

KILKENNY

YEAR BOOK 1974



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KILKENNY YEAR BOOK 1974

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BEST YEAR EVER



PETER HOLOHAN

THIS WAS, without doubt, the greatest year in Kilkenny hurling history with outstanding successes in hurling, handball and camogie. It is particularly gratifying that a year marked by such signal success for hurling should also see the first camogie All-Ireland title come to Kilkenny. The Kilkenny girls have been making tremendous efforts in recent years to win a national title and this year's great victory was overdue.

Another source of satisfaction is the successes gained by our under-age teams. The under 14 team won the Leinster final – the under-14 championships do not go beyond provincial level and this is a pity. The team that represented Kilkenny in the Community Games won an All-Ireland title to bring, in all, three hurling titles to the county.

The handballers, particularly our younger handballers, also made a big impact and the signs are that the future for the game in Kilkenny is bright. It is worth noting, too, that our minor camogie team reached the All-Ireland semi-final to be beaten by Down, ultimate winners of All-Ireland honours.

The players are primarily responsible for these successes but dedicated officials also have a vital role to play and it is due to their untiring work that this county has had so much success over the years. It is to these dedicated officials we must look to ensure that not only will more successes come our way but that the future of hurling is secure.

In recent years great stress has been laid on the need to develop social activities in the G.A.A. This is a legitimate aspiration but the preservation of the great national game should be the primary objective. In counties like Kilkenny, steeped in the hurling tradition, the responsibility of ensuring the continuity of a game that is very much a part of our way of life is greater. There is little likelihood that that responsibility will be shirked by those who have given such distinguished service to it in the past and who can be relied upon to keep up the good work.

Contributions

MOST REV. DR. BIRCH
Bishop of Ossory
(Foreword)

MR. MICK O'NEILL
Chairman of County Board

MR. PADDY GRACE
County Secretary

PADRAIG PURSEAL
("Irish Press")

RAYMOND SMITH
("Irish Independent")

MRS: BEATRICE TREACY
Secretary County Camogie
Board

THANKS

We thank our advertisers, contributors and all who helped to produce Kilkenny's third G.A.A. Yearbook.

COVER PICTURE—Kieran Purcell shoots a great goal in this year's memorable Leinster Final against Wexford.

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YEAR BOOK

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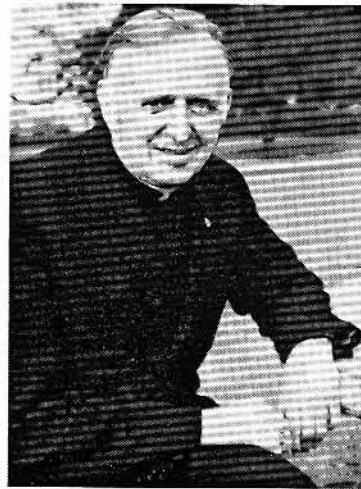
**KILKENNY
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pictures of G.A.A.
games.

FOREWORD

by
MOST REV. DR. PETER BIRCH
Bishop of Ossory.



Enormous influence of our hurlers

IT IS a pleasure to be asked to write for the G.A.A. Year Book. I know we are all proud of the success of the county teams this past season. Much has been said of them. Games and highlights of games have been played over and over, and individuals and groups have been given their own measure of praise. All one can usefully say of that is that it was all deserved.

So I would like to move on to another aspect of the matter. It is the influence that these teams and the individual members of them have had. I don't imagine they are fully aware of it themselves – most of them are too unassuming to begin to think that way, but nevertheless it is very great. We have had great times, fine players and fine men in the past, but none, I think, could equal the present for exemplary behaviour on or off the field.

One of our troubles in Ireland is that, because of the unfortunate effects of our political history, we have very few who are un-

iversally accepted as fit to be held up before our young people as examples to follow. There is always a group anxious to knock the good qualities of everyone. Our sportsmen have had to take over, and it is my belief that we in Kilkenny have been very well served by our hurlers and never better than with the present team. And now we have the girls, too. The same is true of our handballers, I am sure. I know they had a successful year, too, though I am not so well up in that branch.

I suppose that it is only those who are under constant pressure and pretty well all the time in the public eye who can realise what a strain that sort of life can be. You get tired of it, you would like to crawl into a hole now and again; inevitably you do or say something that you would not normally do. Our hurlers are on the field Sunday after Sunday and training in between times. They have to keep fit, of course, but they have to retain their good humour. It must be an enormous strain. Bad or poor performances are inevitable now and then, but we saw few of

these, remarkably, and you could not know the team understood.

There must be times of strain when irritation or bad temper break out. We have seen none that, and this is one of the really great things about them. It is not fashionable now to speak of men being gentlemen, or girls being ladies, but that is what they are. I am glad that conduct on the field is taken into account in All-Star selection – and every member of our team merits inclusion from that point of view.

I don't know if the members of the Association are fully aware of the power for good that they are. They have enormous influence. In the past they succeeded in braking down natural enmity and hate – perhaps with God's help they will do so again.

There are people who will say we give too much time to games and sport. I am often told that it is wrong to have priests so involved in sport and recreation. I must say all this strikes me as nonsense. It is good for young people to be playing games, good for them in every way, and I wish we had more facilities for athletics, swimming, and more players of character and calibre

in every department to set the standards for the young ones. I think it is good for the priests themselves to be involved, and I hope it will continue – even if an occasional one bears temporary signs of the contest, or other ones are obviously a bit too rounded in contours to be credible, and seem bound to walk into trouble.

Having said all that I think I must add a word of thanks to the players and officials of the G.A.A. for the many delightful afternoons I had as a spectator. Unfortunately it is not always possible to attend, and sometimes it is not easy to find out what is on. Perhaps for that reason I might repeat my request for a notice-board somewhere with the Sunday's fixtures on it. You cannot always find Mick Tyrrell or Fr. Tom Murphy when you discover that a Sunday afternoon has become unexpectedly free, and you would like to go to a match.

It would I suppose be asking too much to expect that 1975 be as successful for Kilkenny as 1974, but all the same there is no harm in hoping. At any rate I wish all players, clubs and teams and their supporters every happiness.

DID THE DECADE DO IT?

KILKENNY'S FIRST MAJOR CAMOGIE TRIUMPH

By Beatrice Treacy

Secretary, Kilkenny County Camogie Board, as told to the Editor.

THE team and officials knelt in a room in the hotel before going to Croke Park and recited a decade of the Rosary. After that I really felt confident about the outcome as we faced title holders, Cork in the replay of the All-Ireland senior camogie final. It was our third time of trying and our third time to clash with Cork in the final.

We led by 2-1 to 1-0 at half time and ended the game still four points clear, 3-3 to 1-5.

Though the scintillating display seen in the drawn game was not repeated, the replay was a gripping struggle and produced a very high standard. I think determination was the key factor in our triumph. Kilkenny knew they had it in them. Cork had beaten them in 1970 and 1972. The drawn game was a great achievement for Kilkenny and the girls felt that if they got a few quick scores in the early stages they would win. They did just that.

Kilkenny's success is all the more creditable when you realise that this team was chosen from three senior clubs – there are four junior and five minor teams – while there are about 30 teams in Cork.

The foundation for success was laid during the training sessions. Father Malone showed great patience and inexhaustable energy in ensuring not alone that the girls were fully fit but that they perfected their style and their tactics.

Eddie Keher and Noel Skehan who attended the training sessions and gave very valuable help. Noel Skehan coached Teresa O'Neill in the handling of difficult situations in the goal and Eddie Keher helped Helena O'Neill to perfect her free-taking, though her free-taking usually leaves little or no room for improvement.

More important than anything else the girls themselves showed the right spirit. I have never seen a more

determined Kilkenny team take the field. They knew they were capable of making this major break-through and nothing was going to stop them. And they played as a team and showed splendid team work.

I did have anxious moments when Teresa O'Neill got that nasty head injury. Despite the severe cut she continued to play. If she had gone off the consequences could have been disastrous. It would surely have effected Helena's play and the whole team would be thrown out of gear. She showed rare courage.

She gave a splendid display of goal keeping and there was the inspiring performance of Ann Carroll at full back. Liz Neary, Bridie Martin and Marie Kavanagh on the half line did a great job while Helena O'Neill, Mary Fennelly and Peggy Carey gave Kilkenny the advantage at centrefield.

Girls won title shoe-string budget

THE Kilkenny senior camogie side won an All-Ireland title this year and they did it on what can best be described as a

Shoe-string budget camogie finances are almost non-existent and bad as they are this year they have been infinitely worse in the past.

Mr. John Fennelly, Co.C., chairman of the Board, and Mrs. Beatrice Treacy, secretary, say that without the generous help of the G.A.A. County Board they might have found it impossible to play the All-Ireland final.

"There has been an improvement in our finances, latterly", Mr. Fennelly said, "and we had a fairly good response to our appeal. We have also got generous help from firms in the form of track suits and spon-

The forwards excelled, too. Ursula Grace, Mary Conway, Angela Downey and Carmel Doyle took advantage of most of the chances offered and their excellent combination paid handsome dividends.

Cork had their stars too. Pat Moloney, Marie Costine, Bernie Costine and Marian Sweeney never gave up trying but for once they found opposition more than a match for their undisputed talents.

Every player on the Kilkenny team played a vital part in the victory and while it would be invidious to single out any individual special mention ought to be made of Teresa O'Neill for staying on despite her injury.

This is a young Kilkenny team and with Kilkenny winning the Leinster minor title – they lost to Down who easily beat Cork in the all-Ireland final – there are good prospects for the future.

The Kilkenny all-Ireland winning team : Teresa O'Neill (St. Paul's); Ann Carroll (St. Paul's); Liz Neary (St. Paul's); Bridie Martin (Lisdowney); Mary Kavanagh (St. Paul's); Helena O'Neill (St. Paul's), Mary Fennelly (Carrickshock), Peggy Carey (Gowran); Ursula Grace (St. Paul's); Mary Conway (St. Paul's). Mary Kennedy (Gowran) was off through injury, her place being taken by Marie Kavanagh. Other subs on the side were : M. Purcell for U. Grace; Mary Kennedy for M. Kavanagh; Ann Downey, Teresa Brennan and Ann Bowden.

Scorers : Kilkenny : Angela Downey (1-1); Helena O'Neill (1-1); the goal from a free and the point from a 30; Ursula Grace (1-0); Carmel Doyle (0-1); Bernie Costine (1-0); M. McCarthy (0-2); M. Sweeney (0-2); M. O'Driscoll (0-1) for Cork's scores.

sorship of the St. Patrick's Band for the final – the drawn game and the replay.

"We are still far from being solvent but we are hoping our success will bring us greater public support".

Mayor thanked

Mrs. Treacy said they are hoping that for one thing there will be more clubs in the county which would bring more revenue in the form of affiliation fees.

"The Mayor, Alderman Martin and the Knights of Malta have been very good friends and we are grateful to them".

Mrs. Treacy also hopes that Kilkenny's All-Ireland victory

might mean better 'gates' for local games.

"We often have to travel at our own expenses and the players themselves often have to make sacrifices. This also applies to officials but we are lucky to have people like John Fennelly, Father Malone and Shem Doheny as well as many others who never fail to help out".

Mrs. Treacy says that relations between the County Board and the Camogie Board in Kilkenny are excellent and without the County G.A.A. Board they would not be able to carry on.

"This is as it should be, though it does not operate to the same extent in any other county. There is a fairly general belief now that the Camogie Boards should be subsidiaries of the County Boards.



The Kilkenny Camogie Team Winners of the County's first senior All- Ireland Title.

THE ALL-IRELAND MINOR FINAL



The Minor Team Beaten By Cork In The Final

The one that got away

By JOHN KNOX

WHEN all the dust settles and Kilkenny hurling folk take stock of all the honours won by the county during the year, there will be one noted absentee . . . the minor All-Ireland trophy.

For the one that many were quietly confident of taking got away. Or was it let slip? The mighty team that was being hailed from one end of the county to the other for its exploits on the hurling field was topped at the vital final hurdle, the all-Ireland final.

That sad first Sunday of September (from a minor point of view) will long be remembered. Before the final it was being ranked as a David and Goliath decider, but Kilkenny got the characters mixed up.

Heading for the third minor title on the trot it all looked so easy for the Kilkenny team who had swept all before them in Leinster and seen to Connacht's representatives, Galway,

without much trouble.

Cork, on the other hand, struggled through their section and were brought to a Munster final re-play by Tipperary. Even before the clash with the Noresiders, the Cork selectors were not satisfied with the team's progress and made several changes in the line-out to face Kilkenny.

These late switches were seen as panic moves in Kilkenny. They looked on the Black and Amber boys as being unbeatable. And their stable side, which underwent only two personnel changes in the whole campaign looked to have everything in their favour.

But fortune doesn't always favour the favourites. And the guile, class and distinctive marks that put this Noreside team out on its own had all evaporated before the fatal 60 minutes had elapsed. Kilkenny were shown to be an ordinary side.

The bubble was burst. And all the attempts to patch it in the final failed. During the hour hardly a line in the team survived without switches, but it was all to no avail. Cork took the *Irish Press* Cup and this good Kilkenny minor team were only also rans in one of the lowest scoring minor deciders for years.

For a team that carried over six playing members from the previous year's winning all-Ireland side, they were a disappointment. Possibly their easy path to the final left them with a false impression as to their capabilities? And of course Cork are never a 'soft thing' in any final.

The saddest player in Croke Park after that game was surely John Marnell, captain of the team. A carry-over player, it was his first time to lead any team to defeat in any sort of

decider. He led his club, Dicksboro, to a minor hurling championship just months previously.

But he need never be ashamed of his part played in the full campaign. Even in the final when several players performed below par he turned in a faultless display. He was definitely the number one player in the side.

Brendan Fennelly, Kieran Brennan, Dick O'Hara and Joe Hennessy are others that should return to Croke Park again in quest of greater glory.

The 17 players that did duty that day were: T. Murphy, D. O'Hara, J. Marnell, G. Stapleton, J. Hennessy, G. Devane, J. Costelloe, B. Waldron, P. Lannon, M. Lyng, J. Walsh, K. Brennan, A. O'Driscoll, G. Tyrrell, B. Fennelly, J. Henderson and M. Kennedy.

THE FENIANS MAKE IT THREE IN A ROW

A COUNTY final without a goal. That must be unique in Kilkenny. The Fenians completed a hat trick of senior championships when they beat Bennettsbridge by 0-10 to 0-6 in a final that was disappointing in standard and extremely difficult for players and spectators because of the atrocious weather.

If the no-goal situation is unique those looking for coincidence will notice that the 10 to 6 points tally was carried a stage further in the wides, The Fenians having 10 and Bennettsbridge 6.

Johnstown came through the junior championship campaign in 1969 and they have appeared in all the county senior hurling finals since, winning three out of the five.

Though firm favourites The Fenians got a tougher game from the 'Bridge than most people expected and the winners had it all to do to stay in front. Led by four points, 0-6 to 0-2 at the interval the 'Bridge got on terms with four points scored in the 4th, 5th, 9th and 11th minutes but their effort ended there and The Fenians, though rarely seen at their brilliant best monopolised the scoring from then on.

Though this was not the 'Bridge of old, which could show its shattering power when the chips were down, they did have a chance after getting on level terms but their attacking movements lacked the necessary thrust. In any case P. J. Ryan in goal and Nickey Orr offered stonewall resistance and several promising moves faded out when Orr came on the scene and anything that passed him was capably dealt with by Ryan.

Elsewhere The Fenians exerted a devastating influence and two men who did tremendous work in carving this win were Pat Henderson and Pat Delaney. Pat Henderson, though he has had better games on more exalted occasions, was a pillar of strength in the defence and Pat Delaney gave a classical exhibition, though

paradoxically he came away with only a single point.

For Bennettsbridge Paddy Moran gave a thundering display of vintage Moran hurling and if he had got better support the issue would have been closer.

Dick Dowling and Martin Fitzpatrick manned The Fenians rearguard well as flankers for Nickey Orr and Pat Henderson got fair support from his brother Ger and Shem Delaney. Frank Hawkes and Mick Garrett performed fairly well at midfield despite Paddy Moran's commanding presence.

Billy Fitzpatrick was top scorer for the winners with four points all from frees. Billy Watson came late on the scene but his vital point was a very clever piece of work. Johnny Moriarty was well held while Gerry Murphy who has played so well as a defender seemed entirely mis-cast at left corner forward.

Pat Delaney's second half point when he grabbed a Noel Skehan puck out and returned a lovely drive was the best score of the game.

Noel Skehan, like P. J. Ryan, performed magnificently in the 'Bridge goal and Phil Cullen, Larry Cleere and Jim Treacy put up a powerful rearguard. Paddy Kealy, John Holohan and Pat Lalor have all seen better days, though they stood up well to sustained pressure.

Barry O'Brien gave a very impressive display in the attack and Watt Kennedy figured prominently occasionally but more was expected from John Kinsella, Kevin Dunne, Joe Holohan and Ned Ryan.

Billy Fitzpatrick (0-4 from frees); Billy Watson (0-2); Pat Delaney, Mick Garrett, John Moriarty and Paddy Broderick (0-1 each), scored for The Fenians and Watt Kennedy (0-4, 0-3 from frees); John Kinsella and Barry O'Brien (0-1) scored for Bennettsbridge.

The Fenians had points in the 1st, 4th and 9th minutes and after an eight minutes scoreless spell Watt Kennedy pointed a Bennettsbridge free. Barry O'Brien had a Bridge point but

The Fenians added to their tally with points in the 24th, 27th and 30th minutes.

In the second half Bennettsbridge had the first four points (4th, 5th, 9th and 11th minutes) while The Fenians had the last four (17th, 23rd, 27th and 30th minutes).

The Fenians - P. J. Ryan, D. Dowling, N. Orr, M. Fitzpatrick, G. Henderson, P. Henderson, S. Delaney, F.

Hawkes, M. Garrett, J. Moriarty, P. Delaney, P. Broderick, W. Fitzpatrick, W. Watson and G. Murphy.

Bennettsbridge: N. Skehan, P. Cullen, L. Cleere, J. Treacy, P. Kealy, J. Holohan, P. Lalor, P. Moran, J. Dowling, B. O'Brien, J. Kinsella, W. Kennedy, E. Ryan, K. Dunne, Joe Holohan. Subs: C. Hayes, P. Treacy.

Pat Delaney - one of the Fenians Stars.



THE COUNTY CHAMPIONS



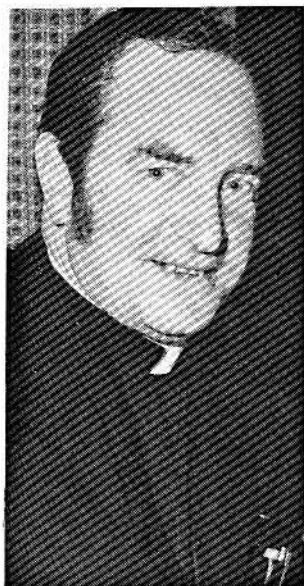
The Fenians, winners of the County Senior Hurling Title, their third in a row.

THE COUNTY FINALISTS



Bennettsbridge county finalists who put up a good show in the Final.

Father Maher – Pioneer Of Coaching



Fr. Maher

HAVING trained teams to win six all-Ireland senior hurling titles, six senior colleges all-Ireland winning sides and several all-Ireland winning minor teams, St. Kieran's college president, Father Maher can claim to be one of Ireland's top hurling trainers. But he is more than that; he is the pioneer of coaching.

Coaching was scoffed at when Father Maher started it in 1953; he was Ireland's first coach. But now coaching is recognised Central Council policy and only the other day he was invited by the Central Council to become one of a team of coaches acting in an advisory capacity.

Even before noted footballer Joe Lennon started on coaching Father Maher had already started in St. Columban's college in Dublin and actually coached a Dublin team to win an all-Ireland title. And they beat Kilkenny in the Leinster final.

The Central Council are now acting on a report published five years ago and the intention is to have a national coach.

But what does coaching mean and is it necessary in a traditional hurling county like Kilkenny? Father Maher cited one classical example.

When Ted Carroll began his hurling career in St. Kieran's college he did not know how to block a man in possession. He took the wrong stance. Father

Maher drilled him in the correct process and it is hardly necessary to say that he became not only adept at it but also became one of the great hurlers of his generation.

Another example worth quoting is in relation to Liam O'Brien. Liam was essentially a right hand striker but Father Maher coached him to hit left handed. This increased his versatility and cut down the number of turns he had to make in order to strike.

These are only two examples of the value of coaching but they ought to be sufficient to underline its value.

Coaching applies not only to individuals but also to teams and it is in a collective sense that its real value is brought out. Kilkenny have won six all-Ireland from 1957; that is more than any other county. There could hardly be any more convincing evidence than that of the value of coaching.

Father Maher has been so deeply involved in the game that his task is easy. He was an all-Ireland hurler himself and knows all there is to be known about the game.

But perhaps his greatest qualification is his ability to assimilate. Few people in the game can make a better assessment of a player or a team and his judgement is invariably on the mark.

