Doyle.

(Teams were reduced to 15 aside in 1913 and county colours were first worn).

1922:

Mark McDonald, Jimmy Tobin, John Holohan, Bill Kenny, Tommy Carroll, Watty Dunphy (captain), Dick Grace, Pat Glendon, Pat (Dexter) Aylward, Martin Lalor, Eddie Dunphy, Paddy Donoghue, Dick Tobin, John Roberts, Matty Power.

1932:

Jim Dermody, Paddy Larkin, Peter O'Reilly, J. (Sag) Carroll, Paddy Phelan, Podge Byrne, Eddie Doyle, Eddie Byrne, Lory Meagher, Jimmy Walsh (captain), Martin Power, Tommy Leahy, Dan Dunne, Martin White, Matty Power.

1933:

Jim Dermody, Paddy Larkin, Peter O'Reilly, Paddy Phelan, Podge Byrne, Eddie Doyle (captain), Eddie Byrne, Lory Meagher, Tommy Leahy, Jimmy Walsh, Martin Power, Martin White, Johnny Dunne, Jack Fitzpatrick, Matty Power. Sub: Jack Duggan, Jimmy O'Connell.

1935:

Jimmy O'Connell, Paddy Larkin, Peter O'Reilly, Peter Blanchfield, Eddie Byrne, Podge Byrne, Paddy Phelan, Lory Meagher, Tommy Leahy, Jimmy Walsh, Martin White, Jack Duggan, Johnny Dunne, Lorry Byrne, Matty Power. Sub: Larry Duggan.

1939:

Jimmy O'Connell, Paddy Grace, Paddy Larkin, Peter Blanchfield, Bobby Hincks, Billy Bourke, Paddy Phelan, Jimmy Walsh, Jimmy Kelly, Jim Langton, Terry Leahy, Jack Gargan, Jack Mulcahy, Seanie O'Brien, Jim Phelan. Sub: Bobby Brannigan.

1947:

Jim Donegan, Paddy Grace, Pat (Diamond) Hayden, Mark Marnell, Jimmy Kelly, Peter Prendergast, Jack Mulcahy, Dan Kennedy (captain), Jimmy Heffernan, Tom Walton, Terry Leahy, Liam Reidy, Shem Downey, Bill Cahill, Jim Langton. Sub: Ned

Kavanagh.

1957:

Ollie Walsh, Tom Walsh, Jim (Link) Walsh, John Maher, Paddy Buggy, Mickey Walsh, John McGovern, Mick Brophy, John Sutton, Denis Heaslip, Mick Kenny, Mickey Kelly (captain), Dick Rockett, Billy Dwyer, Sean Clohosey. Sub: Bill Walsh.

1963:

Ollie Walsh, Phil Larkin, Cha Whelan, Martin Treacy, Seamus Cleere (captain), Ted Carroll, Martin Coogan, Paddy Moran, Sean Clohosey, Denis Heaslip, John McGovern, Eddie Keher, Tom Walsh, Billy Dwyer, Tom Murphy. Sub: Oliver Gough.

1967:

Ollie Walsh, Ted Carroll, Pa Dillon, Jim Treacy (captain), Seamus Cleere, Pat Henderson, Martin Coogan, Paddy Moran, John Teehan, Eddie Keher, Tom Walsh, Claus Dunne, Jim Bennett, Jim Lynch, Martin Brennan. Subs: John Kinsella, Pat Carroll, Dick Blanchfield.

1969:

Ollie Walsh, Ted Carroll, Pa Dillon, Jim Treacy, Willie Murphy, Pat Henderson, Martin Coogan, Mick Lalor, Frank Cummins, Claus Dunne, Pat Delaney, Eddie Keher (captain), Joe Millea, Martin Brennan, Tom Murphy. Subs: Pat Kavanagh, Paddy Moran, Sean Buckley.

1972:

Noel Skehan (captain); Phil Larkin, Pa Dillon, Jim Treacy, Pat Lalor, Pat Henderson, Eamonn Morrissey, Liam O'Brien, Frank Cummins, Mick Crotty, Pat Downey, John Kinsella, Eddie Downey, Kieran Purcell, Eddie Keher. Subs: Mossy Murphy, Paddy Moran, Martin Coogan.

Teams—2INTERMEDIATE

1973:

Paddy Grace, Maurice Mason, Kieran Mahon, Michael Hoyne, Jimmy Dunne, Timmy Murphy, Tom Foley, Pat Kavanagh, Dickie Burke, Johnny Doyle, Pat Holden, Jack O'Connor, Frank Cleere, Jim Walsh, Shem Muldowney.

JUNIOR TITLES

1928:

Tom Mullins (captain); M: Bergin (goal), J. (Sag) Carroll, P: Kenny, P. Butler, J. McNamara, T. Grace, T. Cronin, J. Walsh, D.



Mr. Paddy Woodcock, Farmley, Cuffesgrange (left) winner of £100 in Ciste Gael (GAA Development Fund) receives his cheque from Mr. Michael O'Connell, county co-ordinator.

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Duggan, W. Brennan, P. Dowling,
P. Walsh, P. Dwan, J. Fitzpatrick.

1946:

Jack Egan, Paddy O'Connor, Pat
(Diamond) Hayden, Mark
Marnell, Paddy Cahill, Peter
Prendergast, Ned Power, Paddy
Stapleton, Podge Däck, Henry
Giles, Mick Kenny, Ned Doyle,
Packie McEvoy, Din Maher, Bill
Cahill.

1951:

Dick Rockett, Jack Lynch, John-
ny Hokey, Liam Bolger, Tom
Walsh, Paul Fitzgerald, John
McGovern, Paddy Hennebry,
John Sutton, Paddy Johnston,
Paddy Stapleton, Mickey Gar-
diner, Tom Ryan, Rick Burke,
John Barron.

1956:

Jack Murphy, Tom Walsh, Jim
(Link) Walsh, Sean Tyrrell (cap-
tain), Phil Murphy, Rody O'Neill,
Jimmy Burke, Donal Gorey,
Florrie McCarthy, Denis Heaslip,
Dick Bolger, Jack Dunne, Mick
Fleming, Billy Costigan, Dinny
Hogan. Sub: Jimmy Coyne.

MINOR TITLES

1931:

M. Doyle, Der Hughes, Alfie
Cullen, Mick Tyrrell, Tom Short-
tall, Mick Brennan, J. Murphy,
Matt Walsh, John Shortall, Pat
Dwyer, Johnny Whelan, Bill Syse,
Eddie Shortall, Marty Barry, Petie
Kelly.

1935:

Tom Delaney, Paddy Grace (cap-
tain), Billy Holohan, Bobby
Hincks, Paddy Boyle, Paddy
Walsh, Martin McEvoy, Jackie
Cahill, Terry Leahy, Jim Langton,
Bobby Brannigan, Eamonn
Tallent, Jack Mulcahy, Seanie
O'Brien, Tom Prendergast. Sub:
Paddy Long.

1936:

Tom Deaney, Pat Kavanagh,
Neddie Fitzpatrick, Mick Hyland,
Jimmy O'Neill, Bobby Hincks,
Tom Waldron, Bobby Brannigan,
Paul Giles, Jim Langton, Tom
Mahon, Eamonn Tallent (captain),
Jack Mulcahy, Marty Grace,
Seanie O'Brien.

1950:

Jack Murphy, John Doherty, John
Maher, Paschal Lyng, Pat Lennon
(captain), Jim Walsh, John
McGovern, Paddy Johnston,
Donal Gorey, Mickey Gardiner,
Mick Brophy, Tom O'Hanrahan,
Seanie O'Brien, John Brennan,
Richie Brennan. Sub: Claude
Gough.

1960:

Paddy Dempsey, Billy Grace

(captain), P. J. Brett, Noel
Roughan, Sean O'Brien, Alec
McGrath, Ollie Ryan, Tom Barry,
Joe Ayres, Richie Walsh, Denis
Kinsella, Pierce Freaney, Paddy
Ryan, John Nyhan, Tom Murphy.

1961:

Patsy Foley, Jim McGrath,
Nickey Forristal, Phil Cullen,
Sean O'Brien, Pat Henderson,
Seamus Hanrahan, Tom Barry,
Johnny Murphy, Tom Walsh,
Denis Kinsella, Pierce Freaney,
Joe Dunphy (captain), Maurice
Aylward, Johnny Delaney.

1962:

Noel Skehan, Sean Treacy, Tom
Phelan, John Walsh, Billy Bourke,
Pat Drennan, Seamus Hanrahan,
Jimmy Byrne, Shem Muldowney,
Senan Cooke, Tom Walsh, John-
ny Delaney, Joe Dunphy (cap-
tain), Maurice Aylward, Paddy
Waalsh. Sub: Tom Ryan.

1972:

Kevin Fennelly, John Ryan, Joe
Burke, Paddy O'Brien, John
Dowling, Brian Cody (captain),
Kevin Robinson, Ger Woodcock,
Ger Fennelly, Seanie O'Brien,
Mick Tierney, Billy Fitzpatrick,
Pat Butler, Mick McCarthy, Bob-
by Sweeney. Sub: Joe O'Sullivan.

1973:

Pat Dunphy, Dick O'Hara, Gerry
Doherty, Kevin Robinson (cap-
tain), Joe Hennessy, John Marnell,
Ollie Bergin, Brian Waldron, Ger
Dunne, Paudie Lannon, Paudie
Mulhall, John Lyng, Pat Treacy,
Seanie O'Brien, Mickey Lyng.
Subs: John Purcell, Michael
Lanigan.

Age Limit For Colleges

IT has been suggested that the
age limit for colleges hurling and
football should be changed. At
present boys born after January
1, 1955, are eligible to play
almost up to the age of 19. This
works rather in favour of the
boarding schools.

Most boys would have left the
day schools before they are 18. In
one school in this competition
this year only one player came up
to the age limit and the same
holds true for many day schools.

If the present rule was changed
it could be the means of levelling
out standards as between board-
ing and day schools.

REBIRTH OF UNDER 16 CHAMPIONSHIPS

BY TOM RYALL

THIS year, now drawing to a close can be termed the year of the re-birth of the under 16 championships. These competitions were allowed to languish in 1972 to such an extent that no finals were played.

At the annual convention of the Under 16 Board in 1973 new officers were appointed with Sean Leahy (James Stephens) taking over as chairman and myself as secretary, and Rev. Pierce Malone as vice chairman.

The new committee set about clearing up the 1972 championships and with the co-operation of the clubs these were completed during March and April.

Thomastown came out on top in both hurling and football. In hurling they had but one point to spare over a gallant St. Lactain's (Freshford) side. In football they were clear winners over Moneenroe. Johnstown won the Roinn B championship when they beat a fancied Mooncoin side in the final.

With the 1972 championships completed the new year's competition started and Thomastown again came through in hurling and football. In hurling they beat a fine Castlecomer side by 4-7 to 1-7 while they beat St. Mary's in football by 4-9 to 2-4.

The winning hurling side was: Eddie Byrne, Tony Carroll, Dick O'Hara, Sean Reid, Michael Wemyss, Dan Breen, Dick Murphy, Paudie Lannon, Alan Hoyne, Davy Prendergast, Pat Minogue, Johnny O'Brien, Eugene Kavanagh, Jim Cassin, Martin Walsh.

Eleven of these figured on the winning football side. They were Byrne, Carroll, Reid, Wemyss, Lannon, Hoyne, Breen, Minogue, O'Brien, Kavanagh and Cassin.

Dick O'Hara was injured for the football final while Dick Murphy came on as a sub.

So much has these Thomastown boys progressed that they qualified for the county minor final for the first time since 1959. They can look forward to another two years at the top in minor hurling, 13 of this year's

minor side are available for minor ranks next year while many of them have two more years in minor grade.

The future looks rosy for Thomastown in both hurling and football. Those who figured on the winning under 16 football side but were not on the hurling side were: Brian O'Keeffe, Seamus Caulfield, Noel Duggan and Johnny Whelan.

Taking a look at the under 16 championship it looks as if Kilkenny will be strong contenders for next year's all Ireland minor championship. They will be attempting to win the title for the third year in a row, a feat achieved in 1960, 1961 and 1962.

Seven of last year's side are still eligible. They are: Dick O'Hara, Joe Hennessy, John Marnell, Paudie Lannon, Brian Waldron, Ger Devane, and Mickey Lyng while Murty Kennedy of the subs is still available.

From what I saw of this year's under 16 championship the following boys should be strong contenders for places on the coun-

ty minor team: Pat Minogue, Dan Breen (Thomastown), Seamus Brennan, John Kelly, Joe Byrne (Castlecomer), Jim Mullan (Freshford), Paddy Prendergast, Henry Ryan (Clara), Joe Ryan (Johnstown), Joe Wall (Mooncoin), J. Heffernan (Tullagher), Ned Mahon (Moneenroe), Tom Doheny (Tullaroan), Kevin O'Shea (Ballyragget), Kevin Brennan (Conahy), Josie O'Brien (James Stephens). Gowran also have some promising hurlers.

