

# Kilkenny Yearbook '75





# Kilkenny Yearbook

**PETER HOLOHAN**  
Editor



## Editorial

### Greatest year in history

NOTHING is more calculated to stir the emotions of hurling followers than the thrills of an all-Ireland final. And this year Kilkenny followers, and particularly our people abroad, had good reason to rejoice. Kilkenny people can look back on this year as the greatest in Kilkenny hurling history. The honours won surpassed anything yet achieved by the wearers of the black and amber and Kilkenny's hurling stock reached its zenith.

To Kilkenny people hurling is more than a mere game. It is the essence of the spirit of Irish manhood engaged in a sport noted for its artistry and skill – an artistry and skill reflected at its best in Kilkenny's own particular style. And these victories not alone reflect glory on the present generation of hurlers but they bring to mind the successes gained by past generations; the people who carved a niche of their own in what is regarded as one of the greatest field games in the world.

It is well to reflect too on the people who do not play the game but who serve to maintain it. The part played by club members and officials in the rural areas, as well as in the towns, can often be forgotten and, often indeed, be ignored. These people – the 'grass roots' is the common cliché by which they are described – and those at county level have a vital role to play. To them the game is a commitment; a commitment that is a labour of love. While this spirit and dedication remains the future of the game is assured.

The commitment in Kilkenny is reflected in a special way in the work done to promote the game among the young people. They have laid and continue to lay a solid foundation. Indeed, it can be said that the success achieved over the years and particularly over the past decade is attributable, in some degree, certainly to their work. Starting with the national schools there is an unremitting attention to the promotion of the national games in the secondary schools and colleges. The same sterling service is provided in areas where the 15th or no secondary schools or colleges within close range.

All these, as well as the hurlers within a point of the officials share in the great triumphs of 1975. They can look forward with confidence to the future. Kilkenny hurling is in safe hands.



## Reamh Rá

le **DR. DONAL KEENAN**,  
President of the G.A.A.

IS cúis athais dom fáilte a chur roimh Irisleabhar Chill Chainnigh 1975.

Cuireann sé ar fáil dúinn tuarascáil ar na himeachtaí stairiúla a tharla i rith na bliana. Bliain thar an gcoitinne a b'é 1975 do mhuintir Chill Chainnigh, mar do ghnóthaigh siad Craobh na hÉireann san iomáint sinsear, mionúr agus faoi 21. Tá cuntas, maisithe go soiléir, ar na himeachtaí seo uilig san iris seo.

It is always a pleasure to welcome the publication of a G.A.A. Year Book . . . but there must, of course, be a very special, deep and happy pleasure this year in greeting the 1975 edition of the Kilkenny Year Book.

Throughout the years, Kilkenny's hurling teams have reaped a proud succession of all the awards in the game but even by their own superb standards, this past year has been a truly magnificent one for the county.

With a majestic sweep of the

all-Ireland championships in senior, under-21 and minor, the county's hurlers have added an epic page to Kilkenny's glowing history in Gaelic games and even as their greatest rivals of 1975 would generously concede, they thoroughly deserved to take all three titles.

Kilkenny's achievements in 1975 have added a further new stature to our ancient sport of hurling and have set an exciting target, not only for Kilkenny themselves but also for every other county in Ireland in the years to come.

I am delighted to congratulate Kilkenny on their glorious record of 1975, equally delighted to accept the invitation to write the foreword to this Year Book which records their memorable victories of 1975 and it is my sincere wish that this chronicle of the county's activities during the year will continue to foster hurling, the game we all love and enjoy so much.





KILKENNY SENIOR TEAM ALL-IRELAND CHAMPIONS



# FIVE IN A ROW IN LEINSTER



"IF WE win to-day we won't win next year; there's something about Kilkenny not being able to win four in a row". The late Bob Aylward said this to me in Joe McTernan's of Kilcullen on the way to the 1973 Leinster final. Bob Aylward was not a superstitious man but people get set ideas in their minds that are hard to uproot.

Regrettably Bob did not live to see Kilkenny win, as they did this year, five in a row and set up a Leinster hurling record that may never be broken except by Kilkenny themselves.

Kilkenny made history at Croke Park on August 3 when they continued the galling frustration that has been the Model County's lot for so long. And in doing so they chalked up their 47th Leinster title, a total greater than the combined total of the other counties.

Wexford came to Croke Park quietly confident that Kilkenny had had their day and that their turn had come. They played with that unflinching determination that had adorned their game over the past two decades or so and helped, with Kilkenny, of course, to provide what was possibly the best game of the whole championship campaign — this has been so for many years now.

This great Kilkenny team which thundered its way to glory had most to do in the Leinster final and had to pull out all the stops to overcome the strong Wexford challenge, before going on to an easy all-Ireland final triumph.

## HIGH PLANE

It is not too easy to say whether it is Wexford that bring

the best out of Kilkenny or vice versa but anyway the counties have lifted hurling not alone in Leinster but in the country generally to a very high plane and if the Kilkenny-Wexford provincial deciders have not been surrounded with all the glamour they have certainly provided the best of hurling.

The Wexford side that took the field was so much at variance with the original selection that one wondered if they did not carry this aspect of their strategy too far. The strategy did not work.

It is probably fair to say, however, that under any circumstances Kilkenny would have won. Wexford's confidence was based on the assumption that the side was as good, if not better than last year, when they were narrowly beaten after playing with 14 men throughout the second half and Kilkenny's six points margin 2-20 to 2-14 was fashioned in a manner that suggested beyond any shadow of doubt that it was well deserved.

Kilkenny led at half time by 1-12 to 1-8. They scored another goal and eight points in the second half to Wexford's goal and six. Wexford had seven more wides, 19 to 12, but this was as much due to close marking on the part of the Kilkenny defenders as to lapses on the part of the Wexford forwards.

## INITIATIVE

In the 15th minute of the second half Wexford came to within a point of the winners when Tony Doran flashed to the net. This was the vital stage of the game. To win Wexford

would have to hold the initiative but it was Kilkenny who took command. Kieran Purcell shot a fine point, Eddie Keher blasted a penalty to the net before Ned Buggy in the 22nd minute lifted the Wexford morale when he pointed a free. But the crunch period was between the 23rd and 27th minutes. Kilkenny put on three points by Kieran Purcell, Mick Crotty and Eddie Keher from a free to put them ahead by 2-18 to 2-12.

Ned Buggy pointed another free in the 30th minute to leave Kilkenny still five points clear. Wexford had a chance when awarded a free close in but Ned Buggy was satisfied to take a point when only a goal could have any real value.

Eddie Keher clinched matters with a point from a free three minutes from the end.

Though Kilkenny were in front from the fifth minute to the end the leeway was never so great that a Wexford recovery could be entirely ruled out and this helped to maintain the keen interest of the 25,000 crowd. Kilkenny resorted to the usual strategy of switching Kieran Purcell and Pat Delaney and it worked to the best advantage.

Noel Skehan made some splendid saves, some of them under pressure in the Kilkenny goal and the full back of Phil Larkin, Nickey Orr and Brian Cody proved a very sound rearguard. The decision to play Brian Cody in Jim Treacy's position was a very wise one and probably had as much as anything else to do with the winning of the game. He proved a worthy successor to the redoubtable Jim Treacy who in

this day was one of the best corner backs in the game.

The half back line of Pat Lawlor, Pat Henderson and Tom McCormack was also very effective with Pat Henderson showing all his consummate skill.

Another vital factor was the measure of control Liam O'Brien and Frank Cummins exercised at midfield. Eddie Keher who had a goal and eight points to show for his hour's work was in his usual dazzling form with Mick Crotty, Mick Brennan and Billy Fitzpatrick teaming up splendidly with Kieran Purcell and Pat Delaney.

John Nolan was outstanding in the Wexford goal and Teddy O'Connor and Ned Buggy who scored a goal and seven points, the goal from a penalty and seven points from frees — starred in the defence. Colm Doran also figured prominently in the defence while Martin Quigley gave a fine display at midfield. Seán Kinsella and Tony Doran constituted the greatest threat to the Kilkenny goal.

Wexford fought every inch of the way and even though they trailed throughout never really gave up hope until the final minutes. They played their part in making this another memorable Leinster final.

**Scorers for Kilkenny:** E. Keher (1-8, 0-3 from frees, 1-0 from semi-penalty), Liam O'Brien (0-4, 0-2 from frees); Kieran Purcell (0-3); Pat Delaney (1-0); Billy Fitzpatrick (0-2); Mick Brennan, Mick Crotty and Frank Cummins (0-1) each.

**Wexford scorers:** Ned Buggy (1-7, 1-0 from semi-penalty, 0-7 from frees); Martin Quigley and John Murphy (0-2 each); Tony Doran (1-0); Christy Kehoe, Martin Casey, Tom Byrne (0-1 each).

**Kilkenny:** N. Skehan, P. Larkin, N. Orr, B. Cody, P. Lawlor, P. Henderson, T. McCormack, L. O'Brien, F. Cummins, M. Crotty, P. Delaney, W. Fitzpatrick, M. Brennan, K. Purcell, E. Keher. Subs: Ger Henderson for T. McCormack.

**Wexford:** J. Nolan, E. Buggy, P. Kavanagh, T. O'Connor, C. Doran, M. Jacob, W. Murphy, M. Casey, D. Bernie, M. Quigley, C. Kehoe, S. Kinsella, J. Quigley, T. Doran, J. Murphy. Subs: T. Byrne for C. Kehoe; P. Mulcahy for S. Kinsella; P. Flynn for M. Casey.



# Record year under review

By MICHAEL O'NEILL,

*Chairman of the County Board*

IN THE four years 1972 to 1975 (inclusive) Kilkenny have won at least two all-Ireland finals each year and if the present standard in the county can be maintained it could well be that the 1970's could rival the remarkable record of the first decade of this century when we won seven all-Irelands.

In 1972 we won senior and minor; in 1973 we won intermediate and minor; in 1974 we won senior and under 21 and this year we have won senior, minor and under-21.

The record impressive though it is does not end there. We have won three of the last five vocational schools all-Ireland finals; St. Kieran's won this year all-Ireland colleges senior final; we won the camogie all-Ireland final in 1974.

This year, too, our seniors and minors won their fifth Leinster title in a row. Half way through this decade in terms of all-Ireland titles won we have surpassed the remarkable achievement of the first decade of this century which belonged to Kilkenny, seven national titles coming to the Noreside.

We have, of course still a long way to go to surpass the achievements of the 1904-1913 achievement of seven senior titles but we have our sights set on this target and prospects for the future look good.

We cannot hope to continue winning but with youthful material of outstanding calibre at our disposal we must be a force to be reckoned with in the years ahead. People say that it is not good for the game if one county has a complete monopoly. That may be so but a hurling team must play to win and Kilkenny cannot be faulted if there is no side to beat them.

In Leinster, at any rate, I think more could be done to bring Dublin and Laois back into prominence. For the past quarter of a century it has been left to Wexford and ourselves to keep the hurling flag flying.



Both Laois and Dublin have a good hurling tradition and a serious effort should be made to develop hurling skill among the youth.

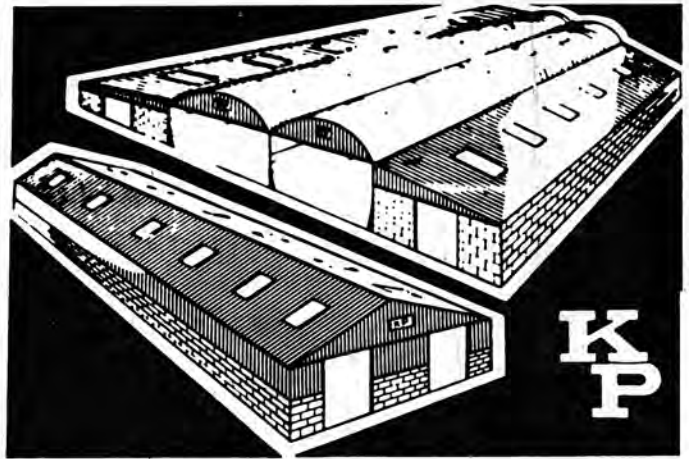
If a serious effort were made in the schools in these counties and indeed in the province generally progress could be made. We can attribute much of our success in recent years to the spadework done in the schools. All our all-Ireland hurlers over the years learned their hurling in the schools; if they don't learn in the schools they are unlikely to learn at all.

Another point which those people who are inclined to criticise Kilkenny's continued supremacy in Leinster seem to forget is that if hurling does not thrive in Kilkenny then it will hardly thrive at all.

People often complain about the monotony of seeing Kilkenny in the all-Ireland final year after year. What would many of the all-Ireland finals over the years have been like if Kilkenny had not been in contention?

It is right to say that Wexford have had their share of all-Ireland success and have helped in no small way to bring prestige to Leinster hurling and without the two counties hurling would be in a very poor state.

Our motto is and must remain one of continued striving for the honour and glory of Kilkenny and for more and more support for our great national games.



## An extra 6 good reasons for buying K.P. buildings.

1. Improved design of haybarn trusses, giving more head room.
2. Gable Frame (for Sheeting) eliminates Centre Pillar.
3. Haybarn Type Buildings up to 60'0" clear span.
4. Choice of 2 gauges of sheeting for silage layouts.
5. A clearer floor area, (less pillars) by using Lattice Beam.
6. Rafter type trusses in lean-tos for maximum headroom.

### FARM BUILDINGS

Manufactured and erected

by

**KILKENNY ENGINEERING**

**PRODUCTS LTD.**

**Castlecomer, Co. Kilkenny**

Tel. 056 - 41296



# The All-Ireland – as seen by Galway

Michael Glynn writing in the "Connacht Tribune" summed up Galway's feelings about the game.

"The 63,711 strong crowd – over two-thirds of which appeared to support Galway – had every reason to feel let down. Galway were a severe disappointment and, with a few notable exceptions, the entire team was completely outclassed on the day.

"Kilkenny on the other hand were positively superb and in a magic second half spell turned on a display of sheer hurling artistry.

"The most disappointing aspect of it all was not Galway's defeat but the manner of it. For their eventual fate looked on from the very start and was virtually decided after 40 minutes.

"All through the first half the Kilkenny duo of O'Brien and Cummins was rampant while not one of the Galway forwards made any sort of impact on the brilliant Kilkenny rearguard.

"Largely due to the defence Galway were still very much in touch at half time, trailing by only four points and with the memory of a recovery from a similar position in the League final against Tipperary the situation was not altogether hopeless albeit quick scores were needed on the resumption.

"But within five minutes of the re-start the Galway hopes had been shattered as Kilkenny struck with a crushing 1-2. From then to the end it was only a formality, though Galway did manage to reduce the deficit to a surmountable four points margin.

## DEMISE

"The demise at midfield was without doubt the main factor in the defeat but there were other reasons, too. The confidence shown against Cork was gone. So, too, was the speed of the forward line while never once can I recall a passing movement of note – up to Sunday this had been one of the characteristics of the Galway team.

"What exactly went wrong with Galway is hard to fathom. This was undoubtedly their worst performance of the year with two-thirds of the team never showing true form.

"But even if Galway had displayed top form it's

questionable whether it would have been good enough. For this Kilkenny team was positively superb and must surely be one of the most complete hurling teams of all time. On the form shown on Sunday few teams in history would have troubled them.

"There was never a hint of weakness in the defence which had the Galway forwards under straps throughout while Liam O'Brien and Frank Cummins at midfield only added to their stature as the best partnership in the game.

"Up front every player was a danger man – and this Galway learned to their cost. Pre-match predictions were that if the Galway defence succeeded in holding Keher and the Purcell-Delaney partnership then victory would go Galway's way.

But as it transpired this prediction could not have been further off-key. Joe Clarke and Seán Silke certainly subdued Delaney and Purcell while Niall McInerney succeeded in blunting the effectiveness of Keher for a large part of the first half but it was the other Kilkenny attackers and Mick Crotty especially who did the damage.

## FANTASTIC DAY

Crotty had a fantastic day and as well as scoring five points also set up a host of scores for his colleagues including Keher's goal just after the interval. It was Crotty's permanent switch with corner forward Brennan rather than the continuous inter-changing between Purcell and Delaney that caused the most bother to the Galway defence.

Looking back the Galway performance was totally out of character. Never before had the team been so outplayed at midfield while the lack of spirit shown by some of the players was the most surprising aspect of all.

It's not the defeat that is disappointing but the manner of it. For no matter what anyone says I don't believe there is a team in the country twelve points superior to Galway. Sunday's display was too bad to be true.

Possibly Galway were unfortunate to run into a Kilkenny side whose players chose Sunday as the day to turn on career-best performances. Kilkenny were a team of genius but even so players like Larkin,

Cody, Henderson, O'Brien and Crotty stood out.

The vital period in the game was on each side of the interval. Galway failed to react as expected to their goal in the eighteenth minute and did not score again until five minutes into the second half.

It was in this period that the game was won and lost. Kilkenny scored 6 points without reply after Burke's goal and held a three point lead at the break. So in command were they then that it was obvious quick Galway scores were needed and when these did not come the game was all but over.

One of the most noticeable things about the Kilkenny players was their inbuilt anticipation. They always seemed to know where the ball would break and this was especially obvious at midfield where O'Brien and Cummins pounced on practically every loose ball.

Another feature of the Leinstermen's play was their uncanny ability to pick off points from all angles. And judging by the preceding all-

Ireland minor final in which Kilkenny got scores from distances just as long and angles as acute this will remain a feature of the county's play for a long time to come.

Reports of the game indicating that it was the worst all-Ireland final for years are, to my mind, exaggerated. As a contest it was certainly one way but such was the quality of the hurling served up by Kilkenny that it is something of an injustice to describe the game as poor. No team in the country would have made a contest of it on Sunday.

## Figures of the game

Kilkenny had 14 wides 23 frees and 1 '70' while Galway had 11 wides, 17 frees and no '70'. There was a total of 25 wides, 40 frees and only 1 '70' while the total of 40 scores over the hour represented one every one-and-three-quarter minutes.

## FERRUM FABRICATIONS LIMITED

Windgap, Co. Kilkenny

Ireland's Leading Manufacturers of  
Bulk Milk Trolleys

SOLE IRISH AGENTS  
FOR TURNER GRAIN HANDLING  
EQUIPMENT

Manufacturers of Fer Fab Automatic Bulk Tank  
Washers

CONSULT FERRUM FOR FIRM ADVICE





*Left: Billy Fitzpatrick and Noel Skehan marching out in the All-Ireland final.*

## Kilkenny's 20th all-Ireland Title

**"Few teams in history would have troubled Kilkenny on the form shown" is Galway's tribute to the all-Ireland Champions.**

"ON THE FORM shown few teams in history would have troubled them". This significant tribute to Kilkenny's perfor-

mance against Galway in the all-Ireland final comes from Galway journalist, Michael Glynn. It is probably fair to say that Kilkenny did give one of their best ever performances and were worth every one of their 12 points winning margin. In the process they displayed the most stylish hurling ever seen at Croke Park.

The game was a disappointment for all but the Kilkenny supporters not so much that Galway were beaten but because of their failure to reproduce the brilliant hurling which characterised their National League campaign and, in particular, their power hurling against Cork in the all-Ireland semi-final. It was a bitter disappointment for Galway followers who counted so much on a break through after over 50 years.

The Galway confidence was based on false promises. They attached too much importance to their win over Kilkenny in the National League semi-final — it is a long accepted maxim in Kilkenny that the League is very much a secondary consideration and Kilkenny never



*LEFT: Nicky Orr holds off Galway's flying P. J. Qualter near the Kilkenny goal.*



# Kilkenny's 20th All-Ireland Title

(Continued)

really set their sights on it – and again they felt that speed would be a vital factor in their favour.

They were wrong on both counts. They came up against a vastly different Kilkenny to that which lost at Thurles and if speed entered into it at all the advantage lay with Kilkenny. What they failed to appreciate was that anticipation and judgment can negate speed.

