

ALL-STARS 1978

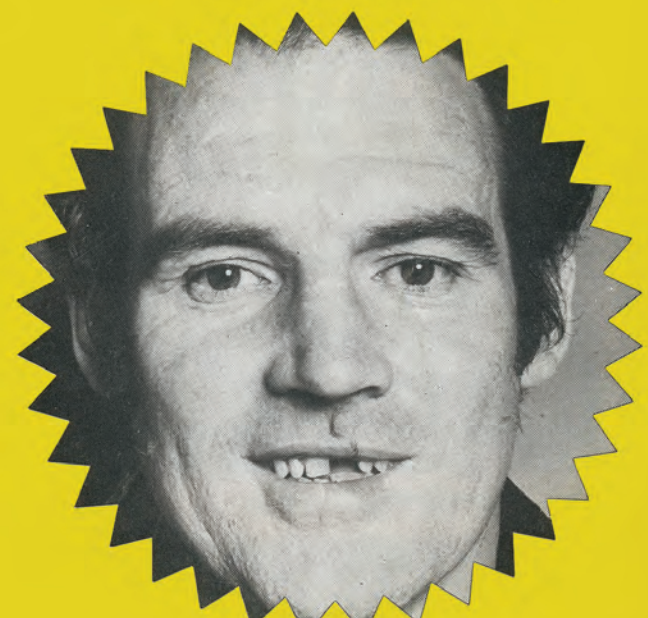
KILKENNY G.A.A. YEARBOOK 1978



JOE HENNESSY



GER HENDERSON



PHIL LARKIN

INSIDE:

- **ALL-IRELAND FINALISTS IN COLOUR**
- **CAMOGIE ROUND-UP**
- **NOWLAN PARK'S GOLDEN JUBILEE**
- **PLAYER PROFILE**
- **1931 SAGA — HURLING'S FINEST HOUR**
- **PICTORIAL REVIEW**

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KILKENNY G.A.A. YEAR BOOK 1978

CREDITS

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editorial



PETER HOLOHAN
EDITOR

The spirit of our sportsmanship

The fact that Kilkenny were beaten in the all-Ireland final this year is not the end of the road and though team building is never easy it is inevitable that Kilkenny will be back again as champions, sooner or later. Hurling is strong in the county. Tradition is on our side and tradition invariably comes to the fore.

Losing is no disgrace and it is a pity that our fine reputation for sportsmanship should have been tarnished somewhat by a small minority of disgruntled followers who did not accept the defeat in the true Kilkenny spirit.

Criticism is quite legitimate so long as it is not abusive. Some of the criticism that went the rounds in Kilkenny after the final was abusive and personal abuse was hurled indiscriminately.

We have won 20 all-Ireland senior titles, four less than Cork and two less than Tipperary and that is a fair record. It might be no harm for us to ponder once in a while on the position of counties that have never won an all-Ireland title. It might help to realise that we are not doing too badly.

Message from Mayor Luke

As Mayor of Kilkenny, and always a keen follower of Gaelic affairs in general, I welcome this publication.

Productions such as this are as vital as the on-the-field happenings, and I hope the Kilkenny G.A.A. Yearbook will continue to flourish as it has through the past years.

A publication such as this is not just a record of happenings during a certain year, it is also an important part of Kilkenny culture.

Our tradition for sportsmanship, skill and craft has few equals. This is a reputation hard earned, but one we can feel justifiably proud of.

My congratulations to all our hurlers, camogie players, handballers, footballers, and anyone who won honours during the past 12 months. To the losers, I offer my commiserations and hope that the year ahead will be a victorious one for you.

Finally, to the Editor, I wish every success to this year's publication.



Mayor Luke Boyle

Beaten in two National finals in six months

DURING the past six months, Kilkenny were beaten in two national hurling finals. And after a relatively short space of time since the last, they are threatened with relegation from the top division of hurling.

In May, Kilkenny lost the National Hurling League final to Clare at Thurles. Then in September, Cork came out on top in the all-Ireland final at Croke Park.

Since then everything has turned as sour as vinegar for the Noresiders, who have only enjoyed success in one out of five starts. The result, they are perched precariously on the drop-off line in the National League.

The Leinster champions have one more engagement in which to salvage their Division I A status. Defeat will mean certain expulsion from the top flight and down a grade to Division I B.

If so, the financial loss to Kilkenny will be considerable. Against possible opponents like Antrim and Carlow, the 'gates' will not be as large as they are at present.

When all the League gates are pooled, Kilkenny's share will not be as large as a side hurling in Division I A. Cork and Tipperary lost their top grade status last year, and they look like bouncing back to the upper reaches immediately.

Bigger portion

As a bonus they will probably make the shake-up in the National League. By virtue of their high position in Division I B they qualify for the League quarter-finals, and as long as they are involved in the competition, their entitlement to a bigger portion of the League money grows.

Cork were division I B material when they won the all-Ireland this year.

How does this all leave Kilkenny? Well, the Noresiders have still to make the drop. If they beat Wexford at Nowlan Park on February 11, then their fate will not be decided for yet another fortnight until the Slaneysiders fulfil their final tie at home to Limerick.

Defeat for Wexford at Nowlan Park, and then victory over the Shannonsiders at home, could leave a play-off situation. It seems likely at this stage, that Kilkenny are doomed. The die is loaded against them.

So the county's All-Stars, Phil 'Fan' Larkin, Ger Henderson and Joe Hennessy could be doing their League hurling in remote places like Dr. Cullen Park next autumn. None of the present Kilkenny side have ever hurled outside the top flight.

RELEGATION

RELEGATION is a crude word, and there will be a certain loss of pride if Kilkenny make the drop. But were we forewarned of this?

Lat year, Kilkenny travelled to Ballinasloe to play Galway, needing a win to stay up. They ended up in the League final, and later the all-Ireland final.

Perhaps if relegation does become a reality, the dark cloud will have a silver lining.

Will do no harm

The Marble City brigade are in trouble again just as they were in 1969 and 1973, after they had won the all-Ireland of 1972 by defeating Cork. On those occasions they pulled clear. Perhaps Lady Luck will shine on them again, and they will avoid the drop.

It seems unlikely. Some are of the opinion that the drop down will be no harm. They feel the promising younger players will get a better chance to settle into the county side, and other experiments can also be tried.

It's true the League and championship are competitions apart to Kilkenny. But defeat after defeat is no way to promote the game. Next year,

local hurling followers will hardly go along to Nowlan Park if the opposition is provided by some county not recognised as a home of the game.

Young players who may be thinking of making hurling their number one game, will hardly apply themselves if what they see is not attractive.

Ironically, during the current League, Kilkenny put up some of their best performances when they were beaten. In the last two games, against Limerick and champions Clare, they showed marked improvements, but were unable to deliver the killer blow.

Again in contradictory manner, what was probably their worst showing against Waterford provided them with their solitary victory.

Frank Cummins, Bridie Martin and Ollie Harold win Sports Star Awards



Gaelic Games Sports Stars receive their awards at the annual dinner in Springhill Hotel from Mr. Howard Dunne on behalf of Smithwicks Brewery. In the picture are (from left): Mr. Jim Langton (GAA representative on the Sports Stars Committee), Bridie Martin (Camogie), Frank Cummins (Hurling) and Ollie Harold (Handball).

Did Kilkenny get to the All-Ireland Final a year too soon ?

asks **RAYMOND SMITH** 'Irish Independent'

KILKENNY reached the All-Ireland final a year too early.

That was my estimation of their prospects when they beat Wexford in the Leinster senior hurling final and I was convinced that Cork would win their third-in-a-row title, unless they 'blew' it through over-confidence as Kilkenny had done against the Leesiders in 1966.

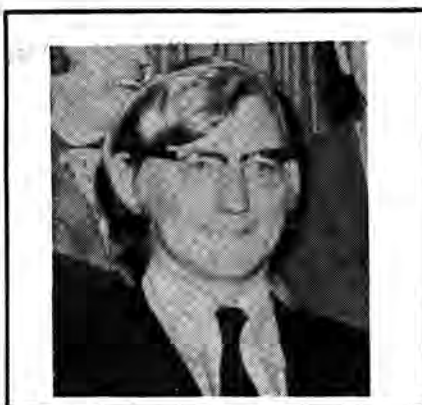
After you have produced a team as great as Kilkenny did in the period 1972-'75, it is hardly possible, following the retirement of key men in the side, to expect to come up again overnight and regain No. 1 spot in the hurling arena.

The process of team building can be a slow one. It is not enough to find promising hurlers of talent. They have to be slotted first of all into the positions vacated by the men, who had the total trust of the selectors, and then the new combination has to be moulded into a considerable championship winning side.

The difference between victory and narrow defeat for Wexford in 1978 was put down by their supporters – and many neutral observers also – to the absence through injury of centre-back, Mick Jacob. Then too John Quigley, another important cog in the Wexford machine got injured early in the game and was forced to retire.

Despite the ensuing disruption, Wexford played with all the spirit and undaunted courage that they have shown they are capable of producing when there is everything to play for – and that they came so near to victory in the end, must have been ominous in itself for Kilkenny supporters who realised that the Noresiders would – if successful over Galway in the semi-final – be facing a Cork side with two All-Ireland titles already under the belt.

In saying that Kilkenny got to the All-Ireland final a year too soon, I am not referring for one moment that they were not worthy of the Leinster crown. Any county must be capable in these times of producing a panel of players with the reserve talent to provide for the kind of setbacks that can evolve



from injuries to top stars just before – or during – a vital championship game.

I suspect that in the present state of hurling in Wexford, they just could not overcome the absence of Mick Jacob or the injury to John Quigley in the final analysis – so that on the day Kilkenny had to be judged deserving winners. That does not mean that Kilkenny would have won it if Wexford had fielded a full team. But these are the inevitable might-have-beens and you will always have them in hurling and football.

COULD HAVE WON

Strangely enough, despite my argument then that Kilkenny through a misfortune that befell Wexford, got into the All-Ireland before they had really moulded the side to the combination that the selectors would probably have liked, the fact remains that they could have won the 1978 crown.

Seldom have I seen a Kilkenny defence play so well and rarely too in recent times have I seen a team in the Black-and-Amber squander so many chances when victory was there for the taking.

Joe Hennessy and Ritchie Reid had impressed me in the League at Thurles and again in the All-Ireland semi-final against Galway and I came out of Croke Park knowing that while I would be giving Cork the final vote, Hennessy, Ger Henderson and Reid forming the half-back line would, with the men behind them, help to make it a

humdinger of a final – far better than the games between Cork and Wexford of the previous two years.

Jimmy Langton had been on the bank at the Killinan end in Semple Stadium, Thurles when Cork beat Clare in the Munster final. He said to me that if Cork played against Kilkenny in the final, as they did against the Banner County men in the first half of that Thurles game, Kilkenny would coast in. But Jimmy was wise enough in his hurling years as player and back-room man to know that Cork would be a different team altogether in the final – and he said as much. And, of course, he was right.

For in the Cork dressing-room afterwards, I talked to Christy Ring and Ring hit the nail on the head as to the reason why Cork produced such spirit in the end. He recalled that they had failed to Kilkenny in 1969 and in 1972 – got caught in '72 when they thought they had it – and they were determined that they would not come up the third time and lose to their great, traditional rivals.

And players like Charlie McCarthy, the captain, and Gerald McCarthy – the only remaining links with the side that had come up overnight in 1966 – remembered the way Cork were cold-shouldered by their own supporters when they paraded through the streets of Cork after the All-Ireland final of '72.

It should, they knew, have been a victory parade with the Red and White flying high in glory but Kilkenny, finding that form and inspiration that made the 1972-'75 team such a wonderful side to watch in full cry – with Pat Delaney, Kieran Purcell and Eddie Keher capable of cutting an opposing defence to ribbons – swung it dramatically and made the second-half of that final one of the most enthralling of this decade.

Some have argued, too, in retrospect, that the moving out of Ger Henderson to midfield broke up the half-back line, well as Pat Henderson played when introduced, but against that Kilkenny had to do something to

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Did Kilkenny get to the All-Ireland a year too soon.

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try and regain command in the centre of the field.

Of course, Liam O'Brien should never have been taken out. If a change was deemed necessary at midfield – and was considered essential – he should have been moved to wing forward. It was akin to Dublin taking out Jimmy Keaveney, the only man who could be depended on in the crunch to pick off the points from frees. A few chances were lost from frees by Kilkenny after "Chunky" went that he could have been expected to turn to account.

I am touching now on very delicate and very controversial ground – but I am afraid it has to be written, otherwise I would not be giving my true opinion of the 1978 All-Ireland final.

EXPERIENCE

In the final analysis, though, Cork had the experience and the team-work that the newcomers to the Kilkenny side lacked. Of course, it can be argued that the presence of Eddie Keher, if he could have been induced out of retirement, could have made all the

difference. He made it clear to me in the Hogan Stand after the All-Ireland semi-final against Galway that when he announced his retirement it was for good – and he would not come back. He was correct in that for the era of the 1972-'78 side was ended and Kilkenny had to start some time building a side to replace it.

I believe that, irrespective of whether they come back quickly to win another All-Ireland crown, they must give the opportunities, especially in attack, to more of the minors and under-21 players who we saw grace the fine teams from the Noneside in recent years. I realise that all cannot be expected to make the grade but the tragedy would be a half-hankering to retain veterans gone past their best, so as in some way to recapture the glories of 1972-'75. You won't for a long time again get a trio like Keher – Delaney – Purcell in full cry.

Three All-Ireland senior crowns won and six Finals contested to date is a good record in any one decade. Remember Cork were out of All-Ireland honours for 12 years before winning in 1966 and Tipperary have been out of the No. 1 championship spot since 1971.

In the space of a few short seasons after 1975 Kilkenny got back to the final – and could so nearly have won it. The talent is there, yes – it's simply a

question of finding the right mix – particularly up front.

MADE A PACT

So, let it be written, that in the days preceding the 1978 final Charlie and Gerald and the others who had known the bitterness of the spurning they had got from their own supporters in 1972 in the city by the Lee which makes cruel demands on its hurlers and is no respecter of persons in defeat, made a pact that they would answer their critics of '72 in the only way they could – with hurling, for Charlie and Gerald have it in the hands and in the blood as the great Kilkenny hurlers of talent have it from the cradle.

Brian Cody had seemed to do enough at full-forward in the All-Ireland semi-final to some observers to justify his place in this position in the final, but personally I wondered whether he was quick enough on the turn for a man of his size to snap up the chances.

As events turned out, the cardinal error made by the Kilkenny selectors was that they did not make a change at full-forward when the chances were flowing to the Kilkenny attack. I will always maintain that the winning of the match was there for Kilkenny and they failed to take it and when you remember the way the backs played, it made it all the more difficult for supporters to swallow.



Le Dea Mhéin

ó

Chomhairle Laighean

C.L.G

M. Ó Dubhsláine
Runaí



Mick Lanigan calls it a day

ANOTHER link with the great Kilkenny team of the early seventies was broken when local businessman / politician, Michael Lanigan decided to retire as trainer.

A combination of family, work and other commitments, led to the former European student athlete breaking his direct connection with the county team. "I will always be a fervent supporter, and will assist the Kilkenny team in any way I can", Michael assured.

But he will not train the county side for the 1979 championship, or any other competitions. "The time has come to step down. The effort needed with the Kilkenny team is more than I can give to do the job properly", he stated.

During Michael Lanigan's 12 season stint with the Kilkenny team, they have won five senior all-Ireland titles, and were beaten in three others. The five-in-a-row in Leinster was clocked up and the National Hurling League

(1976) was captured again after a ten year gap.

The city businessman took over the reins from Nicky McGrath, the present chairman of the Co. Football Board, in 1966. The following year, his influence was already felt, as Kilkenny beat Tipperary in the all-Ireland final, the first time they did so in over 45 years of championship hurling.

"Now the time is right for a change. The side of a few years ago is in the process of being re-built. The new trainer should start with the new team", Michael declared.

Michael Lanigan, who is a member of Kilkenny Corporation, said he had been considering stepping down for the past 12 months. He had, as he said himself, grown up with most of those players on the team of the early seventies, so he felt it was best to leave with them.