In addition to the championships Under 16 Leagues for Roinn A and Roinn B were started and they proved very successful, although a couple of teams did not participate.

Bennettsbridge have already won the Roinn B title by beating Piltown in a grand final. At the time of writing Castlecomer have again qualified for the Roinn A final with Thomastown and Mooncoin to meet in the southern final.

Granted the same co-operation from the clubs the Board looks forward to another successful year in 1974. Long may it continue so.

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CUP FOR SHAMROCKS

Ned Curran, chairman of the Northern Board presents the cup to the captain of the Shamrocks, junior hurling champions.



SNIPPETS OF HISTORY

By Tom Ryall

BROTHERS have played against each other in county senior finals on two occasions. In 1952 Mark and Stephen Marnell played with Tullaroan while brother, Jimmy, played with the victorious Bennettsbridge team. Actually Mark and Jimmy marked each other in that clash.

In 1961 Jimmy Ryan, a native of Dunnamaggin helped St. Lactain's to win their first senior title while brother, Tom, was on the defeated Near South team.

Four Kilkenny men, Sim Walton, Jack Rochford, Dick 'Drug' Walsh and Dick Doyle, have won seven all Ireland senior hurling medals (1904-1913) but two other Kilkenny men have also won the seven senior medals.

They are Paddy 'Icy' Lanigan and Eddie Doyle. They played on the winning sides in 1904, 1905, 1907, 1909, 1911 and 1912 and they were subs on the winning 1913 side.

In 1913 the number of players on a team was reduced from 17 to 15 and this resulted in both these players only being subs on the team in the all Ireland final.

In the 1950 Kilkenny county

senior hurling final between Dicksboro and Eire Og, which Dicksboro won on a replay players who won all Ireland senior medals with four different counties figured and Kilkenny all Ireland medal winners figured on both teams.

Paddy Grace and Dan Kennedy played with Dicksboro and Jim Langton, Liam Reidy and Pat 'Diamond' Hayden with Eire Og. Mick Ryan of Dicksboro won all Ireland medals with Tipperary while Nick O'Donnell won all Ireland medals with Wexford, Nick was on the Eire Og team, and Eddie Carew who was at mid-field for Eire Og won his all Ireland medal with Waterford.

Dan Kennedy has a record all his own as he won county senior championship medals with three different clubs; with Thomastown in 1946, with Dicksboro in 1950 and Bennettsbridge in 1952, 1953, 1955 and 1956.

The only parish in the county never to have a player taking part in an all Ireland senior hurling final is Tullagher.

Mick Nugent who won an all

Ireland senior hurling medal as a sub on the 1913 Kilkenny team was accidentally killed in 1916 when hit by the ball. He was playing for Dicksboro against a Laois selection at Portlaoise when the accident happened. The ball is at present in the possession of his nephew, Michael Nugent, Kyle, Ballykeeffe.

Jimmy Kelly of Mooncoin, known as 'the scoring machine' would have won seven all Ireland medals but for the fact that he missed the 1904 final because of illness. His place was taken by Dick Brennan. After winning his sixth medal in 1913 he emigrated to America and was a serious loss when Laois beat Kilkenny in the 1914 Leinster championship.

The Graigue club, now known as Graigue-Ballycallan has an unique distinction of being the only club in the county to supply both senior and minor captains in all Ireland finals on the same day.

This was in 1950 when Mick Kenny captained the senior side and Pat Lennon led the minor side to victory.

The only father and son combinations to have won all Ireland senior medals with Kilkenny. Matt Gargan won all Ireland senior medals with Kilkenny in 1907, 1909, 1911, 1912 and 1913 while his son, Jack, won an all Ireland medal in 1939.

By a strange co-incidence the Larkins have the same number of

medals, six. Paddy won four in 1932, 1933, 1935 and 1939 and his son, Phil won his two in 1963 and 1972.

Two other father and son combinations to win all Ireland senior medals, though the fathers only won them as subs, are the Clohoseys and O'Briens.

Pat Clohosey of Tullaroan who played on the defeated 1916 side was a sub on some of the Kilkenny teams between 1904 and 1913 while his son, Sean, won all Ireland senior medals in 1957 and 1963.

Paddy O'Brien played on the beaten Kilkenny side in the 1946 all Ireland final after having played in the Leinster championship ties and the all Ireland semi final in 1947 but was only a sub in the all Ireland final. His son, Liam O'Brien, won his senior all Ireland medal last year.

Dr. Pierce Grace is Kilkenny's only dual all Ireland senior medal winner. He won three all Ireland senior hurling medals with Kilkenny in 1911, 1912 and 1913 and won two all Ireland senior football medals with Dublin in 1906 and 1907.

The rules of the G:A:A seem to have been very lax in the early days. Kilkenny won their way to the all Ireland senior football final of 1900 by beating Tipperary but later lost the match on the objection.

The Kilkenny side included some Tipperary players who

KILKENNY hurling followers will always remember 1973 as the year of the great injury crisis. Its history now that our senior team lost an All Ireland due to several key players being injured. What a lot of people overlook, is that our minor team had the same problem and overcame it.

Just before the final Joe Mulcahy (hand injury), and Kevin Fennelly (arm injury), both had to withdraw. Fennelly, it will be remembered was a member of the two previous years teams and up to the final contributed in no small way to Kilkenny's success. Still the boys of the black and amber helped to make this one of the best minor finals for years.

Kilkenny will be the first to admit that they were lucky to win this, their ninth minor title. Luck, together with the fact that Seanie O'Brien gave one of the best exhibitions of hurling ever by a Kilkenny man. O'Brien accounted for 3-2 of Kilkenny's total of 4-5, and also laid on the fourth goal for Pat Treacy.

This Kilkenny side was regarded by many as one of the worst minor teams to come out of the county, but as things turned out they were better than most people thought.

Galway made a gallant bid to wrest the title from Kilkenny, but it may have been to their disadvantage that they had only one game before the final. They beat Tipperary by 3-14 to 3-10 at Ennis after Tipperary had beaten Cork.

Kilkenny beat Dublin by 3-8 to 0-7 and then scored a 3-10 to 2-9 win over Wexford in the Leinster final. They beat Antrim in the semi-final by 5-15 to 2-3.

Galway appeared to suffer from nerves in the early stages, and Ger Devane and Brian Waldron exercised a considerable measure of supremacy at mid-field. With O'Brien running riot up front Kilkenny built up a 1-4 to 0-4 half time lead.

On the re-start Kilkenny took up where they left off Brian Waldron adding his name and a point to the scorers list after only four minutes.

Kilkenny failed however to capitalise on the situation and after a quite spell Freddie Power raced through to cut Kilkenny's lead to a single point. Lucky for Kilkenny Sean O'Brien was on hand to set up Pat Treacy for another Kilkenny goal.

Minors Make It Two-in-a-Row

A lesser team than Galway would have given up at this stage but the brave Connacht men fought back and by the fifteenth minute led by a point. Within a minute O'Brien and Power exchanged goals as the game approached the final five minutes. Galway held a two point lead with four minutes to go but the unstoppable O'Brien was not finished yet. He saved the day with a goal in the final minute for Kilkenny.

For O'Brien this was the gloss added to a first really first class performance. Its a cheerful sign for Kilkenny too that six of the players in that final are eligible for next year's team. R. O'Hara, J. Hennessy, J. Marnell, G. Devane, B. Waldron, and P. Lennon, all have further honours to come.

With the minor division of hurling being so strong in Kilkenny at the moment one can be optimistic about our future in this

grade of hurling.

Others to show up on that now famous day in September were, Dick O'Hara, John Marnell, Ollie Bergin, Ger Devane and Paudie Lennon.

Kilkenny: P. Dunphy, R. O'Hara, G. Doheny, K. Robinson, J. Hennessy, J. Maarnell, O. Bergin, G. Devane, B. Waldron, P. Lennon, P. Mulhall, J. Lyng, P. Treacy, S. O'Brien, M. Lyng. Subs: S. Purcell for M. Lyng, M. Lanigan for J. Lyng.

MICK LOUGHMAN'S GREAT WORK

MANY people of past generation will remember a man who devoted himself almost entirely to the development of the GAA. Mick Loughman of Stephens street always had a keen interest in the national games and took a particular interest in the youth.

He was associated with the great CBS team of the early 1930's out of which developed a Kilkenny minor team which won two all Ireland titles and later he played a big part in the establishment of the Eire Og Club.

For this alone he deserves to be remembered. Eire Og made a tremendous impact in senior hurling in the late 1930's and 1940's and it included among its ranks in the early days famous names like Jim Langton, Jack Mulcahy, Seanie O'Brien, Jack Gargan, Liam Reidy, Bobby Brannigan and a host of others.

In later years Eire Og had Nick O'Donnell who helped to forge Wexford's great run of all Ireland successes in recent years and Pat ('Diamond') Hayden. Tommy Murphy who figured on the Kilkenny team which lost to Tipperary in the 1950 all Ireland final and at another stage John Carew who won an all Ireland senior medal with Waterford played on the team.

There were many others too numerous to mention. Paddy Larkin and the late Paddy Phelan also figured in the Eire Og jersey.

Eire Og played their own delightful brand of hurling. The Langton-Mulcahy-O'Brien combination in attack brought a new dimension to the game and the

KEVIN ROBINSON; Captain of the Minor Team



KILKENNY

All-Ireland Minor Hurling Champions 1973



THE HURLING FINAL

AS SEEN BY
JIMMY WALSH

I AM certain that with a full team Kilkenny would have won this year's all Ireland. I say that with all respect to Limerick. I know that Limerick finished like champions but we were so badly disorganised that it would have been the greatest surprise in hurling history if we had won.

Jim Treacy is one of the most outstanding defenders in present day hurling and I am not taking one bit from the whole hearted efforts of Phil Cullen when I say that Jim Treacy was a very serious loss. His great anticipation and intelligent defence work makes him a man apart. We had to field without him.

Eddie Keher was also a very serious loss. He may often have what appears to be a quiet game enough but we have often found that when things are running against us Eddie can turn the tide in our favour. He did it in the 1972 final.

Kieran Purcell played but he was only making a token appearance. Any man having had his appendix removed a fortnight before an all Ireland final could hardly be expected to play and only came out in the second half because he thought he might be able to play. Obviously he was not.

Pat Delaney had been in bed up to a few days before the final and the rain made it impossible for Paddy Broderick to see. Liam O'Brien got a nasty injury right at the start and though he played well his hurling was effected to some extent. Frank Cummins had to retire with a shoulder injury which he had been nursing for some time before the game.

This meant that Kilkenny had to play an all Ireland final with little better than half a team. It would be too much to hope that they could win under the circumstances. They certainly did not have much luck but in spite of all the handicaps they put up a splendid performance and were

well in the game up to the last 10 minutes.

If you took Pat Hartigan, Richie Bennis and Eamonn Cregan off the Limerick team how would they have fared? They would find themselves in difficulty surely. Well Kilkenny were actually in a worse position.

On the form Kilkenny showed against Wexford in the Leinster final I don't think any team could beat them. In that game with all forwards in action the Kilkenny attack made inroads in the Wexford defence and I feel they would have done almost as well against Limerick if they had been at full strength.

But this was Limerick's day. They had waited 33 years for it and we don't begrudge them the honours. They are a fine team with some really outstanding hurlers and once they got within sight of victory they played like real champions. It must have been a great consolation to former stars like Mick Mackey, one of the greatest hurlers I ever

played against and his colleagues of the 1930's to see the McCarthy cup coming back to the Shannon again and though we were at the losing end I think the Limerick win was good for the game.

The story of the game needs no re-telling but I think if Mick Crotty's effort for a goal hadn't been miraculously tipped over the bar by the Limerick goalie, Seamus Hogan, anything could have happened. The turning point could have come.

We were unlucky that our forwards never clicked in the same way as they did against Wexford but this is in itself a tribute to the Limerick defence. And if Frank Cummins had been fully fit we might have had more of a say at midfield.

I think it is fair to say that on the run of the play Limerick deserved to win but I want to say too that they had the luck and Kilkenny had all the bad luck.

Jimmy Walsh had the distinction of being the youngest captain of a Kilkenny all Ireland winning team when he led the black and ambers to victory over Clare in the 1932 final. He was also on the Kilkenny all Ireland winning teams in 1933, 1935 and 1939 and was a regular on the Leinster Railway Cup team for over 10 years.

He was on the Carrickshock team that won the county senior final in 1931 and assisted them in all their subsequent wins up to the time of his retirement.

A centrefield of remarkable ability he would have been an automatic choice for a Carrolls All Stars Award if there had been such awards during his hurling career.

Kilkenny Gaels in London

By Mick Morrissey

YES; down the years, Kilkenny Gaels have been identified with the G.A.A. in London. They have made a big contribution to the progress of the Association in the city by the Thames. In days of adversity, they were not found wanting, in fair weather and in foul.