Father Maher was the first to introduce hand passing. "In order that the hand pass works effectively the man passing the ball must judge the distance accurately so that the player to whom it is passed can catch it on the run. Otherwise it either goes astray or the player to whom it is passed must stop. This, naturally, limits its effectiveness" he said.

What does training a team imply? Father Maher's answer to this question is that you have to study each individual player, assess his faults if he has any and try to remove them. There is no set guide line and there is no expert way to do it.

Father Maher's record as a trainer must be unique. He has the records to prove it and his name has become synonymous with hurling and with all-Ireland success.

Mick Lanigan tells why:

Training our seniors is easy



Mick Lanigan

WINNER of several national athletic titles, Mick Lanigan knows the meaning of physical fitness and how to attain it. And when he says that training the Kilkenny senior hurlers is, in many ways, easier than training any other county teams, he means that Kilkenny's hurling tradition is so strong that the technical skills necessary to win an All-Ireland are already there.

"Having been very successful over the past 10 years and having played, on average, more games than any other senior hurling county side has helped considerably in the training", he says.

"It would be impossible to lay down a hard and fast set of rules as circumstances differ from year to year, but I do like to have older players to blend with younger "blood". Hurling being a game in which skill plays a predominant part – moreso, perhaps, than most other fielded games – physical strength is not an essential prerequisite. The skills of most players will increase as they grown older and all the trainer has to do is to ensure that players are fit enough to sustain this skill over the full period of the game.

"A trainer has to become part of the team; to knit the

players into a cohesive unit. He has to ensure that all the players are motivated 100 per cent towards the task in hand and if the trainer fails in this he is unsatisfactory.

"In Kilkenny we tend to spend more time during training on playing hurling than most other counties. If you ask a player to do, say 20 sprints at short intervals he might say it is impossible but if he is asked to play in a seven-a-side match he will work harder and it will be of greater benefit.

"We prefer to have short, sharp training sessions with very little time wasted. In a typical session we devote the first 10 minutes to warming up and playing ground hurling. We follow with a match of 20 minutes aside. This early in the year; coming to the All-Ireland final we extend the time to 40 minutes each side. After this physical exercises and short sprints are held.

"This is the period when the edge is put on strength and stamina. There has been criticism that training is sometimes overdone but I have never yet seen a team lose through over-training but I have seen games lost through lack of sufficient training.

"Players can get mentally stale when appetite for the game is diminishing and this can be brought about by factors some connected and some unconnected with the game. Players undergo the same normal home, business and human stresses as everybody and these add to the stresses of competition at a high level.

"Hurlers are not mentally attuned to the stresses of undue criticism in the media or even of over-adulation and the stresses are greater as the big game approaches. When players approach maximum fitness they are more prone to colds and other illnesses and they often feel more tired than normally and part of the trainer's job is to keep morale at top level.

Continued on Page 24



St. Kieran's - County Senior Football Champions

ST. KIERAN'S WERE THE MASTERS

THE county senior football final in which St. Kieran's (Mooncoin and Kilmacow) beat Muckalee by 0-7 to 0-2 can only be described as a disappointing flop. It was good for the winners and it is certainly out of the ordinary to see a renowned hurling area like Mooncoin sharing in the football spoils.

Muckalee were fancied to take the title after their defeat of Railyard but in the final they made the mistake of miscalculating the opposition and instead of playing their own particular brand of football they concentrated on knocking St. Kieran's off their game.

St. Kieran's were the better side and played a far better type of football. In fact what football there was in it came from the winners and their five points margin was not flattering.

Ahead by 0-5 to 0-1 at half time St. Kieran's added two points in the second half and Muckalee one and the difficult cross wind can hardly be advanced as an excuse for the bad

shooting by both sides.

Four of the St. Kieran's points came from frees and Brendan Morrissey who scored the two Muckalee points got one from a free.

Dick McNamara a sub on the county senior hurling team who played at centre back for St. Kieran's was the outstanding defender on view. He got good support from Ned Quinn in goal, Paddy Flynn, Mick Conway and John Joe Grant. Mick Power and Tom Grant operated with marked success at midfield while Seamus Comerford, Senan Cooke, Claus Dunne and Dick Grant put in useful work in attack.

Tom Maher kept good goal for Muckalee and Mick Morrissey, Martin Morrissey and Jack Coogan worked hard in the full back line. Patsy Moran was a hard trier at midfield while Brendan Morrissey and Pat Maher apart, the Muckalee attack fell far below expectations.

Seamus Comerford (0-4 all from free), Tom Grant, Claus

Dunne and John Dempsey (0-1 each) scored for St. Kieran's while Brendan Morrissey (0-2, one from a free) had the Muckalee points.

St. Kieran's: E. Quinn, P. Flynn, W. O'Keeffe, P. Corcoran, M. Conway, R. McNamara, J. J. Grant, M. Power, T. Grant, S. Cooke, S.

Comerford, R. Grant, P. Kelly, C. Dunne, J. Dempsey.

Muckalee: T. Maher, Mick Morrissey, Martin Morrissey, J. Coogan, J. Kelly, Mick Morrissey, P. Comerford, P. Moran, J. Moran, B. Morrissey, J. Quinn, J. Morrissey, T. Teehan, P. Maher, Tom Moran. Mr. Seamus Delaney, Football Board secretary, refereed.

QUESTION BOX

1. What two counties have the same coloured jerseys?
2. What was the highest attendance at an all-Ireland hurling final?
3. What was the highest attendance at an all-Ireland final in which Kilkenny figured?
4. What was the highest scoring in an all-Ireland final?
4. What was the highest scoring in an all-Ireland final?
5. How many National League titles have Kilkenny won?
6. In what years did they win them?
7. Only one Kilkennyman was president of the G.A.A. - who was he?
8. For how many years did he hold office?
9. In what year did Eddie Keher figure in his first all-Ireland final?
10. Who captained the Kilkenny team in 1947?

Answers on Page 24.

Seven hurling brothers

THREE of the seven Fennelly brothers, Kevin, Ger and Dermot have won all-Ireland hurling medals and since the eldest Michael is only 21 they are on the road to establishing a family record. They have also won Leinster, colleges and factory league medals.

The achievements of these talented players are:

Michael (21): Captained Ballyhale under 14 hurling side that won the 1966 county championship; county championship medal with Ballyhale vocational school; two under 21 county championship medals with Shamrocks as well as two southern championships in 1972 and 1973 and a junior county championship medal in 1973.

Gerard (20): Won under 14 county championship medal with Ballyhale in 1966 and two juvenile Leinster championship medals with St. Kieran's college. Won county championship medal with Ballyhale vocational school; two under 21 county championship medals with Shamrocks and a junior county championship medal with his club last year.

He won an all Ireland senior medal as a sub on the Kilkenny team this year and captained the Kilkenny under 21 side that won all-Ireland honours.

Kevin (19): Kevin won an under 14 county championship medal with Ballyhale in 1966 and three county championship medals with Ballyhale vocational school. He won two under 21 county championships with Shamrocks and a junior county championship medal with his club last year.

He won an all-Ireland factory league championship medal with Waterford Glass and won all-Ireland minor medals with Kilkenny in 1972 and 1973 and an under 21 all-Ireland medal this year. He also won Leinster minor championship medals as well as a Munster factory league medal.

Brendan (18): Brendan won a Faulkner trophy inter-county under 14 medal with Kilkenny and Leinster juvenile, junior

and senior medals with St. Kieran's college. He won two under 21 county championship medals with his club, Shamrocks as well as a southern minor championship medal.

Liam (16): Liam won two under 12 county championship medals with Ballyhale and an under 14 Leinster championship medal with Kilkenny in 1972.

Sean (14): Sean has won two under 12 county championship medals with Ballyhale and was captain of the Ballyhale vocational school team that won the Leinster championship in 1973-'74.

Dermot (13): Dermot won an inter county hurling championship medal with Kilkenny this year.

In addition to the all-Ireland medals won Kevin won Leinster minor medals in 1971, 1972 and 1973 and an under 21 Leinster medal this year while Ger won Leinster minor medal in 1972 and an under 21 Leinster medal this year. Brendan won a Leinster minor medal this year.

It is worth mentioning that the father of those talented boys Kevin Fennelly, Chairman of the Southern Board, and five uncles, Richie, John, Michael, Peter and Jimmy were also accomplished hurlers and won junior county championship medals with Stoneyford.

1913 souvenir

MR. CHRISTY BOLLARD, Kilkenny, has a programme of the 1913 all-Ireland final in which Kilkenny beat Tipperary by 2-4 to 1-2. The line out of both teams is well set out and it is interesting to note that three well known Dublin hotels offer hot luncheons at one shilling.

The programme was retained in the licensed premises by Mr. Bollard's father the late Mr. Dan Bollard who was one of Kilkenny's best known and most popular G.A.A. personalities.

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ANN CARROLL CROWNS A GREAT CAREER

BORN in Hertfordshire in England she came to live in Mohober, Mullinahone when she was three. In nearby Ballintaggart her father sowed the seed of what has become a vibrant and viable Irish industry, Carrolls Systems Buildings, providing large scale employment in this county and elsewhere.

Ann Carroll is camogie's outstanding personality. Her academic attainments match her hurling genius. She has qualified as an architect; she spent a year in England where she won a Master's Degree in Recreation Management and she is at present studying for her Higher Diploma in Education in Trinity College, Dublin.

But it is for her hurling skill that Ann is best known in this county; not only for her hurling skill but for her dedication to the game and her genuine sense of sportsmanship. She plays the game for the game's sake.

To most people in this county, Ann Carroll is regarded as a 'veteran'. This mistaken impression is quite understandable. Ann started her inter-county camogie career at the tender age of 13 and she has been a top class player for a decade or more.

She waited a long time for the one honour that had eluded her — an all-Ireland senior medal. By a sad irony of fate it came not too long after her father, Mr. Bill Carroll had died. She would dearly have loved him to see her win this honour. Bill Carroll helped camogie when it had few friends; he helped it generously and never counted the cost.

She first played camogie with the Convent of Mercy, Callan and over five years she won three Leinster colleges senior titles, 1961, 1962 and 1964. Two of her colleagues in those days were Rose Vannard and Alice O'Neill both inter-county stars.

Living in Tipperary at this time she won Munster titles in 1964, 1965 and 1966 and captained the Tipperary side when they lost to Dublin in the 1965 all-Ireland final. She won senior

county championship medals with St. Patrick's (Drangan) in 1965 and 1966.

She came to Kilkenny in 1967 and joined the St. Paul's club in the city. St. Paul's won several all-Ireland club titles but Ann missed some because of an injury that kept her inactive for 13 months and then she spent a year in England.

Back in action again she was on the Kilkenny side that lost to Cork in two all-Ireland finals but her long cherished ambition was happily realised this year. And she played a significant part in the victory despite the fact that her time for training was limited.

"I did not feel perfectly fit", she told me, "and that is the reason why I opted for the full back position. My favourite position is midfield or on the half back line but in this final I did not quite feel up to it".

She did put in as much time as she could to training and she was certainly fit enough to keep the Cork forwards well in check particularly in the replay.

She attributes this year's success to the sheer determination of all the players.

"We worked very hard to perfect our combination and this was a vital factor in our success. Of course we owe a lot to our trainer, Father Malone, who was a marvellous coach; to John Fennelly our chairman; Beatrice Treace our secretary and to Shem Downey. They all did everything they could to help us win".

Ann feels that more attention should be played to coaching. There are 19,000 camogie players in the country and without coaching the game cannot develop to the full.

She feels that Kilkenny deserves special praise for winning an all-Ireland title with only three senior clubs in the county whereas in Cork there are over 30 clubs. She thinks there is room for much greater development in the game in Kilkenny.

What of the future? Ann would like to play for another year at least. She would like to see this Kilkenny team win



Ann Carroll with the special award which she received from the Family Building Society for services to camogie.

another all-Ireland to really prove their worth.

The revival of camogie in Kilkenny came when they smashed Dublin's stranglehold in 1968, even though Kilkenny lost to Wexford in the Leinster final that year.

"We came back to win the Leinster title in 1970 and 1972", she said, "and from that point on we found ourselves in the top bracket".

Ann likes to spend her weekends with her mother at their

home on the Castlecomer Road. Mrs. Carroll is a keen camogie enthusiast and a good supporter. Though not born in this county Ann can claim Kilkenny 'citizenship' through her late father who was from Desart, Cuffesgrange.

However long she continues to play Ann will continue to have a valuable contribution to make to Kilkenny camogie and Kilkenny will be glad to accept it.

PETER HOLOHAN

Hurlers beat Tipperary

THE All Ireland hurling final of the National Community Games brought two great rivals – Kilkenny and Tipperary – into opposition once more. Kilkenny had a long campaign through Leinster against Laois (11-9 to 2-3); Kildare (12-5 to 1-0) and Wexford (4-4 to 2-4) before obliterating Offaly in the Leinster Final. This gave them their tickets to Butlins and an easy semi-final test against Down before the big test – a hurling final against Tipperary.

Manager, Paul Kinsella's biggest pre-match task was to curb the natural over-confidence such a successful team had but his pre-match talk was proven true when Tipperary gave the large gathering of Kilkenny supporters an early shock by hammering home two quick goals in the blinding rain. With a strong wind behind them, Tipperary looked set to run riot but stern defence by the black and amber backline – especially Paddy Walsh and Pat McPhillips with livewire half back, Gerry Duffy, held the Tipp men at bay for a while.

Then, with the Kilkenny supporters dismaying of ever scoring, captain Martin Morrissey collected a brilliant pass from Nicky Boyd to hammer home a winning goal. A further Morrissey goal was negated by a third Tipperary one and the teams retired for their half time break with Tipperary 3-0 to 2-0 ahead.

Barry Donovan levelled matters soon after the resumption and gave rise to hopes of a runaway second half but Tipperary showed their traditional grit by fighting every ball. Seanie Tyrrell gave Kilkenny a one goal lead, Martin Morrissey completed his hat-trick to go a fairly safe two-goals ahead. Two further points by strong striker, Morrissey, put the issue beyond doubt – apparently – but back came the Roscrea boys and hammered in two great goals to leave a mere two points between the teams.

Play swayed from one goal to the other before Seanie Tyrrell, hobbling around on an injured ankle, scored his second goal of

the day to give the Marble City team a lead they never lost, finishing 6-2 to 5-0 ahead.

Dominic Bolger made only one real mistake in the game and, in fact, saved the team well on occasions in yet another workmanlike display. Paddy Walsh played a stormer at full back, flanked by the ever-dependable Paul Moran and Sean Leahy. Gerry Duffy had a great game at right half back and with Pat McPhillips and Donal Campion formed the best line on the team.

Sean Byrne found the going rough – very rough, at times – at centre-field, but, with stylish Michael Cleere, got the upper hand at centre-field after early lethargy and kept our attack well supplied.

Seanie Tyrrell and Martin Morrissey were the sharpest of the forwards and both played brilliantly but supplier-in-chief of scoring chances was the ever-improving Nicky Boyd who never stopped trying all through. The wet, soggy conditions did not suit the slick style of Phil Brennan and Billy

Walton who nevertheless contributed handsomely to the victory while full forward Barry Donovan marshalled the attack excellently.

Team: D. Bolger (St. Patrick's); P. Moran (C.B.S.), P. Walsh (St. John's); J. Leahy (St. Patrick's); G. Duffy (C.B.S.), P. McPhillips (St. Patrick's), D. Campion (St. Patrick's); S. Byrne (C.B.S.), M. Cleere (St. John's); B. Walton (St. Patrick's), M. Morrissey (St. Patrick's); N. Boyd (St. Patrick's); P. Brennan (St. Patrick's), B. Donovan (St. Patrick's), S. Tyrrell (St. John's).

Subs – P. J. Martin (C.B.S.), D. Byrne (St. John's), J. Hindle (St. Patrick's), M. Breen (C.B.S.), K. Holohan (C.B.S.), D. Walsh (St. Patrick's).

Hurler of the Year

FOUR Kilkenny men have won Hurler of the Year Awards. They are Seamus Cleere 1963; Ollie Walsh 1967; Ted Carroll 1969 and Eddie Keher 1972.

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Player of the Month Awards

TWO Kilkenny hurlers and two Kilkenny camogie players have won player of the month awards by the Family Building Society. Noel Skehan got the award for July and Pat Henderson for August. Helena O'Neill got it for her outstanding game for Kilkenny in the Camogie all-Ireland final and her team colleague Ann Carroll got it for her contribution to camogie in Kilkenny.

(see special article on Ann Carroll on page 17).

Helena O'Neill: From Sheestown and employed in the laboratory in the flour mills of Messrs W. H. Mosse Ltd., Bennettsbridge, Helena O'Neill has rightly earned the reputation of Ireland's top sharp-shooting camogie player. She proved this in the drawn all-Ireland final between Kilkenny and Cork when she coolly sent the ball over for a point from a free from a not too easy angle.

Free taking in camogie is rather more difficult than in hurling as the space is more limited but on this occasion as on many others Helena showed remarkable accuracy.

She started her camogie career with the Presentation Convent seven years ago. Her ambition had always been to win an all-Ireland medal which meant she would be on a victorious Kilkenny team. She deservedly won this honour this year.

Helena has won three all-Ireland colleges medals and two Leinster championships and was on the Kilkenny team that lost to Cork in the 1970 and 1972 all-Ireland finals.

After leaving the Presentation convent she joined the St. Paul's club in Kilkenny and won six county championship medals with them.

She is completely dedicated to the game and loves every minute she spends on the hurling field.

Her sister, Teresa, who is employed in the laboratory at Mosse's mills also, plays goal for Kilkenny and captained the side that brought all-Ireland honours to Kilkenny this year.

Pat Henderson: Starting his hurling career with Thurles C.B.S., Pat Henderson may

have some of the Tipperary 'steel' in him but he is a stylist in the true Kilkenny sense. His hurling over the past few years puts him in the higher echelon of centre half backs.

It is not easy to draw comparisons with the great centre half backs of other days but Pat Henderson could fit into the category of former stars like John Keane of Waterford, Alan Lotty of Cork, Pat Stakelum of Tipperary and others of past generations who won above average distinction. Even in Kilkenny there were great men from Doyen of centre backs Dick Grace all along down the years, who brought glory on themselves and Kilkenny hurling but of the present generation Pat Henderson has few equals in Ireland.

Pat was on the Kilkenny team that won the 1961 all-Ireland minor final and graduated through the under 21 side to intermediate grade. It was not until 1964 that he made the senior side and it was later than that, that we saw the real

Henderson.

One could go back a long time to find a parallel for his brilliant hurling in the 1972 all-Ireland final in which Kilkenny beat Cork and again this year.

A powerful and accurate striker his great strength is one of his chief assets but he uses that strength judiciously and rarely if ever injures an opponent.

Pat has won every honour the game has to offer. Four must be his favourite number. He has won four all-Ireland senior hurling medals; four Railway cup medals and four county senior championship medals. He has been on the Carrolls All Stars team three times and won the Cuchulainn award three times.

Noel Skehan: As a stand in for Ollie Walsh Noel Skehan had to wait quite a while for the honour of taking over the difficult role of net-minder on the Kilkenny team but since he

(See page 28)

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THERE is a legend built up around Kilkenny's finishing power and some of their last gasp successes have been achieved with almost computerised timing. Seven of their all-Ireland senior victories have been won by a point, several of the vital points coming almost on the stroke of time.

This great fight-back spirit has become legendary – they won their first all-Ireland against Cork in 1904 by 1-9 to 1-8 – and was again forcibly demonstrated in the under-21 all-Ireland final at Thurles when they pipped Waterford by a point, 3-8 to 3-7 when it looked as if Waterford had the issue well and truly sealed.

The most dramatic moments in a truly great game which gave Kilkenny their first under-21 all-Ireland success came in the last five minutes. Seven minutes from the end Waterford led by 3-7 to 2-5 and at this stage only a fool hardy optimist among the big Kilkenny contingent could hold out any hope of victory.

A well executed goal by Ger Woodcock and Bobby Sweeney and points by Ger Fennelly,

Bobby Sweeney and Billy Fitzpatrick turned what looked like inescapable defeat into a resounding victory.

The closing minutes were memorable, packed with tension and marked by some really brilliant hurling.

This was a great Waterford team and confidence in the side was very evident from the big hosting of Decies followers who flocked into Semple Stadium. The tame opening gave little indication of the fireworks that were to come and Kilkenny knew little about the real strength of the opposition when they held Waterford to level terms at half time after playing against a stiff wind.

But it was when they had the wind to contend with that Waterford showed their real worth. They had added a goal and a point after six minutes when Kilkenny brought on Pat Mulcahy for Nickey Brennan who was handicapped by a thumb injury. Mulcahy's lively sorties up the stand side generated a new spirit into the Kilkenny men but they were still struggling desperately to keep on terms.

Pat Mulcahy hit a lovely point but Waterford were still on top and a goal and a point by Tom Casey and a goal by Brendan Mansfield put them in what was, to all intents and purposes a safe position. They were playing with great dash and poise and the cohesion which marked Kilkenny's efforts earlier had disappeared.

But as if realising that the time to do something about it had arrived the whole Kilkenny team threw themselves into the task and with Nickey Brennan back again things began to move their way.