"It was something I found very hard to do. The

players, Fr. Tom Maher, Mick O'Neill, Paddy Grace and the selectors, and everyone associated with Kilkenny teams during my time made my task easy. It also made leaving more difficult", he said.

At least now, Michael Lanigan has one consolation. "For the first time in years I can go to a match and actually enjoy it. I will be able to sit down and watch what is actually happening", he joked.

During his association with the county team, Kilkenny fared as follows:

1967 - beat Tipperary in all-Ireland final; 1968 - won nothing; 1969 - beat Cork in all-Ireland final; 1970 - beaten by Wexford in Leinster final.

1971 - start of Leinster final five-in-a-row and beaten by Tipperary in all-Ireland final; 1972 - beat Cork in all-Ireland final; 1973 - lost to Limerick in all-Ireland final.

1974 - beat Limerick in all-Ireland final; 1975 - beat Galway in all-Ireland



final; 1976 - won National Hurling League and lost Leinster final to Wexford.

1977 - lost Leinster final to Wexford and National Hurling League final to Clare; 1978 - lost National Hurling League final to Clare, won Leinster final and lost all-Ireland final to Cork.

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How did we take our beating?

HOW DID we take our beating in the all-Ireland final? Was the carping criticism of players and officials justified? Are we losing our true sense of sportsmanship?

This is a matter that must give rise to concern following the happenings after the defeat by Cork. Something entirely new and revolting was witnessed as certain players were singled out for attack by people who would like to call themselves supporters of hurling.

This makes one wonder where does the real meaning of the G.A.A. code of conduct impinge on the game. Supporters, it must be remembered, are part and parcel of the game and their attitudes are as important as those more closely identified with teams.

The people who follow the games — and in this instance

we are referring to the people who follow the county teams — reflect generally a county's spirit of sportsmanship — or lack of it. Here, the pertinent question must be asked — in what direction is Kilkenny heading?

Over the past 90 years or so Kilkenny have appeared in more all-Ireland senior hurling finals than any other county. We have broken fairly even, having won almost as many as we have lost. We know the disappointment of defeat in a final; we have become attuned to it; we have learned to take the rough with the smooth.

During all those years Kilkenny supporters built up a reputation for themselves for their spirit of sportsmanship. It would be sad if anything occurred which might tarnish that reputation. We ought to

be more mature in our attitudes.

From 1969 to 1978, a matter of 10 years, Kilkenny and Cork have clashed three times in all-Ireland finals, victory going to Kilkenny in 1969 and 1972, and to Cork this year. In between, Kil-

kenny lost to and beat Limerick and beat Galway.

Limerick had not won an all-Ireland final for 43 years when they beat Kilkenny in 1973. Galway have only one all-Ireland title to their credit — 1923. What have Kilkenny supporters to complain about?

Refereed Finals

FIVE Kilkenny men refereed all-Ireland finals and John McCarthy, a member of Kilkenny Corporation, and one of the most prominent figures in the G.A.A. in Ireland in the latter years of the last century, refereed hurling and football finals, the football

in 1890 and the hurling in 1900.

John Lalor, one of the famed Threecastles brothers, refereed the 1914 hurling final. John Roberts refereed the 1928 final, Jack Mulcahy the 1954 final and Paddy Johnston the 1976 final.

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CORK – three-in-a-row All-Ireland winners 1978

BACK ROW (l.-r.): Fr. Bertie Troy (coach), Jimmy Barry Murphy, John Crowley, Tim Crowley, Ray Cummins, Martin O'Doherty, Pat Moylan, John Horgan, Denis Coughlan.

FRONT ROW (l.-r.): Tom Cashman, Dermot McCurtain, Sean O'Leary, Charlie McCarthy (captain), Martin Coleman, Brian Murphy, Gerald McCarthy.



CILL CHAINNIGH

All-Ireland Senior Hurling Finalists 1978

*BACK ROW (l.-r.): Brian Cody, Paddy Prendergast, Dick O'Hara, Frank Cummins, Richie Reid, Mick Crotty, Billy Fitzpatrick, Fan Larkin.
FRONT ROW (l.-r.): Joe Hennessy, Kevin Fennelly, Mick Brennan, Ger Henderson (captain), Noel Skehan, Liam O'Brien, Matt Ruth.*



Nowlan Park celebrates its Golden Jubilee



By
Pádraig Puirseál
of the
Irish Press

MAYBE, all unknown to me, there have been celebrations of some kind or other in Kilkenny to mark the Golden Jubilee of Nowlan Park. If there were, nobody gave the event any great publicity, because I saw nothing about it, in the 'Kilkenny People' or anywhere else.

Such a celebration or commemoration would have been something I would have given a great deal to attend, because, not only did I see Nowlan Park officially opened, but I also saw the first matches ever played there some three months before.

Memory is a tricky thing, and although, as a very small boy, I was present at a challenge match between Tipperary and Kilkenny a few months after the famed All-Ireland final of 1922 (played in September '23). I have no clear recollection at all of the old St. James's Park where that Kilkenny-Tipperary match was played sometime in the early summer of 1924.

I know Tipperary won well because I can remember friends of my father's teasing him in Waterford about the result some days afterwards.

Through the next couple of years I was at some thrilling county championship games between Mooncoin and Tullaroan, but these were played either in Knocktopher or Thomastown.

The Knocktopher game, which Mooncoin won, was played in a field of Holohan's very near the cross. That, I think, was the last match the late Jimmy McDonald from Emil and the Clogga Mills played for Mooncoin. I remember him tying the hurley on to the cross-bar of his bicycle and cycling away home afterwards, although the same Jimmy McDonald had played in an All-Ireland final with Dublin in 1908!

I may be wrong, but I think John Power from Piltown had come out of a long retirement to play with Mooncoin.

The match in Thomastown, which Tullaroan won, and in which to me Dick Grace seemed to be invincible, was not played, as far as my childish recollection serves, in what is now the field at Grennan but on some pitch at a far higher altitude.

PLANS

That must have been around 1925, and I have no recollection at all of being at any other championship game inside Kilkenny until Nowlan Park came into being in the summer of 1928, though I do recall games between Mooncoin and James Stephens and Mooncoin and Dicksboro, but those all took place in the old Waterford Sportsfield, now Walsh Park.

We had been hearing about plans for a new field for Kilkenny, which would be the sole property of the G.A.A. as St. James's Park was not. I looked up the records to see exactly when this was first mooted and the date was February 1927. Shortly afterwards the proposed ground was named for the first time when Leinster Council allotted £2,000 towards the 'new Nowlan Memorial Park at Kilkenny'.

In May 1927 the ground was bought from previous owner Peter Corcoran . . . for £700! One shudders to think what the same plot of land would fetch today.

Subsequently the Central Council also gave a grant, of £100, and the work proceeded so fast that the first official matches there were fixed for Sunday, June 17, 1928. The curtain-raiser was a 1927 junior football final replay between Cotterstown and Conahy, which Cotterstown won but the match which the crowds came to see was the 1928 senior hurling final between Mooncoin and Dicksboro.

The odd thing was that although that 1928 championship had been got through with remarkable speed, the 1927 final between Mooncoin and James Stephens was at that stage still undecided. Down in Mooncoin at the time we did not take too kindly to see our lads having to come up and play a city team, The Boro, more or less in their own back yard.

To be fair, however, we had no cause for complaint because the venue for that 1927 championship final against James Stephens was Waterford. As I remember it, and I watched the game from behind what was then, of course, a spand-new wall around the playing pitch (I cannot recall the present banking being there that first day at least), it was a fast, entertaining and sporting game, but I may have viewed it through slightly rose-tinted spectacles because Mooncoin won.

With the passage of the years, memory has dimmed the individual performances and the only fact that stands out in my mind is that the late Tom Kenny, then a slender teenager, played his first championship game in the Mooncoin defence and played extremely well.

SEAMUS PAID

According to the newspapers of the day, the first man to pay for admission at the main gate was the late Seamus McKenna, for so many years one of the greatest pillars of the G.A.A., not alone in Thomastown but all over South Kilkenny. The first man to pay into the sideline was a former captain of Mooncoin, Dick Walsh from Ballygorey, then and for long afterwards Creamery Manager at Kilmacow, and always known as 'Dick the Manager'.

There was an interesting footnote that, at the conclusion of these games, the former owner of the ground, Peter Corcoran, entertained the County Committee at his residence. But then, I think I read somewhere that the same Peter Corcoran carved the case in which the Railway Shield reposes in the Tholsel.

One thing I do vividly remember about the Sunday of that County Final was that it was a gloriously sunny day, but the

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Nowlan Park celebrates its Golden Jubilee

Continued from previous page

day of the official opening, Sunday, August 26, was a dark and gloomy day of torrential rain. It should have been a really memorable occasion, with Cork and Dublin meeting in the All-Ireland semi-final, a 'replay' of the 1927 All-Ireland in which Dublin, the outsiders, had scored an unexpectedly easy victory over holders Cork.

The ground was officially opened by Sean Ryan, a solicitor from Tipperary who was then President of the Association, and was officially blessed by the new Bishop of Ossory, Most Rev. Dr. Collier, who, if I remember rightly, had been consecrated only a week or two before.

I was on the sideline that day and had a close-up view of the proceedings and I have a mental picture still of the rain streaming down off the umbrella which someone held over the Bishop during the blessing.

The game itself was almost unbelievably disappointing, as Dublin, who had routed Kilkenny in the Leinster final, never raised a gallop and I think only scored one single point in each half. Moreover, though I was still pretty young in those days, the game seemed to turn sour in the closing stages.

In view of some recent suggestions about changing the date of the All-Ireland final, it is interesting to point out that the All-Ireland final that year was not played until the second Sunday in September.

All that was more than 50 years ago, and God knows I have had many and many a happy day and seen many a great game at Nowlan Park since then in sunshine and, sometimes, in rain. But though the ground has been improved out of all knowledge since then, one thing remains unchanged. The hurlers of today play on the same pitch that Mooncoin and The Boro walked onto on that warm June Sunday back in 1928.

Brothers are All-Stars



PAT and Ger Henderson are one of three sets of brothers to get Carrolls All Stars awards in hurling. Colm and Tony Doran and Martin and John Quigley were similarly honoured.

Ger Henderson got his award this year and Pat got it first in 1973 and again in 1974. Martin Quigley was a sports star in 1973, 1974, 1975 and 1976 and John in 1974.

Colm Doran was honoured in 1973 and Tony Doran in 1976.

Our problems have still to be solved

By **MICHAEL O'NEILL,**
Chairman,
County Board



HAVING been beaten in two successive National League finals and two Leinster finals Kilkenny were surprised to find themselves back again this year in the all-Ireland final. The surprise was all the greater because we were passing through a transitional period.

We had lost Eddie Keher, Kieran Purcell and Pat Delaney. This left the selectors with an impossible task. The Keher - Purcell - Delaney combination had blended perfectly into an attacking force that had few parallels in hurling history.

The selectors knew that these exceptional players could not be replaced overnight, but having been accustomed to the best for so many years supporters seem to have failed to adjust to the new situation.

Having won the Leinster final and beaten Galway in a hectic semi final Kilkenny followers felt that we were instantly back in the big time and that another all-Ireland title was there for the taking.

The theory that we only had to get into an all-Ireland final to win it was proved to be false. We had beaten Cork in 1969 and 1972 - the last all-Ireland finals between the counties - and that had probably conditioned us, mentally at least, to victory.

Those who reckoned along these lines failed to appreciate the true situation here - we had almost to re-shape the attack from scratch and you don't go into an all-Ireland final against Cork under these circumstances and come out on the right side.

From the start of the championship campaign there was hardly anything the selectors could do that would give general satisfaction. This, in itself, was an indication of the extent of our problems. There was no way players like Keher, Purcell and Delaney be replaced in so short a period. Some people seemed to close their eyes to this solid fact.

In the changed situation in which we found ourselves we had to experiment. Experiments don't always work, of course, and it is probably true to say that in this case in relation to this year's all-Ireland final they did not turn out as we had hoped.

We were at the big disadvantage, whereas Cork, after winning the title in the two previous years, had all on their side as far as experience was concerned and had the better of matters in the end.

Quite a number of theories have been put forward about what should or should not have been done but no one can say that anything that might have been done could have changed the course of the game. Cork won on merit.

It is true that their winning margin was only four points and they certainly got their share of the breaks. It was a game in which very little might have tilted it in Kilkenny's favour.

Whatever theories people might have about the game it is abundantly clear that Kilkenny were not just ready to get back into the big time immediately and as yet our problems have not been solved.

The search for the right blend in attack must go on. Our problems have still to be solved. There is a lot to be said for the view that Kilkenny were not just ready in 1978. How long it will take before we are ready remains to be seen.

Camogie players' part in Féile success

KILKENNY has, through the past decade, every reason to be proud of its Camogie players who have brought home All-Ireland titles at senior, club and colleges' level, but everyone associated with the game felt proudest of all of Kilkenny for the way in which the local committee organised the camogie section of Féile na nGael last summer.

Certainly, as President of the Camogie Association, I was extremely proud of the organisation and staging of the camogie games, and, while I suppose I am a bit prejudiced in my view, I do believe that the camogie game on finals day at Nowlan Park stole more than a little of the limelight from the hurling deciders.

Of course, the entire organisation of Féile na nGael in Kilkenny was excellent and gave positive proof that hurling and camogie are not alone very much alive but, with such a tremendous number of talented youngsters playing the games, the future must be very rosy and exciting indeed.

All the officials of Féile na nGael in Kilkenny fully deserve all the praise they have received, and, from our point of view, the Camogie

Association owes its best thanks to Mary Conway and Mary Fennelly for their tireless Féile work.

It was also very encouraging to see so many of the players from Kilkenny county Camogie team lending a helping hand, not alone in organising and in refereeing, but even in such tasks as putting up and taking down goalposts. These were players obviously giving back something to the game which has in so many ways been so good to them.

Another aspect of Féile that I felt was of immense importance to the future of the game is this. In the past I had felt that Kilkenny, despite the many recent victories on the playing field, was lacking in organisation in depth. But the number of teams that took the field in Féile na nGael proved me wrong, and Mary Fennelly told me, when last I met her, that her ambition is to have so many Kilkenny teams in action for the next Féile that they will be able to invite teams to play them from all the other 31 Counties.

Encouraging

It is also very encouraging to note the ever-growing strength of the game in the

post-primary schools. Of course St. Brigid's Callan and Presentation Kilkenny set a wonderful headline in the early years of the colleges' competitions, and their tradition of excellence has been continued by the Vocational Schools in Thomastown and Ballyhale.

With Callan and Presentation recovering some of their former power, the strength of camogie in the Kilkenny schools is very heartening indeed.

On the inter-county playing fields, 1978 was not as productive for Kilkenny as such enthusiasts as John Fennelly and Brendan O'Sullivan would have wished, but, after the disappointing defeat in the early stages of the championship, the team went into the League campaign with renewed determination, and the reward was the capturing of the A.I.B. Cup and the League title for the first time.

This was a great achievement when one considers that they had to field in the final without such great stalwarts as Angela Downey and Liz Neary. That game provided an example of the dedication of Kilkenny camogie players as Helena O'Neill, now Mrs.



By
Una Bean Uí Phuirséal

McCormack, cut short her honeymoon to come back and play, and it was as well she did so, since it was her accuracy that brought her county through.

Indeed it was a memorable year for Helena as, besides participating in that League victory, being a member of the St. Paul's team that won the All-Ireland Seven-a-side, and being a member of the Leinster side that regained the Gael-Linn Cup, she had another distinction.

Won Acclaim

Having already won acclaim as a referee in lesser grades, she took charge of the All-Ireland senior final between Cork and Dublin and

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A profile of the president

CONCHUR O MURCHU will have completed three years as president of the G.A.A. at Easter. Since our own Alderman Jim Nowlan held the office, no president has made a greater impact in Kilkenny than Con Murphy. He will, of course, be seeking election again and is very likely to have Kilkenny support. Con Murphy is a rather unusual president. Like Pat Fanning of Waterford he was an all-Ireland hurler and we don't often have all-Ireland hurlers, or ex-all-Ireland hurlers as presidents. It was perhaps this affinity — the leaning towards hurling — that won him a special place in Kilkenny. But to judge from Con Murphy's public utterances, there was more to it than that. The traditional feeling of mutual respect for each other's style of

hurling shown by Cork and Kilkenny down the years and that long standing friendship between the hurlers of both counties was firmly planted in Con Murphy's mind.