The Noresiders have showed their worth on and off the Gaelic arena. I recall with pride the late Jack Shalloe who was chairman of the London County Board G.A.A. for some years, and also chairman of the Provincial Council of Britain.

He played for many years for the well known Pearse's Club in London. I also recall many majestic hurling displays by Tim Tennyson for Pearse's, and Lon-

don. Blondie Paddy Murphy, was also another Pearse's star.

The Taras had a great club administrator in Jack Hale, and brilliant hurlers in the Talbots.

The late Johnny Dunne, Kilkenny hurling star spent a period in London and played for Cuchulainn's. One must pay tribute to that sterling Kilkenny Gael, Dan Purcell of the well known Cuchulainn Club for his magnificent work for the G.A.A. in London.

Yes, Dan has seen days of adversity and progress in London G.A.A. affairs. Yes, Kilkenny Gaels in London can look back with pride in their dedication to the games of the Gael in exile.



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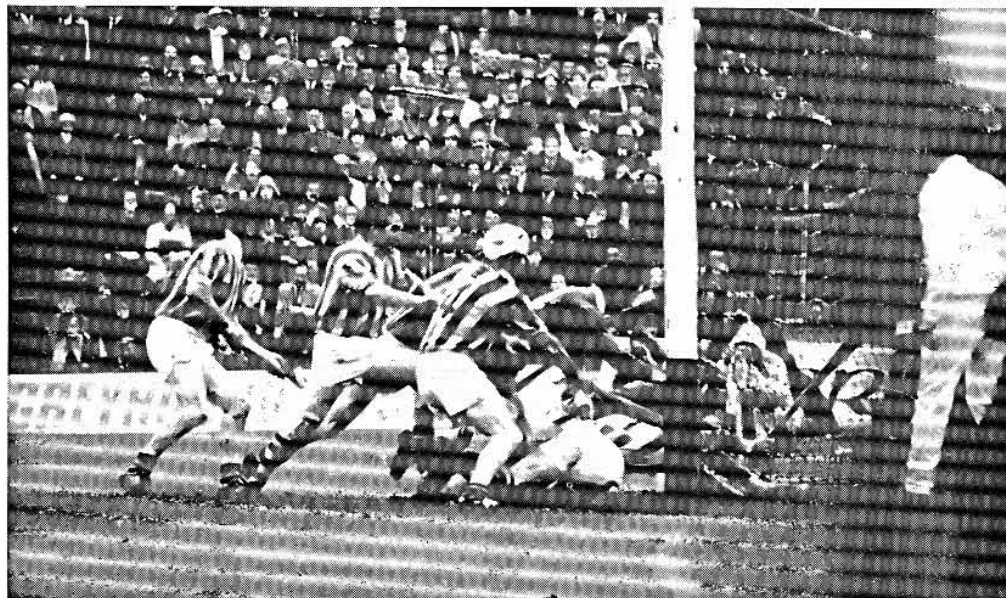
SINCE the late Peadar Laffan's day Thomastown have been in the forefront in under age hurling. In recent years they have reached the top in football.

Their record since 1970 speaks for itself. It is:

1970: Under 14 county hurling and football championship titles. 1971: Under 14 hurling and football county championship titles, under 16 McGuinness cup competitions. 1972: Under 16 hurling and football county championships. 1973: Under 16 county championships in hurling and football.

For good measure Thomastown vocational school won the Leinster under 15 vocational schools title, the first football title to come to Kilkenny in 50 years.

Rough-and-Tumble in the All Ireland:



Can you spot-the-ball

Thrills and Spills at both ends as Kilkenny and

Limerick in turn look for vital scores



Contd from Page 25

worked in the Slate Quarries but lived across the border. One of them, Pat Wall, whose sons, Tom and Willie, won all Ireland senior hurling medals with Tipperary in the all Ireland final against London.

This must surely be the only instance in G.A.A. history of a player playing against a county in an all Ireland semi final and played with that county in the all Ireland final.

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County Finals For 25 Years

1973:

The Fenians 7-8
(Johnstown)

James Stephens 5-10

The Fenians:

J. P. Ryan, Shem Delaney, Nickey Orr, Martin Fitzpatrick, Ger Henderson, Pat Henderson, Pat Murphy, Frank Hawkes, Dick Dowling, Johnny Moriarty, Pat Delaney, Paddy Broderick, Billy Fitzpatrick, Billy Watson, Mick Garrett. Sub: Gerry Murphy.

James Stephens:

Mick Moore, Fan Larkin, Eamonn Cody, Paddy Larkin, Dinny McCormack, Brian Cody, Niall Morrissey, Mick Power, Liam O'Brien, Mick Crotty, Mick Leahy, Des Murphy, Tom Ryan, Joe O'Dwyer, Eddie Byrne. Subs: Tom McCormack, Seanie O'Brien.

Referee: Paddy Johnston, Kilkenny.

1972:

The Fenians 3-10
Bennettsbridge 1-6

The Fenians:

P: J. Ryan, Shem Delaney, Nickey Orr, Martin Fitzpatrick, Dick Dowling, Pat Henderson, Pat Murphy, Mick Garrett, Billy Watson, Billy Fitzpatrick, Pat Delaney, Paddy Broderick, Johnny Moriarty, Frank Holohan, Tommy O'Connell.

Bennettsbridge:

Noel Skehan, Conor O'Brien, Larry Cleere, Jim Treacy, Paddy Kealy, John Holohan, Pat Lalor, Paddy Moran, Phil Cullen, Wattie Kennedy, Jim Bennett, Christy Hayes, Noel Ryal, Kevin Dunne, Paddy Treacy. Sub: John Dowling.

Referee: Dick Dowling, Glenmore.

fi:

Bennettsbridge 3-10

The Fenians 1-7

Bennettsbridge:

Noel Skehan, Conor O'Brien, Larry Cleere, Jim Treacy, Paddy

Kealy, John Holohan, Pat Lalor, Paddy Moran, Wattie Kennedy, Christy Hayes, Paddy Treacy, John Kinsella, Noel Ryan, Kevin Dunne, Joohny McGovern.

The Fenians:

P. J. Ryan, Shem Delaney, Nickey Orr, Martin Fitzpatrick, Dick Dowling, Pat Henderson, Seamus Grace, Donal Walsh, Mick Garrett, Johnny Moriarty, Pat Delaney, Paddy Broderick, Tommy O'Connell, Billy Watson, Frank Holohan. Sub: Pat Murphy.

Referee: James Murphy, Tullogher.

1970:

The Fenians 2-11
James Stephens 3-5

The Fenians:

P. J. Ryan, Shem Delaney, Nickey Orr, Martin Fitzpatrick, Pat Murphy, Pat Henderson, Seamus Grace, Mick Garrett, Donal Walsh, Johnny Moriarty, Pat Delaney, Paddy Broderick, Dick Dowling, Tommy O'Connell, Billy Watson. Subs: Fergus Farrell, Frank Holohan.

James Stephens:

Mick Moore, Phil Larkin, Fan Larkin, Paddy Larkin, Eamonn Morrissey, Niall Morrissey, Mick Leahy, Sean Brennan, Mick Taylor, Phil Brennan, Mick Crotty, Liam O'Brien, Eddie Byrne, Sean Leahy, Mickey Dunne. Sub: Eddie Tallent.

Referee: Dick Dowling, Glenmore.

1969:

James Stephens 8-5
The Fenians 2-7

James Stephens:

M: Moore, Philly Larkin, Phil Larkin, Paddy Larkin, Eamonn Morrissey, Niall Morrissey, Mick Leahy, Mick Taylor, Sean Brennan, Eddie Tallent, Mick Crotty, P: Brennan, Eddie Byrne, Sean Leahy, Mick Dunne.

The Fenians:

P: J. Ryan, M. Carroll, Nickey Orr, Martin Fitzpatrick, Shem Delaney, Pat Henderson, Seamus

Grace, Fergus Farrell, Pat Murphy, Johnny Moriarty, Pat Delaney, Tommy O'Connell, Mick Garrett, Frank Holohan, Billy Watson. Subs: J: Maher, D. Walsh, P. Broderick.

Referee: Dick Dowling, Glenmore (This game was played on April 19, 1970).

1968

The Rower Inistioge 3-9
Bennettsbridge 3-7

The Rower Inistioge:

Donal Kavanagh, Jim Murphy, Martin Walsh, John Walsh, Wille Murphy, Eamonn Flood, Dermot Kavanagh, Pat Kavanagh, Edie Keher, Mick Walsh, Danny White, Pudsy Murphy, Martin Kavanagh, Tommy Murphy.

Bennettsbridge:

Noel Skehan, Martin Treacy, Larry Cleere, Jim Treacy, Paddy Kealy, Seamus Cleere, Johnny McGovern, Paddy Moran, Conor O'Brien, Pat Lalor, John Kinsella, Sam Carroll, Noel Ryan, Jim Bennett, Paddy Treacy. Sub: Liam Cleere.

Referee: James Murphy, Tullogher.

1967

Bennettsbridge 3-10
Thomastown 1-4

Bennettsbridge:

Noel Skehan, Martin Treacy, Larry Cleere, Jim Treacy, Paddy Kealy, Seamus Cleere, Johnny McGovern, Paddy Moran, Tony Kelly, John Kinsella, Jim Bennett, Sam Carroll, Noel Ryan, Mick McCarthy, Paddy Treacy.

Thomastown:

Ollie Walsh, Billy Grace, Cha Whelan, Jim Blanchfield, John Challoner, Paddy Cullen, Dick Walsh, Vincent Kirby, Ted Hoynes, Seamus Kearney, Brendan O'Sullivan, Johnny Kelly, Johnny Murphy, Paddy Kelly, Johnny Delaney.

Referee: Tom Ryall, Graigue.

1966:

Bennettsbridge 4-8
Mooncoin 2-4

Bennettsbridge:

Noel Skehan, Martin Treacy, Larry Cleere, Jim Treacy, Paddy Kealy, Seamus Cleere, Johnny McGovern, Paddy Moran, John Kinsella, Paddy Treacy, Jim Bennett, Sam Carroll, Noel Ryan, Tony Kelly, Mick McCarthy. Sub: Timmy Kelly.

Mooncoin:

Dick Dunphy, Pat Delahunty, Tom Nolan, Ned Connolly, Watty McDonald, Jim Lynch, Johnny Walsh, Martin Howley, John Walsh, Mick Connolly, Ned Doyle, Claus Dunne, Joe Dunphy, T: Walsh, Tom Ryan.

Referee: Paddy Johnston, Kilkenny.

1965:

Mooncoin 2-8
Bennettsbridge 1-8

Mooncoin:

Dick Dunphy, Pat Delahunty, Tom Nolan, Ned Connolly, W: McDonald, Jim Lynch, John Howley, Martin Howley, Johnnie Walsh, Mick Conway, Ned Doyle, Claus Dunne, Joe Dunphy, Tom Walsh, B: O'Keefe, Sub: John Walsh.

Bennettsbridge:

Liam Cleere, Martin Treacy, Tony Bennett, Jim Treacy, Timmy Kelly, Seamus Cleere, John McGovern, Larry Cleere, Paddy Moran, Jim Bennett, Tony Kelly, Sam Carroll, Noel Skehan, Dick Carroll, Paddy Treacy. Sub:S: Treacy.

Referee Paddy Johnston, Kilkenny.

1964

Bennettsbridge 4-9
Glenmore 1-4

Bennettsbridge:

Liam Cleere, Martin Treacy, Tony Bennett, Jim Treacy, Larry Cleere, Seamus Cleere, Johnny McGovern, Paddy Moran, Tony Kelly, Noel Skehan, Dick Carroll, Sam Carroll, Sean Treacy, Mick McCarthy, Paddy Treacy.

Glenmore:

Paul Fitzgerald, John McDonald, Nickey Forristal, John Dowling, John O'Shea, Dick Doherty, Johnny Vereker, Paddy Power, Billy Fitzgerald, Nickey Hanrahan, Mickey Phelan, Martin Cass, Richie Mullaly, John Sutton, Dick Dowling. Sub: Mickey Barron.

Referee: Paddy Johnston, Kilkenny.

1963

St. Lactain's 1-7

Tullogher 0-3

St. Lactain's:

Mick Burke, Jack O'Shea, Pa Dillon, Kevin Dalton, Sean Buckley, Alfie Hickey, Jack Delaney, Martin Dalton, John Minogue, John Teehan, Dinny Butler, Jimmy Cullinane, Sean Rafferty, Paddy Lacey, Jimmy Dooley. Sub: Jack Cahill.

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County Finals For 25 years

Continued From Page 33

Tullagher:

Mick Rellis, Simon Kennedy, Jim Murphy, Sean Treacy, Jimmy Cummins, Billy Murphy, John Hamilton, Tommy Doolan, Brian O'Neill, Pat Grace, Nickey Woods, Andy Lee, Philly Murphy, Jamsey Murphy, P: Walsh. Subs: K. Murphy, M. Murphy.