It was at this stage that the defence and midfield tightened their grip and with the forwards getting a good supply, Billy Fitzpatrick and company made the best use of their opportunities.

With plenty to do and a defence which at times showed quite a lack of determination, Kevin Fennelly in goal played a big part in the success. Jimmy Dunne probably did most in the full back line in which Tom McCormack, who later moved

out and Malachy Hogan also shone while Ger Henderson, Brian Cody and Mick Tierney on the half line also showed up well in the first half and for the latter part of the second.

John Dowling put in a power of work at midfield where Shem Brophy, handicapped by lack of training had a hard hour against Pat Egan. Brian Cody has had better days but he made a big impression in the closing stages and it was from his many fine deliveries into Waterford territory that some of the Kilkenny scores came.

Billy Fitzpatrick was Kilkenny's most outstanding forward and showed great coolness by picking off the vital scores when so much depended upon him. Ger Fennelly, Ger Woodcock, Pat Mulcahy who made a big difference when he came on and Nickey Brennan also did very well getting good support from Pat Kearney and Tony Teehan up to the time he retired injured. Bobby Sweeney made a big impact when he came on.

● Continued on page 25

THE HANDBALLERS WERE SCORING TOO

WHILE the victorious hurlers and camogie stars captured much of the sporting limelight in Kilkenny this year, our handballers were not idle but captured 9 all Ireland titles with two teams still remaining, at the time of writing, also in line for all Ireland honours.

However, much as success is vital to any sport, there is a great vitality among the clubs in the county that speaks well for future successes.

As always, Kilkenny were the dominant county in the juvenile competitions. Billy Bourke from St. Canice's club, won our first All-Ireland of the year when he captured the Under 12 singles title which Eugene Downey won in 1972. Billy has next year in the grade and has impressed such judges as Pat Kirby and Dick Lyng with his style. Our doubles players at this age group, Diarmaid Caulfield and John Walsh, were newcomers to the game and were beaten by Wexford.

In under 14, our doubles also came a cropper, but only just! Anthony Mulhall and Mark Cantwell combined to reach the Leinster Final against Dublin and lose by 2 aces against the eventual All Ireland champions. Our under 14 singles player was Eugene Downey, playing his fourth consecutive year in juvenile championship and he has still to be beaten in Leinster. It was really a great year for Eugene but the under 14 singles championship brought him disappointment. He opted to play the final despite a fractured finger and could never hope to overcome the handicap as he fell to a strong Tipperary player, Tony Ryan.

Eugene got his revenge in Limerick in a further All Ireland competition when he beat Ryan in no uncertain fashion and, for good measure, he beat him again in the Jimmy O'Brien tournament to prove his mastery! To these successes Eugene has been chosen to appear on television. Leo Leahy was rewarded for many years of trying by winning the under 16 singles title with Eddie Mahon and Davie O'Hanlon failing at the final hurdle in our efforts for the doubles title at under 16.

Still on juveniles, our under 15 Community Games team won a very high standard competition. The team of five -

Eugene Downey, Des Crowley, Joe Bourke, Anthony Mulhall and Mark Cantwell - beat the pick of Laois, Kildare, Wexford, Offaly, Down and Clare to take the title and team captain, Eugene Downey was awarded the National Gold Milk Merit Award as the top player in the games - the first time a Kilkenny player received this award in any sport.

Our other three Community games teams fared well also. Under 13 boys were unlucky to fall to Kildare with Billy Bourke, Diarmaid Caulfield, John Walsh, and Ger Fitzpatrick and Larry Ryan making up the five. Our under 13 girls were beaten by the eventual All Ireland champions, Dublin, as were our under 15 girls but not before future star, Alice Holden, beat a current novice All Ireland champion. Sarah Bourke, Marion Morton, Ber Maher, Marie Byrne, Ann Ryan, Rita Walsh, Marie Conroy, Kitty Brennan, and Mary Nolan were on those valiant but vanquished girls' teams.

TOPS IN MINOR

We again dominated minor ranks with Peadar Hughes as our chief star, aided and abetted in no uncertain manner by Eddie Mahon. Hughes, a top under 14 and 16 player in his day, and winner of three minor titles previous to this year, had his heart set on achieving a target never before reached - that of winning all four minor All Ireland titles in the same year.

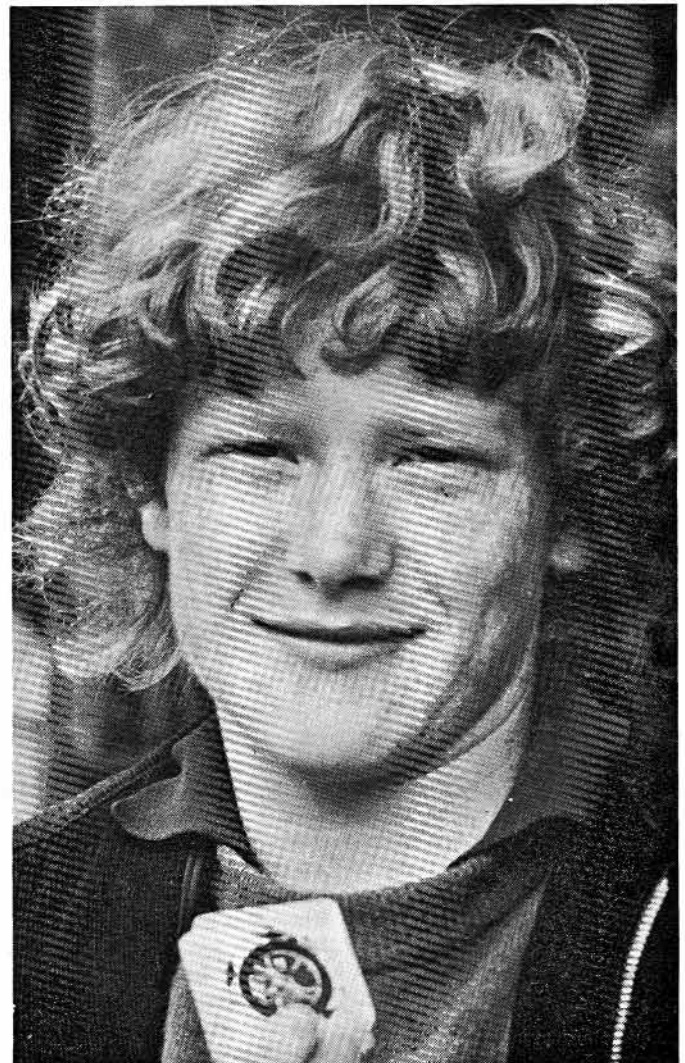
But for an off day in Ballymote, he would certainly have done this but Dermot Doolin from Roscommon ruined the high hopes we had of setting his record. This did not mean that Peadar, did not write his name in the record books, by winning Minor Hardball singles, and both Hardball and

Softball doubles titles, he certainly did. He has now won the highest number of minor All Ireland titles ever won (6); is the only player ever to win the minor hardball doubles cup three years in succession; is one of only five players ever to win three minor titles in the same year; joins the elite band of players who have won all four Leinster titles in the same year; and jointly holds the record number of Leinster titles ever won (8).

This certainly sets him up as an athlete par excellence but his reliable partner throughout the series must not be forgotten. Eddie Mahon grew in stature and confidence as the campaigns continued and more than held his own in the All Ireland finals. Mahon has two more years in the grade and may break some of Peadar's record yet!

Juniors almost made it

Our successful juvenile policy over the past few years is beginning to bear fruit with three former youths almost making it at national level. In junior softball doubles, Ollie Harold was brilliant all through the Leinster championships and had a most dependable partner



Eugene Downey, Talbot's Inch, who won the All-Ireland under-14 championship at Feile na nGael in Limerick.

Our Handballers were scoring too!

in Brendan Fitzpatrick. They marched through Leinster in triumphant style but both players chose the All Ireland semi-final for an off day and were ousted by inferior opposition which later took the title.

John Barron did his confidence no harm by winning through to the last 8 players in Ireland in the Gael Linn competition. He was beaten in the quarter final by Joey Maher – no cause for shame there! Elsewhere in junior, we were not in top class, losing the junior soft singles when Ollie Harold fell at the first hurdle against Wexford and Cloghmen, Peadar Hughes and Billy Kennedy were beaten in both hardball competitions by Dublin.

Paddy Reilly bridged a gap of 12 years by taking the Leinster senior softball singles title but in the open singles and doubles championships, only Paddy Reilly made any impact winning two rounds before losing out to Pat Murphy, eventual runner-up. The talented Reilly did have All Ireland success, however, when he annexed both All Army senior titles.

On the home front, all the championships were well contested with five clubs sharing as follows:

Under 12 singles: Billy Bourke (St. Canice's). Under 12 doubles: John Walsh and Ger Fitzpatrick (St. John's). Under 14 singles: Eugene Downey (Talbot's Inch). Under 14 doubles: Anthony Mulhall and Tommy Ryan (Mothel). Under 16 singles: Leo Leahy (Talbot's Inch). Under 16 doubles: Eddie Mahon and Michael Nash (Clogh).

Minor singles: Peadar Hughes (Clogh). Minor doubles: Peadar Hughes and Eddie Mahon (Clogh). Junior singles: Ollie Harold (Talbot's Inch). Junior doubles: Ollie Harold and Brendan Fitzpatrick (Talbot's Inch). Novice singles: Michael Hayes (St. Canice's). Novice doubles: Jim Bourke and Eamon Hayes (Talbot's Inch). Intermediate Murphy, made their mark as the top new club with Talbot's Inch (2 teams), Mothel (2 teams) Kilfane (2 teams), Kilmanagh, Callan, Mullinavat, (3 teams); Ullard, Urlingford,

Muckalee as well as two from the Continent making up the 16.

A winter novice league (team of 4) was also organised and, although it was almost the following winter before it was completed, it was most enjoyable: Michael Hayes (St. Canice's). Intermediate doubles: Michael Hayes and Willie Pratt (St. Canice's).

Once again the junior champions beat the intermediate champions in the play off for the right to represent the county but in the case of doubles, St. Canice's had to play without the services of Willie Pratt who was injured at the time.

Pratt had success when he won the Leinster novice 40 x 20 title while Michael Hayes, his club mate, failed to win the novice singles title, losing out at the final stage after a good campaign.

Joe Delaney and Tim Ryan won the Masters' title in fine fashion. This was Joe's first win (and his first attempt) but for Tim, it was a record equalling third title.

TEAMS

Team tournaments continue to play a big part in the handball calendar. At juvenile level, a hugely successful team of six was organised with six teams from four clubs taking part. After some great tilts, St. John's, managed by Gerry Shortall, qualified for a semi-final clash with St. Canice's, who had Tom Brennan looking after their interests.

In the second semi-final, Talbot's Inch, managed by myself, just got through their semi-final clash with Mothel who have Tom Ryan as their very active administrator and adviser. It is worth mentioning that five players came through the entire campaign without missing or losing a game – Billy Bourke, Liam Hickey, Davie O'Hanlon, and Frank Murphy (St. Canice's) and Eugene Downey (Kilkenny).

The huge entry of 16 teams contested the novice team of six. As it was run on a league basis, the finals are not over yet but newcomers, Continent with some highly efficient officials such as Billy Hanlon and Des

joyable with Talbot's Inch (P. Brennan, S. Reade, S. Hennessy, and T. O'Brien) beating Ullard (L. Ryan, J. Malone, P. Gardiner, and J. Ryan) in the final.

The memory of the greatest administrator Kilkenny ever had, or will have – Jimmy O'Brien – was commemorated in a big way with the organising of a doubles tournament featuring the best players in Ireland. Kirby, Lyng, Murphy, Quigley, Buggy, McGee, Colleran – they were all there but it was our own Paddy Reilly and Ollie Harold who thrilled a fanatical gallery with a great winning performance.

Yes, the signs for the future are good. We have a great fund of rising talent – Harold, Hughes, Mahon, Barron, Hanlon, Leahy, Downey, Mulhall, Bourke etc – and with some top players like Paddy

Reilly, Paddy Delaney, Anthony Greene and Christy Young – our four senior players in the county – we are well served in the playing arena.

Vibrant new clubs like Continent; clubs like Mullinavat who have roofed their court; Kilfane who have plans to roof theirs; Mothel who built a backwall and gallery and have further plans; and the many other active clubs throughout the county, the future of handball looks secure.

OFFICERS 1974

Senior Board: Chairman, T. O'Brien (Talbot's Inch); vice chairman, T. Dunne (Talbot's Inch); secretary, T. Brennan (St. Canice's); registrar, J. Moore (Talbot's Inc.).

Juvenile Board: Chairman, T. Ryan (Mothel); vice chairman, E. Somers (Clogh); secretary, T. O'Brien (Talbot's Inch).

Community games handball

BY TOMMY O'BRIEN

AT THEIR first ever attempt, Kilkenny won the under 15 Community Games Handball All Ireland when their talented team easily outscored all opposition to win the handsome Joe Jennings Trophy.

Their final game was against one of the top counties at the moment, Clare, and the Clare mentors saw little chance of their team being beaten. The dedication of the Kilkenny team during the summer months told when the pressure came, however, and they decisively defeated the Clare boys. Clare had their top player, Pat Devaney, in as first singles as had Kilkenny, fielding captain Eugene Downey in this position.

This talented duo fought out a rare battle with Downey on top in the early stages but Devaney recovered to reach game ball with Downey still 6 aces behind him. The ice-cool nerves of the Talbot's Inch star never flinched and he rallied to

level at 14-all and go on to win 15-14. In the second game he raced ahead, nonchalantly allowed his opponent back into the game and then finished him off professionally.

With one point won, our doubles pairing of Des Crowley and Joe Bourke had little difficulty in carrying on the good work and never allowed their talented rivals into the game but won 15-5, 15-5 with both Kilkenny players in sparkling form.

As it happened, had any of our winning players been off-form, we had a most able second singles player in Anthony Mulhall with Mark Cantwell as fifth man.

For his wonderful display in the final, and indeed all along the championship, Eugene Downey was awarded the Gold Merit Award by the National Dairy Council but it is true to say that the rest of the Kilkenny team were little behind him in the fight for this honour.

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The Hurling Records

AS FAR as the senior hurling championship records go Tullaroan are in the lead with 23 county titles followed by Mooncoin with 16. Both of these famed and historic citadels of the game made their mark in the early days of the association.

Tullaroan represented the county in the first of the all-Ireland championship series and they lost narrowly to Thurles, representing Tipperary who eventually went on to win the final.

Though not all of those who played in the 1888 and subsequent years lived on to Kilkenny's golden era (1904 to 1913) one name that still lingered among the greats of the period was Pat ('Fox') Maher, Tullaroan.

In later years Bennettsbridge wore the mantle of greatness but they, too, were carrying an age old tradition. Bennettsbridge won the title away back in 1890.

The records are as accurate as they can reasonably be expected to be. There is no record of any county final in the years 1891 and 1892 but apart from these two years and the exigencies of the times they are fairly well up to date. The records are as follows:

Tullaroan: 1887, 1889, 1893, 1895, 1897, 1899, 1901, 1902, 1904, 1907, 1910, 1911, 1912, 1915, 1916, 1919, 1924, 1925, 1930, 1933, 1934, 1948, 1958. - (23).

Mooncoin: 1888, 1900, 1906, 1908, 1909, 1913, 1917, 1918, 1921, 1922, 1927, 1928, 1929, 1932, 1936, 1965. - (16).

Bennettsbridge: 1890, 1952, 1953, 1955, 1956, 1959, 1960, 1962, 1964, 1966, 1967, 1971. - (12).

Carrickshock: 1931, 1938, 1940, 1941, 1942, 1943, 1951. - (8).

Eire Og: 1939, 1944, 1945, 1947. - (4).

The Fenians: 1970, 1972, 1973, 1974. - (4).

Dicksboro: 1923, 1926, 1950. - (3).

James Stephens: 1935, 1937, 1969. - (3).

Confederation: 1894, 1896. - (2).

Threecastles: 1898, 1903. - (2).

St. Lactain's (Freshford): 1961, 1963. - (2).

Erin's Own: 1905. - (1).

Johnstown: 1914. - (1).

Thomastown: 1946. - (1).

Graigue: 1949. - (1).

Slieverue: 1954. - (1).

John Lockes (Callan): 1957. - (1).

The Rower-Inistioge: 1968. - (1).

Training our seniors is easy

"Another thing that makes training the Kilkenny team easier is that we are fortunate to have Father Maher as coach and team manager. He knows more about hurling than anyone I know and it is impossible not to be impressed by his accurate analysis whether it is of Kilkenny or our opponents. I think it would be impossible for any player, under Father Maher's

influence, not to give the last ounce of his energy. We have had many books on hurling: I look forward to the day when we will have one by Father Maher.

"Paddy Grace is also a tremendous influence for good. His good humour is infectious and he does a lot to keep up the morale of the team".

ANSWERS

● Questions on page 14

1. Antrim and Armagh (Saf-fon).
2. In 1954, 84,856 saw Cork beat Wexford 1-9 to 1-6.
3. In 1959, 77,285. Waterford beat Kilkenny by 3-12 to 1-10 in a replay.
4. In 1970 Cork beat Wexford by 6-21 to 5-10 (64 points).
5. Three.
6. In 1932-33; 1961/62; 1965-66.
7. Alderman James Nowlan.
8. From 1901 until 1921 (He was the longest serving President).
9. 1959 (he came on as a sub).
10. Dan Kennedy.

LEINSTER FINAL — The game of the year

A POINT from a free by Eddie Keher from about 50 yards out in the last minute of the game gave Kilkenny victory over Wexford by 6-13 (31 points) to 2-24 (30) in this year's Leinster final.

This was one of the many dramatic moments in a game that was loaded with drama from start to finish and produced what was, unquestionably, the hurling game of the year. For thrills, spectacle and spectacular hurling the Munster final bore no comparison.

It is important to say this because we have long become accustomed to Munster finals being glamourised to an inordinate degree, often ignoring the far better fare which Wexford and Kilkenny have served up over the past 20 years or so.

It is worth saying here that of the Kilkenny-Wexford Leinster finals since Wexford's rise to fame about 1950, 10 have been won by three points or less and that does not include the 1972 drawn game when the sides scored 6-13 (31 points) each, 38 scores over the 80 minutes. Incidentally, Kilkenny scored the exact same total, 6-13, this year.

It may well be that Kilkenny bring the best out of Wexford but Kilkenny followers will have to concede that the Model County have suffered some exasperating defeats by their black and amber neighbours over the years. However their fortunes fare Wexford always come back.

In winning this year's Leinster title Kilkenny chalked up another record by taking their fourth in a row, a feat also accomplished by the minors.

With hurling at rock bottom in traditional counties like Dublin and Laois — Offaly, Meath and Westmeath had fair teams in past years, too — hurling in the province is totally dependant on Kilkenny and Wexford and the two counties are dependant on each other. In the circumstances Wexford must get full credit for coming back year after year despite frustrating near misses.

This year's final, like other blistering finals in the past, was

as good a game as has been seen at Croke Park for a long time. The drama began in the early stages when Kilkenny with a strong wind behind them had to wait 10 minutes for their first score, Wexford having already 'bagged' a goal and a point but before another 15 minutes had passed the champions had notched three goals and three points and led at the interval by 3-8 to 0-10.

The shattering Phil Wilson incident just at the interval must have had an upsetting effect on the Model County men. How much it had to do with the winning or losing of the game is a matter for conjecture and will be interpreted in their own way by Kilkenny and Wexford supporters.

Right half, Liam O'Brien flanked his second half performance with a brilliant exhibition of hurling and though Frank Cummins, like Pat Henderson reserved his best hurling for the all-Ireland he teamed up well with Billy Harte at midfield.

All the forwards either by scoring or 'making' scores helped in compiling the 6-13 total and if Eddie Keher with his tally of 2-6 and Mick Crotty, 2-1 were top scorers Pat Delaney, Kieran Purcell (1-1 each), Mick Brennan (0-1), Nickey Brennan (0-1), Liam O'Brien (0-1) all played a big part. Pat Henderson pointed Kilkenny's only '70'.

John Quigley played himself to a standstill and scored 0-5. Tom Byrne their top scorer scored 1-8, two points from penalties and five from frees; Rory Kinsella (1-1), Tony Doran (0-4); P. Wilson and Mick Casey, 0-2 each, impressed in the Wexford attack.

Mick Jacob, Teddy O'Connor and Pat Nolan in goal, though beaten six times, were outstanding in defence. Phil Wilson while he was on, Colm Doran, Martin Quigley and Christy Kehoe also impressed.

Kilkenny had 15 wides over the hour and 15 frees while Wexford had 17 wides and 19 frees. Kilkenny got three goals in each half while Wexford got their two in the second half.

After 18 minutes of the se-

cond half Kilkenny led by 6-10 (28 points) to 1-16 (19 points) and even with the strong wind Wexford's position looked fairly hopeless at this stage. Mounting a great rally Wexford gradually brought the lead down and ultimately went ahead by a point in the 36th minute.

In the last four minutes Nickey Brennan who had come on for Jim Treacy left an imprint on the game by scoring a fine point and in the 40th minute Eddie Keher pointed from a free 'engineered' by Pat Delaney.