After all didn't Cork and Kilkenny 'make' hurling. That is not to say that other counties like Tipperary, Clare, Dublin, Wexford, Laois, Waterford and Galway didn't make their own contribution but from the early days of the association there was something special about Cork and Kilkenny.

Another thing about Con Murphy's tenure of office that made him special was his readiness to attend any function, no matter how insignificant it might seem, to which he was invited and he has visited Kilkenny more often than any other president.

He showed a special interest in the G.A.A. clubs in the rural areas. He wanted to be close to the grass roots and to identify with the work of the rural clubs. That did not deflect him in any way from his responsibilities at national level which occupied so much of his time.

Con Murphy as president was special to Kilkenny because we saw more of him than we did of any other president since Jim Nowlan's time.

He took a special interest in young people and this was quite manifest during Féile na nGael when he visited almost every parish in the county. We will be looking forward to meeting him again next year when Kilkenny will again host Féile na nGael.

DARA DONOVAN

DICK FITZGERALD, famed Kerry footballer — the fine G.A.A. Stadium in Killarney is named in his — once described Dara Donovan as the greatest footballer he ever saw. That is surely some tribute from a great Kerry man to a Kilkenny footballer.

James (Jim) Donovan was born on a 100-acre farm at Currahill, between Kilmoganny and Windgap, and flourished as a footballer between 1902 and 1913. He won senior county medals with Lamoque in 1902, 1903, 1904 and 1905 and with the Slatequarry Miners in 1907 and 1913.

He was on the Kilkenny team that won the 1911 Leinster senior final by 2-4 to 1-1. The Kilkenny team was: Dick Holohan (captain), Pat Dalton, Bill Dalton, Dick Dalton, James Doyle, James Dwyer, William Dwyer, Jim ('Dara') Donovan, James Cody, Dick Purcell, William Hoyne,

—Kilkenny's greatest footballer



Jim (Dara) Donovan

James Fitzgerald, Pat Power, Bill Saunders, Tom Brennan, Martin Hughes, Pat O'Neill, Tom Butler was a sub. Kilkenny beat Wexford 3-0 to 0-1 in the first round and then beat Kildare 1-2 to 0-2. Kilkenny lost 3-1 to 1-1 to Antrim in the All-Ireland semi-final.

Dara was on the Kilkenny team in 1903 when they had three games with Kildare before Kildare eventually won. In the first game the scores



Paddy O'Neill, Lamoque footballer and grand-father of Dr. Pat O'Neill who is on the Dublin senior football side.

were level — Kildare 1-2, Kilkenny 0-5. In the second game the scores were given as Kildare 1-6, Kilkenny 1-5, but a replay was ordered when Kilkenny claimed that one of their scores given as a point was, in fact, a goal. The umpires decided it was a point but the referee held it was a goal.

In the third meeting, Kildare won rather easily by 0-9 to a point.

Incidentally, in that same year,

Kildare played Kerry three times in the All-Ireland final. Donovan also played with Kilkenny against Dublin in the 1905 Leinster final which Dublin won by 0-5 to 0-1, and against Louth in the 1909 Leinster final which Louth won 2-9 to 0-4.

Dara Donovan was an outstanding sportsman. With the late John Hawe of Kilmoganny he was secretary of the Kilmoganny and Blackbog Coursing Club and these two splendid Kilkennymen were also involved in the Kilmoganny Harriers Point-to-Point meeting over the nationally known Blackbog course.

Dara Donovan was a rate collector. He died in 1956. He lived through what was the best period in Kilkenny football. Kilkenny actually won the 1903 All-Ireland final but lost it on an objection. There were three Tipperary men, who played with the Slatequarry Miners, on the side and Tipperary objected. The three men then played with Tipperary and won.

All the footballers of Dara Donovan's time were outstanding and were able to hold their own with the best in Leinster.



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When James Stephens made more history

HISTORY was made on October 15 of this year when James Stephens became the first Kilkenny club to line out at Gaelic Park, New York against the 1977 Connacht club champions, Tremaine, Roscommon. After a close and hard fought first half James Stephens ran out easy winners by 0-10 to 0-4.

The following Sunday was the highlight of the tour when the Kilkenny senior county champions of 1975 and 1978 clashed with The New York All Stars at Gaelic Park.

John Byrne, Sports Editor in his report in the 'Irish Echo' had this to say:

There was great jubilation in the James Stephens dressing room when G.A.A. president Jack Salmon presented the New York G.A.A. cup to team captain, Sean Brennan following the visitors' magnificent performance defeating the New York All Stars 2-6 to 0-10.

In addition to receiving the trophy Brennan played a typical captain's role at midfield where he completely dominated the exchanges and helped to chart this merited triumph.

The visiting Kilkenny club upped its performance of the previous Sunday against Tremaine and in the process provided the paid patrons with a fine hurling hour. Needless to say the New York Stars also had a good share in serving up fine fare. At half time and at the end the fans gave both teams a rousing ovation.

Though apparently tired and weary after touring many city and State sights The

Village hurlers reached down for an extra effort and with team coach Liam Tyrrell's constant exhortations and advice from the sideline the result was a solid, hard won victory.

I have already mentioned Brennan's excellent display. There were other heroic deeds by the Village lads and Paddy Neary scaled the heights with a flawless and fearless hour at full back. He should soon again be hearing the county selectors call.

Not necessarily in this order, others to excell for James Stephens were goalkeeper Mick Moore, who now has had two shutouts on this tour plus one against Clare in the New York championship in mid-Summer (three blankings out of four 1978 New York appearances - Galway spoiled his late in the N.Y. final); Mick Leahy whose two goals were a game high; Martin Hennessy at centre half back; Mick Taylor, Gerald Tyrrell and Sean Lakes, a splendid half forward trio; Tom Brennan and Paddy Egan on Hennessy's flanks; Pat Doyle and Tony Tyrrell who gave Paddy Neary excellent support; John Joe Cullen who ably teamed with Sean Brennan at midfield and Noel Ryan and Frank Madigan completed a fine team effort on the attacking corners.

The large James Stephens crowd (a plane load) also appeared to be satisfied with its team's display and during the game added plenty of vocal encouragement from the end stand.

Tony Cullinane (Tipperary

and Clare) and Joe Firth (Clare) led the New York attack with 0-3 each and each of these New York stars played to top form throughout. Donal Curtin (Clare and Cork) sparkled in the New York net and kept the visitors from recording a higher goal total - some of his saves were top flight efforts.

Defensively Sean Custy the lively and capable Clare full back was at his best following

the Kilkenny attackers and veteran Dave DeLoughry who played at right half back and right full back was sound and effective in both positions.

Phil Kennedy of Wexford bore the full weight of the Village forwards without flinching and was far and away New York's top performer - anything less in this defensive slot would have

Con'd. on page 18

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JAMES STEPHENS MADE HISTORY

Cont'd. from page 17

spelled a greater New York defeat.

Mick Butler and Val Egan and later Tremaine's fine centre half back, Sean Farrell also played well on the half back line. Mick Reynolds, like Farrell also came on from the subs but had to leave after a hand injury.

At midfield Bernie Ahern and Joe Firth gave it a great go without however getting on terms with the Village pair. Jimmy Whelan the Wexford speedster was New York's most effective hurler and produced his best hurling since coming here last year.

Donal O'Brien and Tony Cullinane with Whelan completed the New York half forward line. Hubby McCabe, Tony Egan and Jim Egan were others who tried hard to win the trophy for New York.

James Stephens scorers: Mick Leahy (2-0); Sean Brennan (0-3); Noel Ryan, Mick Taylor, Sean Lakes (0-1 each).

New York scorers: Tony Cullinane, Joe Firth (0-3 each); Mick Butler, Micky Reynolds (0-1 each); Donal O'Brien (0-2).

A celebration party was held in nearby Martin Leahy's bar where the Kilkenny travellers renewed acquaintance with many Kilkenny exiles.

On the last Saturday of the tour (Oct. 28) James Stephens played a Kilkenny G.A.A. club selection in Gaelic Park and after a very entertaining game the Village came out victors by 2-15 to 1-11.

There were many well known stalwarts on the Kilkenny New York team including Sean Lakes, Phil Kennedy, Dave DeLoughry, John Power, John Harnett. The James Stephens line out included; Mick Moore, Pat Doyle, Paddy Neary, Tony Tyrrell, Andy Egan, Martin Hennessy, Tom Brennan, Sean Brennan, J. J. Cullen, Frank Madigan, Ger Tyrrell, Mick Taylor, Noel Ryan, Mick Leahy, Liam Tyrrell, manager.

After the final game a

reception was held by the Kilkenny G.A.A. club in the Terminal Bar (owned by M. Donovan, Callan) for the team and touring party.

A plaque commemorating the James Stephens tour was presented by Dave DeLoughry on behalf of the New York G.A.A. Board to Bill Brennan, vice-chairman of the visiting club. The club also received a beautiful trophy from John Byrne, president of the Kilkenny Hurling Club on winning the final game against the local team.

Bill Brennan thanked John Byrne and his committee for their co-operation in making the tour so successful. A special presentation was made to Paddy Neary for his brilliant displays in the three games.

Other highlights included a visit to New York City hall where members of the tour committee presented a scroll and a book on Kilkenny's history to the Deputy Mayor of New York, Mr. De Cicero from the Mayor of Kilkenny, Mr. Luke Boyle. Mr. John Byrne and Judge James J. Comerford accompanied the

party on the visit to the City Hall.

Another enjoyable feature was a two-day trip to Washington. The party visited The White House; the Capitol; Arlington Cemetery; the Lincoln Monument and the Smithsonian Institute.

On the first night of the visit a Ceili was arranged in the Four Provinces Bar and on the return journey to New York the party visited the Naval Academy at Annapolis.

Other highlights included visits to the Statue of Liberty; the World Trade Centre; the Empire State Building; the United Nations Building; West Point Academy; the Museum of Natural History; Central Park and a trip up the Hudson Valley.

Mr. Tom Manning, Manning's travel agency, made the arrangements for the flight with the co-operation of the Kilkenny Hurling Club. The Mayor, Mr. Luke Boyle and the Kilkenny County Board also helped while a number of local business people helped to sponsor hurling gear for the players.

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Muckalee's Athletic Achievements

DURING the year members of Muckalee Athletic Club won 27 championship medals, including one all-Ireland and Leinster titles; 11 county championships on the track and 13 cross-country medals.

Though the club was formed only two years ago Muckalee down the years produced many famous athletes.

Tom Moran (senior) was champion weight-throws for years.

Joe Kelly (senior) won the all-Army championship in 1940.

Nick Comerford won eight all-Ireland and 38 Leinster championship medals in addition to 70 county championship medals.

Nick was an all-round sportsman.

Tom Moran (junior), standing at six feet, two inches and weighing 16 stone won the all-Ireland weight throwing title with a throw of 27 feet, eight inches.

A star of the Muckalee-Ballyfoyle

hurling side he has played both hurling and football for the county. He won junior and intermediate hurling medals with Muckalee-Ballyfoyle Rangers; two senior football medals with Muckalee and 16 tournament trophies.

Tom's best throw of the 56 lbs is 28 feet, five inches in Cork in 1976, his best throw over the bar being 15 feet, one inch.

Jimmy Kelly won five county championship medals – the hurdles, 16 lb shot; discus, javelin and high jump and was second in the 200 m. Jimmy won an all-Ireland medal for the decathlon in 1972. He plays hurling and football with Muckalee.

He won a junior hurling medal with Coon and 4 junior and intermediate hurling medals with Muckalee-Ballyfoyle Rangers as well as seven hurling trophies. He won two junior and three senior football medals.

Pat Maher won a silver medal in the Leinster championship 56 lbs without follow and two silver medals in the county championships. He won 14 hurling trophies with Muckalee – Ballyfoyle Rangers and three senior football medals with Muckalee.

The Muckalee athletic team took second team medals in the county novice cross-country championships during the year. The team: Ger Comerford, Mickie Maher, Lar Comerford, Tom Comerford, Pat Maher, Jack Morrissey, Jack Morrissey; incidentally has played hurling and football for the county.

The team also took silver medals in the junior cross country championships.

Murty Kelly won an all-Ireland medal with Brow Rangers N.A.C.A. in the discus. He went to Portugal during the summer and was placed second in the discus. Brow Rangers club is in the parish of Muckalee.

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96 AND STILL GOING STRONG

Talking to John T. Power

THERE have been three glorious eras in Kilkenny history. The first covered the years 1904 to 1913 which saw the county take seven all-Ireland titles in 10 years; the second was 1939-1940 in which Kilkenny contested eight all-Ireland finals, winning on four occasions and the third era was 1966 to 1975 during which Kilkenny took four titles from eight appearances.

The subject of this article is John T. Power of Piltown, the only surviving member of the all-conquering 1904-1913 period.

John T. Power, although he is 96 years still walks with an athletic style that belies his years. His memory is fantastic and remarkably accurate.

I was introduced to him by Paddy O'Halloran of Ferrybank who was once a neighbour of his. I spoke to him for over two hours and I must say it seemed the shortest two hours I ever spent.

Knowing his record I was able to bring him along the years and many and varied were the little anecdotes he recounted. Eddie Keher had been a visitor to him shortly before I spoke to him and he was highly pleased to have met in person Kilkenny's most prolific scorer.

Played in Dublin

John Power first played in the Kilkenny championships in 1903 with Piltown, but before that he had played with Thomas Davis Hurling Club in Dublin where he spent some time as a civil servant. He packed up the Civil Service and came home to Piltown to work the family farm.

What is not generally known about him is that the first time he played for Kilkenny he played outfield. This was in a challenge game played in November 1907 against Dublin who had just beaten Kilkenny in the 1906 Leinster final. Kilkenny were short several players and had to get three Dublin men to

play for them. They were Jack Grace, Pierce Grace and J. McDonald.

This was the one and only time that Jack Grace (a Tullaroan man who won five all-Ireland football titles with Dublin) ever played for Kilkenny.

Shortly after this John Power came on as a sub on the Leinster team which lost heavily to Munster in a 1907 Railway Shield game. Again John Power played outfield.

About this time, Kilkenny had a goalie problem. Pat ('Fox') Maher who had played in the 1904 triumph had retired while Ned Teehan who kept goal for the 1905 winning side after playing for the first championship game in 1906, was dropped for the Leinster final against Dublin. He was replaced by Jim Dunphy who was later to win an all-Ireland medal in 1909 when John Power did not play because of a dispute.

Jim Dunphy emigrated to Wales and this left the county selectors without a goalie. They then put John Power in the goal, a position he played for his club.

John won his first all-Ireland medal in 1907 and he was later to pick up three more all-Ireland medals in 1911, 1912 and 1913.

I felt in talking to him that his not playing in the 1909 all-Ireland final was his greatest disappointment. "I was anxious to play myself", he told me, "but Piltown club would not allow me. Jack Anthony and J. Butler from the Piltown club were also on the panel but were not allowed to travel.

Piltown's grievance followed upon a hard fought semi-final game with Mooncoin at Carrick on Suir in the 1909 championship which Mooncoin won by 4-5 to 1-2.

Played Cricket

John Power also told me that as a young boy he used to play cricket. At that time the Bessboro estate was in full flower and each Saturday



the young boys around Piltown were invited up to the 'Big House' to play cricket. After the game they used to have tea.

John Power as a young lad was so keen on hurling that he played with any side that asked him and he told me of travelling to Cork to play with Waterford in the Munster championship.

Matt Gargan, who was serving his time to the stone cutting craft in Waterford, also played with Waterford on the same day, according to John.

John Power could not remember the year but Matt Gargan did play for Waterford in the 1905 Munster championship. When Kilkenny objected to Jim McCarthy the Cork goalie after the 1905 final, Cork counter-objected to Matt Gargan on the grounds that he played with Waterford in the Munster championship.

As both teams were illegal a replay was ordered. Kilkenny won the replay.

John also told of playing in the Tipperary senior hurling final with Carrick against "De Wets". The game was played in Thurles, according to Power. I looked up this assertion in the "Tipperary G.A.A. Story" written by the late Canon Frigarty and right enough there it was for 1902 - 'De Wets' 7-10, Carrick 1-2.

