

# KILKENNY

## GAA YEARBOOK 1980

50p (incl. tax)



- Super performance by Graignamanagh
- Fennelly's – Can any family match them?
- Plenty of hurling – but no sliothar
- Thanks to Muckalee and St. Pat's.

**SUPPORTERS WIN  
MEDALS**  
● See page 28



# KILKENNY

## GAA YEARBOOK 1980

### Editorial



**PETER HOLOHAN**  
EDITOR

We've never had it so bad. We never came anywhere near winning an All-Ireland title, apart from a near-miss at under-21 level. Not for many years has Kilkenny's stock sunk to such a depth — all this after we won the senior All-Ireland championship for the 21st time the year before. And things could get worse before they get better.

The coming year, therefore, could well be a watershed in Kilkenny hurling. We either start on the road back or drift into an even worse situation. The task now is to prepare for the future. It is not going to be easy.

Despite the doom and gloom, Kilkenny hurling has many things to be thankful for. We have our tradition and this gives us a kind of built-in assurance that sooner or later Kilkenny will be back at the top.

We have our consolations, too. We have a glorious record to look back on and the young men of to-day charged with the task of putting Kilkenny back on the hurling map can draw inspiration from the achievements of those who went before them.

It would be a bad day for hurling if Kilkenny or any other county were to keep on winning. Victory in these circumstances would ring hollow. Our performances in 1980 belied the pre-eminent position which Kilkenny hurling enjoys and the task for 1981 is to regain some of our lost prestige even if we do not win All-Ireland honours.

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#### Cover Caption:

Offaly's Pat. Kirwan gets in his shot despite the determined blocking effort of Dick O'Hara in the Leinster Hurling Final.

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# CHANGE NEEDED IN ALL-STAR SELECTION PROCEDURE

THE introduction of the hurling and football All-Star teams by cigarette company, Carrolls in 1971 was a long overdue development in the G.A.A. For far too long, the top players in both codes were contributing a lot to the games, but as amateurs they got very little in return.

Sure, there was the thrill of winning and the excitement of participation, but whereas other top athletes enjoyed certain perks here and there, G.A.A. players didn't. So the introduction of the All-Star scheme was a welcome extra. In later years when the Bank of Ireland took over this scheme after Carrolls stepped down, and the tours of America for the honoured players continued, it was a vindication that what was going on was good for the games, seeing that it was being done with the blessing of the G.A.A. authorities.

The All-Star selections give some players who are top class sportsmen, but who may be with counties who may never make the big breakthrough, a chance to gain full recognition in the Gaelic world. One immediately springs to mind — Joe Henry of Mayo, who didn't exactly make the team, but travelled as a hurling replacement in 1979.

## Wonderful

Think of it, a hurling star in Mayo. Who would ever have heard of it some years ago? And those who might have, had the fact blazed in front of them by the mention of his name in the context of an All-Star.

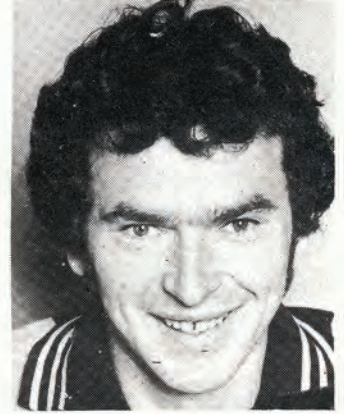
So the All-Star scheme is a wonderful thing, but in recent years it has lost a certain amount of its status. Disagreement over final selections have left certain players not caring whether or not they are ever picked.

The Bank of Ireland upholds the fine tradition set by the sponsors from the very beginning. But the picking of the teams, and the honoured 15 at the finish, have not exactly made the All-Star selections the undisputed best they were when the scheme was first introduced.

Never have the final teams picked ever gained universal approval and human nature being what it is, they most likely never will. In 1980 for instance, Kilkenny didn't have anyone honoured as an All-Star. And this was in a year in which there was no team around that could be termed great. Not one in the whole country, in hurling that is. With Kilkenny floundering in the lower reaches of Division



Pat Lawlor



Ger Henderson

IB of the National Hurling League, some might argue that Kilkenny have no one. But back to the Joe Henry situation and this argument holds no water.

## Close tabs

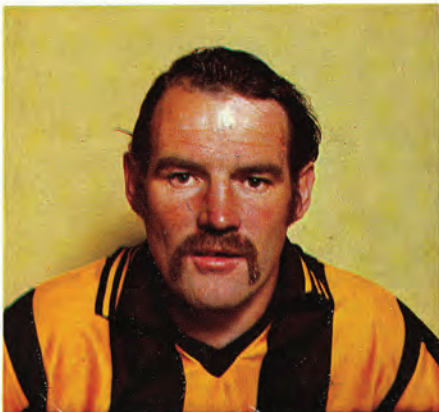
More and more the All-Star teams, both hurling and football are mirrors to what has happened in the all-Ireland finals. Imagine someone going out of this country after keeping close tabs on the National Leagues and then coming back and seeing the All-Star selections.