Not one in the 20,000 crowd could fail to be roused by the tempo, intensity and dramatic turn of events that came with each passing minute in the final stages. It was a fitting end to a game that was all the time gripping and produced brilliant hurling.

In a game that called for almost superhuman effort it would be invidious to single out individuals and as far as Kilkenny is concerned every man played his part valiantly. The same can be said of the Wexford men.

Noel Skehan had a great game in the Kilkenny goal and Phil Larkin, Nickey Orr and Jim Treacy when he settled down manned the full back line in fine style. Pat Henderson may have reserved the best of his amazing talent for the all-Ireland final but he figured prominently flanked by two capable men in Pat Lalor and Ger Henderson.

Kilkenny — N. Skehan, P. Larkin, N. Orr, J. Treacy, P. Lalor, P. Henderson, G. Henderson, F. Cummins, W. Harte, L. O'Brien, P. Delaney, M. Crotty, M. Brennan, K. Purcell, E. Keher. Subs: N. Brennan for J. Treacy; W. Fitzpatrick for W. Harte.

Wexford — P. Nolan, T. O'Connor, E. Murphy, W. Murphy, V. Staples, M. Jacob, C. Doran, M. Quigley, M. Casey, P. Wilson, C. Kehoe, S. Kinsella, J. Quigley, T. Doran, T. Byrne. Subs: J. Prendergast for W. Murphy; R. Kinsella for M. Casey.

Kilkenny's first under-21 title

● From page 21

Kieran Ryan in the Waterford defence who is still only 17 was one of the heroes of the Waterford side with Eamonn Ryan and John Galvin also doing valuable work. Pat Egan and Pat McGrath were very sound all through at midfield while Tom Casey was the star of the attack with Brendan Mansfield also figuring very prominently.

Eight of this Kilkenny side are eligible to play in this grade next year. They are: Kevin Fennelly, Brian Cody, Ger Henderson, Mick Tierney, John Dowling, Ger Fennelly, Ger Woodcock and Bobby Sweeney who came on as a sub while sub goalie Pat Dunphy is also eligible.

KILKENNY — K. Fennelly, T. McCormack, M. Hogan, J. Dunne, G. Henderson, B. Cody, M. Tierney, J. Dowling, S. Brophy, N. Brennan, G. Woodcock, G. Fennelly, P. Kearney, T. Teehan, W. Fitzpatrick. Subs: B. Sweeney for T. Teehan; P. Mulcahy for N. Brennan; N. Brennan for S. Brophy.

WATERFORD — R. Ryan, F. McCarthy, M. Flynn, K. Ryan, L. O'Brien, J. Galvin, E. Ryan, P. Egan, P. McGrath, T. Casey, L. Power, B. Mansfield, P. O'Keefe, M. McNamara, P. Moore.

Seven titles in six years

IN THE six years 1969 to 1974 Kilkenny have won seven all Ireland titles. They won the senior in 1969, 1972 and 1974; minor in 1972 and 1973; intermediate in 1973 and under-21 in 1974.

They have won 34 all Ireland titles embracing all grades as follows: 19 senior; 9 minor, four junior, one intermediate and one under-21.

Start of the march to fame

THOSE who saw Kilkenny, led by Mooncoin, go down to Tipperary at Maurice Davin's field in Deerpark, just outside Carrick-on-Suir in the All-Ireland semi-final of 1900 on a scorching June Sunday in 1902, probably thought they were watching the end of Kilkenny's bid for hurling honours. Instead they saw the start of the county's march to hurling fame and greatness.

But Kilkenny's luck did not improve in the 1901 championship campaign which began on August 10, 1902 when they defeated Dublin by 2-12 to 2-7 at the Terenure Sarsfields Ground at the Green Lanes at that time the leading G.A.A. Ground in the Metropolis, as the Jones's Road Ground, then known as Butterly's Field (now Croke Park), was not available at this particular time, mainly because of financial differences between the G.A.A. and the owners.

However, when the next round of the Leinster championship was eventually staged on December 10, the Gaels were back in Jones's Road.

Late in the year though it was, the G.A.A. could not overcome its besetting sin of a belated start for this provincial semi-final in which Wexford provided the opposition to Kilkenny. Indeed, with Wexford leading by 4-6 to 0-8 midway through the second half, the game had to be abandoned, because it was by then so dark that neither the players nor the referee could see the ball!

THE REPLAY

The two teams came back to Jones's Road for the replay on February 13, 1903, and this time the boot was very much on the other foot for this time it was Kilkenny who were leading by 4-9 to 0-6 when a dispute arose, and the game was abandoned with only nine second half minutes gone. The second replay on March 8 found Kilkenny understrength because of internal squabbles and Wexford won comfortably by 7-6 to 1-7.

But, though, the Southern players seem to have been standing one side at this stage, it was in that same year of 1903 that Kilkenny won their first ever Leinster trophy.

By MOONDHARRIG

In those days the Central Council was barely struggling along under a crushing burden of debts they had first incurred in the 'Invasion' of America in 1888, and had been made much worse during the almost complete collapse of competitions during the sad years of the Parnell 'Split'.

In 1903 the then newly founded Leinster and Munster Councils set up special tournaments to help pay off some of the more pressing debts of the Association. The final of this tournament, styled the Leinster Cup competition, was played at Kilkenny on October 25, 1903, and Kilkenny won an exciting game from Dublin by 2-8 to 2-6.

Jer Doheny captained that Tullaroan selection which included the great veteran Pat 'Fox' Maher, and two newcomers to the county side who were later to become legendary, Sim Walton of Tullaroan and Jack Rochford of Threecastles.

But Kilkenny's real march to glory could not begin until the county was able to field a united, full-strength team, and that happy day came during the 1903 championship campaign in which Kilkenny did not appear until November 13, 1904.

On that day both the Leinster championship semi-finals were played together at Jones's Road with Dublin taking on Offaly and Kilkenny opposing Wexford. The greatest crowd ever to attend such a fixture in the province, 8,000 turned up, and for the first time since the match at Deerpark more than two years before Kilkenny again had the assistance of Southern players.

JOHN FIELDING

The man to thank for this was John Fielding from Rathkieran who had taken over as Secretary in Mooncoin and reorganised the old club.

The result was that Kilkenny comfortably beat Wexford by 3-14 to 2-6 while Dublin had earlier accounted for Offaly by

3-6 to 1-3. The Leinster final of 1903 was played at Gaelic Park, Kilkenny (can anyone recall where that was?) and the official result as given by referee Tom Dooley of Cork, who was than a famous figure in the Association, was a draw, Kilkenny 1-5, Dublin 1-5. Kilkenny protested at once, on the grounds that Dublin's 'goal' was actually a point, and their protest was accepted by the Leinster Council.

Threecastles had the selection that year, Mick Dalton was captain and the team included Fox Maher, Jack Rochford, Ned Teehan, Jer Doheny, the Lalors, Sim Walton and four Mooncoin men, John Fielding and his brother Pat, Jim Synnot and Mike O'Keefe.

On June 19, 1905 Kilkenny routed Antrim at Jones's Road by 6-29 to 3-2 and thus advanced to meet Cork in the All-Ireland 'Home' final which was played at Dan Fraher's Field in Dungarvan on July 16, 1905. But that was another sad day for Kilkenny, Cork romping to victory by 8-9 to 0-8 (or 0-7 according to some of the papers of the following morning) after leading by 4-2 to 0-5 at half time with their great forward Andy Buckley 'Dooric' from Blackrock credited with a total of 7-4.

The Kilkenny team was Mick Dalton (Captain), James Lalor, Tom Murphy, Jack Rochford, Mick Shortall, Jim Grace (Threecastles), Fox Maher, Jer Doheny, Sim Walton, John Hoyne, Pat Saunders (Tullaroan), J. Kerwick (Erins Own), John Fielding, Pat Fielding, Ned Doyle, Jim Synnot (Mooncoin).

GALAXY OF STARS

That was that, as far as the 1903 championship was concerned, but by the time Kilkenny appeared on a championship field again which was in the Spring of 1906 in the opening round of the 1904 series, a whole galaxy of young stars had appeared, most of them discovered on the Suirside, thanks

to the energy and enthusiasm of John Fielding. Ned Doyle from Dournane had made his debut on the county side in the previous year, and he was now joined for the first time by his younger brother Dick by a small man from the village of Ballygorey named Jimmy Kelly, and by a quiet square shouldered young man originally from Rathkieran but later to live in the street of Mooncoin, Dick Walsh.

But he was never known by his baptismal name. The papers called him 'Drug' but the papers spelt that nickname wrongly. All his lifetime in Mooncoin he was known as 'Droog', due to the fact that when he was called on to sing at the house-dances which were the popular form of social amusement 70 years ago, he invariably rendered a song called 'The Bold Dragoon'.

There were three other promising newcomers on the Kilkenny side at the start of that 1904 championship, Pat Clohosey from Tullaroan a young lad called Dan Stapleton then a student at Rockwell College in Cashel, and 'the tall man with the steel wrists', Jack Anthony from Piltown.

Jer Doheny was the captain, as Tullaroan again had the selection, and Kilkenny opened with a 3-11 to 1-4 victory over Offaly at Maryboro, as Portlaoise was then known, on April 15, 1906. They next met Dublin in the Leinster final at the Agricultural Showgrounds in Enniscorthy on June 10, and retained the Leinster title with a hard-won victory on scores of 2-9 to 2-6. Oddly enough Kilkenny before that had played the All-Ireland semi-final and had been hard-pressed to beat Galway 2-8 to 1-7 at Athlone.

So it was back to Maurice Davin's Deerpark to face Cork in the All-Ireland, only a fortnight after the Leinster final, on June 24, 1906, and Kilkenny had to field without Pat Clohosey and Jim Kelly both of whom were still out because of inquiries received against Dublin.

Cork, in view of their easy Dungarvan victory 12 months

● *Continued overleaf*

Player of the month

● *Continued from page 19*

made this position in the 1972 all-Ireland final he has covered himself with glory.

Though only beaten once in this year's all-Ireland his display against Cork in the 1972 final, even though Cork scored five goals, was the more praiseworthy. He had a comparatively easy task this year but the situation was much different in 1972 and some of his saves were as good as have ever been seen at Croke Park.

Noel has given many amazing exhibitions of goal keeping in top class hurling and can hold his own with the best that ever graced the Croke Park sod.

He won his first all-Ireland medal in 1962 when he played in goal for the Kilkenny minors.

He won his first All-Ireland medal in 1962 when he played in goal for Kilkenny minors. He was a sub. on the Kilkenny senior side in 1963, 1967, 1969. He has won three Railway Cup medals and three Oireachtas medals and six county senior championships with his club, Bennettsbridge.

Noel is employed in Smithwick's brewery, Kilkenny

March to fame

● *Continued from page 27*

before, were warmest of favourites, but, on another day of scorching heat, Kilkenny surprised even their own followers by being a goal in front at the interval, 1-5 to 0-5. Cork equalised soon after the restart, both teams then took lead in turn and scores were level five minutes from the end, before Kilkenny snatched the winning point in the last minute.

But who scored that historic point the daily papers of the following day did not state.

So Kilkenny were All-Ireland champions at last, and the team that historic day was - Jer Doheny (Captain), Pat 'Fox' Maher, (goal), Sim Walton, Jack Hoyne, Pat Saunders, James Lawlor (Tullaroan), Dick Doyle, Ned Doyle, Pat Fielding, Dick 'Droog' Walsh (Mooncoin), Jack Rochford, Dan Grace, Martin Lawlor (Threecastles), Dick Brennan, Dan Stapleton, Paddy Lanigan (Erins Own), Jack Anthony (Piltown).

The faithful fans who had followed Kilkenny through the lean years had their reward at last, but even they can hardly have visualised the glories that lay ahead.

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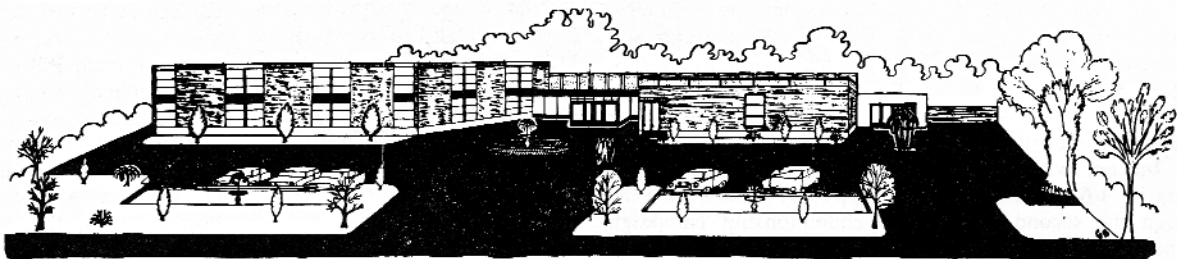
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An Dúchas agus na Cait

le Tomás de Bháldraithe

FOMHAR na bliana 1939 thainig triúr múinteoir le chéile in Halla na Cathrach, Cill Chainnigh, chun Cumann Iomána na mBuscoileanna a bhunú. O shoin i leith tá bláth tar-éis teacht ar a gcuid oibre agus is fíor a rá nach bhfuil aon chontae eile in Éireann ion-curtha le Cill Chainnigh haidir le h-eacraíochta na h-iomána na bunscoileanna.

Ach conas mar bhí an scéal roimh 1939? An mbíodh an iomáint dá h-imirt ag an aos óg go foirleathan?

Fé'n dtuaithe, áit a mbíodh foireann soisir nó sinsir bhí an scéal maith go leor. Cleachtáití an cluiche, cuma fé'n aoisteora, agus bhíodh páirc na h-iomána lán sna trathnontaí Samhraidh agus gach aon Domhnach i rith na bliana. Ní chuireadh aon chluiche eile as doibh mar bhí

cricket ag imeacht as le scaipeadh na dtiarnaí talun agus gan glaoch ar bith ar socar na rugby. Paróistí a mbíodh suim ag múinteoirí sna cluichí, h-eagraití cluichí idir scoileanna, idir paróistí; bobhtaí, cuirte comortaisí idir-pharoiste ar siúl agus leantaí de'n chleachtadh tar-éis fágaint na scoile dóibh.

Nuair a bhímis-ne ag eiri suas ins na fichidí agus sna triochaidí i gCathair Chill Chainnigh is beag duine a chuireadh suim i gluichí na mbuachaillí. Ach bhriseadh an dúchas tré shúile na gcát! Gan eagraíocht ar bith laistiar dinn, gan airgeadas dá laghad ár spriocadh, tháinig an iomáint chugainn. Is cuimhin liom go mbíodh foireann ins gach sráid agus is iomaí cluiche millteach a h-imríodh in Johnston's Field (Bóthar Hebron), Tintown (Green's

Hill), Goose Hill, The Fair Green, The Lacken Flats, The Lake Field agus in go leor áiteanna eile atá do-aithinte no imithe fe thithe anois, gan a rian le fail. Sinn féin, páistí na mbunscoileanna, d'eagraíodh iad agus muna mbíodh cúigear déag féin ar ghach foireann díobh, shocraimis go síochánta cé mhéid a chuirimis amach ar pháirc an chatha. Gheobhfa "páirc an chatha" a thabhairt air le fírinne, bobhtaí, mar chaitheadh gach mac máthar againn bheith oilte ar dhornáiliocht, ar clocha a chaitheamh, ar rith maith in áit droch-sheasaimh agus ar dhíoltas a chothú chun go bhfillfeadh an feall ar an bhfeallaire an chéad deis a gheobhfá!

An chuid againn a théadh ar meanscoil leanaimis de'n

iomáint. Bhíodh cluichí eagraithe againn ansan. Ach an dream bocht silte, an tromlucht, a mbíodh orthu dul amach ag soláthar dá gclanna féin is beag deis a gheibhidís siúd ar an cluiche a chleachtadh tar-éis fágaint na bunscoile dóibh.

Fiú amháin nuair a shroichidís aois na mionúr ní thugtaí áird ar bith orthu. Is ar lucht Choláiste Chiaráin agus Scoil na mBráithre a bhíodh an tóir ag stiúrthoirí na gClubanna Mionúr mar is acu san a bhíodh an cleachtadh.

Ach nach iontach an scéal é go dtagadh an dream so chun cinn go mór tar-éis dóibh aois na mionúr a chur díobh nuair a bhíodh scaipeadh ar lucht na meanscoileanna. Sompla eile de dhúchas na gcát ag briseadh amach luath nó mall!

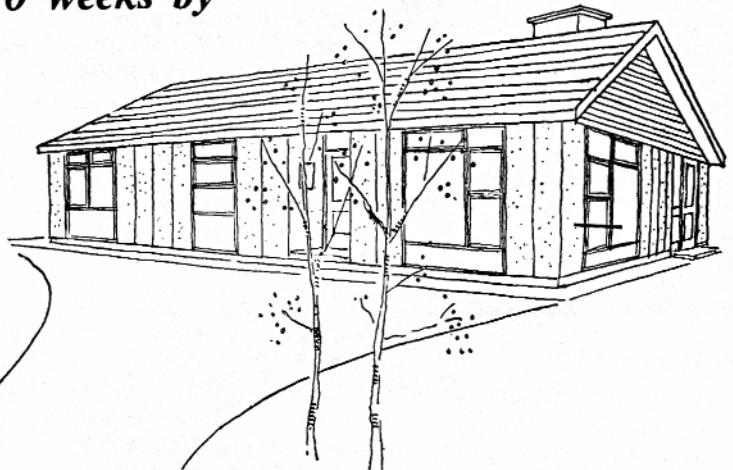
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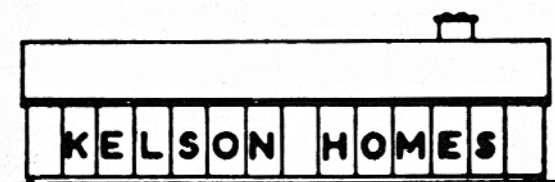
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History is repeated in Kilkenny's victory

AN INTERESTING point about this year's senior hurling championship is that Kilkenny went into the 1973 final as champions, lost and came back in 1974 to beat their previous year's conquerers, Limerick. It is all the more interesting because there is a parallel, the only other in hurling history, and the same two counties were involved.

Limerick went into the 1935 all-Ireland final as all-Ireland champions and were beaten by Kilkenny but they came back in 1936 to turn the tables on the black and ambers.

There is little else, apart from Kilkenny's victory, about this year's final to stir the imagination except that it poses questions that will be answered in different ways, depending on where they are asked. Would Limerick have beaten a full strength Kilkenny side in 1973?

FINAL FIGURES

IN THE first half Kilkenny had three goals, seven points, 10 wides, 13 frees and one '70', and in the second they had 12 points, nine wides, nine frees and one "70" giving a total of three goals, 19 points, 19 wides, 22 frees and two '70's. Limerick in the first half had one goal, nine points, seven wides, 12 frees and one '70' and in the second, four points, 10 wides, 12 frees and three '70's, making their totals: one goal, 13 points, 17 wides, 24 frees and four '70's.

This certainly put them in a very favourable position. Everything was going right for them. But it was obvious that Kilkenny were merely probing their way, measuring the lie of the land and in the space of four minutes they put on two goals and two points.

Kilkenny were playing very confidently now and after Liam O'Donoghue's goal in the 22nd minute Kilkenny hit back with a goal and five points to two points for Limerick.

Limerick had the benefit of a fairly stiff wind in the first half but it slackened off a good deal in the second. In any case Kilkenny did not need the elements to assist them. The game was as good as over long before the end. Limerick had points in the second half by Ballyragget man Matt Ruth

(3rd. minute), Eamonn Grimes (7th minute), Richie Bennis from a free (8th minute); Eamonn Rea in the 22nd minute.

Kilkenny's 12 points came from Eddie Keher (1st., 14th., 14½, 23rd., 34th., 36th., and 38th minute). Billy Fitzpatrick (2nd minute), Mick Crotty (5th minute), Kieran Purcell (13th and 15th minutes), and Liam O'Brien (33rd minute).

While different people will parade different players as the heroes of the game this was essentially a team effort and while some may not have left the same imprint as others it was because every man played his part and played it well at one stage or another that Kilkenny won so easily. And once Mick Brennan beautifully kicked the ball past Seamus Horgan for

Kilkenny's first goal there was no real pressure. So much so that if a greater effort was called for it would have been forthcoming.

Most people watching the game would give chief honours to Pat Henderson who had what was probably his finest hour. Many will say he was as good if not better than in the 1972 final against Cork. In that game Kilkenny were in difficulties when Cork forged eight points ahead and it was then that the value of Pat Henderson's work manifested itself.

The need was greater. Kilkenny were under pressure and might well have found themselves in a hopeless situation but for the Johnstown man's superb hurling. He did a little more hurling against Limerick. His strength and skill;

his delightful catching and the ease with which he wormed his way through Limerick men to clear were special features that few will forget, whether Kilkenny supporters or not.

Noel Skehan was another man who stood the test at the crucial stage. He, too, foiled Limerick when they were making an all-out effort to forge to the front. Some of his saves bordered on the miraculous; but there is nothing new in saying this about Noel Skehan.