Referee: Ray McEntee, Thomastown Rangers.

1962:

Bennettsbridge 5-7

Lisdowney 2-8

Bennettsbridge:

Liam Cleere, Martin Treacy, Liam Bennett, Jim Dobbyn, Timmy Kelly, Seamus Cleere, Tom Linnen, Mick McCarthy, Paddy Moran, Mickey Kelly, John McGovern, Sam Carroll, Frankie Ryan, R: Power, Dick Carroll.

Lisdowney:

M. Moylan, Jim Fogarty, Ber Drennan, N: Murphy, P: Grace, Ted Carroll, H: Quirke, J: Delaney, M: Bowden, R: Blanchfield, M: Ryan, M: Carroll, Mick Blanchfield, P: Ryan, M: Henderson.

Referee: Tom Ryall, Graigue.

1961:

St. Lactain's 4-5

Near South 0-12

St Lactain's:

Jack Cahill, Dinny Maher, Pa Dillon, Kevin Dalton, Jack O'Shea, Alfie Hickey, Jack Delaney, Martin Dalton, John Minogue, John Teehan, Sean Rafferty, Dinny Butler, Jimmy Ryan, Wally Cody, Jimmy Cullinane. Sub: Tommy Butler.

Near South:

Ollie Walsh, Tom Walsh, Jim Walsh, Pat Forristal, Mick Bolger, John Doyle, Colm Ryan, Owen Dermody, Danny Lennon, Denis Heaslip, Danny White, Tom Forristal, Tom Ryan, Frank Aylward, Mick O'Neill.

Referee: Paddy Johnston, Kilkenny.

1960

Bennettsbridge 4-5

Glenmore 3-4

Bennettsbridge:

Liam Cleere, Martin Treacy, Jack Galway, Jim Dobbyn, Paddy Moran, Seamus Cleere, Johnny McGovern, Dick Carroll, Jimmy Dowling, Mickey Kelly, Timmy

Kelly, Sam Carroll, Frankie Ryan, Mick McCarthy, Sean Treacy.

Glenmore:

Martin Coady, John McDonald, Paddy O'Connor, Dick Doherty, R. Doherty, Paul Fitzgerald, Nickey Hanrahan, John Doherty, Billy Fitzgerald, John O'Shea, John Sutton, J. Boyle.

1959

Bennettsbridge 4-6

Erin's Own (Castlecomer) 1-4

Bennettsbridge:

Liam Cleere, Martin Treacy, Jim Dobbyn, Jack Galway, Seamus Cleere, Timmy Kelly, Johnny McGovern, Jimmy Dowling, Dick Carroll, Paddy Moran, Henry Drea, Sam Carroll, Mickey Kelly, Liam Hackett, Mick McCarthy.

Erin's Own:

Mick Rowe, Larry O'Keefe, Mick Baylon, Sean Dunne, Dick Brennan, Eamonn Holland, Tom Shalloe, Martin Meally, Martin Coogan, Kieran Meally, Phil O'Meara, Tom O'Neill, Tom Brennan, Seamus Farrell, Mick Byrne.

Referee: Paddy Johnston, Kilkenny.

1958: **Tullaroan 1-12**

Bennettsbridge 3-2

Tullaroan:

Jim Young, Jim Hogan, Milo Moore, Paddy Hennessy, Jim Hennessy, Tom Hogan, Billy Gaffney, Billy Fitzgerald, Joe Hennessy, Dan Hogan, Sean Clohosey, Jimmy Clohosey, Paddy Malone, Tom Hennessy, Bill Hennessy. Sub: Pete Dowling.

Bennettsbridge:

Larry Cleere, Derek Galway, Jack Galway, Joe Galway, Paddy Moran, Dick Carroll, Johnny McGovern, Jimmy Dowling, Sean Holden, Mickey Kelly, Tom Skehan, Sam Carroll, Frankie Ryan, Liam Hackett, Dan Kennedy. Subs: Billy Dobbyn, Timmy Kelly.

Referee: Jimmy Fennelly, Stoneyford.

1957:

John Lockes 4-4 Slieverue 0-5

John Lockes:

Sean Kennedy, Jack Lynch, Ted O'Brien, Liam Egan, Bobby Grace, Mick Kenny, Joe Morris, Pat Lennon, Denis O'Sullivan, Mickey Gardiner, Pat Somers, Milo Carey, Johnny Wall, Martin Lynch, Tony Leahy.

Slieverue:

Finbarr Hickey, Jim Walsh, Tom Phelan, Mickey Walsh, Paddy Buggy, Pat Grant, John Hartley, Mick Murphy, Pat Irish, Sean Griffin, Dick Rockett, Gerry Buggy, Bill Cahill, Tom Walsh, Eddie O'Dwyer.

Referee: Jimmy Fennelly, Stoneyford.

1956

Bennettsbridge 2-8

John Lockes

(Callan)

3-3

Bennettsbridge:

Liam Cleere, Derek Galway, Jack Galway, Joe Galway, Paddy Moran, Timmy Kelly, Johnny McGovern, Jimmy Dowling, Mickey Kelly, Dick Carroll, Dan Kennedy, Sam Carroll, Sean Holden, Liam Hackett, Mick Galway.

John Lockes:

Sean Kennedy, Jack Lynch, Ted O'Brien, Liam Egan, Bobby Grace, Mick Kenny, Joe Morris, Larry Power, Mickey Gardiner, Tony Leahy, Pat Lennon, Milo Carey, Pat Somers, Martin Lynch, Sean Minogue. Sub: John Clancy.

Referee: Mick Crowley, Mooncoin.

1955

Bennettsbridge 6-6

Mooncoin 1-4

Bennettsbridge:

Liam Cleere, Derek Galway, Jack Galway, Joe Galway, Paddy Moran, Timmy Kelly, Billy Dobbyn, Johnny McGovern, Jimmy Dowling, Mickey Kelly, Dan Kennedy, Sam Carroll, Frankie Ryan, Liam Hackett, Mick Galway.

Mooncoin:

Dick Dunphy, Paddy Murphy, Tom Nolan, Mick Crowley, Mick Sheehan, Sonny Murphy, Mick Butler, Paddy Phelan, Eddie Dunphy, Dick Walsh, Mick Fripps, Pat Dunphy, S: Dunne, John Fripps, Watty McDonald.

Referee: Jack Mulcahy, Eire Og.

1954

Slieverue 6-5

Tullaroan 4-3

mSlieverue:

Tom Walsh, Eddie O'Dwyer, Johnny Hockey, Mick Walsh, Jim Walsh, Paddy Grant, Paddy Buggy, Dick Rockett, Pat Irish, Mick Murphy, John Hartley, Gerry Buggy, Bill Cahill, Dick Mahony, Sean Griffin. Sub: Tom Walsh.

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County Finals For 25 Years

Contd From Previous Page

Tullaroan:

Tom Hogan, Milo Moore, Pat Clohosey, Kieran Tobin, Jim Hogan, Jim Hennessy, Billy Gaffney, Pete Dowling, Sean Clohosey, Dan Hogan, Pady Malone, Jimmy Clohosey, Tom Walton, Jim Young, Tom Hennessy. Subs: Billy Fitzgerald, John Walton.

Referee: John Sutton, Mullinavat.

1953:

Bennettsbridge 3-11

Slieverue 3-6

Bennettsbridge:

Liam Cleere, Derek Galway, Jack Galway, Jim Dobbyn, Jim Nolan, Tom Walsh, Johnny McGovern, Dan Kennesy, Jimmy Dowling, Mickey Kelly, Dick Carroll, Sam Carroll, Liam Hackett, Paddy Ryan, Mick Galway.

Slieverue:

Dick Rockett, John Phelan, Johnny Hokey, Eddie O'Dwyer, Paddy Buggy, Jim Walsh, Jim Phelan, J. Doherty, Pat Irish, Paddy Grant, John BBarron, Gerry Buggy, Bill Cahill, Paddy Doyle, Tom

Walsh. Sub: O'Meara, Sean Griffin.

Referss: Jack Phelan, Carrickshock.

1952:

Bennettsbridge 5-3

Tullaroan 4-5

Bennettsbridge:

Mickey Phelan, Derek Galway, Liam Hackett, Jack Galway, Jim Nolan, Jim Dobbyn, Johnny McGovern, Dan Kennedy, Tom Walsh, Mickey Kelly, Dick Carroll, Sam Carroll, Jimmy Marnell, Paddy Ryan, Jimmy Dowling. Sub: Mick Galway.

Tullaroan:

Billy Gannon, Tom Hogan, Stephen Marnell, Mark Marnell, Jim Hogan, Paddy Malone, Billy Gaffney, Mick Henderson, Billy Costigan, Sean Clohosey, Pete Dowling, Jimmy Clohosey, Tom Walton, Pat Spencer, Shem Downey. Sub: Pat Tynan.

Referee: Podge Dack, Thomastown.

'fi&':

Carrickshock 5-6

Tullaroan 4-5

Carrickshock:

Dick Dunphy, Billy Treacy, Peter McBride, Tom Fleming, Tom Walsh, Mick Dwyer, Jimmy Heffernan, Jimmy Kelly, John Sutton, Jimmy Murphy, Luke Donnelly, John Cassin, Tom Ryan, Paddy Fleming, Dick O'Neill.

Tullaroan:

Johnny Shortall, Tom Hogan, Stephen Marnell, Paddy Teehan, im Hogan, Mark Marnell, Billy Costigan, Jack Phelan, Mick Henderson, Shem Downey, Pete Dowling, Jimmy Clohosey, Tom Walton, Paddy Malone, Billy Gannon.

Referee: Jack Mulcahy, Eire Og.

'fi&fi':

Dicksboro 3-17

Eire Og 6-8

(draw) replay

Dicksboro 4-6

Eire Og 1-5

Dicksboro:

Matt Quinlan, Kieran Crotty, Paddy Grace, Joe Hennessy, Willie Hogan, Frank Costello, Joe Walsh, Dan Kennedy, P. J. Gar

van, Tommy Dowling, Mick Ryan, Dick Carroll, Tom Dowling, Billy Maher, Paddy Grace.

Eire Og:

Rame Dowling, John Maher, Pat ('Diamond') Hayden, Nick O'Donnell, Chess Phelan, Tommy Murphy, S. Shortall, Eddie Carew, M: Shortall, Jimmy Coyne, Jim Langton, Liam Reidy, Kevin Shortall, Paddy O'Brien, Padraig Lennon. Subs: M. Coyne, Joe Gargan.

Referee: Dick Kelly, Conahy.

1949:

Graigue 3-12

Tullaroan 2-14

Graigue:

Dinny Holohan, Paddy Burke, Mick Coonan, Bob Woodgate, Paddy Cahill, John Keane, Henry Giles, Martin McEvoy, James Fennelly, Nickey Purcell, Mick Kenny, Billy Daly, Maurice O'Shaughnessy, Jim Walton, Bill Cahill. Sub: Dick Cleere.

Tullaroan:

John Shortall, Stephen Marnell, Mark Marnell, Paddy Teehan, Jim Hogan, Tom Hogan, Dick Walsh, Pete Dowling, Paddy Malone, Shem Downey, Billy Costigan, Jimmy Clohosey, Tom Walton, Jackie Cahill, Tom Teehan.

Referee: Podge Dack, Thomastown.

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**THE SENIOR
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First Half

	Gls	Pts	W	F	70s
The Fenians	2	2	7	8	0
James Stephens	4	6	4	4	1

Second Half

The Fenians	5	6	2	7	1
James Stephens	1	4	4	9	3

Totals

The Fenians	7	8	9	15	1
James Stephens	5	10	8	13	4

**THE INTERMEDIATE
FINAL**

First Half

	Gls	Pts	W	F	70s
Coon	3	3	2	16	1
Graig	2	5	3	14	1

Second Half

Coon	1	5	2	8	1
Graig	1	1	3	10	1

Totals

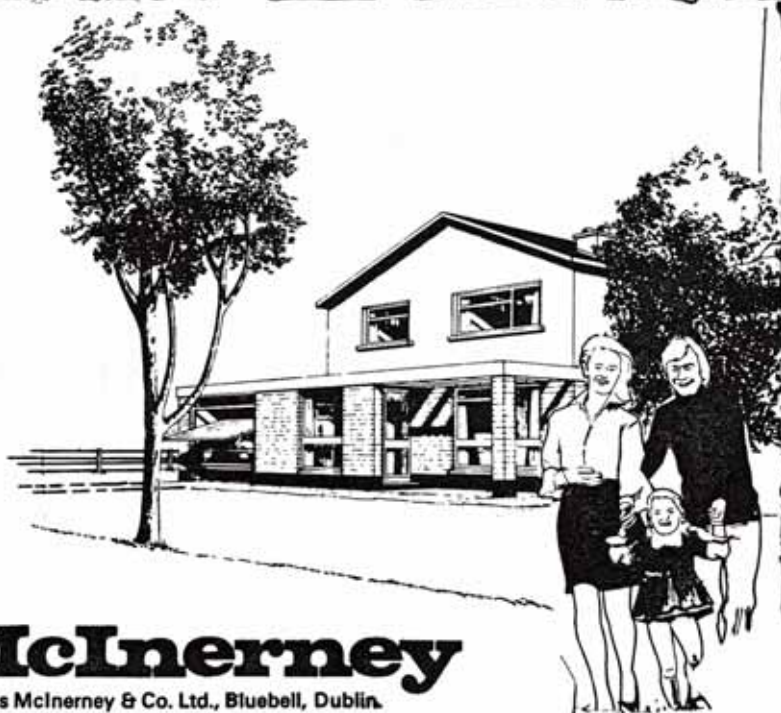
Coon	4	8	6	24	2
Graig	3	6	6	24	2

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WAS NICKSEY AN OLYMPIAN ?