Another factor that militated against them was that this Galway side play clean stylish hurling and in this they were attempting to beat Kilkenny at their own game.

On the whole, however this display does not do full justice to Galway. Some of their top players were too far below their best for this to be their true form and lack of experience in an all-Ireland final must surely have militated against them, too. Galway are a fine young team and must have a bright future before them.

## LEARNED

Kilkenny learned more from Galway's previous form than Galway did from Kilkenny. In the game against Cork the motto was to pile up an early lead. In the final Kilkenny were content to hold back the storm and stay with Galway in the first half. Having done this – they led by 0-9 to 1-3 – they had the game sewn up.

Galway thought too, that if they could hold Eddie Keher, Pat Delaney and Kieran Purcell they would have laid the foundation for success. But they reckoned without Mick Crotty and Mick Brennan. While Eddie Keher was kept fairly well in check in the early stages by Niall McInerney once he got his first point in the 24th minute he broke the McInerney stranglehold and from this to the end he made his presence felt in no uncertain manner.

The Kilkenny attack, even allowing for the fact that Kieran Purcell, Pat Delaney and Billy Fitzpatrick did not appear as prominent as in other games, functioned with remarkable fluency and though not figuring very much in the scoring Purcell, Delaney and Fitzpatrick fitted into the all-round scoring pattern that so upset the Galway defence.

Mick Crotty's devastating hurling rocked Galway. Though working very hard at right half it was when he switched with Mick Brennan that he did the greatest damage and Mick Brennan also benefitted from the change.

## MIDFIELD

Kilkenny's midfield superiority was more pronounced than anyone could have expected. Liam O'Brien and Frank Cummins subdued a

number of Galway combinations and the man in whom Galway based much of their hopes, John Connolly was rarely in the picture. Liam O'Brien, in my view has had only one better game and that against Cork in the 1972 final simply because for three quarters of the game Kilkenny had an uphill fight. Frank Cummins gave a sparkling display of top class hurling.

The Kilkenny defence, with Noel Skehan giving another masterful exhibition was superb. Every man played his part. It might seem indivious to single out any one but Phil Larkin won the admiration of all for his delightful hurling and his uncanny anticipation.

Nicky Orr, Brian Cody who touched dazzling heights in a position in which he had only his second game, Pat Lawlor, Pat Henderson and Tom McCormack can look back with pride on their performances.

Galway had few stars and one of them was Michael Connelly the goalie about whom doubts had been expressed about his capability. Niall McInerney started well but once Eddie Keher got going he failed to measure up to Galway expectation.

Joe Clarke at full back gave a splendid display as did Iggy

Clarke and Seán Silke but in the attack only P. J. Molloy, P. J. Qualter, who tried hard all through and set up Galway's first goal for Frank Burke and Frank Burke himself in the first half made any serious impression.

**Scorers for Kilkenny:** Eddie Keher (2-7, 1-6 from frees); Liam O'Brien (0-5, 0-2 from frees); Mick Crotty (0-5); Mick Brennan (0-2); Frank Cummins, Pat Henderson and Pat Delaney (0-1 each).

**Scorers for Galway:** Gerry Coone (0-6, 0-5 from frees); F. Burke (1-0); P. J. Qualter (1-0); P. J. Molloy (0-3); John Connolly (0-1).

**Kilkenny:** N. Skehan, P. Larkin, N. Orr, B. Cody, P. Lawlor, P. Henderson, T. McCormack, L. O'Brien, F. Cummins, M. Crotty, P. Delaney, B. Fitzpatrick (captain); M. Brennan, K. Purcell and E. Keher.

**Galway:** M. Connelly, N. McInerney, J. Clarke, P. Lally, J. McDonagh, S. Silke, I. Clarke, J. Connolly (captain); S. Murphy, G. Coone, F. Burke, P. J. Molloy, M. Barrett, P. J. Qualter, P. Fahy. Subs: M. Connolly for Barrett; Ted Murphy for Lally; S. Grealish for S. Murphy.

Mr. S. O'Connor, Limerick, refereed.

*Phil Larkin holds off Padraic Fahy as Pat Henderson gathers the ball.*







## TWO NEW ALL-STARS

**MICK BRENNAN** (Right full forward) "For the powerful quality of his hurling and the urgency of his running which contributed so much towards Kilkenny's victories this year."

**BRIAN CODY** (Left full back) "For the supreme self-assurance and the exciting spirit of adventure he has shown at such an early stage of his senior career."

## Kilkenny's All-Stars —

WITH six on this year Kilkenny maintain the privilege of having more than any other county on the Carrolls All Stars hurling selection, a position they held since 1971. In 1971 they had four — the same number as all-Ireland champions, Tipperary.

This year's All Stars are: **Noel Shekan** (goal); **Brian Cody** (left full back); **Liam O'Brien** (centrefield); **Mick Brennan** (right full forward); **Kieran Purcell** (full forward) and **Eddie Keher** (left full forward).

Eddie Keher is on the selection for the fifth consecutive year — since the All Stars were first chosen — an honour he shares with Pat Hartigan, Limerick.

Noel Shekan has been chosen for the fourth year in a row and Liam O'Brien, Kieran Purcell and Martin Quigley have been selected for the past three years.

*Still ahead of the rest*

In 1971 Kilkenny had Jim Treacy, Martin Coogan, Frank Cummins, and Eddie Keher.

In 1972: Noel Shekan, Phil Larkin, Pat Henderson, Liam O'Brien, Pat Delaney, Kieran Purcell and Eddie Keher.

1973: Noel Shekan, Jim Treacy, Pat Lawlor, Frank Cummins, Pat Delaney, Eddie Keher.

1974: Noel Shekan, Phil Larkin, Pat Henderson, Liam O'Brien, Mick Crotty, Kieran Purcell, Eddie Keher.





# KILKENNY MUST KEEP ON TRYING

IT HAS become almost a slogan with people to say that Kilkenny's continued successes are bad for the game. Maybe they are not good for hurling but what can we do about it? Surely we cannot be expected to go out and deliberately lose.

These words from Kilkenny County Secretary, Paddy Grace, puts the issue of the future of hurling in Leinster in its proper perspective. The fact of the matter is that if the future of hurling in the province is

threatened then Kilkenny, least of all, can be blamed.

Paddy Grace is long enough in the game as a hurler and administrator to know what is wrong and what is required to remedy the wrong. Winning his first all-Ireland medal in the 1935 minor final he collected two senior all-Ireland medals and enjoys the rare distinction of having won county championship medals with two clubs, Dicksboro and Carrickshock.



*Paddy Grace, Kilkenny County Secretary.*

But it is his close on 30 years' experience as county secretary that makes him better equipped than most to assess the ills that affect our games and he has always been to the fore in advocating policies designed to maintain the association in a sound position.

There was never as much enthusiasm in the under 10's, under 12's, under 14's and under 16's," he says. That has been the case in Kilkenny for quite some years; that is why there is a constant flow of top class hurlers year after year. That, in fact, is one good reason why Kilkenny keep on winning.

In addition to the national schools where the under 10, under 12, and under 14 grades are fostered very valuable work is also being done in the secondary schools and colleges.

"We have dedicated people working unselfishly for the good of the game in the under age groups and their good work is reflected in the successes gained by our senior, under 21 and minor sides.

"If every county did as we are doing then the situation might be different. There is no reason why hurling should not be fostered in the other counties at the same level as in Kilkenny. All is required is the right people and the will to do the job," Paddy Grace says.

Every genuine Kilkenny follower must feel a certain sympathy for Wexford who have been so frustrated by Kilkenny over the years. Losing five Leinster finals in successive years surely puts a big strain on the enthusiasm of any county. It is to Wexford's credit that they have faced the continued defeat with such courage and come back year after year with renewed hope.

Their turn will surely come and when it does Kilkenny will not begrudge them the honours. If the other counties followed Wexford's example hurling might be in a healthier state in the province.

Kilkenny will have to keep on trying to win. If they lose the will to win irreparable harm could be done to the game in what is now the biggest hurling stronghold in Leinster, if not in Ireland.

## Jane Reid and "Eddie Key-hur"

BY DAVE GUINEY

THE arrogant voice on the telephone had all the undertones and overtones of Eton, Harrow, Cambridge, Oxford, the British Royal family, horses and hounds and tally-hoes to boot . . . and it asked for me by name. If, of course, you are prepared to accept that my name is David Quinney!

I murmured a gentle but somewhat surprised "Yes".

Back it came again, fruity and rounded. Already in my mind's eye, I had conjured up a plum-coloured face, a bristling moustache, the cutaway Norfolk jacket, the drainpipe whip-cord trousers, even the silver box of snuff. "I believe you have been of some service to one of our young ladies?"

Now that was a sobering question. In no way, I decided, would I display any co-operation in providing an answer to such a query.

I gave a most non-committal "Eh?". "You do know Jane Reid, old boy?". For just a second there was a little anxiety in the voice.

As it happened, I did know Miss Jane Reid. Several months earlier she had arrived in Ireland, an innocent stranger in our land of saints and scholars, with a commission to write a series of stories for a British magazine which, I must confess, was and still is more concerned with scantily-dressed young ladies than it is with the noble warriors of sport.

Someone in the *Mirror* offices in London had suggested I would be the ideal person to

## MINOGUE FURNITURE

*Dean Street, Kilkenny*

**COMPLETE HOUSE FURNISHERS**

**SOFT FURNITURE :: VENETIAN BLINDS  
CARPETS AND FLOOR COVERING**

**ELECTRICAL GOODS**

**FURNITURE MADE TO ORDER  
IF REQUIRED**

**6-Day Week. Open 7.30 to 9 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays.**

*Special appointments can be arranged.*

**TELEPHONE 21254**



# Jane Reid and "Eddie Key-hur"

Continued

steer her in the general direction of some famous sporting personalities.

The said Miss Reid had much to recommend her. Tall, delightfully endowed and fetchingly beautiful, she would, unquestionably, be made effusively welcome by the average Irish sportsman, particularly the single one with a ready eye for a charming female companion.

There was a problem, however and, after perhaps a half hour's conversation with her, I ascertained it smartly. Miss Reid knew absolutely nothing about sport! Furthermore, she had never been in Ireland before!

But, like the excellent journalist she was then and still is, she asked no questions when her editor gave her the mission of whipping up extra circulation

destined had achieved its world-wide reputation more by its pictures of bikini-clad females than any memorable literary content.

But Miss Reid, however, apart from her obvious beauty, also had an appealingly helpless and defenceless look about her at most times . . . and I must confess that I was powerless before it. I picked up the telephone and started the rounds of all the likely candidates. And I'm happy to recall now that the response was magnificent.

Republic of Ireland soccer star Paddy Mulligan said he would be delighted to help out, so too did Ray Treacy and Liam Tuohy . . . Ireland's scrum-half John Moloney agreed to be interviewed . . . Olympic runner Noel Carroll promised he would be available . . . International boxer Mick

not ended.

With her lack of knowledge of Ireland, Irish sportsmen and Irish sport, particularly hurling and Gaelic football, the lovely Miss Reid dropped a few resounding and, indeed, at times hilarious "clangers" in some of her stories.

One, in fact, succeeded in creating a distinct coolness between one person and his girlfriend, another came close to setting off a miniature tribal warfare in a certain part of Ireland. The upshot was that I was drawn unwillingly back on to the scene. Before any further stories were published, I had a succession of telephone calls from her office in London to check on facts and on statements that my now harassed Jane had made and which, while on the surface might have appeared innocent could possibly be misconstrued here in Ireland.

And that brings me back to that voice on the telephone . . .

"It's like this, old boy. Miss Reid has written an excellent story for us about one of your famous sportsmen. Eddie Key-Hur is the name, old boy – recognise it?"

"A rather splendid story, damn well-written. Seems to be quite a man this Eddie Key-Hur, old Boy. You probably know the chap?"

I managed to scrape in with a little "Yes", but he was in full torrent and there was no halting him.

"It seems he plays hurling. A bit like shinty, I imagine. It sounds a damn good game, old boy, and he is quite a star. But there are a few things I would like to check with you.

"Miss Reid says here that he comes from Inistye-ogee in Co. Kilkenny and that his father was stationed there with the Irish Guards".

For the benefit of the population of Inistioge, I tried valiantly to get in the correction about Eddie's club but the voice just pounded over me and carried on without remorse.

"Damn it all, I think there must be a mistake here. I was in the Guards for years, you

know, old boy, and I can't recall they were ever stationed in Kilkenny. Fine regiment and all that, jolly fine record, splendid chaps.

"You know, old boy, that several of your lads won the V.C., not only in the last show but also in the first one. You know, the one that was to end all wars and all that sort of stuff".

He went on and on and on . . . until one felt that nothing else but a volcanic eruption would have halted him. I got the full history of the Irish Guards, chapter and verse and I was taken almost step by step through all the battles of the last war.

He must have paused to light a cigarette, or perhaps a cigar or maybe it was a pinch of snuff. In the slight pause, I charged in.

"It's possible Miss Reid made a slight error. She should have written Gardai instead of Irish Guards".

That halted him most effectively. He allowed me to explain the word Gardai . . . but once he had absorbed it, he was off again.

"Of course, of course, old boy. By Gad, that's it. Knew damn well it couldn't have been our crowd. Never stationed in Kilkenny, you know. Fine chaps, fine regiment . . ."

It must have been 10 minutes later before I got a word in. "I've got to go" – I told him and I was at my most firm.

"But, of course, dear boy. How jolly of you to talk with me for so long. Splendid, splendid . . . absolutely marvellous".

Knew I couldn't be wrong about the Guards. Wonderful regiment. Knew they were never stationed . . ."

I hung up.

To this day I have never asked Eddie Keher if he ever read that story. I know I didn't . . . I just hadn't got the courage to check what outrage might have been done to our beloved Eddie Key-Hur of Inistye-ogee.

● This is a chapter from David Guiney's book – "The Days of the Little Green Apples".



in Ireland with some stories of Ireland's top sporting personalities. She just packed her bags and headed for Dublin.

I was not wholly ecstatic about the prospect of helping her. To suggest a long list of the people she might possibly interview was little trouble. To telephone the same people on her behalf was less. The lack of enthusiasm arose when I foresaw the problems of trying to explain to the same people that the interviewer would be a young and comely English girl and that the magazine for which the interview would be

Dowling said he could be down within an hour . . . International cricketer Alec O'Riordan dismissed any suggestion of inconvenience . . . the ever courteous Eddie Keher said he would be delighted to help . . . in fact, everyone I rang was prepared to co-operate.

In time, the charming Miss Reid did all the interviews and even managed to get hold of the elusive Mick O'Connell on Valentia Island . . . and in further time she packed her bags again and disappeared out of our lives. But, as it transpired, my problems had



# 'The Village' win fourth title



*James Stephens and Galmoy senior hurling county finalists.*



JAMES STEPHENS won their fourth championship title when they beat Galmoy in a decider that was not as entertaining as was anticipated, even though the winners were hot favourites after their scintillating display against the Shamrocks whom they beat at the third attempt.

There was certainly

something novel about this final, however. Galmoy had been contesting the senior championship since they won out in the junior grade in 1966 but few people ever saw them as likely title winners. They surprised everyone this year by putting out the reigning champions, The Fenians, and

Mooncoin, two sides that could well have won the honours.

It is a fine tribute to their perseverance and spirit that they have battled gamely over the years and deservedly earned a place in the final. They have proved that with the right spirit any rural club can rise to the top.

This game hardly saw James Stephens at their best. They were slightly lucky to be 1-6 to 0-4 ahead at half time even though Galmoy had the assistance of an almost gale force wind in this period.

Galmoy put in a rousing second half but they found the



# James Stephens Win 'Novel' Final

slick stickwork, greater accuracy and better combination of the Village men just that little bit too much for them. James Stephens were also that bit better balanced.

There can be no denying that James Stephens won on merit and if they were slightly flattered by a nine points' margin they left no room for doubt about their ability to take a title they last held in 1969.

James Stephens in the campaign beat Coon, Erin's Own (Castlecomer), Young Irelands (Gowran), St. Lactain's (Freshford) and Galmoy before their two drawn games with The Shamrocks while Galmoy beat Coon, Young Irelands, The Fenians, Erin's Own, Freshford and lost to James Stephens. They only lost by two points to James Stephens at Ballyragget but on this occasion James Stephens were without Phil Larkin.

James Stephens is one of the most active clubs in the country and in the under age grades over the past decade or so they have made an enormous impact. The club is also first in this county in planning the

social side of G.A.A. activities and very ambitious plans have been made and work is already under way in providing accommodation for social and club functions.

Galmoy, on the other hand, have to draw their material from a rather remote rural area and it reflects the highest credit on the players and the men behind the scenes that the club has functioned so successfully since its foundation in 1930.

Though playing against the strong wind, James Stephens had three points on the scoreboard before Galmoy had their first score, a point, and the ultimate outcome could have been foreseen – unless something extraordinary happened – when Ger Tyrrell got their goal in the 13th minute. Galmoy might have been in a better position if their forwards had been more accurate and if they had availed of opportunities for goals in the first quarter or so.

Galmoy were five points down, 1-6 to 0-4, at half-time and they were still six points in arrears when Stephen Delaney got their goal in the 16th minute of the second half. They managed to clip another point off the

lead seven minutes from the end but they never looked like getting on top.

Mick Moore was as good as he was in the game in which The Village beat The Shamrocks, which is high praise indeed, and though Phil Larkin was not quite as spectacular, he was very sound and had capable flankers in Paddy Neary and Niall Morrissey.

Brian Cody, who starred at centre half, also had capable wing men in Joe Hennessy and Jimmy O'Brien.

The midfield exchanges were even enough with Dinny McCormack and Mick Taylor having their moments against Joe Doherty and Stephen Delaney. Joe Doherty put in a power of work for Galmoy, much of it not being exploited.

Liam O'Brien again was the hero of the attack, coming out top scorer of the day with seven points, while Mick Crotty, Sean Brennan, John McCormack, Ger Tyrrell and Mick Leahy all tried hard.

Charlie Brennan made some fine saves in the Galmoy goal and Jim Phelan, Tom Phelan and Mick Ryan were sound in the full line. Lotty Harte had an

outstanding game at left, with Frank Harte also doing well, but in the attack only Willo Phelan, who played some top class hurling, Jack Phelan and to a lesser extent Billy Harte and Mick Phelan made any marked impression.

Liam O'Brien (0-7), Ger Tyrrell (1-0), Sean Brennan (0-2), Phil Larkin, Mick Crotty, Brian Cody, Dinny McCormack and Mick Taylor (0-1 each) scored for James Stephens.

Willo Phelan (0-3), Stephen Delaney (1-0), Jack Phelan and Mick Phelan (0-1 each) scored for Galmoy. Phil Larkin's point came from about 90 yards out.

**James Stephens:** M. Moore, P. Neary, P. Larkin, N. Morrissey, J. Hennessy, B. Cody, J. O'Brien, D. McCormack, M. Taylor, M. Crotty, L. O'Brien, J. McCormack, S. Brennan, M. Leahy, G. Tyrrell.

**Galmoy:** C. Brennan, Jim Phelan, T. Phelan, M. Ryan, F. Harte, M. Lonergan, L. Harte, J. Doherty, S. Delaney, L. Norton, W. Harte, W. Phelan, Jack Phelan, P. Cleary, M. Phelan. Sub.—Paddy Phelan (for L. Norton).

Referee: Mr. James Murphy.

---

## Mol an Óige ————— le Tomás de Bháldraithe

IN ALT na bliana so caithe phléidheas cas na mbuachailli óga i gcúrsaí iomána roimh eagrú Chumainn na mBunscoileanna. Dúirt mé go raibh iomáint iomaitheach sna scoileanna bunaithe in áiteanna anso 's ansúd, go mór-mhór timpeall ar Bhaile Mhic Anndáin, Achadh Úr agus Baile Sheáin ach nach raibh a rian de le feiscint i gCathair Chill Chainnigh féin. Ar feadh an tSamhraidh bhíodh iomaíocht eadar-scoileanna ar siúl ach gan aon chomh-oibriú idir na h-iarrachtaí a deineadh.