The teams were also listed and on the Carrick team was John Power. In actual fact there were two John Powers listed on the Carrick lineout.

The former Piltown star spoke of his visits to Liverpool and Glasgow to play with Kilkenny in 1913. On the

morning of the Glasgow trip he rose at 2 a.m. and mowed a field of hay for a neighbour.

"After finishing the cutting of the hay, I went in and had my breakfast at 6 a.m. and then set off to walk to Waterford to meet the Dublin train.

"We had a great time on the Glasgow trip but I was not too keen on the visit to Liverpool. The Glasgow team had a Mooncoin chap in goal; we wanted him to come home with us; he didn't and the following year he was conscripted into the British Army and was killed in the war."

John Power played two county finals with Piltown being captain on both occasions. They lost both games to Tullaroan. In 1904 they lost by 6-14 to 1-6 and in 1910 they lost by 7-1 to 3-0.

'Drove Walton Mad'

He recalled the second game by saying that his goalkeeping display was one of his greatest ever. "I played full-back in the first half and Tullaroan scored six goals."

The newspaper reports of the game bear out this fact. When John took over in the goal Tullaroan did not get another goal until the very last minute.

"That was the day I drove Sim Walton mad", he said. Walton took some fierce shots at Power but he stopped them all, and try as he might Sim could not get through for a goal.

John Power did win two county senior medals when he played with Mooncoin in 1913 and 1916, Mooncoin

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Talking to John T. Power

Cont'd. from p. 21

winning county honours in these years.

The 1916 county final was rather unique. The medal struck for the championship bore the years 1916-17-18. There are many people in Mooncoin who claim they should be counted as county champions for the three years although only one championship was played.

While the medals said 1916-17-18 it still represents only one championship. Due to the state of the country at the time the convention of 1916 was not held until October and while only six teams entered for the championship it dragged on until 1919 when it was finally played with Mooncoin beating Tullaroan in a replay.

John Power retired after this game but, amazingly, he was recalled to play for the county against Galway in the 1925 all-Ireland semi-final.

John had played with the old Kilkenny team against the Kilkenny team of the period in a benefit for "Droog" Walsh and such was his display that he was recalled to play in goal against Galway as the Dicksboro goalie Mick Burke who played in the Leinster final against Dublin hit an unhappy day.

Won on objection

Kilkenny won that Leinster final on an objection. Power's recall did not have a happy ending as his long lay off had impaired his effectiveness and Galway scored nine goals.

Although he did not play in the 1909 all-Ireland final because of a club dispute John Power was afterwards one of those who tried hard to unite the county team, particularly in 1914, 1915 and 1916 when disputes cost Kilkenny at least one all-Ireland title.

He played in goal when Kilkenny won the 1916 Leinster final and shortly after the first round win he wrote to the newspapers urging that the unity be restored for the all-Ireland final. The following is his letter to the newspapers.

"Now that the Kilkenny

hurlers have qualified through the first round of the Leinster championship I wish to appeal to the Gaels to close their ranks and prepare for the coming final. If the desire to win another all-Ireland championship is predominant an effort should be made to field the best combination obtainable.

"In my judgment the team fielded at Wexford Park, good though it was, is not capable of annexing Leinster or all-Ireland honours. Therefore, I appeal to all Gaels to help in bridging the difficulty. As a suggestion I advance the following: three delegates be appointed from Tullaroan, Mooncoin and Dicksboro and when appointed a meeting be arranged in Kilkenny with the help of the chairman and secretary of the County Board.

"If the delegates discuss the question with open minds and be prepared to give and take it is not impossible to come to an agreement. I am appealing personally as I am anxious to uphold the credit of our county and I do not think it is above our ability to annex another final. Trusting that my suggestion may be of use."

Unfortunately a number of players would not play in the all-Ireland final and Kilkenny lost to Tipperary by 5-4 to 3-2.

John T. Power still holds all the medals he won with the exception of the 1912 all-Ireland medal which he gave to a priest who was going to Australia. Included in his collection are: Three all-Ireland medals, 1909, 1911, 1913 (he won an all-Ireland medal in 1912, of course); six Leinster medals - 1907, 1909, 1911, 1912, 1913, 1916.

The Railway Shield medal, 1908; the medal presented by the Central Council for the game between Kilkenny and Tipperary in 1911 in lieu of the all-Ireland final; the medal presented by the citizens of Kilkenny to the hurlers in 1907; two county senior medals, 1913 and 1916; a Munster Feis medal in 1911 - it took four games to decide this 'marathon'.

Hand-made

These medals are the finest I have ever seen; they are all hand-made. Indeed none of the present day medals could match them for style and

quality. Some of them are unique and must be the only medals of their kind around.

John T. Power does not hold much regard for the hurleys used by present day goalies with the wide boss. He showed me the hurley he used in the 1912 and 1913 all-Ireland finals. The boss is smaller than that used by goalies today. It must be remembered, too, that up to 1910 goalies had to defend point posts at each side of goal posts as we now know them. If the ball passed between these posts a point was recorded.

John T. used to walk to Waterford station to meet the train when travelling to matches with two shillings (10 new pence) in his pocket. His father always travelled to Kilkenny and nearby venues in pony and cart to see him play. After Kilkenny winning the Railway Shield in 1908, he met his father after the game and he was so excited he gave

him ten shillings. 'I thought I was a millionaire', he said.

"I was only taken off my feet once", he said. "That was in a county championship game and the man to do it was Mick Doyle of Mooncoin. I can tell you he never came into me again as he knew what to expect.

"A man had to be able to take care of himself in those days", said John T.

Seeing the solid frame of this nonegenarian it is easy to imagine how capable he was of looking after himself 70 years ago.

As I left Piltown that April evening I knew I was privileged to have spoken to this hurling giant from the past - possibly the oldest living all-Ireland medal winner in the country. It was a memory to cherish. John T. Power still lives on, a symbol of hurling history in Kilkenny - a man who was a legend in his own lifetime and a living link with Kilkenny's glorious past.

TOM RYALL.

TWO GOLDEN JUBILEES

KILKENNY celebrates two Golden Jubilees this year. Nowlan Park was opened in 1928 and the Carrickshock Hurling Club was formed in the same year.

Nowlan Park is named after Alderman James Nowlan who was President of the G.A.A. for 20 years, the first twenty years of the century.

Carrickshock, a union between Knockmoylan and Hugginstown made an immediate impact and in their third year won the county senior hurling title. They are the only club in the county to have won four senior hurling titles in a row.

Camogie players' part in Féile Success

Cont'd. from p. 15

performed her duties very successfully indeed.

In addition to their work for camogie in the home county, Kilkenny players have been doing great work in other counties. Breda Larkin was a pioneer of the game in St. Patrick's Maynooth, where Angela Downey has built on the Larkin foundations with great success, and indeed Angela is now making her presence felt in Presentation Convent, Kilcock.

Ann Carroll, whose services to so many facets of the game have been extraordinary, has lifted camogie to a

hitherto unknown level in Donegal, while yet another former Kilkenny All-Ireland player, Sr. Phil O'Shea, has aroused new enthusiasm for our game in the Mary Immaculate Training College in Limerick.

So I am very glad of this opportunity of expressing my gratitude to all the camogie folk in Kilkenny for what they have achieved for our game, and am happy, too, of the chance to thank the Féile Committee for their interest in Camogie and their kindness and hospitality to me personally. I am already looking forward, if in a private capacity, to Féile 1979.

THE SHAMROCKS

—Great expectations

IN THE past both Ballyhale and Knocktopher were better known as football rather than hurling areas but within the precincts of Carrickshock the switch of emphasis from football to hurling was not surprising. Like other noted centres — Tullaroan and Mooncoin, for instance — Carrickshock came and went and while hurling is still well and truly flourishing it is not the Carrickshock that blazed a trail of glory in the 1940's.

When, therefore, Ballyhale and Knocktopher decided to join in 1972 to form The Shamrocks they had within their ranks a number of men who had helped to mould the Carrickshock of a previous generation and, consequently, they became heirs to the Carrickshock tradition.

Lest there be any confusion in anyone's mind about the matter, the Carrickshock club is still in existence and has been prominent in the junior grade for some years.

Both Knocktopher and Ballyhale had flourished in the past when southern junior titles had to be earned the hard way and a great Knocktopher team led by Dan Carroll won the junior hurling title in 1931, the same year that Carrickshock won their first senior county title.

In recent years the feeling had got round that the only way the parish — Ballyhale parish includes Knocktopher — could achieve anything worthwhile was by the two joining together. Who inspired the move is not too easy to ascertain. V. Rev. Fr. Heaslip, O.Carm., and Rev. Sean S. Reid, O.Carm., could have had a hand in it; the late Francis Holohan is credited with having a big part while the hurlers themselves seemed very keen on the idea.

Prominent in the early days of the club were: Fr. Heaslip, Fr. Reid, Francis Holohan, Bob Aylward, Kevin Fennelly, Sean Walsh, Jack Fitzpatrick, Paddy O'Keeffe (Kiltorcan).

First secretary

Pat Walsh was the first secretary and he was succeeded by Sean Walsh who held the post for two years; followed by Sean Reid for three years, then Sean Aylward and now Brendan Fennelly. Jack Fitzpatrick was chairman up to this year when he was elected president, with Kevin Fennelly senior is chairman; Eddie Walsh (Castlegannon), vice-chairman; Mick Hoyne and Sean Aylward, treasurers. The Shamrocks have come a long way in the short space of six years. They won the under-21 county championship in 1972, 1973 and

1974; the junior in 1973 and intermediate in 1974. They won the minor championship in 1976. In addition they won the junior football title in 1975 and at present are in the senior campaign.

The Shamrocks have good reason to be sanguine about the future and both Kevin Fennelly and Sean Walsh have great expectations. They have good grounds for the optimism. There are in the club 45 players, practically all of them young and the club has a membership of 90.

But success did not come instantly. They performed so well when winning the intermediate title that the senior honours were only a step away. But there were frustrations on the way and even this year and their prospects rated all that highly outside the confines of the parish.

But what of their own mentors. Sean Walsh said: "We had hoped to win from the beginning of the year. The campaign was not all that easy and we were lucky enough to get over Castlecomer. But the players showed great spirit and dedication".

The trainer

Tom Ryan also had a big say in the triumph. Sean Walsh said he put a tremendous amount of work into it and he succeeded in making the lads very fit. This was a big factor in their victory. What of the future? Kevin Fennelly feels that The Shamrocks will stay at the top for some time. "At least we hope to", he said. "It is not going to be easy. It will take a lot of hard work but we have plenty of talent; plenty of promising young players and there is no reason why we should not be involved for quite some time to come". Both Kevin Fennelly and Sean Walsh pointed to The Fenians and Bennettsbridge — two clubs that represent phenomenal success stories — and they see no reason why they should not follow in the same vein.

The Shamrocks have got over the first major hurdle. It was surmounted in style and in winning this year's senior

title they have shown championship experience and coolness under pressure. They have made the transition; they have reached the level of performance necessary to sustain a challenge in the top flight.

This coolness under pressure was highlighted when they played Castlecomer in a preliminary round game at Nowlan Park. After doing the greater part of the hurling they faded in the third quarter and never rose a flag. 'Comer, on the other hand, stepped up their game and drew level and things seemed to be going very much in their favour. But The Shamrocks did not crack and they got back on the trail again to record an easy victory. This was clear evidence that they had matured and that maturity was underlined in their subsequent game and particularly in the county final.

The final

Having surmounted all the hurdles successfully, The Shamrocks faced the final without Richie Reid, county half-back, but far from being dismayed by the setback, they travelled to Nowlan Park quietly confident. The selectors did their work well and Kevin Fennelly, Sean Walsh and Stephen Walsh made 10 changes compared with the side that finished against The Rower-Inistioge.

Some of the changes were forced upon them, of course, but over-all, the dressingroom strategy had a big say in their impressive 0-15 to 0-10 win over title-holders The Fenians.

The over-riding consideration was to subdue if at all possible the chief danger men in the Johnstown side — Ger Henderson and Billie Fitzpatrick — and having accomplished this they had laid a solid foundation for success.

This was a team effort and each member of the team played his part, some more prominently than others. Wattie Phelan, John Walsh, Ger Fennelly, Denis Shefflin, Maurice Mason, Liam Fennelly (particularly in

Continued on page 26

Players of the past

The parish has given its quota of players to the county team over the years. Jimmy Walsh, Jimmy Kelly, Jack Phelan, Bob Aylward, Jack Fitzpatrick, Sean O'Farrell, Tom Dalton, Bill Dalton, Bill Walsh, Denis Heaslip, Frank Cummins, Pat Carroll and, in addition, there were men like Georgie Dermody and 'Dux' Kelly who were in the top class.

Incidentally, Frank Cummins played on the Ballyhale minor team for one season. It is also worth recalling that Pat ('Dexter') Aylward was on the Kilkenny team that beat Tipperary in the sensational final of 1922 (played in 1923).

The Shamrocks

Cont'd. from page 25

the closing stages), Michael Fennelly, Kevin Fennelly, Brendan Fennelly and Pat Holden were among the more prominent ones.

Ollie Harrington, like his opposite number P. J. Ryan, kept his goal intact while for The Fenians Dick Dowling, Mick Garrett, John Henderson, Brendan Broderick and Pat Delaney were prominent. Liam Dalton, Maurice Healy, Declan Connolly, Sean Fennelly completed a winning Shamrocks com-

ination that was so very effective because it was so well balanced. Scorers for **The Shamrocks**: Ger Fennelly (0-6, two from frees, one from a '65), Brendan Fennelly (0-3) Michael Fennelly and Patrick Holden (0-2 each), John Walsh and Kevin Fennelly (0-1 each).

For **The Fenians**: Billie Fitzpatrick (0-3, 0-2 from frees), Brendan Broderick (0-3), J. Moriarty (0-1 from a free), P. Delaney, B. Watson and P. Henderson (0-1 each).

SHAMROCKS — O. Harrington, D. Shefflin, L. Dalton, M. Healy, W. Phelan, M. Mason, D. Connolly, J.

Walsh, S. Fennelly, M. Fennelly, P. Holden, G. Fennelly, L. Fennelly, B. Fennelly, K. Fennelly. *Subs: M. Kelly and S. Reid.*

THE FENIANS — P. J. Ryan, J. Henderson, N. Orr, M. Fitzpatrick, D. Dowling, P. Henderson, J. Ryan, M. Garrett, G. Henderson, B. Fitzpatrick, P. Delaney, J. Moriarty, B. Watson, D. Delaney, B. Broderick. *Sub: J. Power for S. Delaney.*

John Walsh, who gave a brilliant display at midfield, was awarded man of the match by a special panel, getting the honour by 'a fraction' from Ger Fennelly.

THEY WON CARROLLS ALL-STAR AWARDS

JOE HENNESSY

AFTER once threatening to give up the inter-county game, Joe Hennessy was persuaded to reconsider, and this year he collected his first Carrolls All-Star award. This is a very fine achievement by a young player who has made a very big impact so early in his career.

Joe Hennessy never won an all-Ireland inter-county senior medal, but he helped his club, James Stephens to their inter-club all-Ireland title in 1975-'76. That day he started at wing-forward, but later moved to his favourite wing-back position and was the star of the match.

He won Kilkenny county senior hurling championship medals in 1975 and 1976. He played his early hurling with Kilkenny C.B.S. Joe is 5' 9" high and weighs 11½ st. He is 22 and works in the family timber business.

He won the right half-back position for "The admirable spirit of enterprise he exhibited in his half-back play, his coolness and self assurance".

PHIL 'FAN' LARKIN

THE same month he celebrated his 37th birthday, Phil 'Fan' Larkin won his fourth Carrolls All-Star hurling honour. He must be one of the oldest players ever selected on this all-Ireland team. He also won the award in 1973, 1974, and 1976.

Phil Larkin won all-Ireland medals in 1963, 1972, 1974 and 1976 and county senior hurling championship honours in 1969, 1975 and 1976. He captained his club, James Stephens to their all-Ireland inter-club championship victory in 1975-'76.

He is regarded as one of the most wiry defenders in the game, and to think he was once discarded by the county selectors for a seven year period. Phil stands 5' 4½" high and weighs 11½ st. He is a plasterer by trade.