Certainly, such a person would have questions to ask, because League form is rarely taken into consideration. And when teams qualify for all-Ireland finals their players immediately dominate the All-Star selections.

If the national finals are fantastic games, the selections can, to a degree be justified, but as was the case in hurling in 1980 the final was not any great shakes, but still the 15 chosen was reflective of the All-Ireland.

Kilkenny men, Noel Skehan and Matt Ruth and even Billy Fitzpatrick would have had strong claims to inclusion on such a basis. A one match affair.

Skehan was the county's most reliable man all season, both Winter and Summer. And if the selection went on one fine performance, which it could be argued a lot did, then Matt



Fan Larkin



Noel Skehan



Mick Brennan



Ruth's 3-2 in the Leinster final was a sure passage onto the team. And sure then Billy Fitzpatrick landed 2-11 against Wexford in the provincial semi-final.

The scoring feats of the latter pair were something to behold. One wonders how many of the final selection committee saw either game.

## Change

The All-Star selection procedure needs a radical change, to make sure that the best over a year, not just a couple of months, are honoured with a sponsored tour of America. By Kilkenny missing out in 1980 on All-Star members, they registered a second blank sheet. The last was in 1977. County players honoured since the scheme was introduced are:

**1971:** Jim Treacy, Bennettsbridge (left full-back), Martin Coogan, Erin's Own (left half-back), Frank Cummins, Blackrock (midfield), Eddie Keher, Rower-Inistioge (right corner-forward).

**1972:** Noel Skehan, Bennettsbridge (goalkeeper), Jim Treacy, Bennettsbridge (left full-back), Pat Lawlor, Bennettsbridge (right half-back), Frank Cummins, Blackrock (midfield), Pat Delaney, Fenians (centre-forward), Eddie Keher, Rower-Inistioge (left half-forward).

**1973:** Noel Skehan, Bennettsbridge (goalkeeper), Phil 'Fan' Larkin, James Stephens (right full-back), Pat Henderson, Fenians (centre-back), Liam O'Brien, James Stephens (midfield), Pat Delaney, Fenians (centre forward), Kieran Purcell, Windgap (full forward), Eddie Keher (left full-forward).

**1974:** Noel Skehan (goalkeeper), Phil 'Fan' Larkin (right full-back), Pat Henderson (centre-back), Liam O'Brien (midfield), Mick Crotty, James Stephens (right corner forward), Kieran Purcell (full forward), Eddie Keher (left corner forward).



Joe Hennessy



Martin Coogan

**1975:** Noel Skehan (goalkeeper), Brian Cody, James Stephens (left corner-forward), Liam O'Brien (midfield), Mick Brennan, Erin's Own (right full-forward), Kieran Purcell (full forward), Eddie Keher (left full forward).

**1976:** Noel Skehan (goalkeeper), Phil 'Fan' Larkin (right full-back), Mick Brennan (right full-forward).

**1978:** Phil 'Fan' Larkin (right full-back), Ger Henderson, Fenians (centre-back), Joe Hennessy, James Stephens (midfield).

**1979:** Ger Henderson (centre-back), Joe Hennessy (midfield), Liam O'Brien (left half-forward), Mick Brennan (right full-forward).



Officials pictured at the Kilkenny Camogie Board's annual dinner in Springhill Hotel with an impressive display of camogie trophies won during 1980. They are (from left): Jo Golden (Ard Runai, Camogie Association), Paddy Grace (County Board Secretary G.A.A.), Bridie McGarry (County Registrar), Margaret Cody (Vice-Chairperson County Camogie Board), Billy Malone (County Chairman, Camogie Board), Mary Fennelly (County Secretary).



# Which championship is hardest to win

**WHICH of the 37 competitions played in Kilkenny last year was the most difficult to win? It is really hard to answer such a question, but if the number of games played in a certain championship is the greatest, then there is some ground for argument that that isn't the easiest one.**

Four years ago the special junior hurling championship was introduced in Kilkenny. Since then, this competition has proved as attractive as a strong magnet, and yearly it grows in popularity.

This year should see even further growth in this competition, which caters for an unusual brand of player — those on the up and up, and some of those bringing down the curtain of their careers and others.

The strange concoction works very well, and the appeal seems to grow with the years, so to does the competitive aspect. Last year 60 games — the biggest for any championship — were played before this competition ended.

The Rower-Inistioge, who in three years remained unbeaten in this section of competition, suffered their first defeat in the county final. It took a good side to beat them,

and who better than the sturdy Fenians (Johnstown), who had a flashy combination of young and old players.

## FIRST VICTORY

Former senior players Shem Delaney, John Moriarty, Paddy Broderick and Billy Watson helped the Johnstown side to their first victory in this section.

Previous winners were the Rower-Inistioge, twice, and O'Loughlin's. The arrival of a big name of recent years like the Fenians is perhaps a sign of what is to happen in the future — promising sides on the way up will make their presence felt in the special junior grade, and players who have 'been around for a while' will be instrumental in success.

The junior hurling championship proper, is for some people, the real blood and guts competition. That is not in the sense of being rough,



*Billy Watson . . . who won many honours with The Fenians (Johnstown) senior hurlers, he won a county championship with the special juniors last season.*

but rather the one every small club aspires to before the search of the top glory of an eventual senior success.