And then there was Eddie Keher, greatest stylist, greatest tactician and greatest marksman of them all. His total of a goal and 11 points is not his highest in an all-Ireland final but what a score for any one man. Two of his points were in the real Keher mould, effortless displays of skill and genius;

there was nothing very much wrong about any of his scores as he picked them off with uncanny ease.

Fan Larkin was another man who made a mighty contribution and he was one of those who after being caught off guard once never again faltered throughout the hour. He was steadfast and sure and he placed his clearances cleverly.

Kieran Purcell is having his best year ever. Like Mick Crotty he did not have the best of luck with his shooting but he picked off his points very adroitly and made the openings with his customary well timed passes.

Liam O'Brien was the dominant figure at midfield and he and Frank Cummins held sway over most of the time. This was a different Liam O'Brien to last

year when an eye injury as the ball was thrown in must have had a serious effect on his hurling. It was a very different story this time. Frank Cummins was able to keep the Kilkenny end up and help in the defence when the occasion arose.

Pat Lalor also did a lot of good hurling despite the fact that he had only left his sick bed a couple of days before. On the previous Sunday he was so ill that he hadn't the slightest interest in hurling. He made a quick recovery and by mid-week was determined to be in Croke Park on final day, hurling or not.

Nickey Orr was a little uncomfortable at the start too, and like a lot of his colleagues was

Contd. Overleaf

Back row (left to right) - Mick Brennan, Tom McCormack, Eddie Keher, Frank Cummins, Mick Crotty, Pat Henderson, Billy Fitzpatrick, Phil Larkin. In front (left to right) - Pa Lalor, Liam O'Brien, Noel Skehan, Nickey Orr (captain), Jim Treacy, Kieran Purcell, Pat Delaney.



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History is repeated in Kilkenny's victory

-Contd.

slow to settle down. But when he did he teamed up splendidly in what proved to be a rock-like defence and Jim Treacy, though not showing his great resilience of past days played his part well.

Two of the side, Billy Fitzpatrick and Tom McCormack were making their first appearance in a senior final and both made a big impact. Tom McCormack held Joe McKenna, Limerick's best forward to two points and held him scoreless in the second half and even when Limerick made positional changes the Kilkenny defender was always sound.

Billy Fitzpatrick who won a minor all-Ireland medal two years before also made a big im-

pression and teamed up splendidly with his colleagues. He cut a beautiful point off the ground early in the second half.

Being left for last does not mean that Mick Crotty and Mick Brennan are least in the order of merit. They are two of the hardest working forwards on the side or in the country, in fact, it is largely due to their untiring efforts that the Kilkenny attack has become so effective.

It often happens that their wholehearted hurling does not reflect itself in their own scoring but without them this smooth working Kilkenny attacking machine would not be getting the scores.

When the scores came

FIRST HALF

10 secs. Limerick point (F. Nolan).
3 min. Limerick point (E. Rea).
5 min. Limerick point (E. Rea).
6 min. Limerick point (R. Bennis, free).
9 min. Kilkenny point (M. Brennan).
10 min. Limerick point (R. Bennis, free).
11 min. Limerick point (J. McKenna).
12 min. Kilkenny goal (M. Brennan).
14 min. Kilkenny goal (E. Keher, penalty).
15 min. Limerick point (R. Bennis, free).
16 min. Kilkenny point (P. Henderson, '70').
19 min. Kilkenny point (E. Keher, free).
22 min. Limerick goal (L. O'Donoghue).
23 min. Kilkenny goal (P. Delaney).
25 min. Kilkenny point (E. Keher, free).
26 min. Kilkenny point (E. Keher).
28 min. Limerick point (R. Bennis, free).
31 min. Kilkenny point (M. Brennan).
38 min. Kilkenny point (E. Keher, free).
Half Time : Kilkenny 3-7, Limerick 1-9.

SECOND HALF

1 min. Kilkenny point (E. Keher, free).
2 min. Kilkenny point (W. Fitzpatrick).
3 min. Limerick point (M. Ruth).
5 min. Kilkenny point (M. Crotty).
7 min. Limerick point (E. Grimes).
8 min. Limerick point (R. Bennis, free).
13 min. Kilkenny point (K. Purcell).
14 min. Kilkenny point (E. Keher).
14½ min. Kilkenny point (E. Keher).
15 min. Kilkenny point (K. Purcell).
22 min. Limerick point (E. Rea).
23 min. Kilkenny point (E. Keher, free).
33 min. Kilkenny point (L. O'Brien).
34 min. Kilkenny point (E. Keher, free).
36 min. Kilkenny point (E. Keher).
38 min. Kilkenny point (E. Keher, free).

UNDER-16 FARE WAS BEST EVER

THE under -16 Board can look back on another very successful year with more games than ever before being played in this age group. There are now five competitions - Roinn 'A' championship and League in hurling; Roinn 'B' championship and League in hurling, and a football championship.

At the time of writing only one competition has been finished. This was the Roinn 'A' hurling championship which saw James Stephens, from the City, regain a title they last held in 1970. Competition in this group was very keen and all 11 sides were evenly matched.

In the first round Mooncoin defeated Shamrocks by four points; St. Mary's had the same margin to spare over Gowran while O'Loughlins beat Castlecomer.

In the second round St. Mary's pipped St. Lactain's (Freshford) by one point in a thriller. Mooncoin also scored a one-point victory over The Rower-Inistioge who had been tipped in many quarters as likely champions.

Clara ousted Thomastown, winners for two previous years by four points, while St. Patrick's had an easy win over a depleted O'Loughlins' side.

This cleared the way for the semi-finals and St. Patrick's easily overcame St. Mary's in an all-city clash. The second semi-final produced the real fireworks with Mooncoin and Clara finishing all square after a great hour's hurling in Thomastown. The replay was equally as good with Mooncoin taking the laurels by a goal.

St. Patrick's created a surprise when they captured the title. Mooncoin failed to use the wind to the best advantage in the first half and St. Patrick's, urged forward by the power hurling of Eamonn Murphy and Richie O'Keeffe, scored three great goals against the breeze and were in an unassailable position at half time when they led by 3-3 to 1-5, with the help of the strong breeze to follow.

Mooncoin battled courageously against the wind until 10 minutes from the end and then St. Patrick's took control to run out winners by 4-10 to 2-5.

For the record, the teams were:

St. Patrick's: A. Cullen, E. Kelly, J. Byrne, T. Maguire, J. O'Donoghue, E. Murphy, J. Coyne, R. O'Keeffe, D. Reidy, E. McPhillips, D. Dowling, M. O'Neill, T. Shanahan, P. O'Driscoll, G. McCarthy. Sub.-N. Boyd.

Mooncoin - E. Crowley, A. Quinn, J. O'Neill, P. O'Keeffe, P. O'Neill, J. J. Henneberry, S. O'Hanlon, J. J. Croke, J. Wall, T. Cleary, L. Power, T. Walsh, W. Crowley, S. O'Keeffe, R. Kearns. Subs.: L. O'Keeffe, R. Wall, L. O'Brien.

The Roinn 'A' League has also reached the closing stages. In the Northern section, Clara as winners and St. Lactain's as runners-up qualified for the semi-final while Mooncoin as winners and Shanrocks as runners-up qualified for the Southern section.

St. Lactain's created a big surprise when they beat Mooncoin and they now await the winners of the Clara-Shamrocks game.

Johnstown are the pacemakers in Roinn 'B' and have already qualified for the semi-final. The Southern section was held up owing to a series of draws between Callan and Piltown which were followed by objections and appeals.

The County Board has still to hear an appeal by Piltown against a decision by the Under-16 Board. The winners here play Mullinavat in the south final.

In the Roinn 'B' League, Johnstown and Lisdowney are through to the Northern final with Tullogher in the South final, awaiting the winners of a play-off between Callan, Graignamanagh and Piltown. It is hoped to clear up the league before the end of the year.

FOOTBALL

Three teams remain in the football championship with the holders for the past two years, Thomastown, awaiting the winners of the Northern final which brings St. Patrick's and Clara into opposition.

Although competitions started at the end of April, they had to be suspended from mid-May to the end of June due to school examinations but the lesson to be learned is that the leagues must be started in March so that finals can be played in October.

Great credit is due to those who work so hard with the Under-16's in the parishes. They are the real heroes in the G.A.A. They get little of the limelight but they are doing a great job in promoting our games in this grade. It is from this grade the boys graduate into minor ranks and Kilkenny minors have been very successful in recent years.

If this year is anything to go by the supply for future minor teams is assured. Names that will be heard of in future in higher fields are such as Eamonn Murphy, Declan

Dowling and Richie O'Keeffe (St. Patrick's); Joe Wall, Eddie Crowley and John O'Neill (Mooncoin); Gerry Stapleton and Joe Murray (St. Mary's); Paddy Prendergast, Shem Cody and Lester Ryan (Clara); Tom Lennon and Pat Buggy (St. Lactain's); Joe Ryan and John Power (Johnstown); Nick Wall and Frank Thornton (Lisdowney); the Heffernans of Tullogher and a host of others.

Our wish for the coming year is that such parishes as Paulstown, Dunnamaggin, Aghaviller, Conahy, Kilmacow and Slieverue will rally to the call. They are now the only parishes not competing in Under-16 competitions.

Next year also it is hoped to have an extra competition, Roinn 'B' football, with the strong teams playing for the Roinn 'A' championship. In this way football would be improved with the weaker teams having a chance of success.

The challenge for the youth is on; we must hold our own and gather in the other six parishes not yet competing. We have the competitions; let us look forward to another glorious year in 1975.

Kilkenny's tally was 15 goals, 78 points

IN their four games in the senior championship Kilkenny scored a total of 15 goals and 78 points and conceded 8 goals and 60 points. Bringing down to points this reads 123 points to 84. The scores for the four games were: Kilkenny 4-14, Offaly 2-6; Kilkenny 6-13; Wexford 2-24; Kilkenny, 2-32; Galway 3-17; Kilkenny 3-19; Limerick 1-13.

The champions won their semi final and final by the same margin, 12 points.

The Kilkenny scorers in the campaign were: Eddie Keher scored five goals and 35 points; Pat Delaney 5-3; Kieran

Purcell, 2-9; Liam O'Brien, 0-10; Mick Crotty 2-3; Mick Brennan, 1-9; Pat Henderson, 0-3; Billy Fitzpatrick, 0-3; Frank Cummins, 0-2; Nickey Brennan 0-1.

Over the four games Kilkenny averaged 30.75 points per game.

Eddie Keher's total for the four championship games this year, 5-35 is 1-10 below his record total of 6-45 scored in 1972. There were five games in 1972, Kilkenny and Wexford having drawn in the Leinster final but on average the difference between 1972 and 1974 is very small - 12.5 in 1972 and 12.6 this year.

WAS THIS THE BEST SIDE OF THIS CENTURY?

By **RAYMOND SMITH**

(Irish Independent)

JIMMY KENNEDY, ace Tipperary marksman of the 1949-50 seasons, said to me one day in Thurles that John Doyle was deprived of a ninth All-Ireland medal in 1967 by "the best Kilkenny side of this century".

Now that was generous praise, indeed, for a Kilkenny side that had broken a 'hoodoo' that had lasted forty-four years in championship hurling — from the 1922 All-Ireland (decided in 1923). It was in 1967 that Kilkenny began a run that was to see them contest six of the eight finals up to and including 1974, winning four of them.

On what did Jimmy Kennedy base his tribute? "For the first time in an All-Ireland in my memory, the Noresiders combined natural hurling ability, craft and skill with an ability to more than match Tipperary in the man-to-man exchanges", he said.

But there are Kilkenny men I know who will argue that the change in approach that marked the beginning of what was to be one of the most successful eras of all for Kilkenny hurling in our time, really began on May 22, 1966 — the day of the 1965-'66 League decider at Croke Park, which Kilkenny won by two points (0-9 to 0-7).

Undoubtedly this was one of Kilkenny's finest triumphs over Tipperary on the hurling field, providing in the last quarter some of the most blood-tingling hurling I have ever seen at Headquarters. Battling into the wind and rain, Kilkenny courageously held on to their two points lead right through that last period and fortune certainly favoured the brave when a ball glanced off Ollie Walsh's stick but had not enough power to carry it over the line.

EDGE OF STEEL

Kilkenny with better teams than Tipperary had continually failed to beat them in crucial tests. The reason for this had been the absence of a certain edge of "steel" in their play.

The skill, polish and finesse were certainly there in abundance but championships are not won on pure skill alone. Thus Tipperary could often tie down better Kilkenny attacks.

For example, the men in the Blue and Gold won the All-Ireland with a team reckoned even in Tipperary, to have been the worst ever to have left the Premier County and Jimmy Langton missed another medal in 1950, 11 years after he had won his first.

Nothing brought it home more forcibly to Kilkenny that the time had come for change than the fourteen points defeat (5-13 to 2-8) which they suffered at the hands of Tipperary in the 1964 All-Ireland. Granted the 1964-'65 Tipperary combination is now rated among the "Top Ten" in hurling history, if not in the "Top Five" but, against that, Kilkenny on paper looked strong and there seemed no reason beforehand why they should fail so badly on the scoreboard.

The taking of Seamus Cleere, one of the most stylish players I have ever seen at wing back, out of his best position to play him at wing forward was, of course, a disastrous error of judgment and then too John O'Donoghue made some inspired saves for Tipperary just after half-time when the men in the Black and Amber were coming in promising fashion at Tipperary.

SURPRISE DEFEAT

After 1964 followed the surprise defeat by Cork in 1966 — a

defeat attributable as much to over-confidence on Kilkenny's part as to the burning ambition of the Leesiders (so like the motivation of the Limerick men in 1973) to get back into the championship honours list after 12 years without winning a title.

So when Kilkenny faced Tipperary in that 1965-'66 League decider, it seemed that they had made up their minds that nothing was going to halt them on this day. John Teehan, Seamus Cleere, Martin Coogan, Ted Carroll, Pat Henderson and Sean Buckley played with wonderful courage.

And Kilkenny repeated that success in the 1966-'67 League campaign at Nowlan Park in March 1967. Thus they went into the 1967 Final with the confidence gained from two key victories — a fact overlooked by many neutrals when they made Tipperary hot favourites.

Now it can be argued that Kilkenny had the potential and the power to have completed the three-in-a-row in the seasons 1967-'67.

If they had the ability to stop Tipperary in that crunch test in 1967, when there was so much at stake, and two seasons later show such an impressive surge of hurling in sweeping to victory against Cork after Pat Delaney had been knocked out, then is it not reasonable for Kilkennymen to assume that 1968 could have been won also in different circumstances?

I believe that they would have come out of Leinster, definitely, if Ollie Walsh had not been absent from goal in unfortunate circumstances. The Noresiders didn't seem to have their hearts fully in it — after that suspension — when they faced Wexford and yet they were only piped by a point —

Eddie Keher shaving the upright for the equaliser with the last puck of the game.

That then could have been one three-in-a-row and the second three-in-a-row might have been completed between 1971-'73 or 1972-'74 — and even possibly a four-timer to equal Cork's 1941-'44 record.

I do not have to swell on the fact that if the selectors had shown the courage to start with Noel Skehan instead of Ollie Walsh in goal in the 1971 final, they must have beaten Tipperary that day. All right, if Noel hadn't made it, they could have always fallen back on the experience of Ollie — and the very fact of Ollie coming on would have been an inspiration.

As it was, Ollie in his 1966 League Final form or his 1967 All-Ireland form would never have conceded a few of the goals he let in that day. But age catches up on the greatest goalies. It even caught up on the peerless Tony Reddan in the 1956 League Final against Wexford.

BRAVEST DECISION

If the Kilkenny selectors lacked courage in 1971, they certainly didn't lack it before the 1974 All-Ireland when they took what must be rated one of the bravest decisions in hurling history when they gambled on 20-year-old Tom McCormack at half-back. And it was a gamble that paid off.

If one can advance ample reasons why Kilkenny should have won in 1971, it is possible, no doubt, again if you are a Kilkennyman, to put forward an even stronger case as to why they would have taken the 1973 crown — if they had the full team that had played so impressively in the Leinster Final.

Limerick players I have put



In friendly conversation with Eddie Keher and Jimmy Langton, Eamonn Grimes, captain of Limerick's victorious 1973 All-Ireland team at the launching of the "Player's No. 6 Book of Hurling" in Dublin. The first 120 pages of the 300-page book are devoted principally to Limerick's surge back to win All-Ireland honours in 1973 after a lapse of 33 years, but the views of men like Keher, Henderson and Langton are given in the chapter dealing with the question whether Limerick would have beaten a full Kilkenny team. The book has a centre-spread of eight pages of colour and a full up-dated records section. It is available in all Kilkenny bookshops at 90p or direct from the publishers, Creation Press, Creation House, Botanic Road, Dublin 9 (£1 post free).

Best side of this century?

the question to, like Eamonn Grimes, Ned Rea and the captain, Sean Foley will tell you that they never got going at all in the 1974 Final as they had done the previous year and in addition they didn't get one decent "break" in the second half when one goal might have set them going.

Perhaps they just weren't allowed to get going by what even Limerick players admit was a far better team on the day and Eddie Keher went so far as to say that the Noresiders were only "playing in the third gear" through the second half.

My own belief is that Limerick just hadn't the hunger and the motivation this year as they had last - that was obvious for anyone to see. They didn't die in front of opponents in battling for possession, there weren't two or three of them prouncing on every loose ball as was the case the previous year.

The men who won it for them in 1973 were sadly out of touch

on this occasion. Too many played too badly and they had no stars like Pat Henderson, Eddie Keher and Noel Skehan. And that soft goal seemed to take much of the heart out of them.

Let me hasten to add that all this is not being advanced as an excuse for defeat. What I am arguing is that because Kilkenny hammered Limerick into subjection in the 1974 Final, they would have beaten them just as easily with a full side in 1973. You have only to take 1946 and 1947.

Kilkenny seemed to have no answer to the wiles of Christy Ring in 1946, yet one season later he was curbed and they were able to beat the Leesiders in one of the most classic of all hurling finals by a point.

"I'LL BE SHOT"

One Limerick hurler has advanced the controversial viewpoint that if Limerick had played with the same drive and

spirit this year against Kilkenny as in 1973, they would have won by ten points! I'll be shot the next time I drop into Shem Lawlor's or Ned Langton's for having the temerity to even write that . . .

Be that as it may, taking the power Kilkenny showed when they literally swept Cork aside in the last 20 minutes of the 1972 All-Ireland and examine too the ease of their triumph against Limerick in 1974 and you cannot but be inclined to agree that they could have pulled it off in 1971 and 1973 but for certain circumstances.

And yet in 1971 had been won, it wouldn't have automatically followed that the three-in-a-row would have been completed, though Kilkenny, as I have indicated, certainly had the ability to do so. Neither does it follow, if the three-in-a-row had been won that the four-in-a-row would have been completed.

continued from Page 34.

Motivation can abate after one, can begin to wane after two and in these days is terribly difficult, if not impossible, to maintain through the winning of three successive titles.

I do agree with what Eddie Keher said to me on the evening of the All-Ireland Final - "when this Kilkenny team really got going, nothing could stop them". Not a great side in every position but ever-dangerous in attack, to my mind, because of the triangle of Keher-Delaney-Purcell - one of the most effective I have seen in the Kilkenny colours.

Pat Henderson like a rock at centre-back and someone made the significant point to me on the train bringing the Kilkenny team home after the All-Ireland - "whenever Henderson has starred for the county, they seemed to have won".

To try and compare Ollie Walsh with Noel Skehan is not fair to either. Ollie in his heyday was a personality, something of a character on the field who had the ability to lift a whole team with a series of electrifying saves. He could be human too and in his final seasons some would fault him on this. But at his peak and on his great days he was in the mould of Reddan - making the impossible seem possible.

Noel Skehan has been reliability personified, tremendously sound and giving away no soft goals that could shatter.

Some of his saves have been brilliant but yet Ollie had that certain quality known as panache which captures a whole stadium. The best tribute I have heard paid to Noel Skehan was this - "how could a goalie so good have languished in the shadows as a sub for so long".

Only an Ollie Walsh at his very peak could have kept him out.

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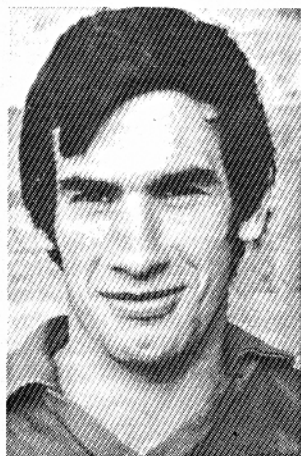
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Poised for Future Glory

FOUR Kilkenny hurlers who have not, perhaps, hit the headlines to the same extent as their more experienced team mates could well be on the way to future glory. They are Mick Crotty, Mick Brennan, Billy Fitzpatrick and Tom McCormack.