FIVE all Irelands, 66 Leinster and several All Army titles hardly does justice to the proud record of a quiet and unassuming Coon man, Nicksey Comerford, who started his athletic career in the mid 1930's and is still going strong. The question has often been posed, had Nicksey Comerford Olympic potential?

He had no personal ambitions about it himself but it is felt by many judges that he could well have brought an Olympic medal or medals to this country.

Born in 1936, Nicksey who won hurling and football honours with Coon and can look back on close on 40 years' outstanding service to athletics in Kilkenny. Not only is he still competing with success but he is devoting much of his spare time to training the younger members of the Brow Rangers A.C. who have made a big impact throughout the country in the past few years.

Nicksey Comerford won county championships in under 10, under 12 and under 14 before winning his first all Ireland title in 1945, beating Esmonde, the Cork star in the 56 lbs over the bar. His throw of 13 feet, 9 ins. won him the title and he won a Leinster medal with a similar throw the following year.

In 1947 he won Leinster titles in the discus, the 16 lb. shot, the 56 lbs. without follow and the 56 lbs. over the bar. He also won the golden hammer but lost the title on an objection because his entry was late.

In 1948 he won seven county

championships at Freshford, the long jump, high jump, 16 lbs. shot, discus, 56 lbs. over bar and 56 lbs. without follow and was third in the 100 yards.

He might have been Irish Decathlon champion in 1954 had the 65 lbs. without follow and the 56 lbs. over the bar been included. He scored 4,800 points in the 100 yards, 220 yards, 440 yards, 880 yards, mile, long jump, high jump, pole vault, shot and discus a mere 200 points behind the winner.

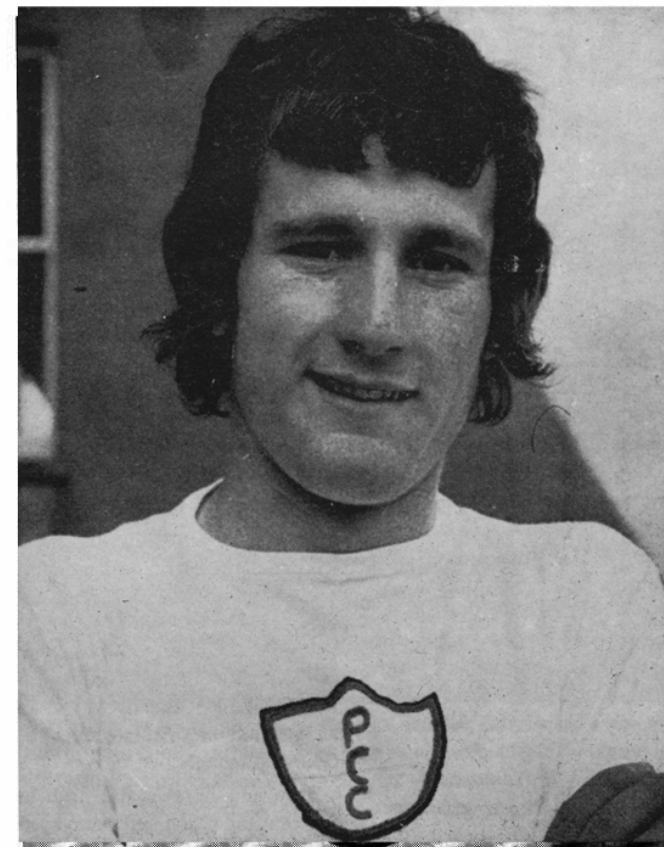
SIX MEDALS

This year in the all Ireland championships he won six medals being placed in the hammer, shot and discus as well as the javelin, 56 lbs. over the bar and 56 lbs. without follow and last year he tied with another Coon man, Tom Moran in the all Ireland weight throwing events.

Nicksey played football with Muckalee and Kilkenny and won northern junior hurling medals with Coon in 1960 and 1962. An outstanding coach he has helped the young athletes of the Coon area to win many honours and he and Tom Moran have helped to make the Brow Rangers club one of the most successful in the country.

Coon was the first ever county Kilkenny team to take part in the all Ireland tug-o-war championships and in 1970 they were runners up to Clongeen, Co. Wexford.

The team was: Bob Shore, Phil Purcell, Christy Shore, Bobby Gee, Martin Coogan, Jim Moran,



Peadar Hughes (17) from Clogh, a pupil at the Presentation Convent, Castlecomer, who won the All Ireland colleges senior handball title at Croke Park in May.

Mick Somers, Joe McEnrigh.

Coach for this team was Jim Kehoe, Cassagh, Coolcullen, chairman of the Brow Rangers A.C.

Nicksey's brother, Bill, who died in 1969 was also an outstanding athlete, specialising in the pole vault and high jump.

Brow Rangers A.C. is doing wonderful work in reviving in-

terest in athletics in the northern part of the county and men like Jim Kehoe, Joe Kelly, Martin Ryan, Tom Moran, Joe Kelly and Nicksey are helping the young men of Coon to maintain a proud tradition.

With men like Jack Barnes and Paddy Rowe, Nicksey Comerford has carved a niche of his own in Kilkenny Athletic history.

Polio Victim Becomes Star Athlete



ONE of the most promising contenders for a place on the Irish team in the 1976 Olympics in Toronto is star Kilkenny athlete Robert Norwood who recovered from polio to become one of Ireland's best middle distance runners. He joined the famed Dublin club, Donore Harriers recently - about the time he celebrated his twenty-first birthday on October 1.

As a young boy in Kilkenny college a polio affected shoulder kept him out of the sports arena but he fought the battle against the disability with tremendous courage. And he succeeded.

Born in Maudlin street, Kilkenny, he is son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Norwood and there are three girls in the family, Mabel, Viney and Grace. He started his education in the Kilkenny Model School and graduated to Kilkenny College where he studied for three years before joining the Monaster House staff and later he became manager of the Kilkenny Sports Centre.

He began his athletic career at 13 and joined Kilkenny City Harriers. At 17 his serious training began and he did special exercises to strengthen his shoulder. He was coached by Lorcan Bergin and the encouragement he got from him and from City Harriers secretary, Sean Byrne, helped him greatly.

He made his greatest impact on the Irish athletic scene in 1971 when he won the 800 metres under 18; the 400 metres and 800 metres national and Leinster

Contd on Page 50

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INTERMEDIATE TITLE FOR COON

FATHER Martin Ryan choose an appropriate year for his holiday in his native Coon from the Philippines where he is on mission work. He had the pleasure of seeing Coon win the first intermediate championship to be played in Kilkenny for about 40 years.

Coon beat Graignamanagh by 4-8 to 3-6 in a game that provided entertaining fare. But it somehow lacked the fervor of the previous clash between the sides when Graignamanagh put in a storming finish to score a deserved victory.

Lisdowney had been widely tipped to win the intermediate championship be played in Kilkenny for about 40 years.

Coon beat Graignamanagh by 4-8 to 3-6 in a game that provided entertaining fare. But it somehow lacked the fervour of the previous clash between the sides when Graignamanagh put in a storming finish to score a deserved victory.

Graignamanagh too looked like being a real live force in the campaign and their victories over Paulstown and Coon put them in a very strong position. The idea of having this grade played on a league basis worked out well and with eight teams taking part it was good going to have it completed reasonably early.

Anyway Coon won and Father Ryan returned to his missionary work a couple of days later a very happy man. He is one of the most dedicated GAA supporters there is and while engaged on his pastoral duties in the Philippines he makes it a point to keep in constant touch with the homeland.

The Graig half back line of Colm McDonald, Liam Ryan and Tom Foley did not reach peak form. All three have been seen to better advantage regardless of the opposition. Pat Kavanagh and John Joe Ryan who lined out at midfield did fairly well.

It was, perhaps, because Jack O'Connor did not have his customary devastating effect that the Graig attack, as a whole fail-

ed to reproduce the sparkling form they showed when these two sides last met. Certainly more could be expected from O'Connor and Liam Reddy, Mick Kinsella and the Butlers.

The surprising thing about this final was that those on whom Graig depended most did not live up to their true form. This was particularly noticeable in the case of inter county star, Jack O'Connor who thought he was top scorer was not in his typically devastating mood.

On the other hand Coon played splendidly as a team and several of their young players acquitted themselves splendidly.

Both goalies gave great exhibitions, Bobby Shore for the winners and Paddy Grace, who also maintained his fine form when helping Kilkenny to win an all Ireland intermediate title, for Graignamanagh.

It would be probably true to say that the Coon defence played better than for quite some time and George Doyle, John Ryan, Joe Kelly, Jimmy Kelly, Ned Coogan and Paul Kinsella left a very big imprint. They succeeded in containing a Graignamanagh attack that has a high scoring potential to a rather meagre 3-6.

Mick Lawlor's senior inter county experience, he played a big part in Kilkenny's victory over Cork in the 1969 all Ireland senior final, showed up to advantage. He was a veritable power house of energy and though occasionally he lapsed from his usual prominence he played a very big part in Coon's victory. He was ably supported by Tom Maher.

All the Coon forwards were prominent, some more prominent than others, but in addition they showed a fine sense of team work and their scores were well organised. Two of their younger players, Tom Kinsella and Tony Teehan were particularly impressive. Brendan Morrissey was deadly accurate from frees even with the greasy ball

Turn to next page



Nickey Morrissey, Willie Lawlor and Jimmy Walsh teamed up well to provide the Graig defence with a stiff task

Graignamanagh were rather unfortunate that Pat Cahill had been unwell for some time before the game but he showed fine team spirit by turning out and he did quite well. But it was full back Jack Bolger who was the big man in the Graig defence. He gave a very impressive exhibition of hurling all through, Shem Grady was also prominent.

An interesting co-oincidence about the game is that both sides had the same number of frees (24 each) and 70's (two each) but Graig had six wides to Coon's four. The fact that there were 48 frees might suggest that it was a tough game but it was anything but a tough game.

Referee Dick Dowling was making certain that the game could be controlled and in this he had the co-operation of the teams who showed fine sportsmanship.

Brendan Morrissey and Jack O'Connor exchanged points from frees and Liam Reddy (Graig) and B. Morrissey also had an exchange of points. Graig went ahead with an O'Connor point and then he shot to the net but Coon recovered and Brendan Morrissey with a point and Tom Kinsella a goal levelled.

Turn to page 45

Behind (l. to r.): M. Breen, J. Hickey, C. Delaney, P. Kirwan, J. Power, E. Walsh, C. McCarthy, P. Purcell, P. Naddy,

When Gowran beat Graignamanagh 3-2 to 2-1 in the county final of Roinn B under 12 championship they were winning the title for the second year in succession. The under 12 championship started in 1968 and the Gowran boys won at their second attempt in 1972 to record the parish's first win in juvenile hurling.

The combined efforts of the senior club and the teachers with Mr. P. Mackey acting as liaison helped to bring about the victories.

The 1972 team was: G. Burke, P. Kirwan, T. Keogh, L. Fenlon, J. Comerford, P. Whelan, P. J. Farrell, J. Lennon, F. Brennan, P. Harding, P. Butler, P. Ryan, M. Byrne, M. Mackey, T. Comerford, J. Power, P. Holden, P. Naddy.

In 1973 the Gowran boys had their most successful year. They won the under 12 county final and also got to the under 14 final to be narrowly beaten by Freshford. They also reached the final of the James Stephens tournament and lost to all Ireland champions, Farranree, Cork. In their first taste of inter county hurling they beat Clonmel and Bagenalstown.

J. Bollard, T. Bolger. (P. Ryan missing owing to illness).

Front row: (left to right): P. Harding, B. Nolan, P. Twomey, M. Byrne, G. Burke (captain), P. Holden, B. Twomey, M. Butler, T. Comerford, C. Purcell.

Also included: Messrs J. Knox N.T., D. Fenton N.T. and on the youth committee: P. Mackey and P. Treacy.

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CAMOGIE : THE FUTURE LOOKS GOOD

JO GOLDEN

IF ONE were to form an impression of camogie in Kilkenny from an examination of the progress of the county teams one could be excused for thinking that there is a mi-adh of some description on the game in the county.