Cuid de na fáthanna ba chiontach leis sin, ar ndóigh, na deacrachtaí taistil a bhí ann san am agus gan aon ghreim ag baill Bhóird an Chontae ar thábhacht na mbunscoileanna in eagrú na gcluichí. Is beag duine a raibh aon chóir taistil aige seachas an rothar, agus an rothar féin, nior gan dua a

d'fhreastalaíodh air, aimsir na h-Éigeandála, nuair ba ghá dhuít cara a bheith agat ar an Margadh Dubh chun boinn agus boilg a sholáthar duit.

Is cuimhin liom bliain 1944 go dtéadh foireann Eire Óg ar rothair go dtí na cluichí a n-imridis iontu, go Calainn, Baile Mhic Anndáin, Muileann a' Bhata agus fiú go dtí Port Láirge féin chun imirt in aghaidh Erin's Own. Nuair is cruaidh do'n chailleach, caitheann si rith.

In Earrach na bliana 1939, tháinig triúr againn le chéile i Halla na Cathrach chun an scéal a chur tré chéile. Chinneamar gur mhithid beart a dhéanamh chun deimhin a dhéanamh de go n-imreofai na cluichí ins na bunscoileanna, agus chuige sin gur chóir go gcuirfi bun le Cróbh na mBunscoileanna san iomáint. Chuireamar fógra beag bideach

sna páipeíri áitiúla ag fógart cruinniú eile ach diabhal duine eile a d'fhreagair an glaoh. (D'airiomar ina dhiaidh sin nach bhfacthas an fógra ar aon chor). Ach bhí sé socráithe againn go ndéanfaimis sár-iarracht agus go gcuirfimis Cumann na mBun scoileanna ar bun in ainneoin neamhshuime. Bhí triúr oifigeach uainn – b'fhurasta iad san a thoghadh: An Bráthair Séamus as Scoil Eoin Naofa de la Salle ina Chathaoirleach, Seosamh O Dúnláing as Caircleach (Jenkinstown) ina rúnai agus mé féin im' Chisteoir agus ba éasca liom ualach an phoist sin a iompar go ceann i bhfad.

Caitheamar mi ag imeacht timpeall agus ag bualadh le n-ár gcomh-mhuinteoirí ag tathaint orthu bheith páirteach ann. Sa deire thiar thall ní raibh ach ocht bhfóirne toiltheannach gaisce a dhéanamh – Scoil

Phádraig agus Scoil Eoin ó'n gcathair; dhá cheann taobh theas di, Ath Stúin agus Droichead Beinéid; ceithre cinn taobh thuaidh di, Tulach Ruadháin, Lios Dúin Fhiaich, Achadh Úr agus Conachaidh.

Ach mheasamar go raibh dóthain Chraoibhe againn agus chuamar ar aghaidh. Sár-chluichí ba ea iad agus tháinig na céadta á bhféachaint. Cuireadh cunntaisí futhu chuig na nuachtáin áitiúla, foillsíodh iad, mhúscaill siad suim mhór sa chontae agus bhí cluiche thar bárr idir Scoil Phádraig agus Lios Dúin Fhiaich do'n chraobh-chluiche in Achadh Úr.

Bhí an chéad urchar scaoilte agus speag a fheabhas 's d'éirigh leis na cluichí na paróistí eile an bhliain dár gcionn. Níorbh fhada gur eascair an siol ina chrann breá láidir.





KILKENNY: Under-21 All-Ireland Champions 1975



# Under-21 side Complete Treble

## THE GRAND FINALE

A YEAR of achievement was crowned on a bright Autumn Sunday in the seaside town of Dungarvan when the Kilkenny under-21 side beat Cork by three points, 5-13 to 2-19 in a game that revived memories of great all-Irelands of the past in Dan Fraher's field to complete a Kilkenny grand slam. The game revived memories of the days of Sim Walton, Jack Rochford, Drug Walsh and the Doyles who had fashioned Kilkenny's style of hurling in the early years of the century.

This was surely a fitting climax to a great year. This was a game equal to the best in any grade for many a long day; this was a game which produced hurling in the best Cork-Kilkenny tradition; this was the game that brought to Kilkenny a hurling year of glory never before equalled.

There were some misgivings about this Kilkenny side even after easy wins over Dublin in the opening game; Wexford in the Leinster final and Galway in the all-Ireland semi-final. But like last year the team rose to the occasion and each player lifted his game to the high level required to overcome a powerful Cork combination.

The game had many features and both sides contributed to a scintillating display of top class hurling that had the 10,000 crowd breathless for most of the hour and in a frenzy of excitement in the closing stages. In the last four minutes Cork, three points behind, mounted an all-out offensive to try to snatch the equalising goal; that it did not come was due entirely to a defensive action by the Kilkenny backs that almost beggars description.

A rasping shot from a Cork forward bounced off the cross-bar and was cleared after a tense struggle in the Kilkenny goal area and Kilkenny goalie Kevin Fennelly dived across the goal line to tip the ball away to safety as all the time Cork put their full weight into an effort to break the Kilkenny lines but failed.

The 39 scores over the 60 minutes came in rapid succession and with the lead changing hands seven times in the hour

the crowd had difficulty in keeping in touch with events and the changing pattern. This added to the sheer brilliance of both teams, collectively and individually, made it a truly memorable final.

The Kilkenny side carried a heavy responsibility. The senior and minors had already won all-Ireland honours and it was in their hands to add the final touch to a glorious year.

Both sides came back from the brink and turned what looked like imminent defeat into a possible chance of success and the changing fortunes swayed rapidly up to the time Kilkenny established themselves in control five minutes from the end. But it was not complete control and with Cork narrowing the lead down to three points with four minutes to go the possibility of a draw could not be ruled out.

It was in those last four minutes that we saw the best of the Kilkenny defence.

There were times during the game when things looked black for Kilkenny and only the super optimist or the foolhardy in the huge crowd of Kilkenny supporters could feel undisturbed. But Kilkenny always came back. Four points down after 10 minutes of the second half they maintained their composure and gradually worked their way back into the lead again.

It would not be easy to pinpoint what one might call the dominant or deciding factors in Kilkenny's triumph. For one thing the sideline strategy played a very vital part. When Ger Henderson was moved from right half back to midfield there was a complete reversal of the trend the game had been taking.

Cork had moved Jimmy Barry Murphy from full forward to the centre half and he upset the smooth working of the Kilkenny defence to a marked degree. But all this was offset by the effect which Ger Henderson had on the game generally. He overlorded it over a sizeable area around midfield and the Kilkenny defence area and as Billy Fitzpatrick capitalised on his unremitting supply so, too, did

# TAD

# ENGINEERING

# LTD.

**MANUS & FULLWOOD  
MILKING MACHINES**

**FLEMING  
SLURRY EQUIPMENT**

**NERVUS-MASTER ELECTRIC AND  
BATTERY-TYPE FENCERS  
NATIONAL ELECTRIC WELDERS  
BALE ELEVATORS  
BALE SLEDGES**

**Hebron Road,**

**KILKENNY**

**Telephone 21251**

*Congratulations all and may the year ahead  
prove as successful*



Continued from previous page

Terry Brennan and Bobby Sweeney who were causing the Cork backs serious worry.

To begin with it is fair to say that Kevin Fennelly in goal crowned a great year with a truly super display of goal keeping. His timely intervention in the first half when a Cork forward raced goalwards with the Kilkenny goal wide open was one of the highlights of the game. His dive across the goal late in the game to make another great save and his work in general was superb.

Jim Moran had more than a handful in Jimmy Barry Murphy in the early stages and was allowed little room to manoeuvre though the Cork county senior hurler and footballer failed to put his name to a score. John Marnell and Dick O'Hara flanking the Muckalee-Ballyfoyle man did powerful work especially in the closing stages when the pressure was great.

Brian Cody was in dazzling form in the first quarter but he had it all to do when faced with Barry Murphy. His striking was top class, his goal from an 80 yards free being a beautifully directed shot. He played a big part in the win.

Ger Henderson had quite a fair game on the half back line but he made a tremendous impact when moved to midfield. Ger Fennelly too showed up in his usual style putting in some classical touches. He braved a broken nose in the second half to continue the good work which was of particular value when Kilkenny were being pressurised. Jim Grace did not strike one of his best days on the half back line and was replaced by Kevin Robinson.

Joe Hennessy came on for Ger Woodcock who was injured and played a big part. John Lyng had a really outstanding game at left half while Billy Fitzpatrick showed a return to his best form and was very prominent when he moved out to the half line. Bobby Sweeney, Mick Tierney and Terry Brennan contributed significantly to the win while Joe Sullivan did well when coming on for John Dowling.

Frank O'Sullivan had a good game in the Cork goal and John Kennefick, Des Murphy and Joe O'Herlihy were sound in the full back line. Conor Brassil and John Crowley did good work on the half back line while John Fenton had an outstanding game at centrefield. Bertie Og

Murphy Cork's top scorer, Seanie Farrell, Frank Delaney and Tadgh O'Sullivan who came on for Tom Collins teamed up well with Jimmy Barry Murphy who put in a tremendous hour's work.

Scorers for **Kilkenny**: Terry Brennan (2-0); Brian Cody (1-1); Bobby Sweeney (1-1); Mick Tierney (1-1); Ger Fennelly (0-3); Billy Fitzpatrick (0-2).

**Cork's** scorers: John Fenton (0-9, 0-7 from frees); Bertie Og Murphy (0-7, 0-5 from frees); Seanie Farrell (1-2); Tadgh O'Sullivan (1-0); Finbarr Delaney (0-1).

**Kilkenny**: K. Fennelly (captain), J. Marnell, J. Moran, R. O'Hara, G. Henderson, B. Cody, J. Grace, G. Fennelly, J. Dowling, J. Hennessy, M. Tierney, J. Lyng, T. Brennan, B. Sweeney, B. Fitzpatrick. Subs: K. Robinson for J. Grace; J. Sullivan for J. Dowling.

**Cork**: F. O'Sullivan (captain); J. Kennefick, D. Murphy, J. O'Herlihy, C. Brassil, K. Murphy, J. Crowley, F. Delaney, J. Fenton, B. Og Murphy, S. Farrell, T. Murphy, E. O'Sullivan, J. Barry-Murphy, T. Collins. Sub: T. O'Sullivan for T. Collins.

Mr. S. O'Meara, Tipperary, refereed.

## The Selectors

THE selectors play a vital rôle in the winning of all-Ireland finals and this year, perhaps more than most other years, the selection of the teams had quite a lot to do with the winning of titles.

The chairman of the County Board, Mr. Mick O'Neill is chairman of the three hurling selection committees and the other members are:

**Senior**: Paul Skehan, John McGovern, Dick Dunphy and Seán Leahy.

**Under 21** – Jim Fowler, Seán Leahy, Tommy Hayes and Ted Carroll.

**Minor** – Matty Hayes, Liam Ryan, Ted Carroll and Joe Prendergast.

### THE TRAINERS

**TRAINERS** of the county teams: Senior: V. Rev. Father Maher and Mick Lanigan.

Minor: Father Dermot Healy.

Under 21 – Seán Leahy and V. Rev. Fr. Maher.

*Congratulations all on a most successful year*

FROM

**SEAN BYRNE &  
SONS LTD.**

Mineral Water  
Manufacturers

Wholesale Bottlers

**James's Green, Kilkenny**

Phone 22049

**Ciste Gael Draw  
Kilkenny Co. Board G.A.A.**

(In Aid of G.A.A. Ground Improvement  
Projects)

**Total Prize Money  
£100,000**

**Monthly Prizes of – 1st £1,000;  
2nd £500; 4 @ £200; 6 @  
£100; 10 @ £50, plus local  
County Prizes.**

**Membership Fee: £12 per year or £1 per month.**

Results published monthly in dailies

(To date £3,960 Prize Money won by Kilkenny  
Members).



# THE BEST TEAM

## — a qualified answer

By PADRAIG PUirseAL of *The Irish Press*

IS THE present Kilkenny team the best that has ever represented the county on the hurling fields? That is a question to which I can only give a qualified answer. Certainly, the present set of Kilkenny hurlers are the best and most consistent, from 1971 to 1975, that I have seen in my time, and I first saw Kilkenny hurlers play in the senior championship campaign of 1926, which is as near to 50 years ago now as makes no matter.

But it must be remembered that the merits of all teams must be completely relative to the standard of play in their day, the strength of the opposition at any given time, the luck of the day, and the luck of the draw.

The first time I ever saw Kilkenny win a big game was when the men in black and amber beat Dublin at the old Barrett's Park in New Ross in 1926. That, to my then very youthful mind, remained for years the best Kilkenny team I could ever hope to see.

Indeed, in my mind's eye I can see many of them still, glorified for me as they were on that long-gone day of triumph.

There was burly Dick Cantwell in the goal, the three Meagher brothers, Willie, Henry and Lory, that amazing veteran Dick Grace, the busy pair of Dunphy brothers Watty and Neddy, Neddy Doyle and Tommy Carroll, as brilliant a pair of half-backs as ever came out of Mooncoin, Wedger Brennan, John Roberts, Sag Carroll.

They were all, Dick Cantwell excepted, to disappoint me sadly in the subsequent All-Ireland final against Cork, but it was great to be young and to be in Barrett's Park in New Ross on that sunny May Sunday in 1926.

But there were long years of frustration to be endured before at last I had the satisfaction of

seeing Kilkenny win the All-Ireland crown. True there were those unforgettable hours against Cork in the thrice-played final of 1931 but, proud days though these were for Kilkenny, it was Cork who won in the end of all.

So, not until 1932 did I see the black and amber carried to ultimate triumph at Croke Park and, of all the twelve titles I have seen Kilkenny win, that was, I think, the least memorable hurling match, looking back now across the years.

Excitement and hard, fast hurling there was in plenty, but Kilkenny, though they won, never played the classic hurling they had produced against Cork in the previous year, or as they were to produce in the years immediately ahead. They were taken out of their customary smooth stride by the earnest and fearless Claremen and might have been beaten in the closing minutes but for a wonderful save by the late 'Podge' Byrne.

Yet the 1931-1936 Kilkenny panel was the only one that I can rate with the present squad in continuity of ability and consistency of performance.

They, too, won three All-Ireland titles in four seasons and figured in six finals in seven years. For good measure they won a National League title (1933), something our present day hurlers have thus far failed to achieve. Indeed but for a lengthy trip to New York in 1934 (several days each way by boat and a scorching, strength-sapping heat-wave in New York all the time they were there), those players of 40 years ago might well have won four All-Irelands in a row.

Certainly the best Kilkenny side I ever saw in the old days in any single season was probably that of 1935. They swept through every preliminary

championship game with confident poise and power before recapturing the title and trophy from Mick Mackey's great Limerickmen.

That 'wet day' final was unforgettable. I can still see the shower of raindrops fly from the net at the Railway End after Martin White's bullet-like shot beat Paddy Scanlon for a vital second-half goal. I can name that team yet without recourse to any record book — Jimmy O'Connell; Paddy Larkin, Peter O'Reilly, Peter Blanchfield; Eddie Byrne, Podge Byrne, Paddy Phelan; Lory Meagher, Tommy Leahy; Jimmy Walsh, Martin White, Jack Duggan; Johnny Dunne, Locky Byrne, Matty Power.

Though so many of them have gone, too early, to their eternal reward, those men of 1935 will never fade from my memory but they must still rank second in my book to the consistently brilliant squads that Fr. Tommy Maher and Mick Lanigan have trained and tutored so successfully these last five years. Between them they have, time and again, put on the field what is as near to being the perfect combination as ever I hope to see in the black and amber.

While the same keymen, Eddie Keher, Pat Henderson, Kieran Purcell, Phil Larkin, Pat Delaney and Frank Cummins have been there all the way, look at the men who have come up to join them, Pat Lawlor, Liam O'Brien, Mick Brennan, Mick Crotty, Brian Cody, Billy Fitzpatrick . . .

As tried and trusted stars such as Ollie Walsh, Ted Carroll, Pa Dillon, Paddy Moran and Jim Treacy reached the end of distinguished careers, 'Dad's Army' has regularly succeeded in finding new and brilliant recruits to fill the gaps. Here, of course, the credit must go to those devoted men who give so much time and patience

to fostering the game among the schools and among the juveniles.

So I rate the Kilkennymen of the past five seasons the best I have ever seen represent the county and, to back up that contention, just look at their record. Five successive All-Ireland appearances, three All-Ireland victories, five successive Leinster titles as well as playing a major part in Leinster's five successive Railway Cup successes, many successful trips to Wembley, three victorious tours to San Francisco and New York, and 30 All Star Awards, more than twice as many as any other county.

It is not my intention to compare the present Kilkenny side with any of the great combinations I have seen from other counties, such as Limerick from 1933 to 1937, Cork from 1941 to 1946, Wexford from 1951 to 1956, Tipperary from 1961 to 1965. All were magnificent in their hey-day, but nobody can ever say with certainty how great teams from different eras would fare against one another, for hurling is always changing, always progressing, always evolving.

One thing I will say. I have never seen a more brilliant display of hurling through a full game against worthy opponents than Kilkenny produced at Croke Park in the 1973 Leinster final against Wexford.

It will be noted that I have not stated that this is the best Kilkenny team ever. I was born far too late to have seen the teams that blazed the trail to glory early in this century winning seven All-Irelands in 10 years. But, if I wasn't at school I met the scholars. When I was growing up in Mooncoin nearly every man over 35 had seen some or all of those triumphs.

But the supreme tribute to those old hurlers I heard paid in Moore's Hotel in Cork after a coursing meeting many years ago.

Dave 'Daw' McGrath of the old Redmonds was there with Jim 'Tough' Barry, who was Cork's trainer for so many years. Barry introduced me to McGrath, adding that I was a Kilkennyman.

"I've said this before, boy, and I say it again," stated Daw, "anybody that didn't see Kilkenny between 1907 and 1913 never saw hurlers."

Ach scéal eile an scéal sin, agus lá eile 'gam dhá n-insint, le Conganmh Dé.



## Tales of the O'Hara family

THE Banim brothers, John and Michael created quite a stir in literary circles in Kilkenny in the last century and one of the best known works to come from the pen of one of them, John with the help of his brother, Michael, was a story with a strong rural bias, 'Tales of the O'Hara Family'. It won him a place of honour in the Kilkenny city hall where a bust stands to his memory.

'Tales of the O'Hara Family' may now be re-written but under a different theme. The hurling O'Haras of Thomastown could well create quite a stir in hurling circles in Kilkenny in future years.

Sons of Mr. and Mrs. Jim O'Hara of Jackstown a couple of miles from the town, five brothers have already made their mark. It is somewhat unusual for hurling or football skill to run in families - the exceptions that come readily to mind are, of course, the Doyles of Mooncoin, the Graces of Tullaroan and the Fennellys of

The Shamrocks - and in the case of the O'Haras life, as one might say, is just beginning.

Best known of the O'Hara brothers is Dick who this year achieved a rather unique distinction by graduating from minor to under 21 grade to win all-Ireland medals in both.

It is not unique for a player to advance to a higher grade in the same year of competition. Jim Langton, one of the outstanding stylists of them all, came from junior to senior inter county; Eddie Keher advanced from minor to senior and more recently Kilkenny captain, Billy Fitzpatrick, Ger Fennelly and Brian Cody rose to the top meteor-like.

What is unusual about the O'Haras is that the five brothers have shown unusual versatility. They are as efficient in football as in hurling. In fact the eldest of the five, John, while he was active, concentrated almost entirely on football.

While Billie Fitzpatrick, Ger Fennelly and Brian Cody were annexing senior and under 21 all-Ireland medals within the space of five weeks Dick O'Hara was winning medals in minor and under 21.