MICK CROTTY

Mick Crotty has the rare distinction of having played three county finals in the one year. He played with James Stephens when they beat The Fenians in the 1969 Kilkenny final, played in April 1970. In 1970 he won a Cork county championship hurling medal with University College, Cork and in the same year he was on the James Stephens team that lost to The Fenians in the 1970 final. Mick started his hurling with the C.B.S. primary schools team and was on the juvenile, junior and senior sides when he went to St. Kieran's college. Strange as it may seem he did not win even a Leinster medal with St. Kieran's who hit a bad patch during his school days here. He spent a couple of years in Kiltegan college where he did no hurling at all but when he went to U.C.C. his hurling skill was quickly recognised and he became an automatic choice for the college side in the Cork championships.

While with U.C.C. he won two Fitzgibbon cup medals and on returning to Kilkenny to take up teaching in the Kilkenny Vocational School he joined the James Stephens club. Incidentally his brother, Alderman Kieran Crotty T.D. won a county senior hurling championship medal with Dicksboro. It was while he was with the

James Stephens club that Mick Crotty made his place on the Kilkenny senior side and he has already won two all Ireland and three Leinster senior hurling medals.

One of these young men who is completely dedicated to the game, he helps to keep himself fit by training the Kilkenny Vocational School under-14 and under-15 hurling teams.

He is on the Carrolls All-Star side this year.



TOM McCORMACK

TOM McCORMACK, who won All-Ireland senior and under-21 hurling medals this year, started with St. Canice's under-12 team and won his first medal with Kilkenny C.B.S. in the Leinster under-15 grade. He started with James Stephens after leaving college and won two minor and an under 21 championship with them in 1970 and 1971.

He won a Leinster minor medal with Kilkenny in 1971 and was on the side that lost to Cork in the All-Ireland final.

Tom is employed with Irish Pensions Trust in Dublin and does his hurling training in Bushy Park, Terenure. He plays a lot of soccer and won a McCalmont Cup medal and a first division league medal with Callan United. He also plays golf and table tennis.

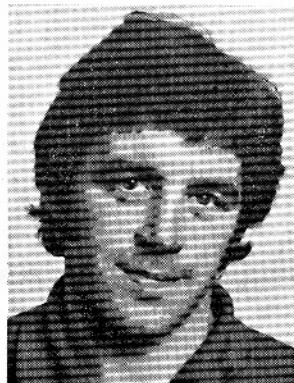
His brother, Dinny, won junior and senior Leinster colleges medals with Kilkenny C.B.S. the same year as Tom won his under 15 Leinster medal. Dinny also won a senior championship medal with James Stephens and captained the Kilkenny side that lost to Cork in the 1969 All-Ireland minor hurling final. Dinny has

also played senior for Kilkenny.

Tom's favourite position is right half back. The hurler he respects most is Fan Larkin for his enthusiasm and his encouragement to young players.

Tom is son of Mr. and Mrs. Denis McCormack, Newpark, Kilkenny, and is a nephew of Mick Lawlor, Coon, who was on the Kilkenny side that beat Cork in the 1969 All-Ireland final.

Tom's father, a psychiatric nurse in St. Canice's Hospital, is a prominent social worker in Kilkenny and won "The Man of the Year" award in Kilkenny some years ago.



MICK BRENNAN

Mick Brennan: Kilkenny's tough, sturdy, strong but classy corner forward is one of the country's most dependable attackers. Son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Brennan, Upper Coolbawn, Castlecomer the well built, five feet, 11 inch, 13 stone Mick is perhaps the most accomplished all rounder in the county as he is also considered the brightest star on the county football side.

Steeped in the Gaelic tradition he is a kinsman of Johnny and Paddy McDonnell famed Dublin footballers of the 1920s, cousin of the well known Kildare and Leinster stars, Pat Mangan and Sean Brennan, formerly of Kildare, Leinster and New York renown. His father was a member of the old Cloneen football team while on his mother's side, his uncle John McNally was prominent in Carlow football.

Mick's brothers, Jim, Tom and Murt, played football for Railyard and Tom and Murt are also accomplished hurlers and Mick says that had Murt taken his hurling more seriously

he could well have made inter county grade.

An employee of the Castlecomer branch of Kilkenny Products Mick first appeared on the Kilkenny senior hurling side in 1970 when he lined out against Limerick in a National League tie. He has since retained his place but was unfortunate not to be on the all-Ireland winning team in 1972 because of suspension.

"This was one of my biggest disappointments in my four years with Kilkenny. I watched the game through tear-filled eyes," he said. He had the satisfaction this year of getting the all-Ireland medal he fought so hard for and desired so much.

He won four successive under 14 hurling leagues and two under 16 county medals and played inter county, minor and under 21 hurling with Kilkenny. He has won seven county senior football titles won with Railyard.

"One of my proudest recollections is my first outing with the Castlecomer senior hurlers," Mick says. "It was a tournament game against Coon and I was selected to play at midfield with Martin Coogan. I was then 17 years old and I had tremendous respect for Martin and considered it a great honour to play as his partner."

Mick considers the 1973 Leinster final as his greatest hour in the Kilkenny jersey. Two Wexford stalwarts John Quigley and Willie Murphy thied all they knew to curb him but he put in a tremendous hour, scoring a goal and four points.

Opponents who have made the greatest impression on him are Colm Doran of Wexford and fellow Kilkennyman Paddy Moran. Of the Bennettsbridge star he says: "He is a real fox with an uncanny sense of position."

Mick thinks right corner forward his best position on the county team and does his best hurling for Castlecomer at centre half forward. In his boyhood years his idols were Ollie Walsh and Eddie Keher.

He attributes his superb fitness to football of which he

(Turn to page 38)

Poised for future glory

● From Page 37

plays a lot. He tends to carry the ball quite a lot and this involves a lot of running. He plays an odd soccer game with Ardra Rovers.

Mick Brennan feels that more should be done for football and also thinks the social side of the G.A.A. is lacking in not bringing the players together socially.

He has brought his own distinctive touch to the game by his feats of high catching the ball while in full flight.

Hurling and football is his life. He isn't really happy except he is togged out.

His parents are also deeply interested and his mother keeps things up to date in a detailed scrap book.

Modest and unassuming the honours that have come his way have not affected him. At 24 he is on the threshold of a career that is destined to bring him greater glory and help to write more golden pages in Kilkenny hurling history.



Billy Fitzpatrick: The Fenians star forward will not be 21 until next April and having played in and won senior and under 21 all-Ireland finals this year can repeat the performance next year, that is if Kilkenny can repeat the "double". If Kilkenny did win the senior he would be one of the youngest ever captains of an all-Ireland winning team.

Like all Kilkenny boys he

started his hurling in the under 14 championship with Johnstown but won no honours until he came to St. Kieran's college. There he set up what must be regarded as a record. He was only beaten on one college side, that unfortunately was the all-Ireland final against Farrenferris in 1972 when he was captain of the side.

With St. Kieran's he won two Leinster juvenile medals; 1968 and 1969; two Leinster junior medals, 1970 and 1971; two Leinster senior colleges medals, 1971 and 1972 and he won the all-Ireland colleges medal in 1971.

His first introduction to inter county hurling was when he came on as a sub in the 1971 all-Ireland minor final against Cork but the following year he was the star of the side when Kilkenny reversed the result with the Leesiders by 8-7 to 3-9. Billy's share was three goals and five points.

By winning the minor all-Ireland the under 21 the senior and the colleges he shares a

record with one other player in Ireland, Vin Staples of Wexford.

He holds a unique record in that he has never yet been beaten in a senior hurling championship game in Kilkenny. He has helped The Fenians to their three senior championships, 1972, 1973 and 1974.

He comes from a hurling family as his father, the late John Fitzpatrick and his uncle Pat Fitzpatrick both helped Urlingford to win the intermediate championship in 1929 and were on the Urlingford side that lost to Tullaroan in the county senior final in 1930. Another uncle on the maternal side, Jim Farrell played with Freshford against Mullinavat in the junior county final in 1939.

He is employed in the butter packing department of Avonmore Creameries, Ballyragget, and plays with the factory hurling team in the Leinster Factory League (division 1). He holds a factory league (division 2) medal won with Mahon and McPhillips. He plays a little football and an odd game of soccer. He actually won a Leinster junior B championship football championship with St. Kieran's in 1971.

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GOOD LUCK FOR 1975 !

Three years after the removal of the ban on foreign games County Secretary, Paddy Grace gives his appraisal of the situation in so far as the national games are concerned.

Ban or no ban we still prosper

IT IS now three years since the ban on foreign games was revoked by Congress and though that is but a short time one is inclined to forget that it ever existed. Its removal has had no effect, one way or another, except, perhaps to strengthen the association. The national games were never in a more healthy state.

When talking about the ban one must be sure to see things in the right perspective. The ban came in for a lot of criticism, not that that ever caused us any worry no more than we ever worried very much about the ban on our games by certain institutions. A lot of those who were doing most of the shouting about the ban were not slow to impose their own ban. This was done in a subtle way.

While I agreed with the ban it was not because I objected to other forms of sport. Every man is entitled to choose his own sport.

No one can deny that, historically speaking, the ban on foreign games was justified. To begin with hurling was banned by an Act of Parliament passed in Kilkenny in the 14th century which was appropriately called the Black Statute of Kilkenny. This was more than a ban on sport. It was oppressive legislation.

In later years the national games were banned in an effort to force young Irish men to play foreign games. If the G.A.A. ban was retaliatory it was certainly justified. It was, to some extent, out of this effort to compel people to play games they did not want to play that the G.A.A. first came into being.

I was opposed to the removal of the ban. I don't make any apology for that. But I fully accepted the decision of Congress to remove it. It was a democratic decision and this decision proved that the G.A.A. is a democratic organisation. But it was a decision with which I disagreed. Perhaps the decision was a good one, in the



Paddy Grace,
County Secretary

long run. It had served its purpose while it existed and there no longer was need for it.

The only fear in my mind about its removal was that there might be the possibility that the G.A.A. would lose its identity; that a certain laxity might creep in and that the real aims of the association might be swallowed up by a mixum-gatherum of other sports and that the G.A.A. as we knew it might change. I now realise that this fear was groundless.

Here in Kilkenny we can afford to be indifferent about attitudes to sport and there is little danger that we will suffer from the attitudes of people who might be opposed to us. At the same time we must not become too complacent. The overwhelming majority of the people of Kilkenny are hurling followers. Hurling has made the name of Kilkenny known throughout the world.

Now that people are free to play the games of their choice there is no need for contention in sport. We have no desire to foster contention. It is a good thing to see young people interested in sport and everything possible should be done to foster sport among the youth.

The one hurling fatality

DESPITE the fact that hurling is more prone to accident than most other games it is quite remarkable that as far as Kilkenny is concerned there has been only one fatality among all the players who played for the county or were prominent in local senior championship games. There have, of course, been some serious accidents. They are, however, rare.

Michael Nugent, Ballykeeffe, Kilmanagh received a blow on the right temple when playing for Dicksboro against Laois in a challenge game at Portlaoise in Sunday, July 30, 1916. He died during the night in Portlaoise. Dicksboro created a major surprise by beating a full strength Laois county side who were using the game as a preparation for their clash with Tipperary in the final of the Wolfe Tone Memorial tournament final.

Mick Nugent was one of the most popular men in the game in Kilkenny. A sub on the Kilkenny side that beat Cork in the 1913 all Ireland final to win Kilkenny's third in a row and their seventh in the space of 10 years.

Mick Nugent, after his injury, was down for a minute or two but got up quickly to resume his place at midfield. He finished the game but when the team returned to the dressing room he collapsed. Even at this stage his injury was not regarded as all that serious but he became

worse and on being taken to Portlaoise infirmary was attended by Dr. Kinsella, Dr. Coffey and Dr. Blayney.

He was employed as a chauffeur and mechanic with Messrs. Lambert, Patrick Street, Kilkenny. He was a powerful and forceful hurler and joined the Dicksboro club on its formation. He gave great service to the club and to the county whenever his services were called upon and on the fateful day at Portlaoise he had what was probably the best game of his career.

Incidentally Dicksboro beat the Laois team by 5-1 to 2-1, Laois getting their two goals within five minutes from full time after being held scoreless in the first half.

Paddy Mackey — Dual Medal Winner

IT IS left to few men in G.A.A. history to win all-Ireland senior medals in hurling and football. Everybody knows that the late Dr. Pierce Grace of Tullaroan won football medals with Dublin and hurling medals with Kilkenny. But how many people know that the late P. J. (Paddy) Mackey, Kylesmore, The Rower, was a dual medal winner.

Paddy Mackey, who died in 1947, was a New Ross business man in his youth and played with New Ross. Skilled in both codes he played himself on to the Wexford team and was on the side that won the 1910 all-Ireland hurling final. He was on the Wexford football side that won all-Ireland football medals in 1913, 1914, 1915 and 1916.

In the 1910 hurling final Wexford beat Limerick by 7-0 to 6-2. On the Limerick side in that final was another Mackey — John ("Tyler") father of Mick and John Mackey who figured in the 1930's and early 1940's.

We are doing it and I have no doubt other sporting organisations are doing it too.

In conclusion I want to say that I look upon the removal of the ban as a generous gesture. I am not too sure that there has been anything like a similar gesture by those opposed to the G.A.A. There are some who are prepared to give us credit but we still have our opponents. We will continue to have them, I feel sure but I feel equally sure that we can carry this opposition and that we can look to the future with the fullest confidence.

There's Something Odd About This

WHAT difference does it make whether all-Ireland final Sunday falls on an odd or an even number? As far as Kilkenny is concerned the records show that we have been more successful when the Sunday fell on an odd number.

Here are the facts which show the days in which Kilkenny won: 1904, June 24, (1906); 1905, June 30 (1907); 1907, June 21 (1908); 1909, December 12 (1909); 1912, November 17; 1913, November 2; 1922 September 9, (1923);

1932, September 14; 1933, September 3; 1935, September 1; 1939, September 3; 1947, September 7; 1957, September 1; 1963, September 1; 1969, September 7; 1972, September 3; 1974, September 1.

This shows that Kilkenny won 12 times when the Sunday fell on an odd number and six times when it fell on an even number. The 1911 final in which Kilkenny got a walk over from Limerick was fixed for Thurles on April 21, 1912.

Mick Coogan Scored The Only Goal

IN THE 1895 all-Ireland final played at Jones's road, Dublin on March 15, 1896 Tipperary beat Kilkenny by 6-8 to 1-0. The result of the game did not percolate into the remote areas of the county for some days. Jim Quigley of Liss, Tullaroan sent his son Jack to Mick Coogan one of the Tullaroan

men on the Kilkenny team three days later to find out the result.

"Go home boy and tell your father that we lost; we only scored one goal and I scored it".

We have come a long way since Mick Coogan's day in the matter of communication.

Abortive Final

OF THE 85 Leinster finals played since 1887 only one was declared void. In 1929 Kilkenny and Dublin who reached the final were disqualified for being late taking the field. Kilkenny had beaten Dublin by 3-6 to 2-6 and were nominated to represent the province.

In 1889 Dublin got a walk over from Laois. Louth was the only other county to take part; Dublin won the 1892 and 1894 final unopposed; Wexford got a walk over from Laois in 1891 and Kilkenny were awarded the title in 1915.

32 Years After

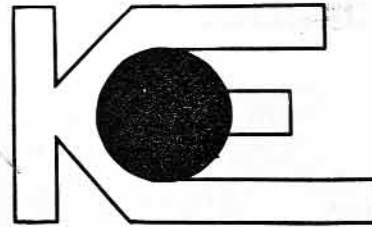
IN 1942 Tom Hogan (that's Councillor Tom Hogan, of course) captained the Tullaroan team to win the county under

14 hurling title. This year, 32 years later his son, Phil captained the Kilkenny team to win the under 14 Leinster final.

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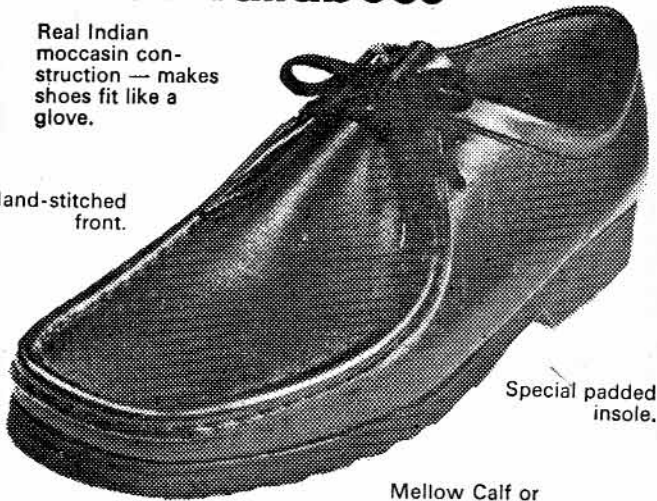
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Moccasin Wallabees

IN SCHOOLS hurling 1974 must surely be looked upon as a year of great progress as games within the county were trebled over the previous year. It had been obvious for a number of years that if the School Board were to cater for the growing interest in juvenile games more competitions were necessary and schools with smaller numbers were not catered for under the old championship system.

At the annual meeting it was decided to establish a third division for smaller schools (almost half the schools in this county are in this category) and to run leagues in Roinn B and Roinn C under 12 and to run Roinn A under 14 and under 12 on a league - championship system.

The benefits of the Roinn C leagues were to be seen very early in the year as schools which, heretofore, had only fielded teams in two matches during the year now began to take an active part and as a result we had teams from Tullaroan, Tullogher, Coon, Mullinavat and Glenmore contesting leagues and championship finals. These areas showed their appreciation of the new set up by playing practice matches in preparation for the more important games and organising training locally.

As we started our competitions in late April it meant we had a very crowded fixture list right up to the end of July. From April to July 2, 1884 juvenile games were played in leagues, championships and inter county competitions and this total does not include practice matches which were played all during the year and the participation of teams in juvenile tournaments outside the county.

This increased number of matches has put great pressure on teachers looking after teams, on referees and a few pitches had to bear the brunt of the extra games. In particular, Freshford, St. John's Park, St. Kieran's college and Thomastown suffered from this and I want to thank the people who look after the pitches for their wholehearted co-operation.

GOWRANS DISTINCTION

During 1974 34 parishes out of 35 fielded at least one team in league or championship. Gowran were the only team to retain a title when they defeated Mooncoin in the Roinn B under 12. They also defeated Mooncoin in the under 12 league final. These two games provided the highest standard of juvenile hurling seen in the county for a long time, the only pity being that more people did not get a chance to see it.

Mooncoin were to gain revenge in the under 14 Roinn B final when, after a replay they beat Gowran by two points.

In Roinn A St. John's came back to prominence by winning the under 12 final, beating Inistioge. In the under 14 Roinn A championship, St. Patrick's regained the title after an eight years lapse, defeating Thomastown in a replay.

Tullaroan captured the Roinn C under 14 championship by defeating Tullogher in the final while Coon won Roinn C under 12 league and championship beating Glenmore and Mullinavat.

A feature of the year has been the levelling up of standards between the different divisions. This was proved by the draws in the Roinn A and B under 14 finals and the fact that Gowran beat both St. Patrick's and Thomastown to win the Feile na nGael blitz while St. Patrick's beat Farranree (Cork) the eventual winners of Feile na nGael, in the final of the James Stephens tournament.

A feature of the year was the break-through of the under 14 county football team in the Leinster championships. Late in May it was decided to make a serious attempt at taking the Leinster title. A series of practice matches were played and having beaten Laois in the first round this system was continued.

In the second round we beat Kildare and were billed to play Wexford at Enniscorthy in the semi-final. This was a match we could have won but forwards

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did not get the breaks.

The two victories proved we could compete with the recognised football counties and must give great hope for the future if the same interest is taken by the officials. Obviously the talent is in the county.

It should be noted that Johnstown Vocational School won the Leinster under 15 football championship. For the future the Schools Board must make a greater effort to promote football and if a start can be made here Kilkenny may gain a decent image in football.

Kilkenny's 46 Leinster titles

KILKENNY have won 46 Leinster titles. This includes a walk-over in 1893 and another in 1895. Kilkenny were awarded the title in 1925. In the 1929 final Kilkenny and Dublin were disqualified for being late taking the field and Kilkenny were nominated to represent the province. This is not included in their 46 title wins.

Dublin have 23. They got a walk-over in 1889 and again in 1908 and were unopposed in 1892 and 1894. Wexford have 14 and Laois three.

None of the nine other counties have won a senior hurling title.

One defeat in six years

IN INTER county hurling Kilkenny had a magnificent year being undefeated in all competitions. In May Kilkenny took on Limerick in the inter-cities under-13 hurling competition at Limerick and won by five points. In July our under-14 team regained the Leinster under-14 title by beating Dublin in the final to avenge last year's defeat.

So in six years of under-14 hurling, Kilkenny has only been beaten once and then by a point.

In September, a Kilkenny city selection won the National Community Games hurling final. This was an under-13½ age group competition and on the way to the final we beat Laois, Kildare, Wexford, Offaly and Down before going on to beat Roscrea (Tipperary) in the final.

The victories of Kilkenny juvenile sides not alone this year but over the past number of years augur well for the future of hurling in the county.

Because of the increasing number of competitions at school level and the increased cost the activities of many schools are curtailed due to a lack of finance. It has become too expensive for one person to run a schools team. In future we hope that local clubs will help out financially and with

transport. Many clubs in the county are already doing so.