He won the right full-back position for "The marvellous endurance and dedication he gives to the game, and for the peaks of defensive solidarity he still shows at this stage of a great career".

GER HENDERSON

Many hurling followers were of the opinion that Ger Henderson should have won a Carrolls All-Star award last year, but this time his hurling demanded his inclusion. It was a first honour that was well deserved.

Ger Henderson had difficulty adjusting to the inter-county side at first, but he stuck with the task and is now one of the best defenders in the country. He was never honoured at under-age level for Kilkenny, but hurled with Johnstown vocational school.

With his club The Fenians (Johnstown) he won county championships in 1972, 1973, 1974 and 1977. He won all-Ireland inter-county medals in 1974 and 1975. He weighs 13st and stands six foot high. He works on the family farm in Johnstown.

Ger Henderson won the centre-half back position for "His unceasing tenaciousness and absolute reliability, and the manner he established himself in his new position with his county".

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Good progress in under-16 competitions

AT THE time of writing, eight of the 10 competitions for under-16 have been decided. The only competitions remaining to be completed are the Roinn A and Roinn B football championships. The closing stages have been reached in both these competitions with The Gaels in the final awaiting the winners of the St. Patrick's - St. Lactain's semi-final.

Piltown have qualified for the Roinn B decider and they meet the winners of Moneenroe and Goresbridge.

The rise of Piltown in football has been one of the success stories of the year's under-16 competitions. They took everyone completely by surprise with their display in the Roinn B football league, beating Moneenroe, an area with a great football tradition by 5-9 to 0-3 in the final.

This side won the under 13 championship a couple of years ago and, trained by local teacher Dan Kenny, they have come on in leaps and bounds.

In Jim Norris, Pat Long and Tony Foley they have the nucleus of a side that would hold its own even in the Roinn A competition.

In the Roinn A football league the Gaels showed themselves to be away above anything the other teams could offer and were never seriously tested. They had easy wins over Castlecomer and St. Patrick's and in the final they beat St. Lactain's by 6-4 to 2-3.

The Gaels have good footballers in Declan Byrne, Eamonn Leahy, Ger Fitzpatrick, Tommy Moylan, Edward Kennedy and Daniel Goulding. St. Lactain's, who conceded three goals in the first quarter and hope to do better in the championship.

They have good players in Larry McEvoy, Eamonn Maher, Martin Dawson, Liam Phelan, Michael Swayne, Gerry Henderson and Padraig Carroll. Moneenroe, although well beaten in the final, still have fine players in Seamus Coogan, Luke O'Shea, Michael Rowe and Tommy Wilson.

Mooncoin's great year

It was a great year for Mooncoin at under-16 level. They took both the league and championship titles in

Roinn A. It was the third year in succession for Mooncoin to take the league title.

Their opponents in the league final were Gowran and the sides finished level, Mooncoin 2-9, Gowran 4-3. Gowran scored two late goals to draw the game. Mooncoin made no mistake in the replay and ran out winners by 9-11 to 1-3 with schoolboy star Seamus Delahunty notching 4-4.

However, it was the championship win over O'Loughlin's that gave Mooncoin the greatest satisfaction. The sides have been great rivals over the past three years.

It is now history how Mooncoin were awarded the title two years ago after O'Loughlin's failed to replay an unfinished game in which they were in the lead by 3-4 to 1-6 with four minutes left for play.

It was Mooncoin's first win since 1962 and it was an unsatisfactory way to win the title.

Mooncoin lost last year's final to O'Loughlin's by 4-7 to 1-6 when both sides were trying to make up for the previous year's debacle.

Cont'd. on page 28 ▷

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UNDER-16

Cont'd. from page 28

Thus, this year's victory was sweet revenge for Mooncoin. The scoreline was very comparable to last year's with Mooncoin winning by 4-7 to 1-8. Michael Coleman, Declan O'Keeffe, Jimmy Holden, Tom Kearns, Eddie O'Keeffe, Liam McCarthy and Seamus Delahunty are stars of the future who should be figuring with Kilkenny minors in the next year or two. O'Loughlin's best players were diminutive Paul Cleere in goal, Benny Cleere, Ger Fitzpatrick, Eamon Leahy and Tommy Moylan.

Good fare

THE ROINN B competitions produced some good fare with the league final producing a dramatic finish. Piltown were leading Graignamanagh by five points with two minutes left for play. Graignamanagh got through for a goal and then staged a last attack. They were awarded a free about 30 yards out and the referee told the taker he would have to score direct. He took the free and planted it in the net for a dramatic last-minute score — Graignamanagh 5-6, Piltown 4-8. Piltown came back to beat Graignamanagh in the championship but they were surprised themselves in the Southern final when they were beaten by Mullinavat. The Northern series produced a series

of draws with Johnstown beating Castlecomer by one point on the third day. Johnstown played a further draw in the Northern final against St. Lactain's but were well beaten in the replay by 3-6 to 1-3.

Mullinavat, who had come up from Roinn C last year, went the whole way and will play in Roinn A next year when they won the B championship by beating St. Lactain's 4-5 to 2-0. Outstanding for Mullinavat were the McDonald brothers, Peter and John; Stephen Foskin, Sean Walsh, Liam Law and Dan Power. John McDonald, who was on the Kilkenny under-14 team in 1977, scored 3-3 in the final. Lactain's had good players in Eddie Maher, Liam Phelan, Michael Walsh and Paddy Byrne.

Laurels divided

Roinn C also saw a divide of the laurels. Slieverue took the league title when they beat Bennettsbridge in a controversial game. Slieverue's winning margin was one point, 6-7 to 7-3. Leading by 10 points at half-time. Slieverue had increased the lead to 14 points with 15 minutes left to play. Bennettsbridge staged a great rally. They took the lead in the closing minutes but the goal was disallowed for a 'square' infringement. Slieverue just held out for that one point win. Bennettsbridge made no mistake in the championship and building up a big

half-time lead they ran out convincing winners by 1-2 to 2-3 over their league victors.

Bennettsbridge had an outstanding under-16 player — Richard McCarthy — who has already played with Bennettsbridge in the senior hurling championship. He is still eligible for under-16 next year.

Other players with a bright future are Gerry Cleere, Jim Comerford and Gerry Kelly.

Slieverue, too, had their stars in John and Henry Condon, Pat Fleming and Ger Frisby.

The following were the winners of the competitions:

Roinn A Hurling Championship — Mooncoin.

Roinn B Hurling Championship — Mullinavat.

Roinn C Hurling Championship — Bennettsbridge.

Roinn A Hurling League — Mooncoin.

Roinn B Hurling League — Graignamanagh.

Roinn C Hurling League — Slieverue.

Roinn A Football League — The Gaels.

Roinn B Football League — Piltown.

Roinn A Football Championship — The Gaels, St. Lactain's and St. Patrick's still involved.

Roinn B Football Championship — Piltown, Moneenroe and Goresbridge still involved.

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KEVIN FENNELLY

Kevin, one of the six Fennelly brothers on the county champions' side, won most fame as a goalie and gave some outstanding performances as net-minder when Kilkenny won two All-Ireland under 21 medals. Probably his best game was against Cork in the 1972 under-21 final at Dungarvan.

He played goalie for his club for some time but was then experimented with as a forward and has been in an attacking rôle for some time now.

Kevin has won minor and under-21 All-Ireland titles and played in his first senior All-Ireland final this year. He helped his club to win in their first senior county championship this year.



MICK BRENNAN

Mick Brennan came into prominence as an under 21 player and won his first senior medal in 1972. He was also on the successful 1974 and 1975 Kilkenny senior sides and was twice honoured by the Carrolls All-Stars selectors.

Mick had probably his best game ever in the 1975 All-Ireland against Limerick and it was his kicked goal midway through the first half which put Kilkenny on the road to victory. He won an All-Ireland Intermediate medal with Warwickshire in 1969. He won his only National League medal in June 76 when Kilkenny beat Clare.

GER FENNELLY

Ger Fennelly has also won minor and under 21 All-Ireland medals. A stylist in the best Kilkenny tradition, he gave some outstanding performances on the county under-21 side and also played some fine games in senior ranks.

He played a very big part in the success of the Shamrocks in the junior, intermediate and senior county championship campaigns and has yet to reach full maturity in senior inter-county hurling.

Ger had the honour of captaining the first Kilkenny Under-21 championship winning team in 1974 when Kilkenny beat Waterford by a point. He played at midfield also on the 1972 victorious minor team.





PADDY PRENDERGAST

Paddy Prendergast is another of the younger members of the Kilkenny team and, like Richie Reid and Dick O'Hara, came up through minor and under-21, winning All-Ireland medals in both grades. He won the confidence of the selectors following some promising National League performances and had his first game in an All-Ireland senior final this year.

Another St. Kieran's College product, Paddy began his hurling career with Clara and his first big success was when Clara won the county junior title a couple of years ago. Paddy and his brothers have given conspicuous service to Clara while David also played with the well-known Cork club, Blackrock, as a club-mate of Frank Cummins.

DICK O'HARA

The young Thomastown man who helps to work the family farm at Jackstown is another of the young players like Richard Reid who came up through minor and under 21 grades. Dick won two minor and two under-21 All-Ireland medals and also won two vocational school All-Ireland medals with Kilkenny.

One of Kilkenny's best footballers, he was one of the select few — all students of Thomastown Vocational School — to win a Leinster football medal. He was on the school side that won the Leinster under-15 title a few years ago. He has won a permanent place for himself on the county senior side but, like Richard Reid, injury has kept him out of the game for some time.



RICHARD REID

It was, perhaps, inevitable that the Shamrocks would produce potential All-Ireland senior material apart from the Fennellys and this year saw Richard Reid make the grade on the half-back line. The young Kiltorcan man started his hurling in Ballyhale and graduated into senior ranks after getting his initial introduction to the big-time in St. Kieran's College.

St. Kieran's, of course, did not win a colleges' All-Ireland title for some time but its reputation as a hurling nursery still stands and Richard Reid fitted perfectly into the Shamrocks' defence when the Ballyhale — Knocktopher combination made its big impact.

He won his place on the Kilkenny half-back line and won his first Leinster medal this year.

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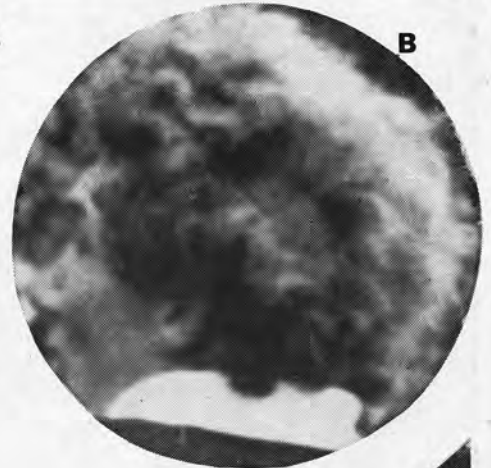
Closing date for entries is Friday, January 26th, 1979.

Results will be published in the 'Kilkenny People' on Friday, February 2nd, 1979.

Entries, in a stamped addressed envelope to be sent to: 'Kilkenny G.A.A. Yearbook Quiz', Kilkenny People, 34 High Street, Kilkenny.

QUIZ

1. Who won the Texaco hurler of the year award in 1974?
2. How many National Hurling League titles have Kilkenny won?
3. Who won the Kilkenny Senior Hurling Championship in 1961?
4. Who was the first Kilkenny man to win the Texaco (Caltex) award?
5. Who beat Kilkenny in the 1945 All-Ireland final?
6. Four Kilkenny men have won 7 All-Ireland senior hurling medals each. Who are they?
7. Who did the Fenians (Johnstown) beat in the 1968 Junior Hurling Final?
8. Who captained James Stephens when they won the All-Ireland Club Final in 1976?
9. Who did Eddie Keher replace in the 1959 All-Ireland Senior Final replay?
10. Noel Skehan has family connections with the 1947 All-Ireland winning team with which member?
11. Who captained Kilkenny in the 1958 All-Ireland semi-final against Tipperary?
12. Name the four Kilkenny men selected on the first All-Stars team in 1971?





G



H

SPOT THE PLAYERS

On these pages we show photographs of well known players in situations where their identity is obscured. Can you identify them?



I



J



K

Please Note: Employees of the "Kilkenny People" and their direct family are not allowed to enter this competition.

SPOT THE PLAYERS

QUIZ

- Pic. A
- Pic. B.
- Pic. C
- Pic. D.
- Pic. E
- Pic. F
- Pic. G
- Pic. G
- Pic H
- Pic. I
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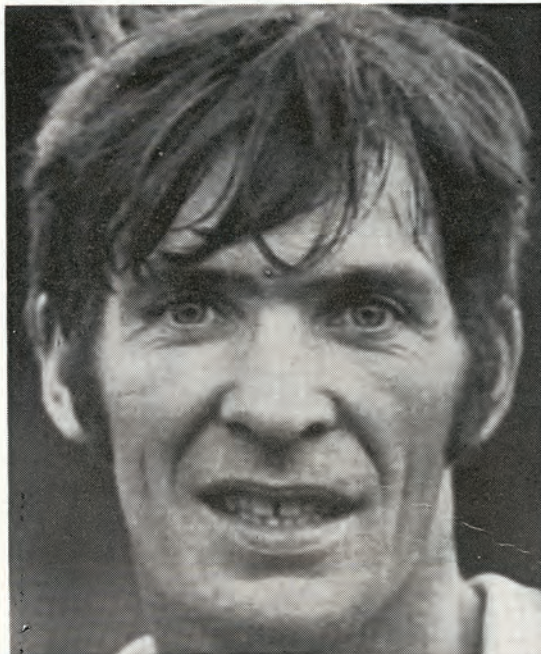
Name

Address

LIAM O'BRIEN

Liam O'Brien made his first big impact in the 1972 All-Ireland final against Cork and was outstanding too in the 1974 and 1975 finals. He has been made a Carrolls All-Star on three occasions.

He won the Texaco hurler of the year award in 1975, thus becoming the sixth Kilkenny man to win this award. He captained Kilkenny in 1977. He has won 2 County Senior Championship medals and was an invaluable asset to James Stephens when they won the All-Ireland Club Championship in 1976 by beating Blackrock, Cork. He also has won Railway Cup medals and he won his only League medal to date in 1976 when Kilkenny beat Clare.



FRANK CUMMINS:

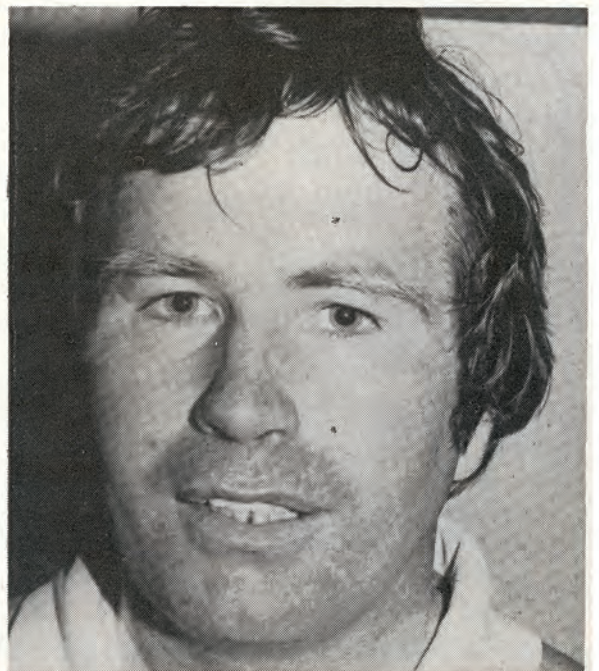
Frank Cummins won all-Ireland senior medals in 1967, 1969, 1972, 1974 and 1975 and Carrolls All-Star award twice. He is one of Kilkenny's most consistent hurlers and one of the best midfielders in the game. He has won four county senior championship medals with Blackrock, Cork.

He helped Blackrock win the All-Ireland Club title in 1972 and 1974. On each occasion they beat Rathnure of Wexford. He played on the Ballyhale team as a schoolboy and won a minor county championship in 1965. He was a member of the Leinster Railway Cup team that won a record 5-in-a-row between 1971 and 1975. He won his only National League souvenir in 1976 against Clare.