To revert to football one of the good things about the game in this county in recent years



Dick O'Hara won three All-Ireland medals this year.

was the brilliant style the Thomastown under 16 side brought into it and Dick O'Hara and his club colleague on the Kilkenny all-Ireland minor hurling side, Paudie Lannon were prominent players on that side.

Dick O'Hara has won two Leinster and two all-Ireland minor hurling medals; Leinster and under 21 all-Ireland hurling medals; two Leinster and all-Ireland vocational schools medals; a Leinster under 15 vocational schools medal. Incidentally this was won with Thomastown vocational school

and it was the first Leinster football title won by Kilkenny in 50 years.

On the home front he has won two under 16 medals in both hurling and football; two minor football county medals; two under 14 hurling county medals and two under 14 football medals. He won an Allied Irish Banks senior football trophy.

Bill, a younger brother and regarded as an equally versatile prospect has won Leinster and all-Ireland vocational schools medals; under 14 and under 16 county medals in hurling and football and an inter-cities hurling medal.

Joseph and Seamus both primary school students in Thomastown where Leinster Council representative Brendan O'Sullivan teaches, also show considerable promise. Brendan O'Sullivan has helped to mould some top class exponents of both hurling and football and his good work is reflected in the outstanding results achieved by under age teams in Thomastown in recent years.

Dick O'Hara is at present an agricultural student in Rockwell and Bill is a student in Thomastown vocational school. The O'Haras could help to put Thomastown back in a prominent place again.



*A Céad Mile Fáilte Awaits You At*

# SPRINGHILL HOTEL

WATERFORD ROAD, KILKENNY

Phone 21122

Kilkenny's new Luxury hotel - only one mile from City centre.

All bedrooms are centrally heated, furnished in solid teak and have Private Bathrooms and Showers.

Telephones and Radios are standard. The luxuriously furnished lounge bar is Kilkenny's largest.

An enormous Banqueting Hall, where you and your friends can enjoy Cabaret, Dinner-Dances, in a lovely setting. Conferences in excess of 500 catered for.

Make your wedding a memorable one - have it at Springhill.

EXCELLENT FOOD - FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE - PERSONAL ATTENTION



# He won an All-Ireland, too!

PAT RYAN of Flagmount, Gowran won an all-Ireland medal, too. And he is only 13. He won the Feile na Gael all-Ireland young hurlers competition at Cork in July. Over 30 young hurlers were tested in various aspects of the game – blocking, catching, returning, doubling, delivery and the placed ball. He will be eligible to defend his title next year. He has played under 13 and under 14 for the county; has won a Leinster under 14 medal; he won under 12, under 13 and under 14 medals with his club, Gowran.

The Cork test brought out the best in young players and among those who judged at the Nemo Rangers G.A.A. ground was Christy Ring.

Billy Watson and Dermot Walsh (St. Patrick's) and Matty Byrne (Gowran) were other Kilkenny contestants in the competition.



# Now we're only 2 behind Tipp.

KILKENNY with 20 senior all-Ireland titles are now two behind Tipperary who lead with 22, Cork filling second place with 21. Two of the 88 finals played were unfinished, Cork being awarded both. In 1890 Cork led Wexford by 1-6 to 2-2 when the game was stopped.

In 1892 Dublin withdrew after 50 minutes when Cork were leading by 2-4 to 1-1, Cork being awarded the game.

The 1888 championships were not finished because of the American "Invasion" and in 1911 Kilkenny got a walk over from Limerick in the final. They beat Tipperary in a substitute final.

In 1905 in a disputed final Cork beat Kilkenny by 5-10 to 3-13 but the Central Council ordered the game to be replayed and Kilkenny won by 7-7 to 2-9.

An extra half hour was played in the 1891 final when Kerry beat Wexford by 2-3 to 1-5.

Cork beat Dublin by 2-6 to 0-1 after the sides had drawn 1-7 each in the 1902 home final and in 1908 Tipperary beat Dublin by 3-15 to 1-5 after the sides had finished level (Tipperary 2-5, Dublin 1-8).

In 1931 Cork and Kilkenny played two draws (1-6 each in the first game and 2-5 each in the second) before Cork eventually won by 5-8 to 3-4.

Waterford and Kilkenny drew (Waterford 1-17, Kilkenny 5-5) before Waterford won the title by 3-12 to 1-10 in 1959.

Kilkenny's 20 titles were won in: 1904, 1905, 1907, 1909, 1911, 1912, 1913, 1922; 1932, 1933, 1935, 1939, 1947, 1957, 1963, 1967, 1969, 1972, 1974, 1975.

## CASTLE CONVEYORS AND ELEVATORS LTD.

MAUDLIN STREET, KILKENNY

- We will prepare layout schemes without obligation.
- We manufacture and erect all types of screw conveyors, chain conveyors, belt conveyors and bucket conveyors.
- Capacities from 5 to 200 tons.
- With complete concentration on this type of work we offer considerable price advantage and expert knowhow.

Telephone 21405; after hours 21551



## Schools: the source of our successes

KILKENNY'S success in the All-Irelands this year, could well be traced back to the work and organisation of the Schools Board. Year after year, the various teachers throughout the county, play a big part in the running off of the Schools Hurling Championships and leagues.

In addition many of these teachers give up their spare time and drive their cars at great expense in order to help out and the only satisfaction they get is that on some future date one of their pupils may parade around Croke Park on All-Ireland final day.

The G.A.A. in Kilkenny owes a big debt of gratitude to these teachers, both past and present for their devotion to our own native games and we hope that this will be the case for many years to come.

At present eleven different competitions are organised by the Schools Board. In under-12 there are leagues and championships in three different groups in hurling, A, B and C. while there is an under 14 hurling championship in the three grades also.

These nine competitions have now been finished and the only one to be concluded is the Under 13 football championships both Roinn A and Roinn B, and these are at present being run off.

The under 14 hurling championships, saw the honours going to Kilkenny C.B.S. for the first time since 1948. Many great teams from the C.B.S. there have been, but luck seemed to run out in the final.

However, all these disappointments were forgotten this year as they swept to a resounding victory over near neighbours St. John's in the final of Roinn A. Roinn B saw the honours going to Graignamanagh and here the victory is sure to do good in this Carlow border town. In Roinn C, Glenmore won their first ever Schools Championship when they beat Kilmanagh who were making a return to the final for the first time since 1958.

Honours were very evenly divided in the Under 12. In the championship Roinn A the winners were St. John's who retained their title while in the league Kilkenny C.B.S. took the honours in a very exciting game. The only double in this age group was reserved for the Roinn B where Graignamanagh and Castlecomer clashed in both the league and championship with Graignamanagh coming out easy winners on both occasions.

It was only fitting that Graignamanagh should have won as they had been beaten in the three previous county finals. The real excitement was reserved for the Roinn C when Lisdowney and Glenmore clashed in both league and championship with the honours shared.

Lisdowney took the championship after a replay while Glenmore reversed the result in the league. All three of these games were thrilling. With the arrival of the different grades, parishes are winning county finals that were never mapped before and all this has given rise to an enthusiasm that is widespread throughout the county. The future of hurling and football in Kilkenny is assured thanks to the efforts of those teachers.

The following is the Roll of Honour for the year.

Under 14 Hurling Championship Roinn A - Kilkenny C.B.S. 7-5, St. John's 1-2.

Under 14 Hurling Championship Roinn B - Graignamanagh 3-4, Urlingford 2-3.

Under 14 Hurling Championship Roinn C, Glenmore 5-5, Kilmanagh 3-0.

Under 12 Hurling Championship Roinn A - St. John's 4-1, St. Patrick's 1-0.

Under 12 Hurling Cham-

pionship Roinn B - Graignamanagh 9-2, Castlecomer 2-0.

Under 12 Hurling Championship Roinn C - Lisdowney 3-1, Glenmore 3-1. Lisdowney 6-1, Glenmore 4-5.

Under 12 Hurling League, Roinn A - Kilkenny C.B.S. 4-0, Thomastown 3-0.

Under 12 Hurling League, Roinn B - Graignamanagh beat Castlecomer.

Under 12 Hurling League, Roinn C - Glenmore 8-2, Lisdowney 3-1.

The winning teams were: Under 14 Roinn A - Championship - Kilkenny C.B.S. - Michael Walsh, Liam Hennessy, Mark Cantwell, Angelo Cullen, Stephen Coyne, Martin Geoffrey, Kevin Holohan, Paul Moran, Billy Oakes, Donal Johnston, P. J. Martin, Franke Nolan, Diarmuid Caulfield, Jim O'Leary, Sean Byrne. Subs - Paul Geoghegan, Davie Morris.

This team competed in Feil na Gael in Cork where they reached the final and only lost by one point to Glen Rovers on a score of 1-2 to 0-4. Michael Walsh the goalie is a son of former Kilkenny star Ollie, while Glen Rovers included in their side a son of the legendry Christy Ring.

Under 14 Roinn B championship - Graignamanagh - Jim Moylan, Joe Meaney, Declan Joyce, Tony Neville, Phil Cahill, Robert Grace, Michael Morrissey, Joseph Haire (Capt), Martin Kelly, Denis Randle, John Meaney, Joe English, George Parsons, Padraig Hennessy, Dan Kelly.

Under 14 Roinn C Championship - Glenmore - S. Hennessy, M. O'Connor, Pat Hoynes, S. Roche, J. Kirwan, Eamon Aylward, R. O'Connor, Michael Heffernan, J. Ryan, Ray Heffernan, Johnny Murphy (Capt), Liam Walsh, P. Hennessy, J. Alyward, Richard Duggan.

Under 12 Roinn A Championship - St. John's - Martin Purcell, P. Power, L. Walsh, T. Morrissey, J. Barry, L. Tyrrell, T. Morrissey, Ian Kelly, K. Hoban, F. Kiely, H. Brennan, Paul Cleere, S. Murphy, E. Raftir, J. Nolan. Subs - J. Byrne, F. Kiely.

Under 12 Championship Roinn B - Graignamanagh - Tom McDonald, Richard Bolger, John Grace, Jim Doyle, Ollie Dreelan, Michael Morrissey (Capt.), Arthur Hennessy, Martin Kelly, Denis Carroll, John McDonald, John Moylan, Jim Whelan, Michael Doyle, Enda Bolger, Johnny Prendergast. Sub - Niall Walsh.

Cont'd. on page 27

SEE THE

## NEW 100 h.p. LEYLAND TRACTORS

Fisher-Humphries heavy duty  
Hedgecutters.

Bonser Industrial and  
Agricultural Forklift Trucks

## MAHON & McPHILLIPS LTD.

Phone KILKENNY 21920 (2 lines)

Phone BUNCLODY 7242 (2 lines)



# THIS TEAM ALSO WON ALL-IRELAND HONOURS



THE VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS' HURLING TEAM

## SCHOOLS – Cont'd.

Under 12 Championship Roinn C – Lisdowney – Tom McEvoy, Larry Maher, Dick Rudkins, J. O'Sullivan, Joe Brennan, Eddie Wall, Pat Brennan, Lar McEvoy, Noel Grace, Tom Carroll, Gerry Henderson (Capt), Liam Downey, Mick Carroll, Michael Herke, Pat Dunne. **Subs** – P. Phelan.

Under 12 Hurling League Roinn A – Kilkenny C.B.S. – Michael Hennessy, Brendan Kelly, Michael Lawlor, Eamon Nolan, Francis Wall, Diarmuid Caulfield, Declan Lawlor, Kieran Whelan, Nicky Bergin, Tommy Bawle, Seamus O'Leary, Eddie O'Neill, Declan Lakes, Vinny McGrath, Paul Bateman. **Sub** – Noel O'Mahoney.

Under 12 Hurling League Roinn B – Graignamanagh – Same team as won the championship except that Niall Walsh who then came on as a sub, started in the league final with Ollie Dreelan giving way.

Under 12 Hurling League, Roinn C – Glenmore – F. Kirwan, M. Murphy, J. O'Connor, P. Phelan, Ray Hennessy, Sean Fitzgerald, Willie Mullally, Liam Walsh, Ray Hefferman, J. Roche, E. O'Connor, Pat Barron, Ger Cass, Richard Duggan, Sean Hartley. **Sub** – J. Grace.

## Vocational Schools win again

KILKENNY Vocational Schools won their third all-Ireland title in five years when they beat North Tipperary by 3-8 to 2-6 at Limerick on May 25. Though behind by 2-4 to 2-2 at half time Kilkenny always seemed to have the edge on their Tipp opponents and having survived the first half with only a two points deficit while playing against the wind they looked likely to come out on top in the end.

And though the winners looked the better side it was only when the real test was put to them that they responded. In fact, they seemed to move in low gear until it was put up to them and there were times when they gave their supporters cause for worry. Their five points margin in the end was a fair reflection of their superiority.

Kilkenny owed quite a lot to the soundness of the defence with Dick O'hara a step above the rest. He always seemed to be at his ease dealing with the Tipp attacks.

Mick Moore came up against the big man in the Tipp side, Ger Brussels and merited high praise for the amount of work he got through. On the other hand Brussels was the most

dangerous Tipp forward and showed ability to make room for himself and take his scores.

Bill O'Hara, Dick's brother, also had a very steady game in the defence with flankers on the full back line, Sean Dempsey and John Joe Buckley also showing up in fine style.

Tom Lennon was another to make his mark and he made some adventurous runs along the wing. Eddie Byrne though unlucky to be beaten for one rather easy goal, did good work otherwise and stopped raspers in quick succession from Tierney and McCutcheon early in the second half.

John Power was Kilkenny's most outstanding player and put in a tremendous amount of useful work while Paudie Lannon had an edge which various Tipperary switches failed to subdue. He and Power contributed magnificently to the win.

Jim Connolly and Pat Buggy were given little scope on the half forward line as the ball was invariably passing the half way line but they did not allow themselves to be eliminated from the scheme of things. Liam Fennelly got the vital goal that put an end to Tipp's hopes.

Scorers for Kilkenny were:

Pat Buggy (2-0); John Power (0-4, a point from a free and another from a semi penalty); Paudie Lannon (0-3); Liam Fennelly (1-0); Jim Connolly (0-1).

Scorers for North Tipperary who were best served by Tim Ryan, Tony Doyle, Sean Hogan, T. Quigley and, of course, Ger Brussels were: G. Brussels (1-2); D. Whelan (1-2); P. Looby and T. Tierney (0-1 each).

**Kilkenny team and subs:** E. Byrne, B. O'Hara, S. Dempsey, M. Moore, P. Lannon, R. O'Hara, J. Holden, M. Kelly, M. Lannon, J. Mulcahy, Liam Kiely, John Power, J. O'Brien, L. Fennelly, Pat Buggy, J. Phelan, J. Connolly, John Joe Buckley, Pat Buggy.

The Kilkenny Vocational Schools have been hitting the target with conspicuous success in recent years. The team is drawn from Kilkenny, Thomastown, Johnstown and Ballyhale and these schools have been in the Leinster schools competitions over the years.

The upsurge in vocational schools hurling adds a further dimension to the game in Kilkenny.



# IS IT GOOD THAT KILKENNY SHOULD GO ON WINNING?

By RAYMOND SMITH, *Irish Independent*

KILKENNY now stand on top of the hurling world, undisputed masters of the scene in all three grades (minor, under-21 and senior). These are proud days indeed for those who sport the Black and Amber.

It will be bad for Leinster hurling if Kilkenny win their sixth-in-a-row provincial crown in 1976 and it will not be an encouraging sign for the game in general if they take their third-in-a-row All-Ireland title.

Now I know I will have to stand over this statement and defend it if I visit Kilkenny before the 1976 championship season gets under way. It could make things hot for me among those critical Kilkenny followers who gather in Ned Langton's or Shem Lawlor's! Indeed, it might be High Noon for me in the Marble City . . .

Let me put my cards on the table before the shoot-out commences. The health of the game of hurling itself is more important to me now than how many titles any one hurling county commands in one season. Furthermore, I am more interested in how counties like Clare, Galway, Waterford and Dublin perform in the hurling championships than that Tipperary, Cork or Kilkenny should get ahead of each other in the honours list.

An extra senior title for any one of these is meaningless if it is achieved against a narrowing circle. Limerick's title win in 1973 – after a lapse of 33 years without winning an all-Ireland – gave tremendous joy to genuine hurling followers and secretly Kilkenny followers, I am sure, didn't mind losing that one to the wearers of the Green and White.

Anyway, Kilkenny were to make ample amends in 1974 and leave no doubt about their status as "champions" in 1975 – and it is a sobering thought to reflect that if Limerick had not come and won that title in 1973, the first half of the present decade would have been completely dominated in the distribution of senior honours by Cork, Tipperary and Kilkenny.

No one should wish these three counties to continue to farm the title honours between them unless he is a completely moronic follower of the game – not caring how his native county wins a title or against what kind of opposition as long as another entry goes into the record books.

Now let there be no denying that the present Kilkenny team stands supreme at the moment completely on merit. In last year's Year Book I described the team that started its run in 1972 as the finest I have seen to represent the county. It could so easily have been a four-in-a-row side already if injuries had not crippled it going into the all-Ireland test of 1973.

As it is, this team must look forward to 1976 knowing that on the Leinster Final form and all-Ireland final display of 1975 it has an outstanding chance of making it a six-timer in Leinster and completing the third-in-a-row.

The ability and team-work are there – the question is whether this side can maintain the hunger for success and whether a few of the old hands, if they are still playing next summer, can go the pace in the last quarter if they hit a real, tough close match.

Limerick were not the team in 1974 that they had been in 1973 – even allowing for the fact that Kilkenny, restored to full strength, carried too many guns for them in the second half. Galway never got "dug in" after their initial first half burst had failed to effect the big break-through in the 1975 all-Ireland and I agree with Limerick's Eamonn Cregan and Mick Burns, the former Tipperary defender that it would have been a completely different final if a Munster team had provided the opposition.

I met Mick Lanigan coming out of Croke Park after Galway had surprised Cork in the All-Ireland semi-final and he could not entirely conceal the fact that he knew deep down that the all-Ireland title was in the bag for Kilkenny – except they fell victims to complacency.

The Galway goal had borne a charmed life in the closing stages of that semi-final tie and Cork just couldn't get the ball in the net for the decisive goal.

Cork, after beating Limerick in a tremendous battle for honours in the Munster Final, seemed to me to have gone into the match with Galway on the basis that if they had won that one, which, of course they should, they would then really have got down to it to prepare for a clash with Kilkenny that would have been a rubber match in a way – considering that Kilkenny had given two of their finest displays in coming in the second half to beat them in 1969 and 1972.

Those Cork hurlers who had failed in the 1972 final – failed, you will recall, when they seemed to have it all sewn up – would have remembered only too well the manner in which they were almost cold-shouldered by a disappointed city on their return home. I am not saying they would have beaten this Kilkenny side but I am certain that you would have seen a real humdinger of a match.

Gerald McCarthy, carrying the Munster trophy on his way out of the Ennis Road grounds after the Munster Final, had said to me: "It is Kilkenny we want now". There was a meaning glint in his eye as he said it. That was before Kilkenny played Wexford in the Leinster Final.

Galway didn't seem to count at that stage – yes, it would have been like the build-up to the Kerry v Dublin Football final if Cork had been facing Kilkenny in the hurling decider.

That is not to say that I was sorry Galway beat Cork. My emotions were mixed, if you know what I mean. I knew on the one hand that the final I so much wanted to see had gone by the board and at the same time thrilled to see new faces appearing at Croke Park on all-Ireland day.

It was better in a way that Galway reached the decider for

the good of hurling – even though their lack of experience of the big occasion made them easy meat in the end for this powerfully-combined Kilkenny side.

Brian Cody emerged as the "Young Defender of the Year" in hurling. Phil Larkin and Pat Lawlor deserve far more praise than they have got for their hurling in defence; Nicky Orr was even better than he was in 1974 – Tom McCormack proved that he had won his place on merit in 1974 and, of course, Noel Skehan continues to retain his form better than any goalie since Tony Reddan (and that is high praise indeed).