Our main aim for the future must be more competitions spread over the whole year. We must set our sights on organising Feile na nGael some time in the future. To achieve these two objectives greater local involvement is necessary.

Officers of Cumann na mBunscoileanna are: Chairman, Mr. Tom Waldron; vice chairman, Mr. Eamonn Lennon, Graignamagh; secretary, Mr. Paul Kinsella, Coon; treasurer, Mr. John Knox, Gowran.

Providing Amenities

A LOT has been said and written about the need to provide amenities, particularly of a social nature, for G.A.A. members and supporters. The Ciste Gael fund raising project which offers £100,000 a year in prize money for a contribution of £1 a month, is an ideal way of doing this.

Last year's prize money, amounting to £2,250, came to supporters in this county. This includes three prizes of £500 each, one going to Bennettsbridge and two to contributors in Clover Meats.

The main objective is to provide playing facilities for the youth.

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The padre's black and amber rosette

Padraig Puirseal
(Of the Irish Press)

HE WAS a priest, and he was a Leinsterman, from, I gathered somewhere in the Lake Country of Westmeath. But he had been a long time out of Ireland, when I met him for the one and only time in the heat of a Sunday afternoon in a little town somewhere in the Midi on the upper reaches of the Loire.

Our touring coach had stopped for a mid-day break at a small hotel, and this priest and a friend were sitting drinking coffee under an awning outside on the pavement. He heard me talking, and he called across to me, "How are they all in Ireland?" so I went across to talk to him.

He gave me his name — I have long forgotten it now — but I discovered he had been an army chaplain in the war, had stayed on afterwards as padre to an American Air Force base in the locality, and had remained there as local curé because, after the war, replacements for priests were not readily available in that particular countryside.

He had been more than 20 years out of Ireland when I met him, but he did keep a very direct link. There were still some Americans at a communications centre where that Air Force base had been, he still acted as chaplain there, "and to tell you the truth, boy, I am going now, as soon as this coffee is finished, where I go every Sunday at this time, up to the Base to hear whatever G.A.A. match is on Radio Eireann. They can get it on the big mast up there."

I said that must keep him in touch, and he said yes it did, "and when I know what teams are in the final, I go back for an all-Ireland, if Kilkenny are playing. Because, that is what Ireland, and what being Irish, really means to me now.

"When I think of Ireland and being Irish, I imagine myself sitting on the Hogan Stand — oh, I have a friend or two who I can wheedle a ticket out of, if needs be — and I close my eyes

and I can see the thronged stands and the terraces and the hill, and I know that these are my people, the people and the breed I came from". "And then there is the moment worth travelling all the miles and waiting the years to see. The moment when there is first a bit of a hush among the crowd, and then the cheer that swells into a great roar, and those lads in black and amber come trotting out of the shade into the sunlight, and the striped jerseys flash into view, and it is good to be alive and great to be a Leinsterman, and it must be wonderful to be a Kilkennyman.

"But then my mother was from the Walsh Mountains so I suppose I am entitled to cheer with the best of them."

So, when Kilkenny swept to victory at Croke Park on the first Sunday in September I could not help but wonder if my little priest from the Midi was there, looking a little out of place maybe in his rusty black, with that typically French beret on his head and a big black-and-amber rosette on his breast. Because he told me he has treasured that rosette ever since 1947.

"Even if I can't get home to a final, then if Kilkenny are playing I head up as usual to the Base, and I wear my rosette, and the good French people think I'm mad, but the Yanks understand.

"I suppose that is because they are Exiles too, but they get some of their own back at me by wearing the colours of the Dodgers or of Notre Dame when their big baseball or football games are on back home in the States."

Nor is the exiled priest from Westmeath an isolated incident of support for the Kilkenny hurlers outside their own county. Laois and Carlow have so many close links one would naturally expect them to be interested in the neighbours children, while, despite the sharp local rivalry, once Kilkenny come out of Leinster Wexford is solid behind them.

The rest of the province, and

● *Contd. opposite*

Kilkenny won two games without scoring

KILKENNY once reached the All-Ireland senior hurling championship semi-final and never got a single score. This happened in the first year of the All-Ireland championships in 1887.

The open draw was in operation in that year and Kilkenny represented by Tullaroan were drawn against Cork. The game was fixed for Dungarvan on June 24.

However, Kilkenny received a walk-over when a dispute arose in Cork as to whether St. Finbarrs or Nationals should represent the county.

Kilkenny's next game was against Limerick at Bansha and when they turned up they found a farcical situation. Limerick had two rival County Boards. Castleconnell had been nominated to represent the county by the rightful authorities but it was their rivals, Murroe, who turned up to play.

Murroe were not allowed to take the field by the officials present and so, Kilkenny were awarded the game.

This brought them up against Tipperary, represented by Thurles in the All-Ireland semi-final. In this game, played at Urlingford, Tipperary won by 4-7 to 0-0. So Kilkenny figured in three championship games in the same year and never got a score.

Kilkenny and Limerick, who clashed in the last two All-Ireland senior hurling finals, hold the dubious distinction of being the only two counties in Ireland never to have a player on a winning Railway Cup football team.

However, a Kilkenny-born player did win two Railway Cup football medals. He was Moneenroe-born Sean Brennan who helped Leinster to victory in 1952 and 1953.

At that time Sean, a member of a well-known Moneenroe football family whose brothers, notably Murty and Paddy, played for this county and won county championship senior medals with Railyard, was playing with Kildare and later played for New York.

Mick Connolly from Glenmore did win a Railway Cup medal as a sub. when he figured on the Leinster panel in 1928 when Leinster were victorious.

Kilkenny is the only county to have supplied players who have figured with all the provinces in Railway Cup hurling. Numerous Kilkenny men have played for Leinster while Dunnamaggin-born Davy Walsh won two medals with Munster in 1951 and 1952; Danesfort-born Jim Brophy, a product of Kilkenny C.B.S., helped Connacht to their only success in 1947.

Stephen Kelly from Mooncoin played for Ulster in 1946 while the Tullaroan stylist Sean Clohosey was selected for the Ulster side in 1953.

Did you know that when Kilkenny played Waterford in the recent under-21 All-Ireland hurling final at Thurles that the star of the Kilkenny side, Billy Fitzpatrick (who had won an All-Ireland senior medal a week before) and the star of the Waterford side, Tom Casey, were once team mates.

They both helped Messrs. Mahon and McPhillips, Kilkenny, to win the Leinster factory hurling league (Roinn B) in 1972.

Three Kilkennymen have refereed All-Ireland senior hurling finals. The late John McCarthy of Kilkenny city, a prominent official in his day, refereed the final between Tipperary and the London-Irish in 1900 and John Roberts had charge of the Cork - Galway All-Ireland final of 1928.

In more recent times the late Jack Mulcahy refereed the 1954 final between Cork and Wexford which was notable for the fact that Christy Ring won his eighth All-Ireland senior medal that day and an all-time record of 84,000 watched the game.

It will be noted that all three referees were from Kilkenny city and two, John Roberts and Jack Mulcahy, won All-Ireland senior medals with Kilkenny.

Nearly all Dublin's senior hurling titles were won with players from other counties.

When London-Irish won their only title in 1901 all the side were natives of this country. Kilkenny-born Bob O'Keeffe helped Laois win their only All-Ireland triumph in 1915 and Ned Gilmartin of Toomevara and Leonard McGrath, Australian-born, helped Galway win their only title in 1923.

This leaves Clare, who won in 1914, and Kerry, successful in 1891, as the only other counties to have won All-Irelands with players born in their own county.

Kilkenny-born players have helped Dublin, Laois, Waterford and Wexford to win All-Ireland senior honours. Those who helped Dublin win were Jim ('Builder') Walsh, Matty Pawer, Pat ('Dexter') Aylward, Willie Banim and Mick Butler.

Kilkenny-born players who have won All-Ireland senior football medals are: Jack Grace (Tullaroan), 1901, 1902, 1906, 1907, 1908; his brother, Dr. Pierce (who also won All-Ireland hurling medals with Kilkenny): 1906 and 1907; Mick Madigan, 1901, 1906; John Lynch, 1907, 1908.

Jack and Dr. Pierce Grace were brothers of Dick Grace who won All-Ireland senior hurling medals with Kilkenny in 1909, 1911, 1912, 1913, and 1922.

The only Kilkenny-born players to have National Football League medals are the Hughes brothers, Jackie and Denis, who helped New York beat Cavan in the 1950 final. They come from Moneenroe.

Matt Ruth, who played with Limerick against Kilkenny in the All-Ireland final on September 1, is the only Kilkennyman to have played against Kilkenny in an All-Ireland senior hurling final.

The only non-native player to have helped Kilkenny in the Leinster senior hurling championship was Thurles-born Connie Keane who played with this county in the late 1920's. He was a member of the James Stephens club.

His sons, Connie (in 1951) and Larry (in 1958) won All-Ireland senior hurling medals with Tipperary.

The padre's black and amber rosette

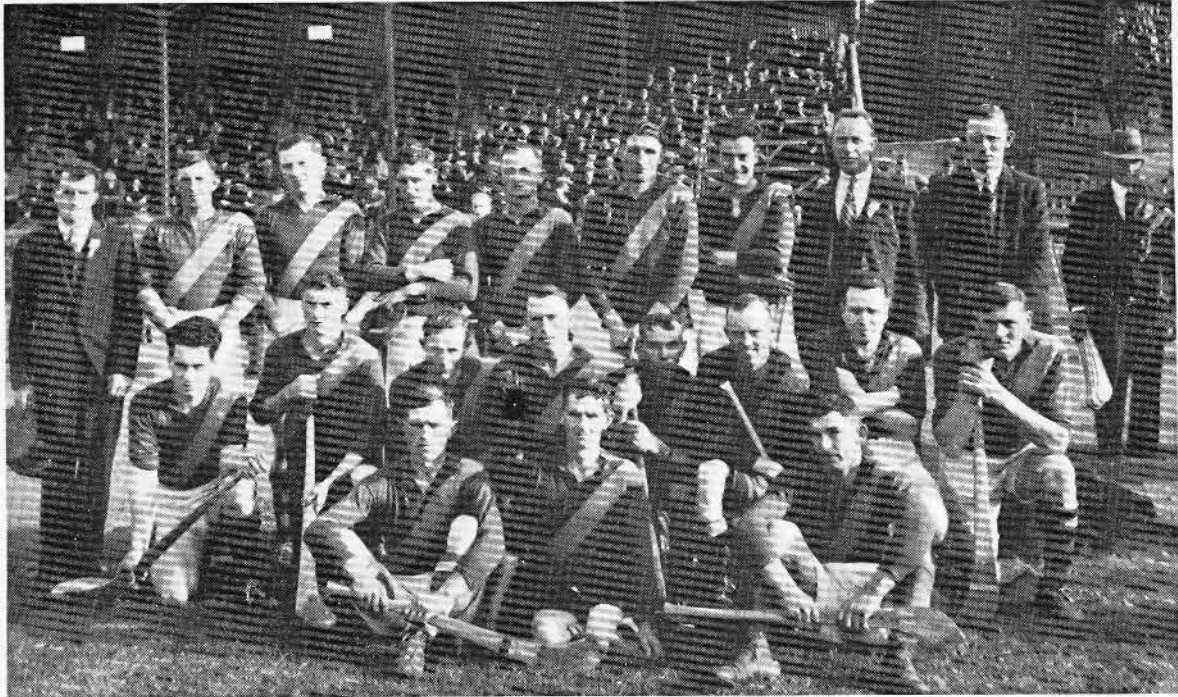
(Continued)

oddly enough, the Northern football areas in particular, are always strongly pro-Kilkenny, but what is more surprising is to find as I have done in the past the number of Ulster folk, few of whom have any great affiliation with hurling, who support Kilkenny. I have found this to be particularly so in Down and Derry, extending to Roscommon in the West.

Moreover, despite the sharp rivalry that exists when Waterford and Kilkenny clash, it is truly remarkable the strength of the support Kilkenny gets from the City of Waterford and the South Bank of the Suir when the Noremens play any other Munster County in the All-Ireland.

Indeed Kilkenny has support in the most unexpected places. I remember a most fascinating radio programme a few years ago, the best ever done on the Travelling People, in which one of the Travellers was asked had they any great interest in sport. "Well," said the Traveller, "We always follies the hurling. Mostly we follies Wexford, and, when they're bet, we always follies Kilkinny."

CARRICKSHOCK, 1938 county champions



This 1938 Carrickshock team won the county senior hurling final that year by beating Eire Og by two points in a thrilling game at Nowlan Park.

Back row (left to right): Billy

Dalton (trainer), Jack Phelan, Jimmy Kelly, Jimmy Walsh, Tom Walsh (Ballagh), the late Bob Aylward, Paddy Donovan, the late Jim Roughan and the late Jimmy Walsh (Slieverue),

J. Butler (club official).

Middle row (left to right): Jimmy Brophy, Fiddown; Tom Dalton, Bobby Hincks, Jim Cashin, Georgie Dermody, Jack Fitzpatrick, Jim Malone, Bill ('Lynch') Walsh.

In front (left to right): Paddy

Hearne, Hugginstown; Tommy Dermody, Paddy Butler.

The late Senator Bob Aylward whose lamented death occurred during the year was in his hey day at this time. Bob had an article in last year's Year Book.

Has Football Any Future?

LOOKING back over the past few weeks, football in Kilkenny has taken quite a hammering — National League defeats by Tipperary by 6-12 to 2-5; by Clare, 4-9 to 0-1, and a poor county senior final — and one is temped to ask, is there any future for the game here. Whatever the answer it would be a mistake to write it off.

"Look at the standard in our schools", says Football Board chairman, Mick Meally, "and one must naturally come to the conclusion that there is talent in the county and all is necessary is to have it properly harnessed."

Well, Thomastown and Johnstown vocational schools have upheld tradition in recent times and the standard generally in the under age groups is reasonably high. But where do all our young footballers go?

"I am prepared to agree that football in this county must take second place to hurling," Mr. Meally says, "but that does not necessarily mean that we should forget about football."

Arguments can be put forward for and against taking part in the National League. If we don't we lose out on valuable experience; if we do and suffer defeats like those inflicted by Tipperary and Clare we are discouraging players from taking part.

What Kilkenny football needs is a breakthrough in minor grade and greater enthusiasm on the part of all those taking part in the game.

If football is to survive, the first thing that must be done is to determine what it is hoped to aspire to and, having done that, adopt a planned campaign to achieve it.

Let Us Praise Famous Men

THE townland of Skeoghvos-teen with its periphery touching on the parishes of Paulstown, Gowran, Graignamanagh and Thomastown nestles in peaceful isolation in a rather remote area. But it is not without some claims to fame.

Two of its sons were the late Most Rev. Dr. Kehoe, Bishop of Kildare and Leighlin and the late Mr. Tom Walsh, Minister for Agriculture. And if that is not enough it is the birthplace of Pat ('Diamond') Hayden, former Kilkenny hurling star.

A story told about the three men was greatly relished by the late Bishop Kehoe. Some years ago a class was being prepared for Confirmation in the local national school. To test their knowledge the pupils were asked who was the most famous man born in the parish. One boy came up with a quick

answer — 'Diamond' Hayden.

The examiner expected the answer would be Bishop Kehoe — particularly in a class being prepared for Confirmation — and that Tom Walsh would come second or vice versa but 'Diamond' Hayden had established himself in the hearts of the young boys in his own locality and was not going to be denied.

Two titles in 1973 and 1974

KILKENNY won two all Ireland titles in 1973 and 1974, all four being in different grades. In 1973 they won minor and intermediate and this year they won senior and under-21.

What's the future for hurling?

SINCE 1969 Kilkenny have won three senior all Ireland titles, two minor, one intermediate and one under 21 and they have appeared in seven of the nine senior finals since 1966. This year for the first time we broke new ground by winning four senior Leinster finals in a row and our minor also accomplished this remarkable feat.

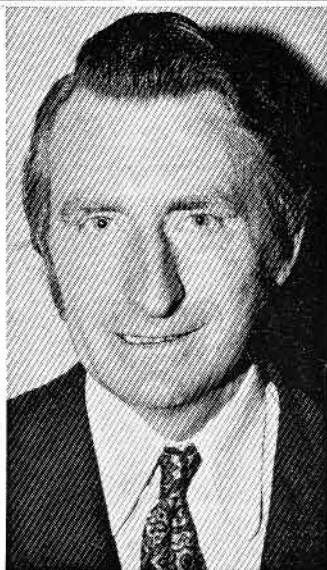
But while winning is great we have to take stock of the game generally in the province and we have got to admit that it is not healthy. Wexford waited from 1918 until 1951 to win a Leinster senior hurling final but since then the championship in the province has been monopolised by them and ourselves except for one year, 1961 when Dublin won the title. In the past it was Dublin who offered the greatest challenge to Kilkenny's supremacy and they won four provincial titles in the 1940's.

The line up for the Leinster senior final for the past 20 years has become so predictable as to become almost monotonous. Laois, Offaly, Meath and Westmeath in the past years did make some impact and in the first round tie with Laois in the 1972 championship Kilkenny had to struggle hard to win. But these occasional flashes are not enough. There must be a greater and more sustained challenge to Wexford and Kilkenny if hurling is to prosper.

It might be argued with some justification that we have not succeeded in developing football but it must be taken into account that we are a comparatively small county with a comparatively small population with limited material to draw from and we have more or less concentrated on one code in order to succeed. But we have been making efforts.

Unless Wexford can maintain its strong hurling status – all the signs are that they will – we could have the situation that Kilkenny would become the only hurling county of the 12 in Leinster capable of offering worthwhile opposition to the Munster counties.

Dublin's victory in the football final might impel some of the many hard working enthusiasts in the Metropolis to turn their attention to hurling and see if



Mick O'Neill, County Board Chairman, gives his views.

anything can be done to improve the standard. Offaly are in a somewhat similar position to Kilkenny – they have to give most of their attention to football.

The overall position of hurling in the country is not what any of us would desire. It is fair to say that useful attempts have been made to promote the game in the weaker counties but praiseworthy as these efforts are they have not brought the desired results. More will have to be done.

The best and probably the only way is to promote the game in the schools. Every encouragement should be given to young boys and, if necessary a scheme to subsidise hurleys should be initiated. Certainly nothing should be left undone to preserve what is traditionally our national game.

We have example in Kilkenny of what the schools and the dedicated teachers can do. It is probably true to say that our teachers, primary and secondary have done more than has been done in most other counties to promote the game and we have the results to prove it.

Also, we have excellent people catering for under 16 hurling and football and they too have made a magnificent contribu-

tion to the remarkable progress that has been made in Kilkenny. The progress of the game depends as much on the hard work and enthusiasm of the people behind the scenes as it does on the players themselves and it may well be that we in Kilkenny are more fortunate in this respect than other counties.

We cannot afford to be complacent about hurling; we cannot afford to let it die or even diminish. The writing is on the wall for all to see and action is called for urgently.

We are all only too well aware of the vital part that tradition plays and has played in the development of our games and in the main all Ireland finals in both codes have been won by the counties that have been traditional strongholds. The responsibility rests on all our shoulders to do all we can to improve standards in the other counties and this is especially true of hurling as there are less counties involved. Now is the time to do it.

Won by a point

KILKENNY won seven senior all Ireland finals by a single point. They were: 1904, Kilkenny 1-9, Cork 1-8; 1907, Kilkenny 3-12, Cork 4-8; 1912, Kilkenny 2-1, Cork 1-3; 1935, Kilkenny 2-5, Limerick 2-4; 1939, Kilkenny 2-7, Cork 3-3; 1947, Kilkenny 0-14, Cork 2-7; 1957, Kilkenny 4-10, Waterford 3-12.

The title holders

TIPPERARY have won 22 all Ireland senior hurling titles, Cork 21 and Kilkenny 19. Limerick come next with seven, Dublin six, Wexford five, Waterford two and Clare, Laois, Kerry, London and Galway have won one each. The 1888 final was not played, the championships not being finished because of the 'American Invasion' when a number of famed United States athletes visited Ireland.

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MUCKALEE – Senior Football Runners-Up 1974



Football Records Down The Years

THE records in relation to football are even less complete with eight years unaccounted for. Some readers might be able to fill in the gaps though it is not impossible that in some cases the championships may not have been completed. This was common enough in the early days.

Glenmore top the list with 21 titles though they only came into prominence in the 1900's, winning their first title in 1906.

One of the most famed teams of the early days was Slate Quarry Miners who helped to bring Kilkenny to an all-Ireland senior final which they won but lost it on an objection.

The Slate Quarries were in the Owing area and a number of Tipperary men were on the local team. The objection was to some Tipperary men being

on the Kilkenny team.

Glenmore: 1906, 1915, 1916, 1917, 1918, 1919, 1921, 1922, 1923, 1924, 1929, 1938, 1939, 1940, 1942, 1943, 1944, 1949, 1950, 1954, 1955. – (21).

Railyard: 1951, 1952, 1953, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1960, 1961, 1965, 1966, 1967, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973. – (16).

Lamogue: 1902, 1903, 1904, 1905, 1907, 1909. – (5).

Tullagher: 1930, 1931, 1934, 1936, 1937, 1941. – (6).