It is history now how in 1968 Dublin were ousted from the Leinster senior championship for the first time in 32 years by a potentially great Kilkenny team which subsequently lost to Wexford and were defeated by Cork in the all Ireland finals of 1970 and 1971.

The junior teams of these years were equally promising but met with even less success. One might well ask how Kilkenny with as much natural talent could avoid winning an all Ireland title, particularly in view of the fact that St. Paul's the Presentation Convent of Kilkenny and Castlecomer and Scoil Bhríde, Callan, have each brought success to the county in their own spheres.

How many counties can boast of as many talented and experienced players as Kilkenny's O'Shea, Cassins, O'Neills, Ann Carroll, Mary Fennelly, Liz Neary, Ann Phelan and Mary O'Neill or such skilful youngsters as the Downys, the Dohenys, Bridie Martin and Ann Dreelan. One could become despondent on reflection that with such a combination of youth and experience the year 1973 has been even less

successful than the preceding five years.

The year 1973 saw the introduction of the open draw for the senior championship which for Kilkenny meant an opening round trip North to play Antrim a county for which training is almost impossible at the present time.

In a match which was regarded as vintage both sides finished level. The replay at Nowlan Park proved to be a disappointment to the home side which had sufficient possession of the ball to win but failed to capitalise on its many scoring opportunities.

That particular encounter will be remembered for the high standard of play but chiefly for the delightful displays given by Carmel O'Shea of Kilkenny and Mairead McAtamney of Antrim who are two of the best exponents of the game.

Antrim deservedly reached the all Ireland final and failed by the narrowest margin to a Cork team which simply refused to be beaten.

The Leinster championship now being run separately to the all Ireland series saw Kilkenny defeated by Dublin and so ended an unsuccessful year for the seniors.

There was some consolation for Carmel O'Shea, Liz Neary, Angela Downey and Peggy Carey in being chosen to represent Leinster in the inter Provincial series.

Incidentally Leinster were defeated by Ulster who in turn succumbed to an all Galway Connacht side which had defeated an all Cork Munster side.

The juniors began well by defeating Louth but were then beaten by Dublin who had already accounted for Wicklow. Generally speaking Kilkenny supporters had little to cheer about in 1973. However one could look beyond the inter county scene to see camogie in perspective. An all Ireland title is an indication of the prowess of the top players only in the county while the real strength can be judged by the strength of the game in the schools and clubs and by the dedication of the people behind the players.

Over the last few years such dedicated people as Bill and Mrs. O'Carroll, John Kenneally, Jimmy Morrissey, Nuala Duncan, Dick Cassin and Mick Kenny have been associated with the game in Kilkenny and have been largely responsible for Kilkenny's reaching two all Ireland finals and for securing those three in a row club titles.

This was no small achievement in view of the fact that Kilkenny had never won a Leinster title at these levels. Every attempt was made to improve the state of the game at club and school level and Presentation Convent, Kilkenny, responded by winning the colleges championship.

The above mentioned officials were also responsible for inviting Nell McCarthy of Dublin to give a coaching course in Kilkenny in 1968 when such a venture was quite an innovation. It could be argued that this particular course and the enthusiasm which it generated was the stepping stone to Kilkenny's subsequent successes in Leinster.

In November of last year the present County Board invited Mary Moran the trainer of the Cork teams to give a coaching course and if Kilkenny showed their appreciation of Nell by beating Dublin they must also show their appreciation of Mary Moran by beating Cork in their next encounter.

Indeed the present group of officials spare neither time nor energy where camogie is concerned and are intent upon increasing the number of clubs and colleges teams within the county. Beatrice Treacy the present secretary of the Co. Board would like to see at least 12 clubs in the county as against the present two senior and five junior clubs and feels

that there should be a camogie team attached to every hurling team.

Beatrice with Michael Hestor, chairman of the County Board, has visited schools in the county in an attempt to establish the game at this level. Michael in his capacity as chairman and as PRO has contributed in no small way to the advancement of the game within the county.



JO GOLDEN

Another man who devotes much of his time to camogie is Shem Downey who has delighted hurling fans on many an occasion while Father Dermot Healy manages to combine the task of trainer with his many pastoral commitments.

The county is fortunate in having other tireless workers in Sister Consilio, Mr. Dunne, a teacher in Castlecomer, Mary Conway, Mary Kennedy and Peggy Carey, who are a few of the dedicated people behind the scenes. Tessie Brennan who has represented the county at senior level and being involved in administration feels that while there is room for improvement camogie is in a healthy state within the county. She has seen the game advance steadily over the last few years and is particularly pleased that senior, junior and under 18 winter and summer leagues are now being run as these keep the players' interests alive during the entire year and brings new talent to light.

With regard to Kilkenny's inter county future Tessie is of the opinion that with such a wealth of talent and growing experience the county must reach the top within the next couple of years. No one could disagree with such logic. The potential is there as is the interest and enthusiasm and maybe in 1974 the girls will emulate the feats of the men and bring the all Ireland title to Kilkenny.

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Kilkenny Link With Derry

I DON'T know whether it was by accident or design that Kilkenny and Derry were paired off in An Lar Coiste Iomana Adoption Scheme but if it was by chance it could not have been planned better. The reason is that the "Mr. Hurling" of Derry is none other than Liam Hinphey, who, although Derry-born, sports a deep Kilkenny brogue, cultivated during his years at St. Kieran's College.

So "southern" does Liam sound that for quite some time I thought that he was born and bred down there. But that's not the case. He was born in Coleraine and his parents come from Ballymaguigan! However, his

father was a garda in Kilkenny and that's why Liam got his education at St. Kieran's. After that he studied in Dublin]

By Tony McGee

then spent a couple of years in England before going back to his native county in 1963 and to teach in St. Patrick's intermediate school in Dungiven.

"When I arrived there I found about three dozen hurls, unused, in the school. I distributed them and from there on hurling began to grab the imagination of the boys around here. The rise in the standard over the past few years has been phenomenal", said Liam.

Even had the Adoption Scheme not been introduced — has it been shelved? — Derry people would automatically now have close hurling affiliations with Kilkenny. Derry hurling is centred around Dungiven and that club has struck up a close relationship with city club James Stephens, Hinphey's club when he was domiciled by the Nore.

VIVID PORTRAYAL

Various challenge matches have taken place between the two clubs and the northerners are very grateful indeed for the courtesy shown them on their visits. It's a vivid portrayal of the interest the Dungiven members have in the James Stephens' club that arrangements were made this year for a party of 20 to travel down to the Kilkenny senior hurling final.

Naturally the Dungiven people were very disappointed at the result of the All-Ireland senior final. "But I suppose it can be argued that Kilkenny were very much understrength", said Hinphey. "The loss of players like Jim Treacy and Eddie Keher was a big handicap. At the same time we must appreciate that victory for Limerick has done an awful lot of good for hurling generally".

It was only about the mid-sixties that hurling got a foothold in Derry and Liam told me that the earlier efforts to establish the game were very haphazard.

"We had no method or plans until I went to the Gormanston

course. After that we were able to organise things a bit better and now hurling is on a firm basis in many parts of the county. It does mean a big expenditure in terms of time but it is criminal the way the G.A.A. has neglected hurling. They have spent a lot of money but in the wrong ways. Had they enlisted about 10 professional coaches it would have paid better dividends", is Hinphey's contention.

FATHER MAHER

Liam is lavish in his praise of Gormanston coach, Fr. Tommy Maher, the Kilkenny trainer. "He taught me at St. Kieran's and I have always had a high regard for him", enthused Hinphey. "He was always years ahead of his time. When I was at college he was teaching us methods that are only now becoming common practice. He is without a doubt the top coach in Ireland":

The present members of the Dungiven team are all past pupils of St. Patrick's intermediate school. They are drawn from an area around the town and quite a few of them play football — some with Dungiven and some with other clubs in the vicinity. Liam Hinphey, Seamus Stevenson, Fintan McCloskey and Paddy Murphy are some of their stars.

This year the club retained the Derry senior title when they beat Lavey in the county final on September 30. The Lavey team included Anthony McGurk, the Derry, Queen's and Combined Universities and All-Star footballer.

To back up his claim about the "phenomenal rise in standards at under-age levels" Hinphey pointed out to me that the club's under-14 team went to Cork at the invitation of the Na Pairsaig club and won a tournament which included the Cork, Tipperary, Laois and Kilkenny champions.

And who did the Derry youngsters defeat to win the Jack Lynch Perpetual Challenge Cup? Yes, you guessed it — James Stephens from Kilkenny.

Incidentally, Liam Hinphey's love may be hurling but he has more than a passing interest in football too. A few months ago he challenged Harry Cassidy for the post of Derry senior team manager and only lost out by one vote.

Liam told me that he breathed a sigh of relief afterwards!

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JUNIOR TITLE GOES TO SHAMROCKS

THE first I heard of The Shamrocks was from an old friend, Father Sean Reid home from New York in his native Knocktopher, he was born quite a short distance away at Kiltorcan and had spent many years guiding the destinies of the Kilkenny G.A.A. and the Kilkenny men's Association in New York. That was a couple of years ago.

Strangely enough the first time I saw them playing was when they won the county junior hurl-

ing title at Thomastown by beating Dicksboro. I did not have an opportunity of seeing "The Boro" but I had more contact with the Boro mentors.

The Shamrocks, the union of Knocktopher and Ballyhale, had distinct possibilities. Not so long ago Kilkenny county senior hurler, Frank Cummins had won county junior honours with Knocktopher and county minor honours with Ballyhale. Denis Heaslip, holder of two all Ireland senior medals with Kilkenny had helped to fashion the victory of Knocktopher junior hurlers and the Carrolls among others had helped to build up a great Knocktopher tradition. Indeed Dick Holohan a distinguished Knocktopher Dail Deputy and famed county senior footballer contributed very significantly to Knocktopher's great G.A.A. tradition.

Dicksboro too has an enviable tradition and while I was impressed by the claims made on their behalf by shrewd mentors in their effort to win this year's county junior title and so rekindle

a new interest in a renowned name I was conscious of the that that down Castlebanny way there were Fennellys made of stern stuff and Dicksboro's task was not going to be easy. There were more than Fennellys. In fact Father Sean Reid's nephew played a significant part in the Shamrocks triumph and there were others too who shed lustre on the Ballyhale/Knocktopher hurling tradition.

It was appropriate too that in the Shamrocks lineout a Shefflin should figure. The late Tom Shefflin gave a life time of devoted service to the game and Pat Carroll carried on the good work done by the Carrrolls of a previous generation.

There were others too like Maurice Mason and Michael Hoyne who won all Ireland intermediate medals this year. A well balanced young, intelligent hurling side scored a comfortable victory. Even the most enthusiastic Dicksboro supporter will agree that it was easier than the five points winning margin would suggest, brought honour to where it rightly belonged.

Nickey Morrissey netted for Coon and Liam Ryan had a Graig goal from a 70 yards free. O'Connor had two points and Tony Teehan a Coon goal to leave the half time scores : Coon, 3 5, Graig, 2 5.

Tony Teehan (1 1) and Mick Lawlor and Brendan Morrissey (0 2) each scored for Coon in the second half while Donie Cullen (0 1) and Tom Foley (1-0) scored for Graig.

Coon : B. Shore, G. Doyle, J. Ryan, Joe Kelly, J. Kelly, E. Coogan, P. Kinsella, M. Lawlor, T. Maher, B. Morrissey, T. Teehan, T. Kinsella, N. Morrissey, W. Lawlor, J. Walsh.

Graignamanagh : P. Grace, P. Cahill, J. Bolger, S. Grady, C. McDonald, L. Ryan, T. Foley, P. Kavanagh, J. J. Ryan, L. Reddy, W. Walsh, J. O'Connor, M. Butler, J. Butler, M. Kinsella. Subs : P. Corbett for P. Cahill, J. Conlon for L. Reddy, D. Cullen for C. McDonald.

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Tithe War Inspired Carrickshock

BY SENATOR BOB AYLWARD

IT was appropriate that Carrickshock should have won their first senior hurling title in 1931, the centenary of the Battle of Carrickshock. In the 20 years in which Carrickshock held a prominent place in Kilkenny senior hurling they won seven county senior titles and contested a number of finals.

I think we can say we made our presence felt in Kilkenny hurling and not only that but Carrickshock men played a big part in Kilkenny's all Ireland final victories in 1932, 1933, 1935, 1939 and 1947.

Carrickshock came into being in 1928. I was not then in the club. Things were not very bright in junior ranks in Knockmoylean and Hugginstown and the idea of joining the two clubs together gained a lot of support in both areas. Then the question arose

what was to be the name of the club. Carrickshock was the most appropriate and it found general favour.

There were several prominent local people involved in getting the club off the ground. They included Pierre Barden, who was subsequently chairman of the Southern Board for a number of years Pake Butler, Ned Walsh] the Daltons, Walshs; Jim Roughan and of course Dinny Treacy a kinsman of one of the heroes of the Tithe War battle.