I haven't seen him concede a soft goal in a championship tie since he succeeded Ollie Walsh and again I say that where Ollie had panache and could lift a team to new heights by the sheer brilliance of some of his saves, I would have to pick Noel Skehan on "My Greatest Ever Kilkenny Team", if I had to name one (I fault him on one point and it is that he should not over-react as he does when he happens to get hit; it becomes embarrassing at times, considering he is such a fine goalie).

Liam O'Brien has been a match-winner supreme at mid-field recently and with Frank Cummins forms the best mid-field partnership around. The "Young Lions" in attack like Mick Crotty and captain, Billy Fitzpatrick nearly stole the limelight from the big names in the Kilkenny attack on all-Ireland Day – and that is saying something. Mick Brennan is another player who never seems to get as much praise as he merits on his hurling. Eddie Keher, of course, is Eddie Keher, seemingly ageless now and no one has mastered like him the art of putting the ball in the net from a "penalty".

I met John Keane for the last time coming out of Croke Park on all-Ireland Day. "I do not think any opposition would have beaten Kilkenny on the day, they were so impressive", he said.

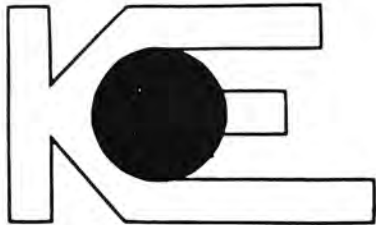
No greater tribute than that.



# Kilkenny Office Equipment Ltd.

PARNELL STREET

Tel. 22962



## Suppliers of:

- \* ADDING MACHINES
- \* CALCULATORS
- \* CASH REGISTERS
- \* DUPLICATORS
- \* DICTATING EQUIPMENT
- \* FILING CABINETS
- \* FILING SYSTEMS
- \* OFFICE CHAIRS
- \* OFFICE DESKS
- \* PHOTO COPIERS
- \* PROJECTORS; OVERHEAD & FILM STRIP
- \* TYPEWRITERS
- \* TWINLOCK OFFICE SYSTEM
- \* SASCO PLANNING SYSTEM
- \* GENERAL OFFICE REQUISITES

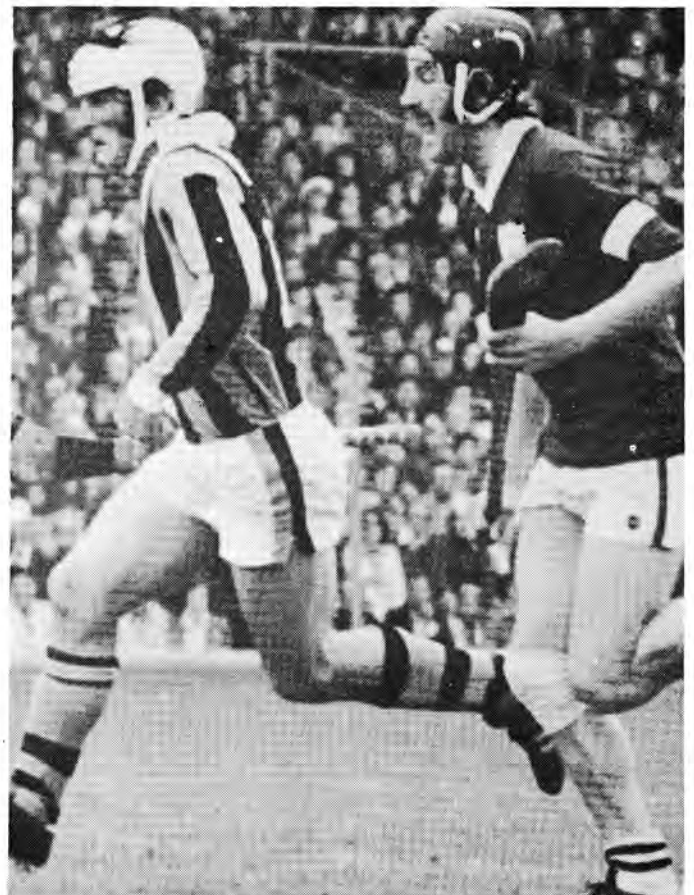
*The Efficient Service  
For Business People*

## Kilkenny's Winning Style in Pictures



*Above: Noel Skehan – dependable as ever – clears his lines yet again.*

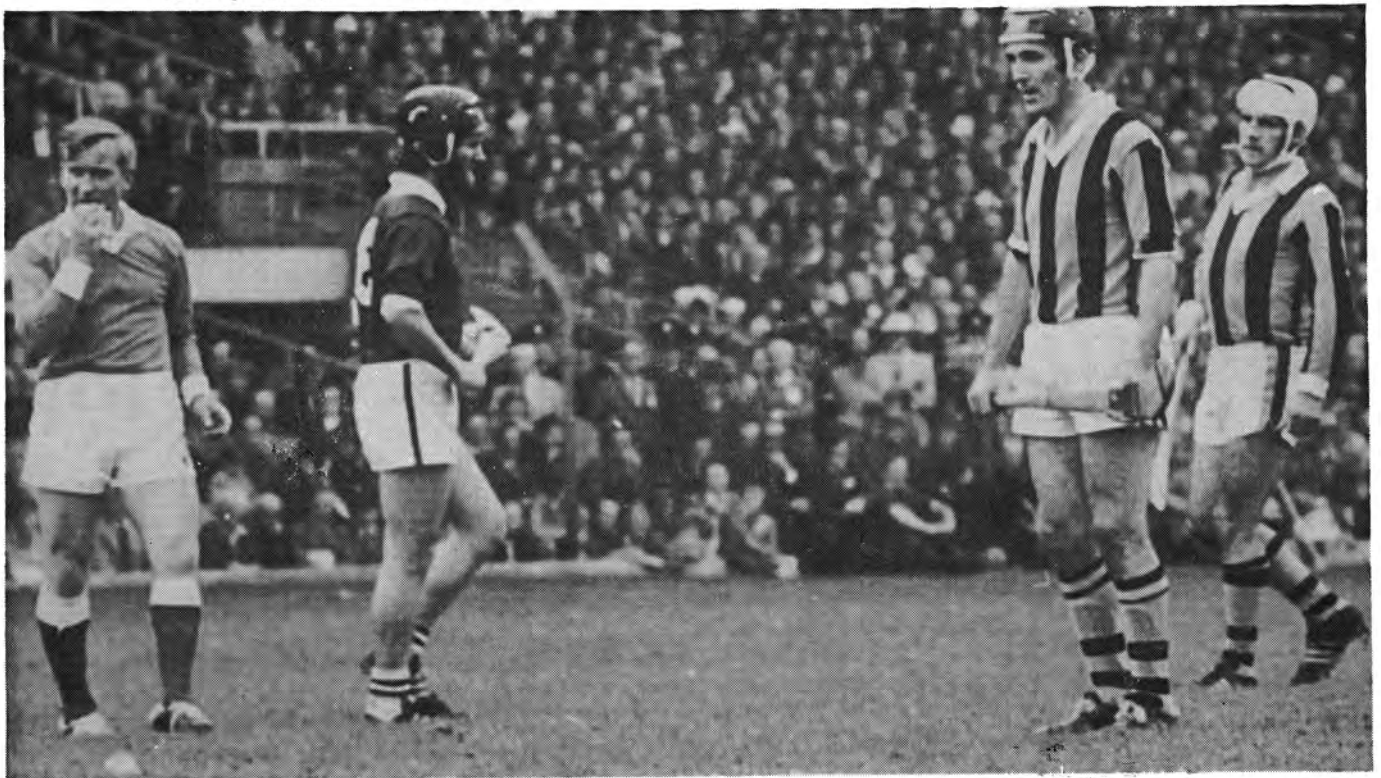
*Below: Pat Delaney races away from the Galway defence.*







*Above: Kieran Purcell and Eddie Keher play handball under pressure while Mick Brennan looks on.  
Below: Referee Sean O'Connor blows his whistle while Eddie Keher lines up to take a penalty watched by  
Silke of Galway and Purcell.*





# Muckalee-Ballyfoyle win Intermediate Final



THE Shamrocks won the county junior hurling title in 1973 and the intermediate title in 1974. Muckalee-Ballyfoyle Rangers won the junior title in 1974 and the intermediate title this year. Both sides have gravitated from junior to intermediate success in the same manner and as both are more or less new to the senior championship scene it can be taken as a sign of a healthy development.

While The Shamrocks, representing Ballyhale and Knocktopher, had not figured in any grade higher than junior and since, until recent times, Muckalee and Ballyfoyle have been better known as football centres, the entry of both centres to the top grade should stimulate keen interest.

The Shamrocks have certainly made their presence felt in the senior grade and judging by their performance in the intermediate final, Muckalee-Ballyfoyle will be no push-over for any side in next year's senior campaign.

In a disappointing intermediate final, they beat Graignamanagh by 4-11 to 1-9 at Nowlan Park in a game that proved very one-sided. Graignamanagh struck one of their worst days and played well below their best. But it is doubtful if their best would have been good enough in the circumstances. Muckalee-Ballyfoyle

brought the full force of a smooth working machine into action and their 14 points' winning margin, on the day, was a fair reflection of their superiority.

Right through the field the winners had the upper hand; they combined excellently and their forwards took their chances in fine style.

Muckalee-Ballyfoyle were on top at midfield where Martin Nolan and John Moran hit top form; their defence was sound and they had scoring forwards whereas though Graig battled gamely they were unable to get a grip on the game at any stage.

Apart from the fact that he was only beaten once over the hour, Gerry Nolan had a sound game in the Muckalee-Ballyfoyle goal and made one very spectacular save. John Nolan, Michael Morrissey and Jimmy Kelly gave nothing away in the full back line and the men on whom Graig pinned their hopes to keep the scoreboard men busy, Mick Kinsella, Liam Walsh and Jack Connors, got little scope from Jim Moran, Jack Morrissey and Paddy Comerford.

In attack, the winners had very useful workers in Brendan Morrissey, Murt Coonan, Tom Nolan, Paddy Moran and Dick Nolan.

Paddy Grace, though conceding four goals, could not be blamed for Graig's defeat, as

the margin would have been greater but for his many fine saves. Shem Grady was outstanding in the defence with Jack Bolger and Liam Reddy

also playing their parts. It was only occasionally that Donie Cullen and Tucker Foley came into the picture at midfield and any combination which Graig tried here did not meet with the success anticipated.

Mick Kinsella, Liam Walsh and Peter Pender were best in an attack that got few opportunities.

Scorers for **Muckalee-Ballyfoyle**: Tom Nolan (1-5), Brendan Morrissey (0-4), Murt Coonan (1-1), Dick Nolan (1-0), Paddy Moran (1-0), John Nolan (0-1).

**Graig's** scorers were: Mick Kinsella (1-2), Peter Pender (0-3), Pat Kavanagh (0-2), Jack Connors (0-1), Liam Ryan (0-1).

**Muckalee-Ballyfoyle**: G. Nolan, Joe Nolan, M. Morrissey, J. Kelly, P. Comerford, Jim Moran, J. Morrissey, M. Nolan, John Moran, T. Maher, B. Morrissey, P. Moran, M. Coonan, R. Nolan, T. Nolan.

**Graignamanagh**: P. Grace, C. McDonald, J. Bolger, S. Grady, L. Reddy, L. Ryan, R. Moylan, D. Cullen, T. Foley, E. Lyng, P. Kavanagh, P. Pender, M. Kinsella, L. Walsh, J. Connors.

Mr. James Murphy, Tullagher, refereed.

## CONFECTIONERY SPECIALISTS

### BRADBURYS

OF HIGH STREET, KILKENNY

say

**" Well Done "**  
to the  
**victorious**  
**Kilkenny**  
**teams**



# Kilkenny's Proud Football Tradition

By MOONDHARRIG

WITH the hurlers having achieved so much over so many years, it is all too easy to forget that Kilkenny also has a long and proud football tradition. Indeed to County Kilkenny goes the distinction of having staged the first football match ever played under the then just recently announced playing rules of the G.A.A.

Those Rules were first published in the nationalist weekly paper "United Ireland" in a long column devoted to G.A.A. news written by Michael Cusack himself. The issue in which the football rules were printed was that of February 7, and just a fortnight later on February 21 the same column contained the following

report, under the heading "Football. Callan and Kilkenny".

"A football match under the Rules of the Gaelic Athletic Association took place at Callan on Sunday last between two teams of 21-aside from the above named clubs. The day was beautifully fine, and the attendance was enormous. The utmost order and good humour prevailed throughout, though occasionally some difficulty was experienced in controlling the enthusiasm of the vast crowd which comprised upwards of four thousand.

"The play for the first quarter of an hour was mostly in the vicinity of the Callan goal, and the most vigorous efforts on the

part of the backs were required to prevent the Kilkenny team from scoring. Subsequently matters were more even and, when half-time was called, the ball was in dangerous proximity to the Kilkenny goal.

"After changing ends, the Callan team had the best of the play until nearing the close, when some fine play by Doolan, the Kilkenny goalkeeper, raised the siege and at the call of time the ball was again in Callan territory. The match ended in a draw as neither side had obtained a goal. The Callan team subsequently entertained their visitors to luncheon in the Town Hall".

Captain of the Kilkenny team that day was Pat Geary,

father of Frank Geary who was, long afterwards, for many years Editor of the "Irish Independent". According to tradition, this historic game was played on the Fair Green of Callan while the date of the match was Sunday, February 15, 1885.

In the following month the Callan men travelled to play a match against a newly formed football team in Ballyneale. "United Ireland" adds, "there were seven or eight good wrestling matches".

In mid-May, 1885, Ballyneale played a return game at Callan, "in the presence of one of the largest gatherings of the season. Seventeen car-loads of men, all sound in limb and lung as could be found even in Ireland, came to represent the athletes of Ballyneale. Nor were the men of Callan inferior in any respect to their visitors.

The visitors won technically by two goals, which the captain of the home team allowed with readiness and courtesy . . . Brilliant play, good wrestling and good temper were the main features of the game".

Twelve months later on Sunday, May 23, 1886, a "monster

*Contd. on page 37*

## CULLEN BROS.

Building Contractors

WOOLLENGRANGE

BENNETTSBRIDGE

Telephone 27118

*Extend* 

*Congratulations to the Kilkenny G.A.A.  
on a wonderful year.*

**GOOD LUCK FOR 1976**



## PROUD FOOTBALL TRADITION – *Cont'd.*

G.A.A. Tournament" was held in Kilkenny. Four matches were listed, Carrick v Dublin Metropolitans in hurling; Kilkenny v Dalkey, Castlecomer v Carrick and Callan v Waterford, all in football. The three football games were all played and all ended in scoreless draws, but owing to heavy rain the hurling match did not take place.

It is odd that there was no Kilkenny team for the hurling. Dalkey and Metros had come from Dublin by special train accompanied by Cusack, who refereed all the matches and commented "The southern clubs are too much disposed to wrestle".

Wrestling and handgrips were prohibited shortly after although, oddly enough, Cusack himself opposed the change claiming "this will turn the game into soccer".

Be that as it may, there were several further tournaments in which Kilkenny club football teams took part through the rest of 1886. The first official county championships were played in the Spring and early summer of 1887, with Kilmacow winning the first football title.

The first round of the first All-Ireland championships, played on the Open Draw system was scheduled for Sunday, July 24, 1887 at Dungarvan, with the Kilkenny champions, Tullaroan in hurling and Kilmacow in football, set to play the Cork champions in both codes. Because of a dispute over the Cork final, the hurling game was not played.

Tullaroan were there and so were St. Finbarr's, but the latter's claim was not recognised by the Cork Board. Tullaroan were advised not to play the Barrs, and did not do so. To entertain the spectators, St. Finbarr's then played a game between themselves and there was quite a crowd present. Five hundred travelled by train from Cork and there were three further excursion trains from Kilkenny and Waterford.

The "Examiner" reporter estimated that there were 20,000 spectators present – one wonders how they were packed in and how much they saw, if they did get in. The report continues: "Hostilities commenced at 3.0 with a football match between Lee and Kilmacow. The Kilmacow team was of strongly built and powerful men whose kicking was a marvel and whose general play was

quite in keeping with their physique and their activity.

Mr. T. Marshall, President of the Dungarvan Gaelic Club refereed.

"Kilmacow won the toss and played with the sun to their backs. At once they rushed a point. The long punts of the Kilmacow men were fine, another point now being scored by Kilmacow from a long drive from the entre of the field. Some of the latter (Kilmacow) seemed able to strike the ball as powerfully with the hand as with the fist, but a few of them were a trifle rough in play with the result that one of the team was suspended by the referee for a few minutes.

"Long grass held up Lees on the restart. Then Kilkenny scored a point and a forfeit point to win by four points (one forfeit) to nil". A forfeit point was given for what would now be a "50".

The Kilmacow team was: M. Walsh (captain), M. Kinsella (vice captain), J. Cleary, W. Walsh, P. Maher, J. Fitzgerald, J. McNamara, P. Ryan, M. O'Neill, E. Costelloe, P. Doody, P. Deady, J. Moore, R. McDonnell, W. Hoban, P. Conway, J. Walsh, P. Dunphy, P. Moylan, M. Dalton, M. Hanlon. Umpire, M. Geary, who was captain of the Mooncoin hurling club.

For the second round Kilmacow travelled to Goldenbridge, Kilmainham in Dublin and there played Limerick Commercial, who subsequently were to win that first all-Ireland title. Commercial, with the wind, led 1-8 to nil at the interval but Kilmacow turned in a great second half to force a draw, 1-10 each. The replay was fixed for Clonmel on October 9, but, because of a dispute between the G.A.A. Executive and South Tipperary, was transferred to Bansha. There Kilmacow led most of the way, but were ultimately beaten by a late goal on the score of 1-3 to 0-5.

In my childhood I had the pleasure of knowing several of the men who played for Kilmacow in that first All-Ireland series. Indeed Pat Moylan, who was for many years teacher in Dunkitt and was a native of Ballyouskill in North Kilkenny, was a grand-uncle of mine. And they always maintained they would have won in Clonmel but "Bansha field was a meadow and the grass beat us".

## BRETT BROS. LTD.

*Manufacturers of*

**HIGH QUALITY POULTRY, CATTLE  
AND PIG RATIONS**

*Direct suppliers to Feeders only. Suppliers of all types of  
Fertilisers and Carefully Selected Seeds of highest quality.*

**LICENSED ASSEMBLERS  
OF CERTIFIED SEED  
WHEAT AND BARLEY**

## BRETT BROS. LTD.

**MILLERS & GENERAL MERCHANTS**

**Windgap, Co. Kilkenny**

PHONE: WINDGAP 4 & 19

## ST. CANICE'S CREDIT UNION LTD.

**67 High Street, Kilkenny**

Phone: 22042

**As a member (and owner) of your Credit Union  
you enjoy these benefits:**

- CONVENIENT PLACE TO SAVE
- GOOD DIVIDENDS
- LOW COST LOANS
- FREE INSURANCE ON SAVINGS AND LOANS
- SOUND ADVICE ON MONEY MATTERS

**We care : : We share**



## O'Loughlin's – Junior Hurling Champions 1975



**O'LOUGHLIN'S – KILKENNY COUNTY JUNIOR HURLING CHAMPIONS 1975:** In front (from Left) – Jimmy Byrne, Anthony Bergin, Seamus Dowling, Peter Dowling, John Skehan, Willie O'Brien. Centre – Jim Rice (Chairman), Martin Hanlon, Benny Walsh, Eddie Leahy, Michael Dooley (captain), Ollie Bergin, Richie Delaney, Anthony O'Driscoll, Comdt. Eamonn Goulding (trainer). Behind – Arthur Rush (Treasurer), Dermot Tyrrell, Kevin Robinson, Luke Roche, Martin Brennan, Dick Guilfoyle, Michael Lanigan, Seamus Callanan, Sean Casey, Father Tom Murphy (G.A.A. Youth Organiser). Inset – Joe Mulcahy and Jim Gibbons. Missing from this picture is player Packie Keane and Nicky McGrath who also organised training.