Knocktopher: 1901, 1908, 1910, 1911. – (4).

Kilkenny Commercial: 1890, 1895. – (2).

Kilmacow: 1887, 1888. – (2).

Coolagh: 1914, 1920. – (2).

St. John's: 1946, 1948. – (2).

Clann na Gael: 1963, 1964. – (2).

Sevenhouses: 1896. – (1).

Callan: 1897. – (1).

Green Rovers: 1898. – (1).

City Rangers: 1899. – (1).

Ballyhale: 1889. – (1).

Slate Slate Quarry Miners: 1900. – (1).

Coolroe: 1909. – (1).

Ye Faire City: 1925. – (1).

Cotterstown: 1926. – (1).

Owen Roes: 1928. – (1).

Blacks and Whites: 1932. – (1).

Moneenroe: 1937. – (1).

Barrow Rovers: 1938. – (1).

Sarsfields: 1947. – (1).

Graignamanagh: 1956. – (1).

St. Kieran's: 1974. – (1).

Seven All-Stars again

FOR the second year running Kilkenny have seven on the Carrolls All Stars team to travel to California next April and Eddie Keher has the distinction of having been chosen every year since the awards were inaugurated.

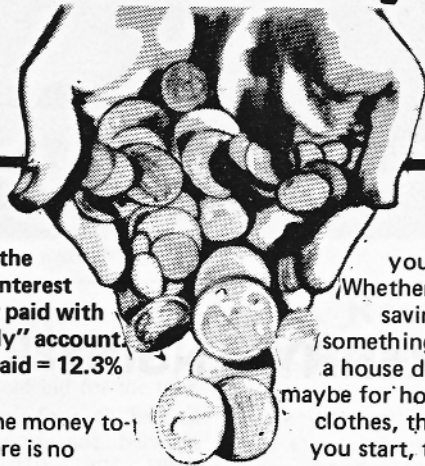
Biggest surprise and a decision that is very hard to understand is the omission of Pat Delaney. In the four years of

All Stars award Kilkenny have won 24 of the 60 places. Mick Crotty is a Kilkenny newcomer.

The Kilkennymen honoured are:

Noel Skehan (goal); **Phil Larkin** (right full back); **Pat Henderson** (centre half back); **Liam O'Brien** (midfield); **Mick Crotty** (left half forward); **Kieran Purcell** (full forward); **Eddie Keher** (left full forward).

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A James Stephens Golden Jubilee

JAMES STEPHENS hurling club celebrated a Golden Jubilee this year. They won the county junior hurling title in 1924. It was some years later when they made an impact in senior grade but when they did reach senior status they proved themselves a very powerful side.

It is interesting to note that one of the more prominent survivors of the 1924 side is happily still with us. He is none other than Paddy Larkin one of the outstanding corner backs ever to appear in Croke Park.

Paddy started his senior inter

county career at right corner back but in later years he filled the role of full back. He won all-Ireland senior medals with Kilkenny in 1932, 1933, 1935 and 1939 and several Railway Cup medals.

The James Stephens club is

one of the strongest clubs in the country and "The Village" has been a famed bastion of the national games for many years. In recent years the club has made a big impact, far bigger than the reward it has reaped for its dedication and devoted service.

Like Father . . . !

EVEN at the tender age of seven, Eamonn shows the perfect stance when taking a free. This is not surprising. Watching with interest is his father, Eddie Keher. Eamonn could have the potential of a future star but he has a long way to go to attain the hurling stature of his father.

Eddie is top scorer this year for the 11th time in 12 years. What an amazing record. But records are synonymous with Eddie Keher and it is not easy to enumerate them all. He has two unique distinctions. Not alone has he been top scorer in a winning all-Ireland side but he has also been top scorer on a losing side and in both of these no other hurler has come near him.

Throughout his career and particularly in recent years previous records tumbled like ninepins as The Rower-Inistioge man went from one remarkable achievement to another.

But it is not record-breaking achievements in themselves that have brought Eddie Keher prominence not only in Kilkenny but throughout Ireland. Even for a Kilkennyman he brought a superlative artistry to the game, carrying on a great Kilkenny tradition that we first saw brought to perfection by Jim Langton in his day.

There is a universal respect for Eddie Keher's hurling. It brings out the best in style and craft, so typical of Kilkenny — a style and craft he himself has adorned.

It is almost certain that his scoring record will never be equalled. He is one of the most dedicated players of all time. He has won all the honours the game has to offer and his one ambition and the desire of his countless admirers is that he will continue to grace the hurling fields of this country for as long as can reasonably be expected.



Eamonn takes a free watched by his father.

Decades of glory

ONLY ONE county — Cork — won five all Ireland titles in one decade. The Leesiders were victorious in 1941, 1942, 1943, 1944 and 1946. Without detracting in any way from the merit of these successes it is, perhaps, fair to mention that an outbreak of foot and mouth disease had a serious effect on G.A.A. activities in Kilkenny and Tipperary.

Added to this is the major sensation created by Antrim when they beat a strong Kilkenny side in the 1943 semi final at Corrigan Park. Belfast — a Kilkenny team that was fancied

to make a bold bid for the title. Kilkenny won four all Ireland finals in the decade between 1900 and 1910 (1904, 1905, 1907 and 1909) and four in the 1930's — 1932, 1933, 1935 and 1939. They won three between 1910 and 1920 (1911, 1912 and 1913) and three in the 1960's (1963, 1967 and 1969).

Tipperary won four between 1890 and 1900 — 1895, 1896, 1898 and 1899 and won four in the 1960's — 1961, 1962, 1964 and 1965. Cork, Tipperary and Kilkenny have won three in a row (Cork, of course, won four).

A Record For Carrickshock

WINNERS of seven county senior hurling championship titles Carrickshock is the only club to win four in a row. They won them in 1940, 1941, 1942 and 1943.

Both Railyard and Glenmore have even more impressive records in football. Railyard won five in a row twice — 1957, 1958, 1959; 1960 and 1961 and again in 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972 and 1973.

Glenmore won five in a row in 1915, 1916, 1917, 1918 and 1919 and four in a row in 1921, 1922, 1923 and 1924.

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HELENA O'NEILL
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Shamrocks continue on winning way

THERE SEEMS to have been an infusion of the Carrickshock tradition into The Shamrocks, judging by their almost phenomenal run of success over the past couple of years. Since Ballyhale, Knocktopher and Knockmoylan united a few years ago they have won intermediate and junior county titles in the past two years and have won the under 21 county championship in 1972.

Their victory over Graignamanagh, where there has also been quite good progress in recent years, in the county intermediate final by 3-9 to 2-6 was hard earned enough but well deserved.

Conditions were not ideal for hurling but there were some splendid passages as was to be expected with the two clubs having nine of the side that won all-Ireland intermediate honours with Kilkenny last year: Ger Fennelly of the Shamrocks being a sub on this year's all-Ireland senior side; Pat Carroll of the same club having won all-Ireland, National League and Oireachtas medals with Kilkenny, and Liam Ryan of Graignamanagh having collected an all-Ireland medal

with Carlow some years ago.

Kevin Fennelly, also of the Shamrocks, has notched all-Ireland minor honours.

The sides courageously overcame the difficult cross wind and though hurling was not what it would have been under favourable conditions, it was quite entertaining.

When Pat Kavanagh from a free narrowed the Graig deficit to a point in the 14th minute of the second half, it looked like being a scorching finish but Sean Reid dispossessed an otherwise faultless Paddy Grace in the Graig goal and tapped home a goal. This unfortunate mistake seemed to have a serious psychological impact on Graig and for the last 15 minutes they never played as a team and gave the Shamrocks' forwards 'acres' of room to manoeuvre. Graig are infinitely better than they appeared in the last quarter. Their attack was completely disorganised and few, apart from Pat Kavanagh, showed their real worth in the last quarter.

But Shamrocks did well to hold the winners to three points with the cross wind favouring

Shamrocks and but for their inexplicable falling off in the last quarter the final tally would have been much closer.

Maurice Mason at centre half back, as in the game against Paulstown, exercised a considerable influence all through and might be termed the outstanding player of the 30. Ollie Harrington, who is also a well-known footballer, was sound in goal and got good protection from Jim Holden, Pat Aylward and team captain Michael Hoynes. Declan Connolly and Denis Shefflin were capable Mason flankers. Ger Fennelly showed great authority in his midfield play and he carried the play into Graig territory almost constantly in the second half. He had a hard working partner in Pat Holden.

Sean Reid, Seamus Connolly and Kevin Fennelly were trying consistently on the half line of attack and Pat Carroll in addition to contributing a vital goal, made the going tough for Graig's full back, Jack Bolger. Michael Fennelly and Liam Aylward also did their share.

Paddy Grace in the Graig goal, who gave a sparkling dis-

play, only made one mistake. Jack Bolger was in brilliant form at full back and he had some very hard tussles with Pat Carroll. Liam Ryan, Tucker Foley and Paul Hickey also figured prominently in the defence.

Pat Kavanagh gave a delightful display for Graignamanagh and was one of the side that never gave up trying. Jack O'Connor was also good but scarcely ever reached the heights he is capable of and Richard Moylan was also a good trier but there was a general lack of cohesion in attack and this was particularly noticeable in the last quarter.

It might be that Graig were boosted to an undue degree by their runaway win over Dicksboro while on the other hand Shamrocks had to win it the hard way when they clashed with Paulstown in the second semi-final. This was Graig's second appearance in an intermediate final in successive years and their turn must come. There is a splendid spirit in the area which is bound to bring its reward sooner or later.

GRAIGUE'S SILVER JUBILEE

THIS year is the Silver Jubilee of Graigue's one and only county senior hurling championship success. The 1949 victory was the culmination of years of endeavour by teams from the parish under different names.

The G.A.A. had been to the forefront in the parish since the foundation. There is no record of anyone from the parish having attended the first county convention in 1887 but the records do show that delegates from Kilmanagh and Ballycallan attended the 1888 convention.

Kilmanagh fielded a senior side in the 1890's and actually reached the final in 1898 when they clashed with the Jack Rochford-powered Threecastles. Kilmanagh were leading the first day when the game was abandoned but Threecastles won the replay, going on to contest the all-Ireland final in which they lost to Tubberadora.

Pat Saunders from Ballycallan figured on the first team to win all-Ireland honours for Kilkenny. The next side to hit top was Ballycloven who won the 1912 junior county title, beating Mong in the final and they supplied the majority of the Kilkenny junior side that lost the 1913 all-Ireland final to Tipperary.

Among those who played were the Waltons of Cappahayden, Ned Shelly, the McGraths and Tom Cummins, Jim O'Connor, Kilmanagh, figured on the Kilkenny side in the 1915-20 era while Eddie figured on the Kilkenny side in the 1915-20 era while Eddie Fennelly, Ballycallan, was on the Kilkenny junior side of the same period. Mick Nugent, Ballykeeffe, then a member of Dicksboro club, was on the panel of the 1913 all-Ireland winning side.

During the 1920's teams from Ballycallan, Ballyline, Ballykeeffe and Kilmanagh represented the parish in the junior championship but the only honours of note in this decade was the winning of an all-Ireland junior medal by Paddy Butler in 1928. He also figured on the 1929 senior side which won the Leinster title and he played against Galway in the semi-final.

An interesting sidelight to the Leinster final victory was that

both Kilkenny and Dublin were disqualified and the championship declared void.

It is on record that even teams from the parish entered the northern junior championship in 1937: Ballycallan (2); Ballyline (2); Ballykeeffe (2) and Kilmanagh. In 1938 two teams from the parish contested the northern semi-final, Ballyline beating Ballycallan by four points and going on to beat Mullinavat in the final.

Many of the Ballyline players helped Kilkenny in the 1039 all-Ireland final in which they lost to Galway in a replay. After a couple of years in senior ranks, Ballyline went out of existence and Graigue took over. They were the most successful of all the sides from the parish, winning county junior honours in 1946; two minor titles in 1948 and 1949 and senior in 1949.

Graigue also took the Byrne cup the first year it was up for competition when they had a point victory over Carrickshock and senior in 1949.

Graigue also took the Byrne cup the first year it was up for competition when they had a point victory over Carrickshock in the final.

Graigue's road to success in 1949 was a hard one. Meeting Eire Og at Thomastown in the first round they were up against a side which included household names like Jim Langton, the late Jack Mulcahy, Pat ("Diamond") Hayden, Nick O'Donnell (later to star with Wexford), Liam Reidy, Ramie Dowling and Joe Gargan, but after one of the best games ever at Grennan they won by two points.

Names on the fans' lips leaving Grennan were Jim Walton, Martin McEvoy, Dinny Holohan, Henry Giles, Mick Kenny, Nick Purcell and John Keane.

For the semi-final with Mooncoin providing the opposition, a special train travelled from Waterford and there was consternation in the Graigue camp when it was learned that the train had broken down in Bennettsbridge with star forward, Billy Cahill, on it. As the team was leaving the dressing room he arrived, having thumbed a lift.

When the train arrived a quarter of an hour late, Mooncoin supporters were happy to

see their side two goals ahead but Graigue staged a great rally and in as tough a game as has ever been seen at Nowlan Park, emerged as winners by three points.

Mooncoin had the Crowleys, the Fripps, Clearys, Dick Walsh, Dick Dunphy, Mick and Stephen Kelly and stars for Graigue were James Fennelly, Martin McEvoy, Paddy Burke, Paddy Cahill, Mick Coonan and John Keane.

The final was a meeting with the previous year's champions and neighbours, Tullaroan. Graigue trained hard under local teacher, Davy Maher, assisted by the Blackes of Coolquill who had helped Tipp. win all-Ireland honours that year. Men like John Teehan, Pat Robinson, Ned Brennan, Ned Walsh, Bill Phelan, Ned Fennelly, Phil Cahill and W. F. Ryan all played their part in the background.

One of the biggest crowds ever to see a county final turned up on October 9. Tullaroan made the early running and with Tom Walton rampant they built up a 1-8 to 0-4 lead. Graigue brought Dick Cleere, a minor of the previous year, on

and he proceeded to play a 'blinder' on Walton.

Tullaroan still led 2-10 to 1-8 at half time and had the edge with the game going into injury time, leading by 2-13 to 1-11. They were halted in their tracks, however, as a mighty roar greeted a goal by Billy Daly. A minute later he dropped a ball in the square for Jim Walton to sweep it to the net. Graigue were a point in front with time almost up. Martin McEvoy gathered from a long clearance, tore through the Tullaroan defence to send over the bar.

Graigue's joy was quickly halted when referee Podge Dack disallowed the point and awarded a free. Cool, calm Mick Kenny, with Nowlan park in bedlam, shot over the bar to give Graigue victory by 3-12 to 2-14.

For the record, the winning side was Dinny Holohan, Paddy Burke, Mick Coonan, Bob Woodgate, Paddy Cahill, John Keane (captain), Henry Giles, James Fennelly, Martin McEvoy, Nickey Purcell, Mick Kenny, Billy Daly, Maurice O'Shaughnessy, Jim Walton, Bill Cahill. Sub.—Dick Cleere.

Tom Ryall.

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Our athletes won 156 medals

THE fact that Kilkenny's juvenile athletes won 34 All-Ireland and 122 Leinster championships medals in 1974 shows that they, at least, lived up to the high standard set in previous years but the display of seven former juveniles making their first appearance in adult competition was, indeed, even more encouraging. They won nine youths and four senior medals at All-Ireland championship level.

CROSS COUNTRY

(Juvenile)

County Championships: Held in all grades under 11 to under 16. A very high standard reached in all events especially in the girls' under-12, won by City Harriers by one point from Tullaroan A.C.

Leinster Championships:

County Kilkenny teams fared exceptionally well, winning six of the 12 inter-county titles. Tullaroan won the girls under-11 inter-club race. City Harriers, the girls under 12 and the boys under 15 and under 16. Tullaroan also came second in the girls under 12.

All-Ireland Championships:

City Harriers under-12 ran their finest race to date to take the bronze medals. Eleven medals were also won in the inter-regional tests.

The outstanding individual athlete was Mary Walsh, Tullaroan A.C., won the county and Leinster under-11 and under-12 titles and finished third in the All-Ireland under-11 championships.

Others to impress during the championships were: Monica Murphy (Kilkenny City Harriers); Maeve Conroy (K.C.H.); Teresa Murphy (K.C.H.); Miriam Gaffney (Tullaroan); Mary Hennessy (Tullaghan); Celine Malone (K.C.H.); Maurice Keane (K.C.H.) and Gordon Ryan (K.C.H.).

CROSS COUNTRY

(Adults)

It is very hard to understand the attitude of Kilkenny senior athletes as, despite every encouragement from their County Board who hold championships in all grades, the majority confine their activities to within the

county and thus their standard with a few exceptions is on a low key and it was left to Phil Brennan (K.C.H.) third in the All-Ireland intermediate, to keep their end up.

JUVENILE TRACK AND FIELD

A very inactive County Board (juvenile) resulted in the juveniles not having any county championships to gear them for the Leinster and National championships, but despite this the young athletes covered themselves with glory.

Pride of place must go to Marita Walton (K.C.H.) who won the A.A.A.'s shot title and was third in the discus. She also won four national titles with records in each shot and discus.

She also won the shot and was third in the discus in the Students International Games in Spain and, for good measure, she took third place in the 100 metres All-Ireland championship, under 14, and was second in the Community Games 100 metres.

Next in line comes Mary Walsh, Tullaroan, who was a

runaway winner of the Leinster and All-Ireland 600 metres titles and the Community Games 400 metres under 12.

Another 'Harrier' to have a very good year was Eamonn Costelloe, who won one gold, two silver and three bronze medals at All-Ireland level.

Other medal winners were: Maurice Keane (second); Michael Cuddihy (third) and relay bronze medal winners, Jane Power, Hazel Hutchinson, Marie Quirke and Pdraig Keane.

Athletes who with those mentioned above won Leinster medals but failed to make the first three in the National championships were: C. Keane, N. Walsh, A. Murphy, P. Kavanagh, M. Murphy, D. Dowling, S. Keane, M. Maher, E. Maher, S. Walsh, J. Langton and M. Conroy and T. Murphy, both of whom finished fourth.

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Kilkenny lead juvenile field

ALTHOUGH the juveniles Handball All Irelands, begun in 1966, were on three years before Kilkenny got their names on the roll of honour, they now lead in the number of titles won. In fact, since they made their mark first in 1969, they have won 10 out of the 34 titles played for since, surely a great record.

Roscommon, who had two titles won before Kilkenny started, are now in second place with 8 titles, followed closely by Dublin and Tipperary with 7.

Kilkenny champions in Willwood All Irelands are:
1969-O. Harold (Under 14

singles); J. Barron and B. McCarthy (Under 14 Doubles). 1970-P. Hughes (Under 14 Singles); J. Barron and O. Harold (Under 16 Doubles). 1971-J. Barron and J. Delaney (Under 16 Doubles).

1972-E. Downey (Under 12 singles); P. Hughes (Under 16 Singles).

1973-D. O'Hanlon (Under 14 Singles).

1974-B. Bourke (Under 12 Singles); L. Leahy (Under 16 Singles).

In addition, the first ever Feile na nGael All Ireland (Under 14 Singles) was won by E. Downey.

Athletes won 156 medals

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SENIOR TRACK, FIELD, ROAD

John Mackey, St. Joseph's, Tullogher, was the outstanding senior athlete, winning two national titles and taking second place in a third. He also won two senior international singlets (Sweden and England). Even many involved in athletes will be wondering about this result but there is no mistake. John won these honours as a walker and won them both on track and road.

Alfred Harvey, Seamus Costelloe and Ger Walsh combined to take runner-up medals in the senior team events in the long jump and triple jumps. An excellent performance by lads just one year out of juvenile grade. These three also fared well in the national youths championships as did Noel Murphy, Lily Byrne and Gerry Kavanagh.

COMMUNITY GAMES

The final sports of the season was the Community Games events and here again the juveniles fared well with Rick McGrath, Thomastown, and Mary Walsh winning gold, and Marita Walton taking silver and in the final track event of 1974 the All-Ireland team of: C. Keane, Celine Malone, Ann Drohan, Teresa Murphy and Marie Quirke brought home the bronze from a total of 31 teams.

WHAT ABOUT 1975?

The coming year will see many new champions as the

age limit is now from January 1 for all events and not from October 1 as in the past. And over the coming weeks clubs will be hard at work sorting out their cross-country teams.

At County Board level the Juvenile Board will have to make up their minds that they are going to cater for their juveniles; they didn't in 1974, or else hand all back to the senior board.

The senior board will, of course, be hoping for a far greater response from all those seniors who could, if they are willing, bring senior national titles to their clubs and county.

Unfinished Finals

THE 1888 all-Ireland was unfinished because of the visit of a team of hurlers and athletes from the United States, referred to as the "American Invasion".

The 1890 final was also unfinished, Cork (1-2) being awarded the game against Wexford (2-2).

In 1892 Dublin withdrew after 50 minutes when Cork were leading by 2-4 to 1-1.

The 1905 final won by Kilkenny by 7-7 to 2-9 for Cork followed a disputed final which Cork won by 5-10 to 3-13.