NOEL SKEHAN:

Noel had been waiting in the wings while Ollie Walsh was carving a niche of his own in hurling history. He won all-Ireland medals in 1963, 1967, 1969 (as sub goalie) and in 1972, 1974 and 1975. He was a Carrolls All-Star in 1972, 1973, 1974, 1975 and 1976 and has won six county championship medals.

His five All-Star awards is a record he shares with Eddie Keher, Pat Hartigan and Jimmy Barry Murphy. He has also played for Leinster and holds Railway Cup medal. He is a cousin of his predecessor Ollie Walsh and his uncle, the late Dan Kennedy, led Kilkenny to victory over Cork in 1947.





Top Left: Tom Walton scores a point in the 1977 Leinster Final against Dublin as Paddy O'Brien lends a hand.



Top Right: The throw-in to start the 1947 All-Ireland Final. Christy Ring and Dan Kennedy tussle for the ball.



Right: Anxious moments for the Kilkenny defence as a high ball drops in the square in the All-Ireland Final against Cork.

**1947
ACTION**



Kilkenny National League Team 1947.

*Back Row: Jim Langton, Christy Phelan, Shem Downey, Podge Dack, Jimmy Kelly, Terry Leahy, Jack Mulcahy.
Front Row: Ramie Dowling, Jim Gibbons, Jimmy Heffernan, Tom Walton, Bill Walsh, Pat ('Diamond') Hayden, Peter Prendergast, Mark Marnell and Paddy O'Brien.*

Lesson learned – Kilkenny to be more careful

GOING ON the assumption that people learn more quickly from mistakes, Kilkenny will be some force to be reckoned with in the under-21 hurling championship for the next few years!

The reason being, they were wrapped sharply on the knuckles in the 1978 championship. Kilkenny underestimated the opposition and paid the penalty by being dumped out of the competition.

The under-21 championship lasted only one hour for Kilkenny this year. The Nore-siders, who had won three of the four previous finals, fell to unfancied Laois at Portlaoise.

The shock of that first round defeat should herald a more positive approach in the next few years, and consequently, Kilkenny should reap rich harvests.

Laois, full of enthusiasm and high hopes, seemed to represent a rather easy obstacle for the champions, who had beaten Cork in a hectic all-Ireland final the previous year. But the O'Moore County side didn't see it that way, and certainly gave nothing away soft.

They won in the end by 1-7 to 0-8 after being led up to, and through, the three-quarter mark. The losers led by 0-4 to 0-3 at half-time, not because they were in a higher category, but because they performed the simple things like rising and striking better than their opponents.

Changed match

But into the last 14 minute, the arrival of substitute, Christy Dunphy on the field for Laois changed the match right around. The Laois county minor celebrated his arrival with a goal, and then shortly after he scored a point for good measure.

With Con Wall, Kevin

Culleton, Seamie Phelan and Christy Dunphy, he was mainly responsible for contributing to this, one of the biggest hurling upsets in over a decade.

After all, Kilkenny had 11 of the previous year's team still under-age. They were expected to saunter through the earlier rounds, and then improve with games and be ready to take on the best in the final. But the plan never got a chance to get off the ground.

Kilkenny travelled to Portlaoise without a full strength side. They were made pay for under-estimating Laois. In one hour, a match was lost, but what was a potential all-Ireland winning team was scratched.

The Leinster champions made a determined effort to save face in the dying seconds. They forced a penalty, which had it been scored, would have given them a draw. But the shot went high over the bar, and shortly after the final whistle sounded.

No midfielder

With that whistle possibly went an all-Ireland and maybe a Leinster title. Laois lost the provincial final to Offaly, who in turn fell in the all-Ireland semi-final to the eventual winners, Galway.

That night Kilkenny went to Portlaoise without Dick O'Hara and Paudie Lannon (Thomastown) and Kieran Brennan, who was not asked to travel because he was on Army duty. Joe Wall from Mooncoin was also missing.

The defending champions played without a recognised midfield player, and two men who play corner-forward and right half-back for their clubs filled the number 8 and 9 jerseys. At the appointed starting time, the losers hadn't a full compliment at the venue, and that didn't add anything to the team spirit.

Its hardly any use now crying over spilt milk. But the

lesson should be taken up, and this type of thing should never be allowed happen again. There was more involved than the loss of a match, or even an all-Ireland. There was also a loss of face and pride.

The only Kilkenny player to really shine that evening was Clara's Harry Ryan. He was brilliant and was by far the best player on view.

Not enough

Paddy Prendergast stood out when the going got rough near the finish, and John Henderson, John Power, Ger Stapleton, Richie Power and Eddie Mahon also did well.

In the game, the losers had

three goals disallowed, all for square infringements. They hit the same number of scores as the winners, but in the final tally, it was not enough.

The Kilkenny team that night was: E. Mahon (Erin's Own), J. Henderson (Fenians), M. Meagher (John Lockes), P. Prendergast (Clara), H. Ryan (Clara), J. Lawler (Barrow Rangers), G. Stapleton (Dicksboro), P. Murphy (Glenmore), J. Power (Fenians), S. Hennessy (Barrow Rangers), R. Power (Carrickshock), E. Crowley (Mooncoin), A. Bergin (O'Loughlin's), C. Heffernan (Glenmore), E. Deegan (O'Loughlins). Subs: J. Heffernan (Glenmore) for Crowley; J. Ryan (Fenians) for Bergin.

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Every meeting of Kilkenny and Cork in an all-Ireland final, or in any hurling competition for that matter must inevitably recall the three epic contests of 1931 which wrote their own special chapter in the history of hurling.

But let it not be inferred from this that the part that Cork and Kilkenny have played in hurling history is confined to three games in 1931. Before that and since, the two counties have added and are adding further pages of glory to our greatest national game.

In an effort to recapture for younger people, particularly, some of the magic moments of Cork/Kilkenny hurling at its best we have selected in addition to the three epics of 1931, two other memorable finals – 1939 and 1947. Kilkenny and Cork have met in 13 all-Ireland finals, Kilkenny winning eight to Cork's five, and it is worth noting that four of Kilkenny's successes were won by a single point.

The 1939 and 1947 finals were won by a point.

The 1931 saga – hurling's finest hour

It is probably true to say that the 1931 all-Ireland clash between Kilkenny and Cork did more to popularise hurling than anything that happened before or since. The counties played two draws before Cork eventually won. The two drawn games were classics, the second game being generally regarded as possible the finest exhibition of hurling ever seen. That, of course, is a matter for debate.

The two drawn games generated nation wide enthusiasm. The whole country was gripped by a sense of wonder that two great teams should finish level after two tense games and there was quite a lobby

throughout for the counties to share all-Ireland honours. The Central Council, however, by 10 votes to 5 decided against this and in the third clash a depleted Kilkenny fell rather heavily to the Rebel County.

Mr. Justice Hanna of Dublin who was among those wanting the honours shared said, after the second game: "I have witnessed many big matches from baseball to international rugby but none gave me the thrills of this, my first hurling match".

The three games brought over 90,000 to Croke Park and even though Kilkenny lost, they had the distinction of sharing in what was, without doubt, the most

important chapter in hurling history.

Kilkenny probably had their best chance in the first game which ended with the sides scoring 1-6 each. They had 16 frees to Cork's 11; three '70's to Cork's two and 11 wides to Cork's nine. Even Lory Meagher felt that Kilkenny might have won this game and that he, himself, might have contributed more.

This was a seasoned Cork side that had been beaten Kilkenny in the 1926 final, and while most of the Cork men in the 1931 history making clash had seen service in 1926, Kilkenny were a comparatively new team and

it was largely a battle of experience against youth.

In a dramatic second half Kilkenny went ahead by a point from a free scored by Dan Dunne minutes before full time, but O'Grady levelled just on the call of time.

Kilkenny, playing towards the Canal end in the first half started well with an early score from Matty Power but Eddie Coughlan levelled. Lory Meagher sent over the bar from a '70' but Mick O'Connell had a Cork point.

Cork then took up the running and after Bill Clancy had sent over the bar 'Gah' Ahearne got through for a

Cont'd. on page 41 ▶



Kilkenny goalie Jim Dermody is effectively policed as the ball goes over the bar for a Cork point in the first of the three finals between Cork and Kilkenny in 1931.

1931 SAGA

Continued from page 39

goal to leave the half time scores:

Cork 1-3
Kilkenny 0-2

Cork were flying in the early stages of the second half and points by Eddie Coughlan and 'Balty' Ahearne stretched the Cork lead to six points.

Kilkenny fought back. A centre by Lory Meagher was finished to the net by Dan Dunne and Mick Larkin added a point following another centre by Meagher. Meagher had two points from frees to level, and the exchange of points between Dan Dunne and Pat O'Grady left matters level at the end.

Kilkenny: Jim Dermody, Paddy Larkin, Peter O'Reilly, Billy Dalton, Tommy Carroll, Podge Byrne, Eddie Doyle, Lory Meagher, Eddie Byrne, Paddy Phelan, Martin White, Dick Morrissey, Dan Dunne, Mick Larkin, Matty Power.

Cork: J. Coughlan, M. Madden, E. O'Connell, P. ('Fox') Collins, Dinny Barry Murphy, Jim O'Regan, T. Barry, Jim Hurley, M. O'Connell, Eddie Coughlan, M. ('Gah') Ahearne, P. O'Grady, Paddy Delea, P. ('Balty') Ahearne, W. Clancy.

Jim Dermody gave a fine display in goal and Eddie Doyle and Tommy Carroll, Paddy Larkin and Peter

O'Reilly were sound in the defence. Lory Meagher and Eddie Byrne figured prominently at midfield while Dan Dunne and Matty Power starred in the attack.

Jim O'Regan, Jim Hurley, Eudie Coughlan and 'Gah' Ahearne were outstanding in a well balanced Cork side.

Dick Morrissey, Kilkenny's left half forward was injured late in the second half and had to retire. He was replaced by his Mooncoin club colleague, Jack Duggan.

The Second Game

In the second replay on October 11, the scores were 2-5 each. This was one of the greatest games ever and either side could have won.

A rather unusual coincidence about the first two games was that the two sides had the same number of scores — seven in both games — the only difference being that in the second game one of the scores was a goal.

Kilkenny opened in great style but slackened off coming to the interval. Cork then took over but Kilkenny came again

near the end and finished with great vigour.

Cork led by 2-4 to 1-3 at half time, but they were held to a single point in the second half, Kilkenny putting on a goal and two points.

Cork led by 2-4 to 1-3 at half time but they were held to a single point in the second half, Kilkenny putting on a goal and two points.

Jim Hurley opened the scoring with a long range Cork point, but Dan Dunne put Kilkenny ahead when he finished a raid to the net. Lory Meagher put on a Kilkenny point and Paddy Phelan added another, but Cork came back and Eudie Coughlan scored a fine goal.

Coughlan and Gah Ahearne had points and after Clancy goaled for Cork, Lory Meagher and Gah Ahearne put on points before the interval.

Lory Meagher was in brilliant form in the second half and put over an early point. He followed with another point and then 'Skipper' Walsh hooked a ball to the net to give Kilkenny the lead by a point. Delea with a nice effort put the sides level with a well taken point.

Jack Duggan, who came on for Dick Morrissey in the first game, retained his place while Paddy ('Skipper') Walsh took over from Martin White (injured).

Jim Dermody, the goalie, was Kilkenny's hero in this game. He brought off a number of remarkable saves

and won the applause of everyone. Lory Meagher dominated at midfield while Eddie Byrne had one of his best games ever. Matty Power and Dan Dunne were conspicuous in the attack.

Jim O'Regan gave an outstanding display at centre half back for Cork while Eudie Coughlan was again the star of the attack. Jim Hurley also figured very prominently as did Gah Ahearne and Willie Clancy.

There were few weak links on either side and a sizzling pace was maintained from start to finish.

Gerry Leahy, Urlingford replaced Lory Meagher who was injured in this game, and Skipper Walsh came on for Martin White.

The Final Game

THE KELLS pipe band led the Kilkenny team on to the field for the third game and there was great enthusiasm despite the gloom caused by the loss of Lory Meagher. The Kells pipers played the National Anthem and the Archbishop of Hobart, Tasmania, Most Rev. Dr. Hayden, a Kilkenny man greeted the two captains before throwing in the ball.

In this game Denny Treacy, Carrickshock came on for his club colleague, Billy Dalton (injured) and Tommy Leahy played in place of Lory

A jubilant Dan Dunne jumps for joy after scoring this Kilkenny goal in the second draw between Cork and Kilkenny in the 1931 final. Mick Larkin is on the left and Matty Power lies on the ground. The ball is clearly visible on the way to the net.



1931 Saga – Cont'd. from page 41

Meagher. Gerry Leahy again came on as a sub.

To add to Kilkenny's troubles, Paddy Larkin was unable to fill the right full back position and Paddy Phelan was moved from right half forward to take his place, Jack Duggan moving into the Tullaroan man's place in the attack. Matty Power and Skipper Walsh changed places in the attack, Matty

Power moving out to the half line.

Cork got off to a dream start with two soft goals and they never looked back. Kilkenny seemed unable to stay the pace and the Corkmen were faster to the ball. At times Eudie Coughlan and Jim Hurley roamed practically at will and Jim O'Regan was unbeatable at centre half back.

Peter O'Reilly had a great game for Kilkenny as did

Matty Power, Dan Dunne, Tommy Leahy and Skipper Walsh.

Skipper Walsh, receiving from Matty Power had a goal after Cork had a point in the first minute. Matty Power pointed for Kilkenny but Denny Barry Murphy, Clancy and Jim Hurley with Cork scores put the Lee men ahead. Hurley and Power exchanged points and Gah Ahearne finished Denny Barry Murphy's centre to the net to leave Cork ahead by 2-5 to 1-2 at half time.

Matty Power had a point

and Dan Dunne a goal, the goal coming from a centre by Jack Duggan and Eddie Byrne pointed a Kilkenny free.

Kilkenny had reduced the lead to a point but they then collapsed and Cork had matters very much to their liking in the closing 10 minutes.

Clancy shot to the net and Jim Hurley followed with a point. 'Balty' Ahearne finished a Hurley centre for a goal and Clancy and Gah Ahearne added points. Leahy and Delea exchanged goals before the end.

1939 final – thunder and thrills

OF ALL the great finals between Cork and Kilkenny, the 1939 decider will have its own special significance — it was played on the day that England declared war on Germany on September 3, and was the fourth time that Kilkenny had beaten Cork by a point in an All-Ireland final.

The other occasions were — 1904, Kilkenny 1-9, Cork 1-8; 1907, Kilkenny 3-13, Cork 4-8, and 1912, Kilkenny 2-1, Cork 1-3.

The 1939 final was also significant in that the second half, or the most part of it, was played in a thunderstorm.

Early in the second half a big black cloud seemed to split in two as a flash of lightning forked across it. A solid wall of water fell from the heavens and though the rain came down in torrents the game continued with, if anything, increased vigour.

The rain was so bad that, according to Jimmy Kelly, "you could not recognise the player beside you, and the black and amber dye from our jerseys ran down into our boots as did the red and white of the Corkmen's jerseys".

The fury of the game kept pace with the fury of the weather and a great Cork rally whittled away Kilkenny's half-time lead of six points and a Cork goal levelled the scores.

It looked like ending in a draw. A Kilkenny free was sent into the Cork goalmouth by Paddy Phelan but Bart Thornhill cleared in great style. The ball came out to within 65 yards of the Cork goal and Jimmy Kelly, gathering on the wing, sent a grand shot over the bar for the winning point.

This was a really great game. Kilkenny had the better of matters in the first half, turning over with a lead of 2-4 to 1-1. But Cork rallied splendidly in the second half.

Cork had the breeze behind them in the first half and Kilkenny got off to a fine start when a good centre by Paddy Phelan was flashed to the net by Jim

Phelan. Seanie O'Brien had a Kilkenny point and Jack Lynch opened the Cork account with a point. Bart Thornhill made a good Cork clearance but Jim Langton sent a nice shot over the bar. O'Sullivan had a nice goal for Cork.

Jimmy Walsh and Jimmy Kelly kept the Kilkenny forwards well supplied and a centre by Bobby Hinks from a cut-in was finished for a point by Jim Langton. Another cut-in by Bobby Hinks reached Terry Leahy and from him to Langton. Langton passed to Jack Mulcahy whose high centre across the goal was flicked to the net by Seanie O'Brien.