**ARE YOU PLANNING**

# HOME EXTENSIONS

Whatever is needed, plumbing, timber, felts . . . we have the goods at the right price and can deliver free of charge.

**improve your property**

**Universal Providers Gowran  
The Homebuilders Centre**

Tel. 056:26143

Open 6 days and  
9.30 p.m. Friday  
Night.



# More Power, John T.

## Last of the Pioneers



*The time grows short, the pace terrific.*

*Kilkenny lead by a single point. The gallant Corkmen are still bombarding. But Power defends like a mighty giant.*

Paddy Connors the hurling poet sang the praises of the "immortals" – the men who blazed a trail of glory between 1904 and 1913 – in his own inimitable style. John T. Power of Piltown was one of that band of famed Noresiders who carved Kilkenny's name in gold in the hurling world.

At 93, well almost 93; he celebrates his 93rd birthday next April 14 John T. Power is as agile, physically and mentally, as a man of 60. Cycling is still his main mode of transport and he can be seen cycling around Piltown every day, almost.

John T. came on to the Kilkenny team in 1907 and won his first all-Ireland medal that year. He won all-Ireland medals again in 1909, 1911, 1912 and 1913. He is the last of the "old brigade" surviving Dick Grace who died last year.

In addition to his five all-Ireland medals John T. Power also numbers in his collective Munster Feis and Railway Shield medals. In the deciding game in the Railway Shield Kilkenny beat Tipperary in a memorable encounter at St. James's park in 1908. The shield now adorns the Mayor's parlour in Kilkenny City hall.

There is a refreshing vigour about this hardy nonagenarian who looks back on a well spent life – "I enjoyed every moment of it" his only regret being the death of his wife eight years ago. Longevity is a family characteristic, his father, grandfather and brother also

approached the nonagenarian stage.

The Kilkenny goalie of the golden era began his hurling career at an early age and became deeply devoted to it. "I remember when we were going to play a match I would get up at 4.30; cycle to Waterford to get 6 o'clock Mass in the Dominican church and wait around with the lads for the

train". This was commonplace in those days; Jack Rochford and the Lawlors used to walk from Threecastles to Kilkenny to meet the train.

He rates Jim Kelleher of Cork as the best hurler he ever saw and among others who made an indelible impression on his mind were Kilkenny colleagues, Sim Walton, Jack Rochford, "Drug" Walsh, Jack

### 'First of the stylists'

WAS MATT GARGAN the first of the great Kilkenny stylists? He may have his rivals in Kilkenny among them Sim Walton, the Tullaroan wizard, Mooncoin's Jimmy Kelly ('the scoring machine') and Dick Doherty, to mention a few) but no man of his age brought more similarity between his day and modern style hurling than Matt Gargan.

He was born at 22 Friary street, Kilkenny and played his first hurling with Waterford De La Salle when he was an apprentice stone cutter in Waterford. He joined the city club Erin's Own in 1905 and won his first all-Ireland medal in the 1905 all-Ireland in which Kilkenny beat Cork at Dungarvan on June 30, 1907.

But Matt Gargan's hurling was not all the time confined to Kilkenny. While in Waterford he played on the Munster Railway Shield side and was on the Leinster (Kilkenny) Railway Shield side that won this coveted trophy by beating Tipperary in a memorable game at St. James's Park in 1908.

### Matt Gargan made big impact!

The Shield now adorns the Kilkenny city hall.

It is probably true to say that in a hurling sense Gargan was before his time. He was extraordinarily fast; a powerful striker and one of the greatest exponents of the fine arts of hurling. He won a county championship medal with Erin's Own but it was in an inter-county sense that this remarkably talented hurler showed his real worth.

A midfielder of more than ordinary talent he contributed significantly to Kilkenny all-Ireland victories in 1905, 1907, 1909, 1911, 1912 and 1913.

Though comparatively small in stature Matt Gargan had grit and determination and this coupled with his consummate skill made him a man apart. He brought his own particular style

Anthony and Matt Gargan – "Gargan would take a ball out of your eye". He is reluctant to talk about himself and was equally reluctant to draw comparisons between the hurlers of his generation and those of the present day.

"You just can't compare them" he said. "There was more ground hurling in my day, of course you never got time to lift the ball; but different generations played a different style and they cannot be compared".

One of his more cherished possessions – and he has a fine collection of medals and photographs – is a ball used in a Leinster final at Barrett's Park in New Ross around the 1910 period. "I was ready to puck out when the final whistle blew; I slipped the ball under my jersey and nobody ever thought about it after".

John T. Power is a happy contented man looking after his 40 bee hives at his Piltown home. "I have had a long well spent happy life and I got most of my happiness from hurling" he said.



into the game and it is on record that in the 1913 all-Ireland final in which Kilkenny beat the famed Tipperary side led by the 'Toomevara Greyhounds' he scored a spectacular goal from centrefield.

His famed club colleague, Dan Kennedy was born only a stone's throw from the Gargan home and such hurlers as Dr. J. J. Brennan, Paddy ('Icy') Lanigan, Dick Brennan and Mick Shortall also played with Erin's Own.

Jack Gargan, Matt's son who is now in America won an all-Ireland senior medal with Kilkenny in 1939; another son, Matt, won an all-Ireland minor medal in the black and amber jersey in 1931 while another son, Joe won county senior championship medals with Eire Og in 1944, 1945 and 1947.



# Good Year For C.B.S. Hurlers

AT THE C.B.S. field in Kilkenny almost every evening at least 100 young hurlers can be seen in action in leagues organised by their teachers. There also one will find C.B.S. teams of all age groups training for competitions at Leinster and local level.

Two great years to be remembered by all associated with the C.B.S. are 1935 and 1970. It was in those years they won their two Leinster senior hurling championships. Although success has not come often at senior level the C.B.S. fields teams in under 12, under 14, juvenile, junior and senior grades each year.

Last year was a most successful one for the under 14 hurlers. They reached the finals of three competitions and with a little luck might well have won all three. In the Rice cup an under 14 competition for C.B.S. schools they came very near to winning. On their way to the final they beat Callan, Mount Sion, Midleton, Cashel and Carrick-on-Suir.

The final was against the holders, Templemore at Thurles and with a little bit of luck Kilkenny could have won. Twice they led, by six points at one stage and later went five points clear after Templemore had drawn level. They eventually lost by five points having failed to convert a penalty late in the game.

Ten days later they played in the final of the Connradh na Gaeilge cup (under 14 hurling for post primary schools) against St. Joseph's college, Freshford. They were fortunate to gain a big lead early on and though Freshford tried hard they could not make much headway against the bigger C.B.S. boys.

The third final in which they took part was in the Feile na Gael competition in Cork. Having disposed of all opposition convincingly they came up against very stiff opposition in Glen Rovers and only lost by a point in a great final.

From their displays during the year Kilkenny C.B.S. would

seem to have a good side in the making and if they stay together may re-vitalise the

sweet memories of 1935 and 1970 in the not too distant future.

## Comórtas Connradh Na Gaeilge

TOSAÍODH an comórtas seo dhá bliain ó shin agus ón am sin tó ag éiri go geal leis. Is iad na foirne faoi 14 sna scoileanna iar-bhun oideachais a ghlacann páirt san chomórtas seo.

Go dtí seo ní raibh cead ag foirne ó chontae eile páirt a ghlacadh sa chomórtas. Toisc gur éirigh chomh maith leis an gcomórtas go dri seo beidh cead og aon scoil san timpeallacht teacht isteach i 1976.

**Comórtas 1974:** Cuireadh léig ar siúl don chéad chuid den chomórtas agus ghlac na scoileanna seo a leanas páirt; Ceard Scoil, Baile Mhic Anndáin agus Cill Choinnigh; Clochar na Toirbhirte, Caisleán an Chumair; Naomh Chiaráin;

Scoil na mBráthire, Calainn agus Cill Choinnigh.

Tháinig Scoil na mBráthire, Cill Choinnigh agus Ceard Scoil Baile Mhic Anndáin slán as an léig agus D'imir siad an-cluiche sa chraobh i bPáirc Ui Nualláin agus ag deireadh bhí ag Scoil na mBráthire.

**Comórtas 1975:** Chom maith leis na scoileanna a ghlac páirt i 1974 bhí Achadh Ur agus Baile Eoin. Ar as turas chuig an chraobh bhuaidh Scoil na mBráthire ar Chalainn agus Coláise Chiaráin. Bhuaidh Achadh Ur an Chaisleán an Chumair agus Baile Mhic Anndáin.

Bhí an cluiche idie Achadh Ur agus Scoil na mBráthire ar

***Congratulations and Good Luck in 1976***

***-from-***

**NED LANGTON'S**

**69 JOHN STREET, KILKENNY**

★ LUXURIOUS BAR AND LOUNGE

★ RESTAURANT

★ WHERE ALL GAELS MEET

★ FIRST CLASS FOOD AND DRINK

★ EXCELLENT SERVICE



# Eddie Keher goes on breaking records

## Comórtas Conradh Na Gaeilge — ar lean

siúl i bPáirc Uí Nualláin roimh an chraobh chluiche i gcomórtas naomh Stiofáin. Rinne Brian MacOda réiteoracht ar an gcluiche seo. Bhí Foireann ar láidir ag Scoil na mBráithre. Chuaidh siad chun tosaigh go luath sa chluiche agus Dainneoinn gach iaracht a rinne Achadh Ur ní raibh siad ábalta coinneáil suas le foireann Scoil na mBráithre.

WINNING his sixth All-Ireland senior medal this year marked another milestone in Eddie Keher's hurling record, a record more comprehensive than any other hurler in the game except in the number of All-Irelands won. He has still to equal the eight senior All-Ireland titles of John Doyle and Christy Ring and the seven by four Kilkennyman, Dick Doyle, Dick ("Droog") Walsh, Sim Walton and Jack Rochford.

Eddie has records in other directions that are likely to remain unchallenged. He has been top scorer 11 times (1963, 1965, 1966, 1967, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973 and 1974); he has 10 Leinster senior medals and nine Railway Cup medals. He has been an automatic choice on the Carrolls All-Stars each year since its inception; he has won a National League medal and

another prize, highly valued by every hurler — a senior county championship medal.

Son of a Co. Roscommon senior footballer, the late Stephen Keher, who was transferred to this county on joining the Gardai at the beginning of what could have been an illustrious football career, Eddie took to hurling as readily as his father did to football.

Sergt. Stephen Keher was stationed in Inistioge when Eddie won his first title, an under-10 in 1952 and an under-14 county medal in 1955. The early promise blossomed forth in his College days in St. Kieran's and he won two senior Colleges' All-Ireland medals in 1957 and 1959. He graduated from minor to senior grade in 1959, coming on as a sub. on the Kilkenny side beaten by Waterford in a replay.

He won the Texaco Award in 1972. That means he has won every honour the game has to offer with the exception of minor hurling.

What are his hopes for the future? "With the emphasis now on skill, Kilkenny should go on winning".

His own ambition is to go on as long as possible.

Eddie Keher, like some of his Kilkenny predecessors, brought his own consummate artistry into the game. There is a poise and delicacy about his hurling that makes him a man apart. Not alone that, but there is a dignity about his approach that has won nation-wide admiration.

His sportsmanship as well as his classical style embellishes his hurling. He loves the game too much to give anything but the best to it.

# avonmore GROUP

AVONMORE FARMERS LIMITED  
AVONMORE CREAMERIES LIMITED  
MILOKO CO-OP SOCIETY LIMITED  
AVONGATE MILK PRODUCTS LIMITED  
AVONMORE CHEESE LIMITED.

The Avonmore Group serves  
10,000 farmers in 10 Counties  
• Ultra Modern Milk Processing.  
• Animal Feed Compounds.  
• Certified Seed Assemblers.  
• All Home and Farm requirements.



Factories at:  
BALLYRAGGET, CO. KILKENNY  
CARRICK-ON-SUIR, CO. TIPPERARY

Head Office  
HIBERNIAN BANK BUILDINGS,  
KILKENNY.  
Phone: 056-21243 Telex: 8704.

**avonmore GROUP · Kilkenny**



# GRAVES NEW ROSS

PHONE 051-21203

## FAST RELIABLE ERECTION

GRAVES NEW ROSS – first in Farm Buildings – suppliers and erectors of high quality Buildings for over 90 years. A fine tradition of dependable workmanship and service which all our employees are proudly determined to maintain.

Our buildings are guaranteed to qualify for maximum grants under Farm Modernisation Scheme.

Contact your Area Representative or write/telephone: **GRAVES NEW ROSS** for a free quotation for your Farm Buildings or for our free Catalogue.

We also supply and erect Marts, Warehouses, Factories, Garages and Community Centres.

Farm buildings at the  
**RIGHT PRICE**

\* For any information  
contact:

**THOMAS POWER**

AT GRAVES WATERFORD

Phone 051 - 4971

OR

**WALTER O'LEARY**

Phone: New Ross 051 - 21203

AT

**GRAVES NEW ROSS  
FIRST IN FARM BUILDINGS**

# Minors also win five in a row

LIKE THE seniors the Kilkenny minors consolidated their grip in the province when they won their fifth Leinster title in successive years, this time at the expense of Dublin whom they beat 2-18 to 3-4.

Even after having had a first round outing against Offaly this display gave no indication of the shape of things to come. In fact it left considerable doubt in many people's minds about their all-Ireland prospects. It may have been that the Dublin opposition was hotter than had been anticipated. Whatever the reason Kilkenny made fairly heavy weather of notching an 11 points' win in the Leinster final.

The Kilkenny boys made their task look harder than it actually was by shooting that was anything but good and over the hour they had 23 wides to Dublin's seven.

It is true, of course, to say that at best Dublin provided little more than token opposition and they never looked capable of mounting a serious challenge. Kilkenny could afford to squander chances indiscriminately and still have plenty in hand.

Kilkenny led by 2-4 to 1-2 at half time. Kilkenny added a couple of more points early in the second half before Dublin made their best effort of the hour and hitting a goal and a point within a minute they found themselves only four points behind.

This was the jolt that Kilkenny needed to spur them on and they put on 12 scores in the next 22 minutes without reply from Dublin.

This period saw the winners at their best and Dublin could do nothing to stop the rot.

While not all the Kilkenny side played up to expectations

Paddy Prendergast gave a masterful display at full back while Dick O'Hara was in powerful form at centre half. Ger Stapleton also left his mark on the defence as did captain Harry Ryan at right half.

Paudie Lannon sparkled at midfield being ably supported by Richie Power.

In the attack Kieran Brennan and Joe Wall figured very prominently with Josie O'Brien giving a fine display on the half line and on the full line when he moved in. Kevin O'Shea also made a big impact on the attack while Jimmy Lennon figured in the scoring.

John Kilkenny at full back was Dublin's outstanding defender while goalie Michael Bollard made some very good saves. Sean Mannion, Tom Cooke and Peter Delahunty also played well.

### SCORERS

**Kilkenny:** Kevin O'Shea (1-5); Kieran Brennan (0-5); Jimmy Lennon (1-1); Joe Wall (0-3); Josie O'Brien (0-2); Seamus Brennan (0-1); Joe Ryan (0-1).

**Dublin:** Liam Browne (1-1); Tom Cooke (1-1); John Quinn (1-0); Sean Mannion (0-1); Declan Kavanagh (0-1).

**Kilkenny:** E. Mahon, C. Heffernan, P. Prendergast, J. Henderson, H. Ryan, D. O'Hara, G. Stapleton, P. Lannon, R. Power, J. Wall, K. Brennan, J. O'Brien, K. O'Shea, S. Brennan, J. Lennon. Subs: P. Brennan for C. Heffernan; J. Ryan for S. Brennan.

**Dublin:** M. Bollard, D. Hurley, J. Kilkenny, L. Rowley, S. Mannion, D. Delahunty, M. Murphy, D. Egan, M. Tennyson, L. Broderick, T. Cooke, D. Kavanagh, L. Browne, N. Norton, J. Quinn. Subs: D. Murphy for M. Murphy; G. Stephens for D. Egan.

Referee: N. Matthews,

# MOSSE'S BROWN BREAD MIX

The Mix which gives you a Rich Nutty Cake

**W. H. MOSSE LTD.**

**BENNETTSBRIDGE**

TELEPHONE: (056) 27113





KILKENNY: Minor All-Ireland Champions 1975



# MINORS – great because of their simplicity

BY JOHN KNOX

A GIFT is never more cherished than when linked with the element of surprise. When appropriately presented it further adds to the occasion. And the final execution of the exercise must also be done in style to enhance the offering.

So it was with the success of this year's Kilkenny minor team. Their victory over Cork in the 1975 all-Ireland was perhaps the most astonishing ever achieved. It was certainly one of the most heart-warming displays given by an under-age team in a decider. It was accomplished with more than an ordinary amount of emotion and excitement attached.

The 'no hoppers' from the Noreside contained, overpowered and finally eradicated 'the Rebels'. They beat them out of sight. They did it against the odds. And returned the crown to the Marble City

when pessimists reckoned it was beyond the realm of reality.

But the dividing line between greatness and mediocrity is indeed slim. To be great everyone must go through the proper stages. To go the reverse road leads to disappointment and the sudden return to reality can be unbelievable.

The joy of the pedestrian rise to the heights can be more satisfying. To appreciate one's weaknesses is the hallmark of power. To know one's limitations is the strength of true character.

## NO FALSE ILLUSIONS

That is what made this year's minor team a side apart. They were under no false illusions as to their capabilities. They had their priorities in statute proportion. And they had confidence in themselves despite the adverse accusations hurled at them. They were a great team (the word is no over ex-

aggeration), because of their simplicity.

Perhaps the biggest injustice done to the 1975 minors was to compare them with their predecessors; to measure their capabilities in accordance with teams of the past. That is what was done, and consequently they came out in the wrong light.

They were given little credit for their own achievements. They out hurled the best of Offaly and in the Leinster final disposed of a promising Dublin outfit. Both victories were resounding, but the expected plaudits never materialised. In the end it was to be for the best.

Cork arrived on that first Sunday of September at Croke Park on the crest of a wave. They beat all before them out of sight. Waterford, Clare, Tipperary and Galway fell to

their might. And so they were reckoned to be, at the very least, capable of taking Kilkenny.

But the worth of their triumphs were taken at their face values. Unlike the Noresiders they were hailed because of what they had done to their opponents. The usefulness of their adversaries didn't seem to matter.

## REPEAT THE FEAT

They faced Kilkenny confident that they could repeat the feat of their county team of the year before. But the tables were reversed then. The Leinster men were tipped for that 1974 final, but Cork proved the formbook wrong on that occasion. They won one of the lowest scoring finals on the scoreline, 1-10 to 1-8.

The Munster men were put in precisely the same position as Kilkenny were the year before. And the Noreside mentors were happy with that. They knew of the dangers of favouritism and over confidence.

Up to the final the Kilkenny 'men on the side' juggled the team about. The Leinster final lineout and that of the All-Ireland differed in six instances

*Motor traders, get your*

**Dagenite Batteries**

*from*

**JAMES WALSH  
AUTO-ELECTRICAL  
LTD.**

**25 Walkin Street,  
Kilkenny**

*Authorised Main Agents  
AUTO-ELECTRICAL SALES & SERVICE*

*Batteries guaranteed for 3 years, fitted by Rolls  
Royce for over 50 years.*

Backed by first class service

COMPETITIVELY PRICED



*Kevin O'Shea puts Kilkenny attacking.*



— including one newcomer and two more getting their first full game. It all looked very suspect.

But no one could argue with sincere honesty that the showing of the chosen 15 in that memorable win was among the best ever. Everything connected with the victory was praiseworthy. The showing of individuals, combination play and the effectiveness of all departments defence, midfield and attack.

The latter mounted the fine total of 3-19 against their opponents 1-14. Both are final winning scores, but to shoot 19 points against good opposition is a significant feature in itself.