Carrickshock played a draw with Mooncoin in the 1929 county final but lost the replay. They were not in the final in 1930 but they came in 1931 to beat Urlingford by 5-8 to 3-8 in a thrilling county decider. They had previously beaten Mooncoin in the semi final by 3-6 to 2-1.

Played at Nowlan Park on

December 13, Urlingford led by 2-6 to 2-5 at half time but Carrickshock finished strongly to run out convincing winners.

Urlingford had control in the first quarter but before half time Carrickshock got two goals.

The Carrickshock team was : W.Kelly (captain), J. McBride (goal); W. Dalton, T. Dalton, J. Dalton, D. Treacy, S. O'Farrell, J. Walsh, G. Dermody, J. Dermody, T. Walsh, W. Drennan, W. Kearns, J. Fitzpatrick, P. Kelly.

Carrickshock produced many great hurlers down the years. Dinny Treacy figured in the memorable finals against Cork in 1931 when he came on as a sub in the second replay. Then we had Jack Fitzpatrick, Sean O'Farrell, Bobby Hincks, The Duggans and in later years Jim-

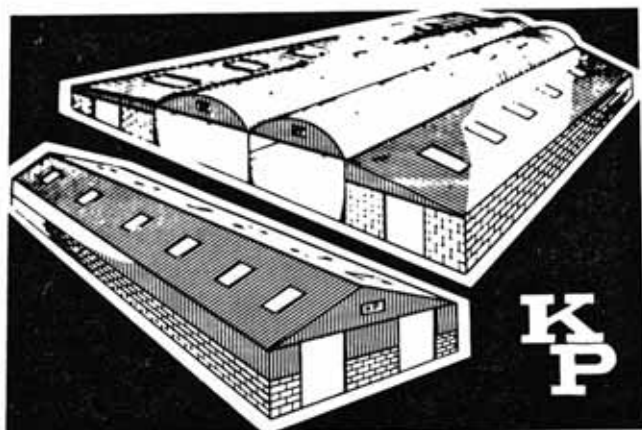


my Kelly, whose display in the 1947 all Ireland final will long be remembered, Jimmy Heffernan and Bill Walsh.

We had great men like Jack Phelan who was well up to the best in inter county standards and Georgie Dermody could also hold his own in any company.

Kilkenny : 1935 All Ireland Minor Champions





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THE ALL-STARS

THE seven Kilkennymen chosen as Carrolls All Stars have all contributed significantly to Kilkenny's all Ireland final triumphs over the past few years.

Eddie Keher joins the select band who have been chosen for all the Carrolls All Stars teams since this interesting sporting innovation came into existence. He surely deserves to be the greatest scoring forward of all time and despite the injury which kept him sidelined for some games including the all Ireland final he is leading scorer this year.

Between 1959 and 1972 (except for one year, 1964) Eddie accumulated totals of over 100 points a year. He has been top scorer for several years.

In the 1963 all Ireland final in which Kilkenny beat Waterford he scored 14 points and never hit the ball wide during the hour. Some of the points were, of course, from frees. In 1971 he established another personal record of two goals and 11 points, the highest ever for any player on the losing side in an all Ireland final and in 1972 he scored 2.9 the highest ever for a player on a winning all Ireland side.

In 1971 he scored 30 goals and 35 points to beat the record up to then held by famed Wexford star Nick Rackard of eight goals in 1956 and he also eclipsed the football record of Mick O'Dwyer.

Phil Larkin: Phil Larkin has the Carrolls All Stars award conferred on him this year, a deserved tribute to a courageous and skilful defender who has given long and distinguished service to Kilkenny hurling. He occupies a role, right full back, held for a period (when he was not at full back) by his father, Paddy Larkin one of Kilkenny's all time greats. In their hurling approach father and son have a lot in common. Both have had to try their wits against forwards of greater height and weight but this provided little difficulty for them. Their tenacity and skill have always come to the fore. Phil was on the Kilkenny senior side in 1962 after a distinguished minor career and won all Ireland medals in 1963 and 1972. He has won a Railway cup medal with Leinster and a senior championship title with James Stephens.

Pat Delaney: Pat Delaney had to wait six years from the time he won his first all Ireland medal with Kilkenny minors in 1961 to win his first senior medal in 1969. He had been on the Kilkenny senior side before this. He won his second all Ireland medal last year. He has two Railway cup medals and an Oireachtas medal and has won three county championships with his club, The Fenians.

A forward of remarkable ability he amazed the Croke Park crowds in the 1972 final when he raced through the Cork defence hopping the ball against the ground and catching it. This is in order to make ground without fouling and Pat Delaney is the only man to make this work perfectly. He is stylish and has a devastating power of bursting through and of catching the ball in the air.

Kieran Purcell: Kieran Purcell gave an amazing display of goal keeping in the 1963 all Ireland minor final. He was on the Kilkenny under 21 team in 1965 and 1966 and also played on the Kilkenny intermediate team. He won his first all Ireland senior medal in 1972.

Kieran Purcell is acknowledged as one of the best forwards playing today. Unselfish he has a fine sense of position and distributes the ball intelligently. His forte is bursting through and when he does this he is rarely stopped. He has tremendous courage and is a hard and accurate hitter on the ground or in the air.

Kieran also plays football and is one of the best players on the county football side.

Liam O'Brien: Liam was the youngest player on the Kilkenny side when they beat Cork in the all Ireland final of 1972 and was one of the most outstanding players on the field that day. He was only 16 when he made the Kilkenny minor team in 1965 and was on the senior side in 1969. He did not play in the all Ireland final that year but he made his greatest impact in the 1972 final.

Noel Skehan: One of the greatest of modern goalies, Noel Skehan had to wait for quite a while before given the opportunity of following in the footsteps of Ollie Walsh. When he did just

EIRE OG MADE GREAT IMPACT



ONE of the greatest clubs in Kilkenny senior hurling in recent years sprung from a great minor team and helped to bring a new style of hurling to the fore. This club was Eire Og with which the name of Jim Langton, one of the greatest stylists the game has known whose body swerve was uncanny, was indelibly linked.

Jim was not the only star to come from this renowned city side. Jack Mulcahy, Seanie O'Brien, Terry Leahy and Jack Gargan were also names to conjure with in the late 1930's and early 1940's.

The beginnings of the Eire Og club go back to 1930 when a great supporter of Gaelic games the late Rev. Brother McNamara of the Kilkenny CBS decided that it was high time that a club should be formed drawing most of its members from former pupils of the school.

He got plenty of support from Rev. Father Brennan, then a curate in St. Mary's cathedral; Rev. Bro. Kealy and Mick Loughman.

One night in 1930 they met in the CBS and a new club was formed called Young Irelands. They fixed the colours as blue and white with a harp. It was a young club in more ways than one and their first venture was to enter a team in the minor championship. Not unnaturally they met with little success.

Back again they came in 1931 and on this occasion won the first of their many minor county championships. They retained the title the following year. These successes were registered under the name, Young Irelands but in 1933 they changed the name to Eire Og and their colours to green.

Once again they went on to take the minor county championship with a side back boned by CBS pupils such as Jim Langton, Seanie O'Brien, Bobby Brannigan, Paddy Boyle, Tom Delaney, Eamonn Tallent, Martin McEvoy and present County Secretary, Paddy Grace.

In 1935 again county minor champions the club provided no

fewer than 12 of the side that won the all Ireland minor title. The 12 were: Tom Delaney, Paddy Grace, Paddy Boyle, Marty McEvoy, Eamonn Tallent, Jack Mulcahy, Jim Langton, Terry Leahy, Seanie O'Brien, Billy Holohan, Martin Grace and Tom Waldron.

In 1936 they decided to enter junior ranks in hurling and football and won both in addition to the minor title, and providing the county minor team with 13 of the 15 players. In the same year most of the players were on the CBS team which captured the school's first title.

In 1935 after winning the minor and intermediate championships they decided to enter senior ranks. In their first year they reached the final and lost but made amends the following year with a great victory. In 1940 the club withdrew from the championship at the semi final stage and in 1941 although they had the services of 11 Railway cup players they lost to Carrickshock in the final.

A rather odd feature about the club was that they had no committee up until 1944. The club was taken care of by the late Mick Loughman.

The club's first officials were Tom Neary, Jimmy Walsh and Billy Holohan. Jimmy Walsh later took over as secretary and he in turn gave way to Paddy Johnston.

In 1944 though the club had only 16 playing members they went on to win the senior championship. That team was one of their best and included: Jack and Joe Gargan, Tommy Murphy, Jack Mulcahy, Liam Reidy, Paddy O'Brien, Mick Brett, Johnny Power, Billy Holohan, Jim Langton, Paddy Brett, Mick Neary. It was captained by Peter Blanchfield.

Nine of this side which retained the county senior title in 1945 were on the all Ireland team of the same year when they lost narrowly to Tipperary.



Two-in-a-Row For Vocational School

WHAT A distinction the boys of the Co. Kilkenny Vocational team have this year. Not only did they win the Vocational schools All Ireland for the second successive year, but, they were also the first to bring an all Ireland title to the county.

Impressive indeed, but when one is reminded that this team is drawn from only four schools in the county, Kilkenny, Johnstown, Thomastown and Ballyhale, it is seen in the real light of its achievement. It is also an indication of the steady progress the schools are making.

What a turn about this year's final was. The fact that it was the first time that Kilkenny defeated North Tipperary, specialists in this competition (they won 7 titles, followed by Kilkenny with 2 and this year's one, 3), by a margin of nine points, speaks for itself.

But when it is compared with the result of the previous year, in which they defeated Cork by two points and lucky to do so, it shows the real improvement in the schools.

North Tipperary who have nine Munster titles, opened their campaign with an 8-2 to 3-1 win over Clare. They then scored an 11-7 to 2-4 victory over Limerick and beat Cork County by 5-7 to 4-4 in the decider.

Kilkenny, who now have six Leinster titles, beat Galway by 2-8 to 2-6, Wexford by 8-6 to 3-2, and Offaly by 1-9 to 1-8 in the provincial final.

There was plenty of experience in this Kilkenny panel. Tony Murphy, Tom Shea, Kevin Robinson, Martin Orr, John Knox, Sam Dunlop, Michael Hogan, Eamonn Lalor and Martin Kennedy all played the previous year.

On statistics it would seem North Tipperary would sweep to another victory, but games are not won on statistics as they were to find to their dismay.

Tipperary starting well drew first blood, Paddy Hector opening their account with a point. Kilkenny immediately hit back and by the end of the first quarter led by 1-3 to 0-2. Eamonn Lalor in the

meantime scoring a great goal for the Noreiders.

Kilkenny had their lead at this stage cut to a single point when D: Kelly got a goal back for Tipperary. Kilkenny with another goal being added by M: Kennedy, held a deserved half time lead of a single point (2-3 to 1-6).

If Kilkenny played well in the first half then it is no describing the performance they gave in the second. They completely ran riot over the Tipperary boys, and came out easy winners by nine points in the end (3-11 to 1-8).

A measure of Kilkenny's superiority at this stage can be seen from the fact that they held Tipperary to two points in the second half, and both of those came from frees.

For Martin Kennedy, this was a personal victory. He chose this game to give the best performance of his life and alone accounted for 2-9 of Kilkenny's total. Tom Shea, Kevin Robinson, P: Lennon, Michael Hogan and Mick Moore all played well for Kilkenny.

*Robert Norwood Contd
from Page 38*

championships under 18 and the Leinster 400 metres and 800 metres under 20. He represented the Rest of Ireland at Limerick. He also won the Tailteann Games 800 metres under 19.

He declined a four year athletic scholarship to Tennessee in 1972.

In 1973 his achievements include winning the 800 metres national junior title; second in the 800 metres senior championships won by Noel Carroll; second in the 800 metres Southern Counties AAA Championships at Crystal Palace, London.

This courageous young athlete's ambition is to represent Ireland in the Olympics. His chance could well come in 1976.

Don't Write Off Football

THREE points from their last two games is the unenviable record of the Kilkenny footballers in the National League but it would be a grievous mistake to write off football in this county on that account.

It is true that football has not developed to the extent it might have in the county and this is all the more surprising because Kilkenny has a reasonably good football tradition.

It might be argued that Kilkenny has not the population to sustain both codes, hurling and football, and while very few counties have been able to do this successfully there is hardly any doubt that the standard here could be considerably improved.

A number of dedicated people in the county, people like Mick Meally, Francie O'Brien, Seamus Delaney, Larry Hayden, and many others in various parts of the county, have been striving gallantly to raise the standard and it is not their fault that their efforts have not been more successful.

The obvious solution is to concentrate on the schools but this is

not a simple answer. Our young players must learn the finer points of the game and for this we need coaches. It would be all the better if we could get coaches from some of the better football counties.

There has been a good deal of very valuable work already done in the schools and last year the Thomastown vocational school brought us our first football title in 50 years when they won the

Leinster under 15 title.

One of the best displays of football as it should be played seen in the county this year was the under 16 final between Thomastown and St Mary's. And the standard of the Thomastown boys was particularly good.