Jack Gargan retired with a thumb injury and was replaced by Bobby Brannigan and the half-time score read — **Kilkenny 2-4, Cork 1-1.**

From a centre by Paddy Phelan from a free, Terry Leahy stretched Kilkenny's lead with a point but Dineen receiving from Jack Lynch had a Cork goal. Buttimer in the Cork goal saved a rasper from Seanie O'Brien.

The rain was now coming down in torrents. O'Sullivan had a point for Cork but a centre by Jimmy Kelly was finished for a point by Jim Phelan which put Kilkenny four points ahead. But points by Jack Lynch and a goal by Bill Campbell, from a free from mid-field, levelled matters. Campbell's well directed shot slipped surprisingly through backs and forwards and Jimmy O'Connell, who had made some great saves when Cork rallied their forces, was unsighted.

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

Cork — J. Buttimer, A. Lotty, B. Thornhill, W. Murphy, J. Young, J.

Quirke, W. Campbell, J. Barrett, C. Buckley, W. Tabb, R. Dineen, J. Lynch, M. Brennan, T. O'Sullivan, R. Ring.

The scores and scorers

THE SCORES were: **Kilkenny 2-7, Cork 3-3.** The Kilkenny score was the same as the Cork tally in the 1947 All-Ireland final, the next thrilling Cork-Kilkenny encounter in an All-Ireland final, Kilkenny scoring 14 points in the 1947 game.

Scorers for Kilkenny were: Seanie O'Brien (1-1), Jim Phelan (1-1), Jim Langton (0-3), Terry Leahy (0-1), Jimmy Kelly (0-1). Cork's scorers were: R. Dineen (1-0), T. O'Sullivan (1-1), W. Campbell (1-0), J. Lynch (0-2).

Jimmy Kelly's part in two victories

IN THE 1939 All-Ireland final, Jimmy Kelly scored the winning point with the second last puck of the game. In the 1947 final he hooked Jack Lynch (present Taoiseach) three times as he surged towards the Kilkenny goal with his sights set on the corner of the Kilkenny net.

After dispossessing the Cork hurling and football star of that period, Kelly sent the ball upfield and Terry Leahy scored a point. Those two incidents had quite a lot to do with the winning of All-Ireland titles for Kilkenny. Terry Leahy had a somewhat similar role in the 1947 final when he sent over the winning point with the second last puck of the game. He did the same

Cont'd. on page 45 ▷

JIMMY KELLY *Cont'd from p.43*

in the All-Ireland semi-final against Galway at Birr – surely one of the most dramatic semi-finals ever played.

Galway were a point in front and the referee blew his whistle for a Kilkenny free. The Galway supporters thinking it was the end stormed on to the pitch to cheer their heroes and it was some

time before the pitch was cleared. In the couple of minutes remaining, Jim Langton and Terry Leahy scored a point each to give Kilkenny a dramatic victory.

1947 – was it the greatest?

HARDLY anyone among the 61,570 crowd at the 1947 all-Ireland final would disagree with the view, so often expressed since, that this was the greatest final. From the time that Tom Walton racing away from Dr. Jim Young to gather 50 yards out and send over the bar in the first minute to Terry Leahy's point with the second last puck of the game there was not a dull moment.

There was never more than three points between the sides, Kilkenny forging ahead by 0-4 to 0-1 after 10 minutes but from that to the end the scoring was more or less on a tit-for-tat scale.

Cork's first goal in the 23rd minute of the second half put them a point ahead; they were still only a point to the good when Joe Kelly got their second goal in the 30th minute.

The trauma that had been built up in an exhilarating first half reached its climax in the closing minutes.

In the 36th minute of the second half Terry Leahy levelled the scoring with a point and if referee, Phil Purcell of Tipperary had decided to call it a day after the puck out he hardly had time to reach a decision when Terry Leahy had the ball sailing over the bar again.

That was a winning point, the end of a dramatic hour that featured some of the best hurling ever seen in Croke Park. It was all the more surprising as in the previous year Cork had scored a runaway win over Kilkenny in a disappointing final. Possibly Kilkenny were steeled for



WILLIE CAHILL



DAN KENNEDY

the big occasion by having had a terribly tough game against Galway in the semi final. Again it was a point by Terry Leahy seconds before the end that won the day. To get back to the All Ireland final there were some memorable incidents that will live with those who had the pleasure of seeing them.

Midway through the second half Jack Lynch (the present Taoiseach) was hooked three times by Jimmy Kelly when he was in an ideal scoring position and had his sights set on the Kilkenny goal. Jimmy Kelly robbed him eventually and his clearance reached Terry Leahy who sent over the bar. Kilkenny played against a fairly stiff breeze in the first half and Jack Mulcahy raised Kilkenny's morale when he scored a great point from a '70'.

Twice in the second half Cork went ahead in the 23rd minute when Gerry O'Riordan scored a goal and in the 30th minute when Joe Kelly shot to the net.

Cork had pinned their hopes on Gerry O'Riordan and Champion sprinter Joe Kelly having too much speed for the Kilkenny defence but Paddy Grace and Pat (Dia-



JIMMY KELLY



TERRY LEAHY

mond) Hayden, up to the time that he moved to centre half, performed spectacularly and one of Terry Leahy's last minute points came from a daredevil sortie by Paddy Grace who raced out to meet a shot destined for Joe Kelly's corner and got in a great clearance.

There was consternation among Kilkenny supporters when Peter Prendergast had to retire injured and the Kilkenny selectors were constrained to shift Pat Hayden to centre half to mark Christy Ring who was held down to a single point. Eddie (now Monsignor) Kavanagh came on to the full back line.

Kilkenny had their troubles even before the game began, Bill Walsh was off with a finger injury. Mark Marnell took over at left full back in his place; Jack Mulcahy, lined out at left half and Jimmy Heffernan took over at midfield with Kilkenny captain, Dan Kennedy.

There was very little in it with Kilkenny just barely staying in front except for the brief periods when Cork got the goals. Kilkenny led by 0-7 to 0-5 at half time.

The scores by the clock give the best indication of how this thrilling tussle went: In the first minute Tom Walton had a Kilkenny point and Joe Kelly levelled in the fourth minute. Jim Langton had two points, one from a free in the 5th minute and the second in the 9th minute and Jack Mulcahy's point from the '70' came in the 10th minute.

Jim Langton had another point in the 12th minute and Sean Condon had two Cork points from frees in the 15th and 18th minutes. Shem Doherty pointed for Kilkenny in the 23rd minute and Terry Leahy had his first point in the 26th minute. Jack Lynch and Sean Condon had points for Cork in the 27th and 29th minutes.

Continued on page 47 ▷



BILL WALSH



EDDIE KAVANAGH



Jim Donegan, the Kilkenny goalie, is airborne as he makes a clearance in the 1947 All-Ireland final. Mark Marnell, Terry Leahy and Jimmy Kelly are also in the picture, while the contours of Pat ('Diamond') Hayden's sturdy frame (he is wearing number 3 jersey) are unmistakable.

1947 – Continued from page 45

Sean Condon put over another Cork point in the 6th minute of the second half and three minutes later Terry Leahy sent over the bar. Christy Ring's point came in the 13th minute and Liam Reidy had a Kilkenny point in the 18th minute. Gerry O'Riordan had a goal in the 23rd minute followed with three points, one by Shem Downey in the 26th minute and two by Terry Leahy in the 28th and 29th minutes.

Joe Kelly's goal came in the 30th minute and Terry Leahy had points in the 36th and 37th minutes.

There were no weak links on either side and the 30

players provided all the thrills that can come from Cork and Kilkenny at their best.

KILKENNY: Jim Donegan, Paddy Grace, Pat Hayden, Mark Marnell, Jimmy Kelly, Peter Prendergast, Jack Mulcahy, Dan Kennedy, Jimmy Heffernan, Tom Walton, Terry Leahy, Jim Langton, Shem Downey, Billy Cahill, Liam Reidy. Sub: E. Kavanagh for Peter Prendergast.

CORK: Tom Mulcahy, Bill Murphy, Con Murphy, D. J. Buckley, Paddy Donovan, Alan Lotty, Dr. Jim Young, Jack Lynch, Con Cottrell, Sean Condon, Christy Ring, Con Murphy, Mossy O'Riordan, Gerry O'Riordan, Joe Kelly.



Jimmy Kelly (extreme left), Mick Butler and Paddy Grace under pressure in the 1946 all-Ireland final in which Cork had an easy win over Kilkenny. Bill Walsh is partly hidden behind Mick Butler.



THE 1947 KILKENNY TEAM WHICH BEAT CORK 0-14 TO 2-7 IN THE ALL-IRELAND FINAL

FRONT ROW (left to right): The late Mr. Mick Joyce, Callan; Jack Egan, sub goalie, Jim Donegan, Padraig Lennon, Paddy O'Brien. MIDDLE ROW (left to right): The late Mr. Mick Dalton (trainer), Liam Reidy, Mark Marnell, Pat ('Diamond') Hayden, Dan Kennedy (captain), Peter Prendergast, Willie Cahill, Paddy Grace, the late Mr. Syd Bluett. BACK ROW (left to right): The late Mr. Tom Walsh, chairman of the County Board; Nick O'Donnell, Tommy Murphy, Shem Downey, Jack Mulcahy, Jim Langton, Eddie Kavanagh, Terry Leahy, Tom Walton, Jimmy Heffernan, Jimmy Kelly, Bill Walsh. Joe Grace who took charge of the jerseys is between Tom Walton and Jimmy Heffernan.



Deep concentration on the face of Richard Reid as he collects a loose ball in the Leinster Final, with Martin Quigley in pursuit.



Tommy Malone and John Crowley tussle for possession in the All-Ireland Final. Denis Coughlan awaits the outcome.



Above: John Horgan and Matt Ruth in a chase for the ball.

Below: Joy for Kilkenny as Billy Fitzpatrick runs out after scoring Kilkenny's second goal. Other players in the picture are: M. Ruth, M. Doherty, B. Cody, T. Malone, G. Henderson and D. Coughlan.





At the presentation of Smithwicks Awards to Kilkenny Sports Stars for 1978, Eddie Keher (right) was presented with a colour portrait of himself by team colleague and goalkeeper, Noel Skehan on behalf of Smithwick's Brewery. Also in the picture are (from left): Alderman Tom Martin (Chairman, Kilkenny Sports Stars Awards), Frank Cummins (who received the hurling award) and Mr. Ron Girdham of Smithwicks.



Group taken at the Kilkenny G.A.A. Referees' dinner in Springhill Hotel shows Derry Noonan (right) who is retiring as referee receiving a presentation from Mr. James Murphy, Chairman, on behalf of the members. Seated in front are (from left): Tom Ryall, Eddie Keher, James Murphy, Derry Noonan, Mick O'Neill (Chairman, Kilkenny County Board), Gus Hennessy. Fellow referees from the county are standing.



**SHAMROCKS (Ballyhale) – Kilkenny County Champions and Leinster Senior Club
Champions 1978**

In front (from left): Liam Fennelly, Ollie Harrington, Brendan Fennelly, Denis Shefflin (captain), Kevin Fennelly, Maurice Healy, Ger Fennelly. Behind: Maurice Mason, Sean Fennelly, Michael Fennelly, Liam Dalton, Johnny Walsh, Patrick Holden, Wattie Phelan. Unavailable for the photograph was another team member Declan Connolly.

1946 JUNIOR ALL-IRELAND TEAM



BACK ROW: Syd Bluett, Dix Maher, Mark Marnell, Paddy Connors, Bill Cahill, Ned Power, Peter Prendergast, P. Butler (sub goalie), Jack Egan, Martin Egan, Paddy Cahill, J. Heffernan, M. Kenny, Pat Stapleton, Pat Diamond Hayden, Henry Giles. FRONT ROW: B. Murray, James O'Donnell, Wattie Ryan, Podge Dack, Ned Doyle, P. McEvoy.

There were seven hurleys in Muckalee

THERE were only seven hurleys in Muckalee parish and Bob ('Dinger') Shore distributed them to the young men best able to use them. Muckalee is traditionally a football area and the switch to hurling is fairly recent.

Muckalee, though not unique, provides us with the most recent example of a change of emphasis though both Glenmore and Tullogher also traditional football areas have also attained some prominence in hurling.

There is no one better equipped to tell the story of Muckalee's past than one of its most illustrious sons, Judge James J. Comerford, New York who was born in Coolraheen and who hardly needs any introduction to Kilkenny people intimately or remotely connected with the national movement.

A keen hurling follower Judge Comerford, on his recent visit to Kilkenny recalled those days in his native Muckalee when the parish was struggling to find a place for itself in the G.A.A. scene.

In 1919 during the fight for freedom Coon (Coon is, of course, part of Muckalee parish) Volunteers decided to provide their own G.A.A. playing pitch and Bob Shore organised a team of voluntary workers who got down to it with picks, shovels, wheel barrows and all the paraphernalia required to make a field capable of becoming a playing pitch.

Coon hurling started on the edge of Uskert wood by the river Dinan near the Salmon Pool bridge in an inch field owned by Tommy Brennan, previously owned by Dick Nolan. Tommy Brennan allowed the hurlers to use the field.

Joe and Bernie O'Shea, Billy Shore (Bob's son), Joe Kelly, young Boran and young Dick Comerford were prominent among the young men who started hurling in Muckalee parish.

Dick Comerford is remembered as one of the most colourful personalities of later years while the Kellys and Comerfords made a big impact in athletics.

In more recent times we have had the Morans, the Nolans and the Morrisseys and many more who have brought Muckalee hurling into the limelight.

When recalling those early days it is right to remember a man who threw his full weight behind every effort to promote the national games. He was Councillor Jim Rice, a grand uncle of Father Jackie Robinson of St. Patrick's.

And so to June 19, 1977 when the new Coon Gaelic field was formally opened by Mr. Con Murphy, President of the G.A.A. The field Pairc Ui Chomartuin was named in honour of Dick Comerford a founder member and chairman since 1948 up to the time of his death in 1971.

The field was blessed by Father Woods, C.C., and two prominent Coon exiles home for the big occasion were Most Rev. Dr. Robert Healy, Perth, Australia (his first visit to his native place in 27 years) and Father Martin Ryan home from the Phillipines.

V. Rev. Father John Kearns came to add his words of

congratulations to the Coon club.

Mr. Murphy who came from the Cork - Waterford senior hurling championship game at Thurles had great praise for this enterprising club. He said they had taken positive steps in the provision of amenities at club level and he hoped to return again to open new dressing rooms and other facilities.

Present at the official opening were: Mr. Willie Lawlor, chairman of the club; Mr. Michael Somers, vice chairman; Mr. Paul Kinsella, secretary. Messrs Thomas Dowling, Abban Quinn, Phil Purcell, Thomas Kinsella, owner of the field, Martin Kelly, Michael Kelly, Patrick Darcy, John McGrath.

What they won

Both Coon and Muckalee have won junior and intermediate county hurling titles and the present Muckalee - Ballyfoyle Rangers hurlers have made a big impact in the senior hurling championship.



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Gaelic Sunday— Dublin Castle defied

From its very foundation the G.A.A. had to contend with the overt if not open hostility of the British Government in this country and a constant watch on the activities of the Gaelic Athletic Association was maintained by the British authorities. There are many historians who say that the presence of a R.I.C. man in Hayes's Hotel in Thurles at the founding of the G.A.A. on November 1, 1884, was no mere coincidence.

Sergt. John McCarthy gained immortality as one of the founders of the Association. He was stationed in Templemore but it is generally accepted that even if McCarthy was interested in athletics he did at least report to his superiors about the meeting.

When the G.A.A. imposed its ban those excluded from the national games were soldiers and members of the R.I.C. This angered the British Government.

During the early years of the century Volunteers were members of G.A.A. clubs and, consequently, meetings of the G.A.A. clubs were regarded as meetings for Volunteer activity and were looked upon with disfavour by the authorities.

The final showdown between the G.A.A. and the ruling junta took place on Sunday, August 4, 1918. This day has passed into history and has become known as Gaelic Sunday. It was the day on which the G.A.A. defied the authority of the British Government in this country and got away with it.