To recall the game in detail would uncover innumerable pleasant memories for both sets of supporters. For in defeat Cork showed real spirit and character. And in victory Kilkenny showed tremendous class.

Cork were rocked after conceding two goals in the opening 7 minutes, but thereafter lifted themselves off the floor and were well in the hunt at the break when behind, 2-8 to 1-7.

#### **ONE ACE TO PLAY**

But the Kilkenny selectors had one more ace to play. They

switched their midfield and put a speedy trio on the 40. And the half back-line — the only sector of the team to remain intact throughout the campaign — was incredibly sound.

Paudie Lannon, taking part in his third All-Ireland final in successive years, revelled in the new make-up. Kieran Brennan, Joe Wall and Kevin O'Shea in attack rose their game to heights never before achieved. And the new appetite for the game oozed out to infect the whole team.

Defenders put up the shutters and it is noteworthy that the Corkonians had 10 of their points from frees while Kilkenny relied only twice on free shots for scores. And playing second fiddle territorially to their opponents over the hour, the black and amber brigade had to be accurate.

And that they were. They converted all but one opportunity offered in the opening 30 minutes. And the ability of all the Noreside forwards to take scores from afar presented another huge obstacle for Cork.

But had Kilkenny not got that blazing start it's ponderable what might have been. Still fortune is said to favour the brave and good

teams create their own luck. So it was with these exciting Marble City youths.

They played to their own strengths, used the sliothar intelligently and worked hard for one another in a common aim. The 11 points they put between themselves and their opponents was the result of the toils of a single unit — comprising of 15 intricate parts.

#### **TRUE GAME**

The chances of Cork at any stage taking up the running were slim. Rarely did they get a proper chance to piece their true game together.

Never in fact did they get in front. Each time they attempted a brief rally their efforts were retarded. Without exception, Kilkenny replied to their every score. Thus they were deprived of making any useful impact on the scoreboard.

The Kilkenny team that was regarded as a very ordinary outfit on the Noreside proved all their critics wrong. They did what everyone thought they couldn't. They brought the 10th minor crown back to Kilkenny. And that was in 23 attempts.

But to single out any one player and nominate him as the Kilkenny man of the match is impossible. All performed im-

measurably better than in the Leinster final.

On the best line of the team, the half back division, each of the three performed as good as the next. The three names to remember, and relate them back to the 1975 All-Ireland final are Harry Ryan, Dick O'Hara and Gerry Stapleton.

Paudie Lannon, Paddy Prendergast, Josie O'Brien, Kevin O'Shea and Kieran Brennan are others who will be returning to Croke Park, or some other place of G.A.A. renown, to participate in some even bigger contest. The same must be said of Cork's Tom Cashman, Gerry Murphy, Dermot McCurtain, Pat Horgan and John O'Sullivan.

#### **SURPRISE**

The reason this year's minor success was more acclaimed than ordinary was because victory came as a surprise. No one who saw the team play before the All-Ireland believed they could humble mighty Cork.

But like the surprise gift, it was relished the more. The fact that victory was executed in such a spectacular manner, added to the occasion. And by beating Cork in a stylis final the decoration was added to the offering.

# **BARLO**

## **Farm Machinery Specialists**

DIRECT IMPORTERS OF

*Jones Balers — Lely — Muirhill — Ransomes*

MAIN DEALERS FOR

*Alfa Laval — Claas — David Brown*  
*Howard — Kidd — Krone*  
*J.F. — Pierce — P.Z.*

# **BARLO (KILKENNY) LTD.**

DUBLIN RD., KILKENNY





# PICTURE ROUND

*Above: Question time winners: Graigue-Ballycallan – Left to right: Eddie Keher (score keeper), Tom Ryall, Rev. T. Murphy (time keeper), Nick Teehan, John Power, Milo Hennessy, Eamonn Doyle (question master), Rev. D. Healy (score keeper).*

*Below: Left Billy Fitzpatrick (Kilkenny captain) and Clare goalie S. Durack. V. Rev. Tommy Maher and Mick Lanigan, senior hurling trainers.*



## QUIGLEY MAGNESITE

(Pfizer Division)

CHEMICAL CORPORATION

Dunbell Big, Maddoxtown

*Congratulate the Kilkenny teams on their 1975 All-Ireland Victories*



# Big Upsurge In Girls Football

GIRLS football has taken on in a big way in Kilkenny and such was the upsurge of interest that the girls were displaying their football skill at most of the big festivals during the year and "gates" of up to £100 were taken at some of the games.

County championships in three grades, were organised for the first time – under 16, junior and senior. A Kilkenny team took part in the all-Ireland championship and failed to Offaly by only a point after having two goals disallowed.

A County Board was formed this year with William Carroll as chairman; Kieran Brennan as vice-chairman and Nicholas Marnell (Danesfort) as secretary. They will shortly be reviewing a successful year's work at their annual convention.

Eight teams competed in the championships – St. Margaret's (Danesfort); St. Brigid's (Graigue-Ballycallan); Tullaroan, Muckalee, Graignamanagh, Windgap, Coon and Club Kilkenny.

The under 16 was the first championship played and it brought together keen local rivals in Graigue-Ballycallan and Tullaroan in the final.

A big crowd attended this game at St. Kieran's college. It was a see-saw struggle with St. Brigid's just getting home in the closing stages of a thrilling 50 minutes by 2-4 to 2-2.

Best for the winners were their captain, Teresa Walsh, Ann Murphy, Eileen Dunphy, Teresa Phelan, Mary Fennelly, Marie Kelly and Ann Malone while Caroline Holmes was outstanding for the losers. She got good support from her sister, Bernadette; Ailish Maher, Alice Walsh, Margie Cleere and Ann Brennan.

**St. Brigid's** – Mary Dunne, Eileen Dunphy, Ann Malone, Teresa Murphy, Marie Ryan, Geraldine Harrison, Teresa Walsh (captain), Ann Murphy, Una Walsh, Teresa Phelan, Mary Fennelly, Marie Kelly. Sub: Kathleen Murphy for Una Walsh.

**Tullaroan:** Margaret Dillon, Ailish Maher, Kathleen Dalton, Ann Brennan, Bernadette

Maher, Caroline Holmes, Bernie Holmes, Bernie Maher, Breda Hennessy, Alice Walsh, Margie Cleere, Breda Holmes.

## SENIOR CAMPAIGN

The senior campaign was run on a league basis with eight teams divided into two groups. Danesfort won one group with Club Kilkenny runners-up while Graigue-Ballycallan, winners and Tullaroan came through the second group. Due to a dispute Club Kilkenny gave Danesfort a walk over in one semi final while St. Margaret's beat Tullaroan in Tullaroan in the second semi-final.

The stage was then set for the county final with the Danesfort girls making all the running in the early stages against their more fancied rivals, St. Brigid's (Graigue-Ballycallan).

Danesfort led by 2-0 to 0-1 at half time and though St. Brigid's came more into the game in the second half they could not get through for the goal they so badly needed. Danesfort won by 2-1 to 0-3.

Camogie stars Helena and Teresa O'Neill were stars of the winning side getting good support from Peggy O'Neill, Catherine Davis, Eileen Marnell, Mary Woodcock, Marian Brennan and Madeline Hoban who scored the two goals.

Teresa Walsh, under 16 captain, was the star of the St. Brigid's side. Joan Kenny, Teresa Phelan, Maureen Murphy and Ann Robinson all showed up well.

**Danesfort:** Mary Corcoran, Mary Hoban, Eileen Marnell, Marie Dunphy, Sadie Cassin, Teresa O'Neill, Mary Woodcock, Peggy O'Neill, Margaret Cunningham, Marian Brennan, Helena O'Neill, Mary Dunne, Mary O'Neill.

**Graigue-Ballycallan:** Joan Kenny, Ann Robinson, Maureen Murphy, Marie Malone, Eileen Dunphy, Philomena Byrne, Mary Harrison, Teresa Walsh, Ann Murphy, Alice Dunne, Teresa Phelan, Marie Kelly, Annie Ryan, Mary Fennelly. Sub: Catherine Harrison.

wney 2-6 (a draw);  
n 3-9, Lisdowney 3-1;

## P. J. CROTTY & SON LTD.

Bakers & Confectioners  
Rose-Inn Street and High  
Street, Kilkenny

BAKERS OF  
BREAD WITH THE OLD-TIME  
FLAVOUR

WE DELIVER CITY AND COUNTY

Request our Vans to Call  
FAMOUS FOR BRACKS

BREADCRUMBS, PASTRY & FLANCASES

ALWAYS AVAILABLE

PHONE 21099



**GIRLS' FOOTBALL  
FROM PAGE 47**

The junior championship was played out between four sides which did not reach the senior semi finals and resulted in a parish "derby" between Coon and Muckalee.

Muckalee had the better of the early stages but Coon staged a real rally to reduce the leeway but Muckalee held out for a 3-1 to 1-1 win.

Best for the winners were Bridget Breen, Breda Coonan, Julia Stapleton and Mary Lawlor while Mary Fogarty and Mary Carroll, when she came on, were best for Coon.

**Muckalee:** Mary Doyle, Mary Stapleton, Rita Breen, Julia Stapleton, Mary Keane, Mary Wilson, Kathleen

Stapleton, Mary Lawlor, Bridget Breen (captain), Kathleen Stapleton, Bernadette Nolan, Margo Dowling, Breda Coonan, Ann Breen, Claire Barry.

Mrs. Mary Corcoran, Danesfort, was selected to referee the all-Ireland final between Tipperary and Galway at Athy. This was the first time a Kilkenny referee took charge of an all-Ireland senior final since John McCarthy refereed the 1898 senior football final between Dublin and Waterford.

At the time of writing Kilkenny, who have qualified for the under 16 all-Ireland final are waiting to see who their opponents will be. Kerry have to play Tipperary in Munster while Roscommon and Mayo have to play the Connacht final.

**Is Brian the youngest  
'All Star' ?**

IS BRIAN CODY the youngest player to be chosen on a Carrolls All Stars hurling team? He is certainly one of the youngest and this honour sheds further lustre on the career of a young hurler destined for greater things.

Brian Cody won his 26th medal when he captained the Kilkenny team to beat Cork in the 1972 all-Ireland minor hurling final. He was on the Kilkenny side beaten by Limerick in the 1973 all-Ireland final and shared with some Kilkenny colleagues this year the unique distinction of winning senior and under 21 all-Ireland medals.

Since 1972 he has won two all-Ireland senior hurling medals, as a sub in 1974 and as a member of the side this year. He has also won three Leinster senior medals, two Leinster under 21 medals (including this year) and two under 21 all-Ireland medals.

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Bill Cody, Sheestown, Kilkenny, Brian is on the teaching staff of the De La Salle schools, in St. Patrick's parish where his club, James Stephens has flourished for very many years. His father,

a popular hurling personality, is one of the leading workers in the James Stephens club of which he is chairman.

Brian was lucky - so his father says - to arrive at the right time to win medals in under age, colleges and minor grades.

With James Stephens he won two under 12 city leagues; two under 14 county hurling championships; two under 14 county football championships; four under 16 football county championships; one county minor football championship; two under 21 county hurling championships and a senior championship.

While a student of St. Kieran's college he won two Leinster juvenile championships; two Leinster junior colleges hurling championships; one Leinster junior football championship; two Leinster senior hurling championships and one all-Ireland senior hurling championship.

Before getting into the big time he won two Leinster minor hurling championships and won his first all-Ireland medal when he captained Kilkenny to beat Cork in the 1972 final.

**Star Performers**

THE record of Dick O'Hara of Thomastown of winning three all-Ireland titles in the one year is probably unique in the annals of hurling. He won the Vocational Schools, under 21 and minor.

Billy Fitzpatrick has another

unique record. He won senior and under 21 all-Ireland medals as a player in 1974 and 1975. In 1972 he won senior colleges and minor all-Ireland medals.

Brian Cody won senior and under 21 all-Ireland medals, as a sub on the senior team in 1974 and played in 1975 while Ger Fennelly has a similar record though he was a sub on both the senior sides.

**MATTHEW BYRNE & SONS LTD.**

**Blanchfields Park  
Clifden  
Co. Kilkenny**

*Licensed Haulage Contractors  
for all Ireland*

*Cross-Channel Service  
provided*

**ALL TYPES OF TRAILERS  
LOW-LOADERS AND TIPPERS**

**Phone 26124**



SEAN O'LEARY  
THE WELL KNOWN  
CORK  
ALL-IRELAND HURLER

**SEAN O'LEARY  
ROHAN HOMES  
HOUSING ADVISOR  
FOR THE SOUTH EAST  
COUNTIES,  
INCLUDING KILKENNY**

**MAKE A RohanHome YOUR HOME**

Please send me full details of your range of Rohan homes.

I have a site YES  NO

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ BLOCK LETTERS PLEASE

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

If you would like our Housing Advisor to call please state suitable time and date

**RohanHomes**

MIDLETON, CO. CORK  
TELEPHONE CORK (021) 63387 or DUBLIN (01) 760729



*Níl aon tinteán mar do thinteán Rohan.*



# Under 16's – Fantastic Progress

**By Tom Ryall**

THIS YEAR will be known in Kilkenny as the year of the treble but in under 16 it will be remembered as the greatest year ever. Three years ago there were just three competitions in under 16 – a hurling and football championship and a losers group in hurling.

The number of competitions has now risen to eight – hurling championships and leagues in Roinn A, B and C and a football championship and league. Next year it is hoped to add two more competitions in Roinn B in football – league and championship.

The creation of the lower divisions has proved a wonderful success and it has given to clubs in small parishes the opportunity of winning an under 16 title. Nothing succeeds like success.

Teams like Thomastown who won the Roinn A league and The Gaels who won the football league are there or thereabouts every year but these lesser competitions have seen sides like Urlingford, Piltown, Lisdowney, Glenmore, Dunnamaggin, Windgap, Danesfort and Galmoy figuring in the final stages of these competitions.

Who can forget the thrilling hurling served up by Urlingford and Piltown in their three games. Each gave as good as the other and after three hours of hectic hurling only one stroke of the ball separated them.

So much did these games capture the imagination of the public that a record "gate" of £150 was taken in the third game.

St. Lactain's captured the Roinn A championship with big wins, culminating in their defeat of Callan in the final by 3-10 to 2-1.

Thomastown took the Roinn A league when they scored a fine win over O'Loughlin's after a fine game. Piltown gained compensation for their championship defeat in Roinn B by taking the league. Here again they only got the better of Lisdowney in a replay.

Dunnamaggin were winners of Roinn C league when they beat Galmoy in the final and in an effort to share the honours Dunnamaggin moved up to

Roinn B for the championship.

Danesfort too won Roinn C championship honours when they beat Windgap in a closely contested final.

The football league was a big success and teams like Bennettsbridge, St. Lactain's and Danesfort who have no football tradition all showed up well.

This league was won by The Gaels who beat Thomastown 2-6 to 1-3 in the final. The only competition that remains to be completed at the time of writing is the football championship in which five teams – The Gaels, St. Patrick's, St. Lactain's, Thomastown and Tullogher – are left.

Next year in a further effort to improve football it is intended to have B competitions in league and championship so that teams like Goresbridge, Castlecomer, Graigue-Ballycallan and Callan who are out of their depth against the stronger sides will have a chance of winning a title.

Many of the boys who figured in under 16 this year will be heard of next year and the year after in minor grades. Among those likely to be contending for places on the county team are Tom and Ned Lennon, Gordon Ryan (St. Lactain's); Nick Wall and Billy McEvoy (Lisdowney); Liam Leahy and Johnny Moriarty (Urlingford); Michael Bambrick, Pat Purcell (Goresbridge); Liam Kelly, John Davis (Danesfort); Joe Doheny, Anthony Carey (Callan); Bill O'Hara (Thomastown); Seán Fennelly (Shamrocks); Matty Murphy (Dunnamaggin); Michael Cunningham (Windgap); Jimmy Brophy, Kevin Brennan (Piltown); John Mulcahy (O'Loughlin's); Jimmy Coyne, Dermot Reidy (St. Patrick's).

## RESULTS OF FINALS

**Hurling:** Roinn A championship: St. Lactain's 3-10, Callan 2-1; Roinn B championship: Urlingford 1-4, Piltown 2-1 (a draw); Urlingford 3-4, Piltown 2-7 (a draw); Urlingford 2-10, Piltown 2-7; Roinn C championship: Danesfort 5-3, Windgap 1-2.

Roinn A league: Thomastown 4-1, O'Loughlin's 2-2; Roinn B: Piltown 2-6, Lisdowney 2-6 (a draw); Piltown 3-9, Lisdowney 3-1;

Roinn C: Danesfort 3-6, Galmoy 1-4.

**Football:** League: The Gaels 2-6, Thomastown 1-3; The football championships are not yet finished.

## WINNING TEAMS

**St. Lactain's:** Eddie Fortune, Pat White, Michael Morrissey, Paddy Fitzpatrick, John Joe Campion, Ned Lennon, Patsy Doheny, Tom Lennon, Michael Campion, Gordon Ryan, Tony Rafter, Pierce Phelan, Martin Walsh, Ger Rafter, Ger Mullan.

**Urlingford:** Michael Tobin, Willie Ryan, Pat Phelan, Andy Moriarty, Jim Bergin, Liam Leahy, John Burke, Joe Neary, Liam Moriarty, Johnny Moriarty, Jimmy Tone, Martin O'Gorman, Paschal Gibbons, Pat Tobin, Mick Fitzgerald.

**Danesfort:** Pat Davis, Liam Cunningham, Peter Marnell, Brian Gorey, Jim Byrne, Mick Burke, Gerry Doyle, Liam Kiely, Tom Mullins, Nick Walsh, Jim Fennelly, Henry Giles, Jim O'Dwyer, John Davis, John Lalor. Sub: Robbie Woodcock.

**Piltown:** Pat Malone, Joe Faulkner, Jimmy Brophy, Patsy Maher, Jimmy Foley, Eugene Brennan, Ger Burke, Pat Dunne, Seán Norris, John Dalton, Ger Byrne, John Joe Long, Jim Malone, Kevin Brennan, Nickey Culleton. Sub: John Joe Maher.

**Dunnamaggin:** Johnny Murray, T. Carroll, Shane Noonan, P. Costello, Mick Kelly, Canice Mackey, John Ryan, Pat Murphy, Seamus Moore, Ray McDonald, Ray Geraghty, Matty Murphy, J. Costello, C. Kearney, L. Costello. Subs: J. O'Keefe, Liam Noonan.

**The Gaels:** Mick Cleere, Brian Tyrrell, Eamonn Quigley, Paul Moran, M. Holden, E. Tyrrell, G. Hennessy, John Mulcahy, Padraig Keane, Martin Morrissey, Eugene Deegan, Michael McGrath, Martin Tyrrell, Eugene Brett, O. Driscoll.

The Thomastown team (Roinn A league winners) was not available.

*Congratulations  
and  
Continued Success  
from*

**ONE GREAT TO  
ANOTHER—**

**Hino  
Distributors**

*Sales – Service – Spares*

**J. Harris (Kilkenny) Ltd.**

**Callan Road, Kilkenny**

**PHONE 056-22830**



# Is football dead in Kilkenny?

(By **MICK MEALLY**, Chairman of the Football Board, in an interview with the Editor)

IS FOOTBALL in Kilkenny as dead as a doornail? When I put the question bluntly to the Football Board Chairman his reply was: 'Far from it; there are 38 registered clubs in the county and that in itself suggests that it is very far from being dead'. The popular fallacy about football in Kilkenny is that it is more or less a joke but this is a completely wrong and unfair assessment.

The trouble with football in this county, Mr. Meally says, is that it has to compete with hurling and that, as everyone knows, puts it at a big disadvantage.

"We had three teams in All-Ireland hurling finals this year and between training, playing matches and running the senior hurling championship that left us with very few Sundays", the chairman said. "In addition, hurlers who play football - and some of our best hurlers are also amongst our best footballers - are barred from playing a football game the Sunday before an inter-county hurling game.