If football is to make any progress the game will have to be taken more seriously particularly by the footballers themselves. A serious effort should be made to

do something practical. Meanwhile the only hope is to rely on the excellent work being done in the schools.

Railyard won the senior title again this year and are gradually creeping up on Glenmore's record of 17 titles. Railyard is top football area in the county and has been for some time but until similar standards can be attained in other areas we cannot hope for any big development.

DICKSBORO' JUNIOR HURLING TEAM



Winners of Northern Junior Championship and City League, 1932

BACK ROW: J. Dunne, J. Denieffe, M. Tyrrell, D. Murphy, P. Bourke, W. Byrne, M. Brennan, P. Geoghegan, M. Trehy, P. Little (Hon. Sec.)

MIDDLE ROW: J. Dunne, J. Barry, R. Trehy, P. Shortall (Capt.), Rev. W. Brennan, C.C. (President), C. Barry, C. Murray, B. Kelly, P. Denieffe, J. Shortall.

FRONT ROW: M. Carroll, Master Pad Joe Little, A. Dalton, E. Shortall, Master Tom Little, M. Gargan.

HURLING, like all sports, provides its own quota of unusual and interesting anecdotes and the old time hurlers, particularly had many entertaining stories to tell about the games and the people that played them.

But here is one that does not come from a hurler but from one of Kilkenny's best known sporting personalities, Paddy Dunphy of Castlecomer. And it concerns no less a personage than Dick Grace.

Towards the end of his hurling career Dick Grace had a hurley which he prized very highly. Tullaroan were playing the Garda, a great team in those days, in the Prince Grounds, Castlecomer and

HURLEY IN A HARE BOX

the Tullaroan team put up in Nicholas Dunphy's.

Nicholas Dunphy, a great athlete, coursing patron and G.A.A. supporter was Paddy's father and the team dressed in the yard of his licensed premises. There were hare boxes in the yard and the hurlers used them to sit on.

Next day Paddy Dunphy was clearing up in the yard and discovered a hurley in one of the hare boxes. That evening he was making his way to the Prince Grounds proudly waving his hurley when a

well known sporting figure — Paddy couldn't remember his name — stopped him and asked him where he got the hurley.

On being told he exclaimed: "that explains it; there has been consternation in Tullaroan over that hurley and the whole parish is out looking for it":

The hurley was, of course, duly returned to Dick.

Another story used to be told with great gusto by the late Paddy Phelan, surely one of the greatest half backs the game has known,

and it concerned Paddy himself.

Kilkenny were playing Dublin in Wexford Park and the ball came in towards the Kilkenny goal area. Paddy ran and caught but he was running so fast and space was so limited that he had nowhere to go except straight into the Kilkenny net.

Peter O'Reilly was full back that day and as Paddy was passing he handed him the ball. This was a foul the referee did not see.

O'Reilly joyfully took the ball and after clearing it to midfield quipped, "That was great, Phelan".

WE HAVE all heard the statement that the Gaelic Athletic Association is not merely a sports organisation or that trouble on the playing field would not arise as often as it unfortunately does if the teams could get together more often in a friendly social atmosphere. Both of these ideas bear directly on the social activities side of the organisation. In recent years the GAA's image of a sports body merely and a nonsexual one at that has been given the lie by the greater and deserved publicity being given to camogie and the flowering of the Scor competition as well as the policy of social amenities.

The GAA was established primarily to inculcate in our people a true appreciation of the worth of their own traditions and practices, sport and hobbies. Although times change and the Europe of today is not the Europe of 1884 the basic need for a true appreciation of culture, language, games and pastimes is as important as ever.

If we can only offer to modern times and to modern Europe a pale mirror image of international mass culture we are only second class Europeans. But if into the culture weave of the EEC the Irish people, North, South, East and West can and do introduce a strong strand of respected tradition and culture we can rightly face the future as equals or perhaps better.

So then there is now the push forward, mainly by means of the GAA Club Development Scheme but also by the clubs moving independently, with social centres, meeting rooms, halls, kitchens, lounges etc. aimed at providing social amenities for young and old, male and female. The aim today is to make the GAA club a primary focal point of community activity.

Of course we must face the fact that this is a challenging concept. The GAA is basically adding on a whole new range of activities. For those to whom the club was but a team this new dimension seems foolhardy, indeed, but the point must be made that the cultural side of the association cannot properly exist without the buildings, stages and meeting rooms required. So the GAA is in the business of making our traditions loved primarily

through our national games but also through the music, song, dances, language, history and pastimes of our country.

The centre run by the GAA club should then encourage these facets of Irish life and the Irish proverb, "mol an oige agus t'ochfaidh se" should be applied rather than enforce too narrow an interpretation of what "Irish" or "traditional" is and lose the support of the people.

The music of Sean O Riada is a case in point, modern yet traditional. A ceili which attracts no one does a positive dis-service whereas a dance which includes ceili dancing has time and again made the ceili section most enjoyable in the longer run.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES IN THE GAA

—BY REV LIAM BARRON—

Irish people will be brought more and more within the European environment where other languages and cultures other than the Anglo-Saxon exist. The paper wall and information wall between us and Europe will collapse and our natural feelings of being different will be echoed in our dealings with the French, Germans and the rest.

The need to be different should help each of us to appreciate our own native language and encourage it in the clubs. This feeling is already beginning to work through the community and in the centres already established Irish classes are being run along with PE and other activities. So the GAA as a national body has a commitment here.

The recent Scor competitions have at county level been held where possible in the GAA centres and have been highly enjoyable and profitable. Some areas starved of indoor amenities are now getting them through such centres and committees where vocational school, ICA,

Macra na Feirme and others are glad to bring these activities to these GAA centres. All this leads to a richer community life for individual people, families and the neighbourhood. It also breaks down barriers, social and religious.

Are these activities bad for the GAA or will they effect the promotion of the national games? One could foresee circumstances in which they could be harmful. For example, too great an emphasis on pop culture or drink, rowdiness or inefficient management could work against if not wreck the work of the association in a particular area.

But a well chosen committee with responsible people will avoid all such pitfalls and make the club rooms an attribute for progress and enrichment. For the female people in the community, married or single, it offers scope for activity and planning which is now freely given in many centres.

For the non player who cannot be involved in games administration it offers much scope for using talent otherwise. For wet days and dark evenings much GAA activity can go ahead where formerly all activity had to stop. Teams should benefit from having their own club rooms where open discussion can take place and also PE when necessary, while the social activities as first mentioned in this article can soothe the scars of conflict on the field.

Social activities properly organised can also provide a club with a source of income from which proper facilities can spring and which will enable the games activity to be broadened.

How many clubs at the moment are stifled in juvenile activities for lack of money? For the visiting team its hosting takes on a new meaning. The local team is really "at home" to the visitors and the community can really welcome the strangers in a way which without the facilities could be impossible.

The motto is moderate facilities for a number rather than lavish facilities for the few. Remember men of vision set the GAA club development scheme in motion. Others will bring it to fruition in the 70's and beyond.

HURLING FOR 1,000 GUINEAS

WOULD you believe that even as far back as 200 years ago hurling was a popular game played and watched by the nobility and gentry. And the games carried big betting money. A match played in Banagher in September 1773 appears to have what must be the biggest betting of all. There was no less than 1,000 guineas gambled on a game between Tipperary and Galway which Tipperary won.

Even around the middle of the 18th century hurling and football matches were played frequently and no less a personage than the wife of the Lord Lieutenant attended them.

The Countess of Northumberland saw a game at the Curragh in October 1763. Describing it as the most noble and manly exercise in the world she thought there was nothing like it in Europe.

The Countess of Westmoreland attended a hurling game in the Phoenix Park in 1792 and a huge crowd included the nobility and gentry. The game displayed "much agility and athletic contention and great diversion was afforded until the spectators forced on to the playing ground and the match remained unfinished".

It is noteworthy too that in those days hurling was played in what are now the traditional hurling counties. Kilkenny, Tipperary and Galway appear to have been very active in the games. The most famous venues were the Commons of Gowran, the Green of Urlingford, Ballingarry and Gort (Co. Galway). In Dublin matches were played on Crumlin commons.

As early as January 1731 a football game was played at Dangann, Thomastown organised by a Mr. Wesley, an ancestor of the Duke of Wellington. This was a match between married men and bachelors. A century before this hurling was banned by an Act of Parliament passed at the instigation of the same gentry and nobility who found it so entertaining in the 18th century.

25 All Ireland Medals

Gilmartin's Record Is Unsurpassed

WAS John Joe Gilmartin the greatest handballer? In the hardball code he certainly was and few players of any generation matched his ability in both codes. He won handball titles in both codes up to mid 1942 and then went to England. In 1944 a tragic accident resulted in John Joe sustaining a fractured and dislocated spine and a broken neck. He spent the year 1944 in hospital but he amazed the medical profession in England by walking out a fully recovered and fit man.

Gilmartin's tremendous courage, his will to live and his supreme physical fitness helped in his miraculous recovery. But the 2! years he spent in Britain surely cost him several handball titles. He returned to Ireland to take up where he left off and continued to gather more and more all Ireland titles.

Gilmartin lived during a period when the country boasted some great handballers. Paddy Perry was supreme for several years and then there were the Hassett brothers of Tipperary and Paddy

Reid, a close friend and partner of Perry.

One of John Joe's greatest performances was against the famed Perry in 1939 played in Boyle, Perry's home court. Perry was giving away five years to the Kilkenny star but he had home court advantage and still at the peak of his form.

Gilmartin was in sparkling form and won decisively. It was one of the finest exhibitions ever of the game.

Paddy Reid in a letter to John Joe after this game wrote: 'Please allow me to congratulate you on your wonderful display in Boyle

on Sunday. It was the finest exhibition I have ever witnessed in the softball code and I have seen quite a number of championship games in my time. You are certainly a marvellous man and indeed very worthy title holder in this the greatest of all games, handball.

"A number of old time enthusiasts from all over the west whom I had been in conversation with after the match were thrilled beyond all measure with your masterly display. They never before witnessed anything like it and it is very doubtful if they ever will again".



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Tithe War Inspired Carrickshock

Carrickshock won their second senior county title in 1938 and achieved the rare distinction of taking four in a row in 1940, 1941, 1942 and 1943. They won their last senior titles in 1951 and the introduction of the parish rule brought about a vast change in the club's fortunes.

Down the years we were fortunate in having top class officials. Harry Lynch and Peter McBride in addition to those mentioned gave great service as did Jack Brophy and many others.

There was always a great spirit in the club and I think we can claim to have brought the best out of younger players who joined from time to time. We had many memorable games too. We had some great games with Eire Og in the late 1930's and early 1940's and if there is one game more than any other that gave us great satisfaction it was in 1941 when we beat an Eire Og team

which had no less than 11 Railway Cup players in their side.

This was a great Eire Og team and we had some very thrilling games with them, games which did a lot to advance the game in the county.

I would like to get back to the first county final we won and to say that Tommy and Jer Leahy, Jimmy Burke, Hickey and others constituted a great Urlingford team. In that game 'Dux' Kelly figured prominently for us and Jack Fitzpatrick a county junior player was top scorer for Carrickshock.

After the introduction of the parish the parishes of Aghaviller which embraces Hugginstown and the parish of Ballyhale which includes Knockmoylan had to go their separate ways. The days of glory were over but the game continues to flourish. We have many happy memories of the period from 1931 to 1951 when we made our presence felt in Kilkenny hurling.

The All Stars

that he did it in style. It was as sub goalie that he won his first all Ireland medal as net minder for the Kilkenny minors. He was deputy goalie in 1963, 1967, 1969 and played a big part in Kilkenny's triumph in 1972.

He has won three Oireachtas medals, a Leinster medal and six county championship medals with Bennettsbridge. He has played outfield on occasion with his own club, particularly in his early days and was quite a useful forward. He is one of the leading squash players in Kilkenny.

Pat Henderson: One of the most forceful defenders of the present day Pat Henderson first took his hurling seriously when he was a student in Thurles CBS. He won his first all Ireland medal with Kilkenny minors in 1961 and also played on Kilkenny Under 21 and intermediate sides. He made the Kilkenny senior side in 1964 and was on successful all Ireland senior sides in 1967, 1969 and 1972.

Pat has won two Railway Cup medals and three Oireachtas medals and won the Cuchulainn award three times. He has won three county championship medals with The Fenians and has played inter county football.

Eire Og Made Great Impact

From page 49

They regained the county championship two years later and this side included Nick O'Donnell who helped to bring about the great Wexford resurgence and also the one and only Pat ('Diamond') Hayden.

The year 1947 was possibly the greatest year in the history of the Eire Og club, providing eight of the players in the Kilkenny selection which beat Cork in the memorable all Ireland final of that year.

Eire Og have come and gone but they certainly left a tremendous imprint on Kilkenny hurling. Their unique style brought a new dimension to the game and it is very much to be regretted that they are no longer with us.

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