Dublin Castle had ordained that a permit would have to be got to play every game of hurling and football. A meeting of the Central Coun-

The G.A.A. and The Castle

DESPITE the popularity of the games, the G.A.A., which has six years to go to its centenary, the schism which caused nationwide disruption in the early days was not the least of its problems. The schism resulted from a divergence of views as to what extent the Association should align itself with politics.

When the schism was healed the G.A.A. had to contend with the British government's concerted efforts to bring it down. Dublin Castle was the nerve centre of British rule in the country and 'Gaelic Sunday', which was a simple token of contempt, had a staggering effect.

This article was researched by Tom Ryall.

cil was held to consider this latest order and it was decided that on Sunday, August 4, every club in every county in Ireland would organise a hurling or football game and that no permits would be sought.

The result was that 1,100 games were played on that day and the British authorities in the face of such strength were powerless to do anything about it.

Moreover, it brought home to the ruling authority the

futility of the efforts to suppress the national games.

In common with the rest of the country, Kilkenny staged no less than 25 games that day — nine in football and 16 in hurling. The teams that took part and the venues at which the games were played were:

Football — Conahy v. Dunmore at Dunmore; Kells v. Coolagh at Callan; C.Y.M.S. Kilkenny v. Cuffesgrange at Cuffesgrange; Blanchfieldspark v. Gowran at Paulstown; Hugginstown v. Kilmoganny at Hugginstown.

Cappagh v. Milebush at

Milebush; Glenmore No. 1 v. Tullogher at Ballyfacey; Mangan (The Rower) v. Coolroe at Graignamanagh; Glenmore No. 2 v. Bigwood at Bigwood.

Hurling — Foulkstown v. Dicksboro at St. James's Park; Conahy v. Tulla United at Threecastles; Freshford v. Clomanto at Clomanto; Crosspatrick v. Horse and Jockey at Johnstown; Ballycloven v. Tullaroan at Kilmanagh.

Kilmanagh v. Callan at Callan; Dunnamaggin v. Ahenure at Dunnamaggin; Knockmoylan v. Mullinavat at Mullinavat; Lukeswell v. Killahey at Killeen, Graignamanagh v. Mangan at Graignamanagh; Bennettsbridge v. Thomastown at Thomastown.

Chapelhill v. Ballyhale at Knocktopher; Clogga v. Kilmacow at Kilmacow; Suirside Rovers (Mooncoin) v. Ramblers at Mooncoin; Piltown v. Templeorum at Piltown; Davidstown (Glenmore) v. Slieverue at Slieverue.

This, then, was Kilkenny's contribution to silent but very effective defiance of a Dublin Castle edict that helped rather than hindered the G.A.A.



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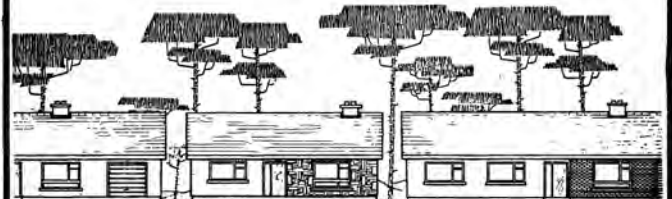
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County Secretary sees a bright future

WE HAVE had our disappointments this year but as far as I am concerned I think we have as good a team coming on now as ever and I see no reason why we should not be back at the top again soon.

True, we lost the National League and all-Ireland finals. But we did well to beat Wexford to regain the Leinster title and after beating Galway in the semi final we felt we had another all-Ireland title within our grasp.

We didn't succeed in our ambitions. We fell at the last hurdle but early on no one believed we would get to the all-Ireland final and by surprising ourselves by getting that far, the disappointment of losing in the final was all the greater.

Kilkenny did not have all the luck this year. We may have got our fair share of the breaks against Wexford in the Leinster final but we won the game on merit. We won it the way Kilkenny have won so many more great games by finishing with a great flourish.

When we lost the National League final at a time when we were starting to re-build our team little hope was held out for us making a big impact. We had to find replacements for Eddie Keher, Pat Delaney and Kieran Purcell. This surely is a big task. We have not fully succeeded yet but I firmly believe we will succeed; it may take another year or two but succeed we will.

We have young players coming up. Many times in the past we found ourselves in a similar position. The transition from one era to another is never easy.

Quite a number of people believed after the league final that we were unlikely to be at the top for quite some time. But we were back very quickly – maybe too quickly.

We are fortunate here that we have a considerable reserve of talent in the younger age groups waiting to be tapped. We did not fare well in either minor or under 21, though we should have done better in the under 21 grade. We might have been a bit casual in our approach.

Our minors, too, left room for improvement, but I have no doubt that our future in this grade is reasonably secure. We are never very far away from the top in minor and we can expect bigger things if not next year certainly the year after.

There is one thing that we can feel happy about. Our strength in the under-age grades continues to be maintained. That means that we have a constant build up of material and it is from this material that our hurlers of tomorrow will be drawn.

The transition may not be smooth. It will certainly take a year or two for us to get the right blend – to get back to the dazzling heights of the early 1970's but there is no need for us to be despondent.

Our position in the League is not too good but I think it is fair to see that we were very unlucky in three of our games. We, perhaps, face relegation. We have never been that serious about the League. We should set our sights on the championship and work to that end. There is nothing surer than that we will get there in the not too distant future.

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BACK ROW (left to right): Comdt. Eamon Goulding (trainer), Dermot Tyrrell, Sean Casey, Ritchie Delaney, Luke Roche, Michael Lanigan, John Mulcahy, Pat Ward, Michael Dooley, Jim Rice (chairman). FRONT ROW (left to right): Eddie Leahy (selector), John Skehan, Anthony Driscoll, Anthony Bergin, Kevin Robinson (capt.), Peter Dowling, Seamus Dowling, Benny Walsh. INSET: Joe Mulcahy, John Martin, Jim Gibbons, Ollie Bergin and Eugene Deegan.



BACK ROW (left to right): Brian Tyrrell, Pat Fitzpatrick, Simon Brennan, Leo Byrne, Ray Brophy, Michael McGrath, Cyril Doheny, Ray Cody, Paul Moran, Tommy Moylan, Joe Nolan, Brendan Cleere, Declan Byrne, Michael Nolan (trainer). FRONT ROW (left to right): Sean Tyrrell, Hugh Corrigan, Eamon Leahy, Barry Donovan, Michael Cleere (captain), Ger Fitzpatrick, Donal Johnson, Paul Cleere, David Galavan.

A year of handball near-misses

by
Tommy O'Brien

1978 WAS almost the best year for over a decade – Kilkenny almost won the senior title for the first time since 1965. Talbot's Inch almost won the senior club All-Ireland. Paddy Reilly and Ollie Harold almost won an Inter-provincial title for Leinster. It was not 'almost' with our juveniles however, who have always been in the winners enclosure in recent years (since 1969 to be exact) – in 1978 they totally dominated the juvenile handball world both in Willwood Tailteann; Community Games; and Colleges.

Prize of place, however, even in defeat, must go to our senior doubles partnership, Paddy Reilly and Ollie Harold. They were so near having a magnificent year, falling only at the last hurdle. Having negotiated some very difficult hurdles along the way, they faced the Kirby brothers, John and Dan, in the Coca Cola All-Ireland Senior Doubles final. The 1977 champions, Dick Lyng and Seamus Buggy, were among their victims, so

they had justifiable confidence in opposing the Kirbys. Also, they had beaten the Kirbys every time they had met previously.

The biggest contingent of Kilkenny followers ever to see a handball game were in spacious Croke Park for the occasion. Their cheers echoed and re-echoed around the packed gallery as Kilkenny romped to an easy first game win. The Clare brothers were completely at sea and reduced the game to a slogging match for the second game. Unfortunately, Kilkenny allowed them to do this, went off their game and lost the second game 21-17.

Kilkenny began the third game in fine fashion and went 6-0 up – seemingly on their way to victory. Back came the Kirbys and, having run Paddy Reilly completely into the ground with their tactics, they went ahead and never looked like being caught as they ran out 21-11 winners.

Runners-up was scant reward for a year of fine displays for Reilly and Harold

who had starred for Leinster against Munster, soundly thrashing none other than the Kirby brothers in the final. However, their team mates did not win the necessary aces to give Leinster victory. Reilly also went well in the Gael Linn but lost out to eventual winner Dick Lyng.

It was not surprising when Talbot's Inch senior side, having won their way to the All-Ireland final, were beaten well by Roscommon in the final.

Juveniles excel

Our juvenile players had exactly the opposite experience during 1978. Everything went right for them. There are 10 Juvenile All Ireland championships organised for Willwood Tailteann. Kilkenny won 7 of the Leinster titles – an unbelievable achievement. The 7 sets also won their All-Ireland games against Connacht and so, 11 Kilkenny boys set out for Croke Park attempting to win a record number of Gold Medals.

Michael Walsh set the ball rolling in fine fashion when he beat Monaghan for the Under

12 singles title (Michael's second gold); the Talbot's Inch win was followed by a Clogh-Mullinavat victory when Pat Maher and Michael Knox won the Under 12 doubles title. Mullinavat's John Joe Aldridge was in action next but had to be content with Silver. Mullinavat and Clogh were there again in Under 13 doubles with Michael Purcell and John Doyle victorious. Silver came our way again in Under 14 doubles (possibly the best game of the day) when Liam Law and Joe Walsh on Mullinavat came a cropper – but only just – against Cork. Law already had a bronze medal from 1976 while Walsh won bronze in '76 and gold in '77.

Billy Bourke won the Under 16 singles title (his 5th gold medal, a national record unlikely to be touched) while Mullinavat duo Sean Walsh and Stevie Foskin won gold medals for Mullinavat in Under 16 doubles. Bourke, Foskin both Walshes, Maher, and Law had earlier in the year won the Leinster League, Maher and Michael Walsh won the Leinster Under 12 40

Continued overleaf.



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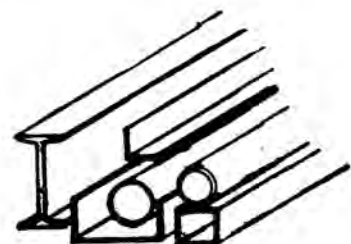
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Feile Na nGael

WHEN Kilkenny Schools Board accepted the task of organising the Coca Cola sponsored Féile na nGael 1978, they little realised how fully the county would be involved in the venture or how satisfied with the end product everyone would be.

Certainly, the majority of G.A.A. supporters throughout the county were involved in one way or another. Only two of the 35 parishes were not involved in the hurling section, 31 of these hosting a team and officials – in many cases visiting sides brought many more than the regulation 20. Transporting teams, providing accommodation, acting as officials at games, and stewarding the massive parade involved everyone who wished to be involved.

In spite of the successful organisation of the hurling games, however, other aspects of Féile proved most interesting for many. Well-supported Scór concerts in Kilkenny, Callan, and Mooncoin, culminating in a final night in Kilkenny provided the highlight of the week for many. The standard of performance in these non-competitive concerts and the enthusiasm of all concerned

plus, of course, the big attendances, would seem to put the future of G.A.A. Scór competitions in Kilkenny beyond doubt.

Though not nearly as well supported Thursday's Open Forum, which involved such inter county stars as Eamonn Cregan, Sean Silke, Martin Quigley, Denis Burns, and Eddie Keher, and was chaired by Mícheál O Muircheartaigh, proved interesting to those in attendance. The views of stars in other counties, in respect of juvenile and other aspects of the G.A.A. World were most interesting while their commitment – as shown by travelling long distances in midweek to be at the Forum – was indicative of the dedication of these top sportsmen.

The first indication many people – especially in South Kilkenny – saw of Féile in action was when 30 young runners carried the symbolic bronze hurley from its home last year, Waterford, to Kilkenny. This colourful party travelled through Mullinavat, Ballyhale, Thomastown and Bennettsbridge to arrive at Kilkenny Court House just as the Official Opening was about to begin with G.A.A.

President Con Murphy, performing the opening ceremony with Mayor Margaret Tynan, and Coca Cola Managing Director, John O'Connell also speaking.

Sunday also marked the opening of what was another great success at Féile was the G.A.A. Museum at Rothe House. This museum, which was presented so professionally, spanned over 100 years with hurleys, jerseys, match reports, photographs, scrapbooks, and medals – including John Joe Gilmartin's record 24 senior medals – providing an interesting tour of Gaelic Games in the county throughout the past century or more. The complaint most visitors to this feature had was that it took too long to see everything!

Camogie was also a major feature of Féile. Organised on the same lines as the hurling contests, it provoked great interest in Kilkenny and greatly increased the number of parishes involved in juvenile camogie. Handball had 21 counties involved in games in Clogh, Kilfane and Mullinavat. While, unlike camogie, Féile handball did not mean greater participation within Kilkenny, it did have a big effect on the juvenile scene nationally and a recent Development Dossier in Ulster listed as one of the principal dates in the handball calendar 'Féile na nGael, held every July in Kilkenny!'

Friday's Civic Reception in St. Kieran's College was the biggest gathering of players at any Féile Reception with most of the 64 hurling, 22 camogie, and 21 handball teams in attendance.

So to the big day of activity – Saturday with games all over the county. As Kilkenny opted for a knock-out competition in all games, half the teams lost interest before lunch on Saturday but most formed a supporters club for their victors and so retained a direct interest in the destination of the trophies.

On Sunday morning, the heavy rain failed to deter thousands of people from lining the main streets to view the Parade of all participants, viewed by President Hillery. This was a magnificent sight

and was the lasting memory of Féile of many Kilkenny people. Con Murphy addressed the players in Nowlan Park and the finals were ready to begin. While the finals were progressing our Catering Committee, aided greatly by I.C.A. help, fed no less than 1,500 people!

The first final was the all-Kilkenny Division 4 clash of Coon and Dunnamaggin. The Southern side won after a great contest to become the first Kilkenny side to win a Féile na nGael hurling contest. Mullinavat were in the next final – Division 3 – where they faced Derry. Mullinavat showed later in the year what a fine side they had but they were annihilated by a Derry side which was certainly Division I standard.

The boys were given a break at this stage and the girls came on to play their Division I final – Limerick v Dublin. A fantastically exciting game ended with Limerick, trailing by 2 points, hammering home a last minute goal for victory.

Back to the boys and Division II where Mooncoin were too good for a game Mount Sion team. St. Patrick's de la Salle had a chance to make it 3 wins for Kilkenny but their very brave effort against Corkonians, St. Finbarr's just failed.

So the Féile flag was lowered and Féile 1978 was over. There were many winners – hurling, camogie, handball, skills (in both hurling and camogie on Saturday and another resounding success), projects in poetry, hurley making, match accounts, photography etc. and a generous helping of Coca Cola for everyone involved. In fact, there were really no losers as everyone seemed to deem the week a winner. Kilkenny players were delighted to welcome visitors; visitors are still enthusing about the hospitality of Kilkenny homes.

Féile na nGael has not left Kilkenny. The National Executive and the sponsors, Coca Cola were unanimous in asking Kilkenny to host it once more and we can only hope that July 1, 1979 will see the end of yet another healthy chapter in the history of Féile na nGael.

HANDBALL

Continued from previous page

x 20 title; Foskin and Sean Walsh won Leinster Under 16 40 x 20 Championship; Bourke and Michael Lawlor won the All-Ireland Colleges' Under 15 title.

Community games

So to Community Games and more success. We entered teams in three of the four competitions. We won Leinster titles in those three contests. Our Under 15 girls (Mary and Eileen Downey, Louise Bourke, Anita Oakes and M. Brannigan) won bronze medals; so did our Under 15 boys (Michael Lawlor, Gerry Buckley, Dermot and Michael Hennessy, Joe Fogarty) while our Under 13 boys brought home the gold (Michael Walsh, Tomás

Sloyan, Tom Hennessy, James Buckley and Enda Morrissey).

Juvenile league

Last year's handball article ended with the hope that the 1977 juvenile league side would do well in the league just starting. It is pleasing to report that not alone did the side win out but the 1978 Leinster League is now over and Kilkenny again won – a unique achievement. Billy Bourke, Joe Walsh, and Michael Walsh were dual winners while Stevie Foskin, Pat Maher and Liam Law (1977) and Tom Hennessy, Tomás Sloyan, James Buckley, Michael Lawlor (1978) were also champions.