"There can be no objection, nor is there, by the Football Board to hurling getting priority. We are predominantly a hurling county. We are a comparatively small county and the question is can the two codes survive side by side? I think they can if the right approach is adopted".

Mr. Meally went on to say that unlike other counties there are no areas in Kilkenny devoted exclusively to football and many clubs who field football teams also have hurling teams.

"We have areas like Railyard, Muckalee, Kilmacow, Glenmore, Mooncoin, Graignamanagh, the City, Thomastown and Conahy where football is strong and judging by the enthusiasm of the Board members there is a strong inclination to promote and encourage the game in those areas.

"But faced with the problem of finding dates for games it is not surprising that we have to face up to quite an amount of frustration. If we could win a

Leinster title in any grade the outlook might change. I think we have the material if it can be harnessed along the right lines".

Mr. Meally said there are footballers in this county who can hold their own with the best. If they had the proper training and practice they could attain a high standard. The Thomastown minor team, for instance, play football of a very high standard.

"We use the week evenings in summer as far as we can to get through our programme and we look forward to much greater progress next year when we will be playing on a league basis. This will give extra games to the players and with an earlier start could help to complete our full programme much earlier than usual.

"Great work is being done in the schools to promote football and I would like to refer particularly to the tremendous efforts by the Under-16 Board who have done such wonderful work for both hurling and football. I am glad to see too that greater emphasis will be laid on football next year.

"There is no reason why football should not prosper in Kilkenny; we have a fine football tradition and if a really serious effort was made we could get back to the old days when Kilkenny footballers made a big impact. The effort, if it succeeded, would be well worthwhile", Mr. Meally said.

## Hurler and Footballer



*Mick Brennan, a Carrolls All-Star hurler, is one of Kilkenny's best footballers.*

# JOE McTERNAN

## KILCULLEN

and

## NEWBRIDGE

*Known To A Lot Of People For*

*A Jar Or A Steak Or A*

*Quick Snack*

### *Congratulations*

*to*

### *Kilkenny*

*on their*

### *Many Great Wins*

## HACK ON

## TO

# McTERNAN'S

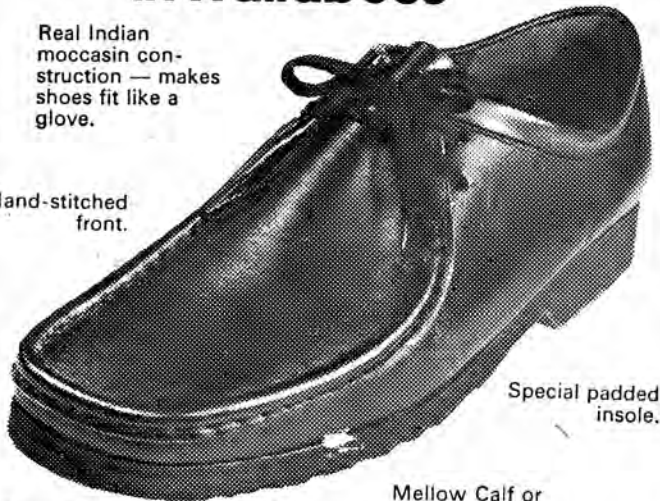


LET YOUR FEET  
TELL YOU THE  
DIFFERENCE

# cool comfort in Wallabees

Real Indian moccasin construction — makes shoes fit like a glove.

Hand-stitched front.



Special padded insole.

Nature Form toe shape.

Mellow Calf or hunting suede — soft pliable quality leather.

Wallabees fabulous comfort is *real* — the result of combining a Nature Form last, a leather upper that wraps around right under the foot, a padded insole, a deep springy sole and a hand-stitched upper.

Like to come in and try on a pair?

## Moccasin Wallabees

Made in Kilkenny  
by Craftsmen

## All-Irelands by the double

SINCE 1972 Kilkenny have won at least two all-Ireland titles each year. In 1972 the black and ambers carried off the senior and minor titles; in 1973 the intermediate and minor; in 1974 the senior and under 21 and this year the senior, under 21 and minor.

The record goes even further. Last year Kilkenny won the

Camogie all-Ireland title and this year the number has actually risen to six, St. Kieran's college winning the senior and the Vocational School adding another title.

For good measure, a young Gowran boy, Pat Ryan won the Feine na Gael all-Ireland individual title, proving himself the best young hurler in Ireland.

## This medal opens a tabernacle!

FATHER LIAM BARRON formerly of St. Patrick's parish and now in Mooncoin suggested at the last convention of the Under-16 Board that Kilkenny should have a G.A.A. museum. Accommodation might present a problem but Mrs. Margaret Phelan well known historian and archaeologist would surely be prepared to give advice and help in this matter. What about Rothe House for instance?

Talk of a G.A.A. museum leads to some interesting stories about old medals. Missing from the collection won by John T. Power of Piltown is the medal he won when Kilkenny beat Tipperary in the Railway Shield at St. James's Park in 1908. It is now used as a key for a tabernacle in a church in New South Wales.

A local priest, Father Danny McGrath went to Australia after being ordained and before leaving he induced John T. to give him the medal. Years later the former Kilkenny star goalie had a visit from a priest from New South Wales.

When asked about Father McGrath the visiting priest said, 'he is my parish priest'. Questioned about the medal he said, 'it is now the key of the tabernacle in our church and I use it every morning when saying Mass'.

Tom Ryall comes up with two interesting stories about medals. He says: 'Who holds the oldest G.A.A. medal in Kilkenny? I was recently shown a beautiful silver medal made by Moore and Co., Grafton street, Dublin, inscribed, "Kilkenny 1899" championship'.

'The medal is the property of Mrs. Michael Nugent, Ballykeeffe, Cuffesgrange and was won by her father, Joe Ryan who played with Three-castles. A point which puzzles

me is that Three-castles won the championship in 1899 and 1903. Could it be that the medal is for the 1898 championship was incorrectly dated by the jeweller as the championships were often up to two years behind time?

'The oldest medal I have ever seen is one dated 1894 and it is at present in the possession of Mrs. Lena Kennedy, Tullaroan. The medal, of solid gold, was won by her father, Jim Grace who captained Tullaroan to win the first ever county championship.

'The medal is of beautiful design and besides the date has James Grace inscribed on the back. Mrs. Kennedy says the medal was for the big inter county tournament won by Kilkenny and as her father was captain he got a gold medal and the other players silver medals. This medal was also made by Moore and Co.'

Jim Grace was selected on the first ever G.A.A. team to travel to America in 1888 — 'The American Invasion' — and two other Kilkenny men, M. P. Curran of Castlecomer and Johnny Fox of Mooncoin also travelled to the States.

A vintage hurley owned by the late Mr. Paddy Brunton of James's street occupies a prominent place in the licensed premises of Larry Langton, High street, while another well known licensed house, Christy Bollard's, St. Kieran's street displays a picture of the first victorious Kilkenny team which is truly a photographic gem — the work of the late T. J. Moran of James's Street.

It is likely that Feile na Gael will be held in Kilkenny in a couple of years and a G.A.A. museum would be a big attraction for the thousands from all over Ireland who will attend this great juvenile festival.



# Camogie – No euphoria this year

ALL the euphoria that surrounded Kilkenny's camogie achievements in 1974 was sadly lacking this year and in the inter-county scene the story has been a very disappointing one. The girls failed to live up to the standards set by their male counterparts.

On the home front, however, considerable progress was made.

Many people considered that following their spectacular win over Cork in the 1974 All-Ireland final, Kilkenny would make a bold bid for three in a row. It was a young team and combined skill with speed.

It must be remembered, of course, that 11 of the St. Paul's club are also on the Kilkenny panel and most of these players have played in six All-Ireland club championships in eight years. In the past six years they have won four.

This year the senior and minors got into the All-Ireland semi-finals and St. Brigid's, Callan reached the colleges final. The minors are very young and quite a few of them

are eligible for the next two years.

Ballyhale and Thomastown vocational schools did very well in their zones and the development of the game in the schools generally and in the vocational schools in particular is a very healthy sign.

## **PROGRESS IN THE COUNTY**

There are now 10 registered clubs in the county. Johnstown and Coon are newcomers to the camogie scene.

The championships were run off very successfully this year and all matches were finished in June.

Thomastown, a very young side, are county minor title holders for the first time. This was quite some achievement since the club was only formed this year.

Carrickshock won the junior county final. Prospects certainly look good for the future down south.

A winter league is now in progress.

The Kilkenny Board are hoping to run an inter-county league for all counties that

participated in the championships and it is hoped that this will help to improve the standard of camogie by the time the championship campaign comes round again.

## **SEMINAR**

The Kilkenny Camogie Board intend organising a seminar early in December. It will cover three vital matters – refereeing, coaching and administration. It is hoped to have talks by experts on these three important topics while other matters relating to the game will also come up for discussion.

The fact that no All-Irelands were won does not mean that the tempo will not be maintained. The ambition of the Camogie Board is that each G.A.A. club should have or should endeavour to have a camogie team affiliated. It is only in this way that camogie can make the progress everybody hopes for.

It is also hoped that the primary schools will take a more active part in the development of the game.

## **Things Which Are Equal . . .**

WHEN Euclid said that things which are equal to the same are equal to one another he hardly had sport in mind. And if a son equals his father in the realms of sport this has nothing to do with geometry.

A rare co-incidence in hurling is that Paddy Larkin and his son Phil have the same number of all-Ireland senior hurling medals – four. And they both won medals filling the same position – right full back – that is all except one.

Paddy Larkin won all-Ireland medals in 1932, 1933, 1935 and 1939 and Phil won them in 1963, 1972, 1974 and 1975. Paddy Larkin won an all-Ireland medal at right full back for Kilkenny's all-Ireland triumphs in 1932, 1933 and 1935 and at full back in 1939 while Phil won his all-Ireland medals at right full back. Judging by his present form Phil could very well eclipse his father's achievement.

# THE FOX & GOOSE

CLARA, KILKENNY

Phone 056-26180

*HAPPINESS IS!*

*FRIENDLY AND COURTEOUS SERVICE*

*FIVE BARS TO CHOOSE FROM*

*RESTAURANT IN OLD TIME ATMOSPHERE*

*RESTAURANT OPEN TO MIDNIGHT*

*LARGE CABARET LOUNGE*

*ENTERTAINMENT 6 NIGHTS PER WEEK*

*PETROL FILLING STATION OPEN TO MIDNIGHT*



# Seventh title for St. Kieran's



*This St. Kieran's college team added another chapter to Kilkenny's glorious year by winning the senior colleges all-Ireland title. They scored resounding victories in all their games and in the final humbled the great Cork college side.*

ST. KIERAN'S took their 7th all-Ireland senior colleges hurling championship title at Thurles on April 20 when they decisively beat a well fancied Colaiste Iognaid Ris (Cork) in a rather disappointing final by 6-9 to 2-3. St. Kieran's had not won the title for four years before this though they contested two.

They went on from winning by double scores (30 points to 25) in the Leinster final to treble scores in the all-Ireland (27 points to 9) and it was a big surprise that the Cork boys slumped so badly after being hotly fancied.

This was a sparkling display by St. Kieran's who were much faster, more skilled, more accurate and showed a much better understanding. Even the big margin did not altogether reflect their vast superiority.

St. Kieran's led by 2-5 to 1-1 at half time and piled on the pressure in the second as the opposition crumbled.

Kieran Brennan again had an outstanding game in the St. Kieran's attack contributing 2-3 while Jimmy Prendergast was not very far behind. He and

Declan Fitzpatrick controlled midfield while Paudie Brennan scored two good goals and unluckily missed his 'hat trick'. Kevin O'Shea in the opposite corner also did very well.

Richard Marnell was very sound in goal and John Ryan, Jim Lennon and Harry Ryan gave the goalie extra good cover. Paddy Prendergast and Michael Cuddihy also starred. Gordon Ryan and Seamus Brennan also figured prominently.

Best for Cork were: Dermot McCurain, Danien Philpott, Billy Collins and Jim Barry.

Jimmy Prendergast blasted the ball to the net from a free in the 2nd minute after Gordon Ryan had been fouled and a minute later Kieran Brennan sent over a nice point.

In the 4th minute Cork got through for a goal by Jim Barry and four minutes after a lobbing shot from 40 yards from Kevin O'Shea's stick landed in the Cork goal area and Paudie Brennan finished it to the net. Immediately after the puck out it was O'Shea again and this time Gordon Ryan gathered from his centre and palmed over the bar.

At the end of the first quarter

Jim Murphy, the Cork corner forward reduced the lead by a point and in the 19th minute Jimmy Prendergast, although losing his hurley tapped the ball over the bar with his hand.

A minute after this good work by Kieran Brennan and Gordon Ryan led to Brennan shooting another Kilkenny point. In the 29th minute, a nice movement by Kieran Brennan and Seamus Brennan led to a good point by Seamus Brennan to leave St. Kieran's in front by 2-5 to 1-1 at half time.

After six minutes of the second half St. Kieran's put on a goal, Kevin O'Shea sending a rasper to the net and a nine minutes scoreless spell followed before Kieran Brennan palmed a point. Within seconds Brennan was again on the mark this time palming the ball to the net.

The Cork boys were in complete disarray at this stage and their position became completely hopeless when Paudie Brennan sent to the net in the 20th minute. In the 22nd minute Kieran Brennan added a goal after a great 40 yards run and in the 24th minute, Declan Fitzpatrick had a point.

Cork had their first score of the second half in the 25th

minute when Paul Crowley sent a 35 yards free over the bar. A minute after this Kevin O'Shea reised a white flag and Declan Fitzpatrick pointed a St. Kieran's free in the 27th minute.

Jim Barry had a point for the Munster champions in the 29th minute and in the 30th minute Jim Murphy had Cork's second goal.

St. Kieran's had 19 frees, 9 wides and no 70's, while Colaiste Iognaid Ris had 24 frees, 7 wides and two 70's.

Scorers for **St. Kieran's** Kieran Brennan (2-3); Paudie Brennan (2-0); Kevin O'Shea (1-1); Jimmy Prendergast (1-1); Declan Fitzpatrick (0-2); Gordon Ryan (0-1); Seamus Brennan (0-1).

For **Colaiste Iognaid Ris:** Jim Barry (1-1); Jim Murphy (1-1); Paul Crowley (0-1).

**St. Kierans:** R. Marnell, J. Ryan, J. Lennon, H. Ryan, P. Prendergast, M. Cuddihy, J. Prendergast, D. Fitzpatrick, G. Ryan, K. Brennan, S. Brennan, K. O'Shea, P. Brennan.

Subs: M. Joyce, M. Meagher, T. Farrell, L. Ryan, P. Gannon, D. Dalton, B. Broderick. St. Kieran's brought on no sub during the game.





LIAM O'BRIEN Kilkenny's outstanding midfielder



# HISTORIC HANDBALL YEAR

By TOMMY O'BRIEN

THIS year was an historic one in the annals of Kilkenny handball with a record number of titles won and with some tremendous strides made from the development side also.

The County Championships

## The Only Referee . . .

THE only Kilkennyman to referee both senior hurling and senior football all-Ireland finals was Councillor John McCarthy of Kilkenny city one of the leading lights in the early days of the games in Kilkenny he refereed the 1890 football final and the hurling final of 1900.

In the football game Dublin beat Waterford and Tipperary beat London in the hurling final.

John Lalor of Threecastles refereed the 1914 hurling final; John Roberts, Kilkenny the 1928 final and Jack Mulcahy the 1954 final.

were well contested in most grades and one of the strongest all-round teams ever to represent the county went on to put Kilkenny nearer to being the premier handball county than for 30 years.

### JUVENILE

In the county juvenile championships, Talbot's Inch were to the fore, winning all three singles titles and one doubles title. Billy Bourke (under 12) Mark Cantwell (under 14) and Eugene Downey (under 16) were the singles winners with John Downey and Des Crowley (under 16) being the doubles winners. The other juvenile championships were won by Liam Law and Seán Murray (Mullinavat) who won under 12 doubles, and the under 14 doubles champions, Paul Moran and John Walsh (St. John's).

Of these, two won all-Ireland titles. Billy Bourke (Talbot's Inch) retained his under 12 all-Ireland title – the first player ever to do so – while Eugene

Downey (Talbot's Inch) won the under 16 singles title and is under age for the event again next year. Mark Cantwell and Paul Moran combined in under 14 to win the Leinster title while other county representatives who were unsuccessful were Liam Law and Diarmuid Caulfield (under 12) Billy Oakes (under 14) and John Downey and Anthony Mulhall (under 16).

### MINOR

Minor was a disappointing grade this year as we failed to win a single Leinster title. Eddie Mahon (M.S.B.D.; M.H.B.D.) James Lawlor (M.H.B.S.; M.H.B.D., M.S.B.D.) both from Clogh, and Johnny Brennan (M.S.B.S.) from Mothel were our champions with 40 x 20 players, Davie O'Hanlon (singles) and Eugene Downey and Des Crowley (doubles) also unsuccessful in seeking provincial honours.

### NOVICE

Seamus Reade was the outstanding novice of the year. He reached the doubles final (60 x 30) with Phil Brennan before losing to Limerick, and lost the singles 40 x 20 final to Clare. He partnered his brother Michael in doubles 40 x 20, losing to Carlow. Nicky Mulhall was our singles 60 x 30 player and although unsuccessful, he gave a good account of himself.

### UNDER 21

Ollie Harold won one of his three all-Ireland titles at this grade. He completely dominated the singles, winning the all-Ireland final 21-3, 21-2 and with another year at this grade, should add to his honours next year.

Joe Anthony and Christy Knox (Mullinavat) unluckily lost to Meath in the doubles. They ousted such players as John Barron and Peadar Hughes in the Kilkenny tests.

### JUNIOR

For the third time in the history of handball – and for the second time in Kilkenny's history – a county won all four titles at the grade. Ollie Harold was the dominant figure at softball. His accurate and attractive play left all floundering in his wake and, partnered by Brendan Fitzpatrick in the doubles, he gave Kilkenny the double in junior softball.

Peadar Hughes equally dominated hardball, winning both singles and doubles in fine style. The doubles was easily the highlight, due to the popularity of his hard hitting partner, Billy Kennedy, who got due reward for his years of dedication.

The only previous time Kilkenny won all four titles was in 1934 when Alfie Cullen, Paddy Power and Jasper Dunne were the heroes.

### SENIOR

We only made one major contribution to the senior championship, and that was when Paddy Reilly beat Andy Byrne, Anthony Greene, Cecil Winders, and Mick Kirby to reach the all-Ireland semi-final before losing heavily to Joe Howlin.

Nevertheless, it was a great year for Reilly who early in the year won the Jimmy O'Brien tournament, in partnership with Ollie Harold and then won his place on the four-man Irish handball team going to San Francisco with the All Stars.

### COLLEGES'

Kilkenny certainly made their mark in Colleges this year. Eddie Mahon won the singles title, beating Leinster, Munster and Connacht opposition in the process. His school, Presentation Convent, Castlecomer, thus had their second victory in this event, Peadar Hughes winning it in 1973.

For Kilkenny C.B.S., it was a first victory – taking the team of six in superlative manner. This competition is for pairs under 15, 17, and 19. Kilkenny C.B.S. had three under 15, and three under 17 on their team, and it looked too young for the task. Under 15 player, Eugene Downey and under 17, Ger McEvoy, team captain, moved up to under 19, leaving Anthony Mulhall and Mark Cantwell at under 15, and John Downey – Joe Bourke at under 17. They had some near things on the way – especially their semi-final game, but they were deserving winners in the end.

Patsy Brennan and Pat Buggy went to the Vocational Schools' final in doubles before losing to Mayo. They too had many hard battles along the way and deserved their final spot.

**GO  
GREYHOUND  
RACING**

**—at—**

**KILKENNY  
TRACK**

**ST. JAMES'S PARK**

**LICENSED BY BORD NA gCON**

**EXCELLENT RACING**

**TOP CLASS FACILITIES – BAR**

**Every Wednesday and Friday  
Nights**