Champions in this section were provided by the South in 1979 (Carrickshock) and again last term when Glenmore put on as efficient a display as one could hope to see when they polished off famed side of the past, Tullaroan.

Glenmore had only won the championship once before in 1953, so there was no standard of performance they had to live up to. But the next time they win the competition they will have to do a lot to better their display in 1980.

## TEAM TO BEAT

Right through the year the Southerners, by their general standard of play, suggested they were the team to beat. In the final, they fully vindicated that view when they romped to a 3-16 to 2-6 win.

From stylish goalkeeper, Mick Deady up to corner-forward, John Heffernan they performed like clockwork and Tullaroan were never in with a ghost of a chance. Nippy forward, Johnny Murphy ran riot in the opening 20 minutes, and by the finish of the hour he had a personal tally of 2-4, which by any standard of competition is a commanding haul for a final.

Then Glenmore's own 'super-star' Christy Heffernan was elusive at full forward and orchestrated their every attack and supplied a variation that meant Tullaroan were always at odds to find a solution. Throw in the wonderful contributions made by Billy Doherty, Tom Murphy, John Phelan and Des Ennett and one feels the junior champions cannot but go on to greater things.

In fact, the depth of talent Glenmore have shown would remind one of the Shamrocks

*Continued overleaf.*



*Glenmore, who put on a classy display when they beat Tullaroan in the county junior hurling final at Nowlan Park.*



# Which championship is hardest to win

Contd. from previous page

If Glenmore can fulfil that promise, there will be dark days ahead for the Northern clubs.

While Tullaroan slumped in the final, they didn't get out of their division without a heck of a battle. In the Northern final they saw off their challenge of Coon in a poor game, but there in company too was Graigue-Ballycallan, who had finished second best in the county the previous year but failed to recover the same sparkling form.

Glenmore won through a tough campaign, and there can be no doubt they will be able for the intermediate grade next season. Who knows, if they show the same willingness, they could follow in the footsteps of St. Patrick's (Ballyragget), Conahy Shamrocks, Muckalee-Ballyfoyle Rangers and Shamrocks, who all dashed straight through to the senior grade after winning their way out of junior.

## MINOR HURLING TIME

When it came to minor hurling county final time, people could have turned their backs and said 'ah well, there is not much to see here'. After the defeat of the minor county side by Antrim in the first round of the Leinster championship, there were a lot of questions being asked about this grade.

But after the final, they couldn't have been about the standard. For O'Loughlin's and Mooncoin produced a dashing display on a day more suited for Winter sports than hurling.

O'Loughlins won at the

finish by 3-7 to 2-7, but even their most ardent supporter would be forgiven at their St. John's Park headquarters if he asked how they did it. They stole the game on Mooncoin with a last second goal by Nicky Bergin, who picked up a ball cleared out of defence when the winners were under desperate pressure.

Ger. Fitzpatrick, who started at centre-forward and was moved early on to centre-back, was a tower of strength on the O'Loughlin's side. He hurled with great aplomb and it was he who held the winners together when the Mooncoin storm waged its strongest.

## IMPRESSION

Positive goalkeeper, Paul Cleere was another to catch the eye and make an impression, as were Eamon Leahy, Tommy Moylan and young Edward Kennedy.

Perhaps it was appropriate O'Loughlin's/Gaels should get in on the winning act in 1980 to coincide with the official opening of their luxury St. John's Park complex. Their young hurlers certainly did the club proud, and restored a certain amount of confidence in a grade of hurling in Kilkenny that was in need of a lift.

For Mooncoin, hardy contenders were Jimmy Holden, Mick Collins, Seamus Delahunty, Declan O'Keeffe and David Grace.

But to get back to the original question - each championship provides a challenge of varying dimension. Many factors combine to make it victory or defeat for clubs, but none have ever been handed out on a plate. And they never will be.

## First Convention

*THE first G.A.A. convention in Kilkenny was held in the Workingmen's Club in Walkin Street on December 30, 1887. Some time later two rival conventions were held in the city hall. Both conventions claimed the right to send delegates to Thurles.*

*The division which marred the Association in those days was quickly ended however. The "schisms" as the newspapers of the day called them existed throughout the country but unity was soon restored.*

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# THE REAL PADDY GRACE



FEARED and dreaded by the pillars of the G.A.A. establishment. Admired and criticised simultaneously by ardent Kilkenny hurling followers.

An able hurler and administrator his career ranged from the obscurity of the green fields of his native parish to the glamour of Croke Park on all-Ireland final day.

The jovial and elusive Paddy Grace came through it all with a smile as he set the wheels of Kilkenny's hurling greatness in motion with his optimistic and inspirational leadership approach.

And to-day the sixty-one year old County Secretary has become a legend in G.A.A. folklore as he takes his rightful place among the architects of the association.

After forty-one years of association with Kilkenny hurling Paddy Grace is now busier than ever as he has acquired a unique and common sense approach to G.A.A. administration.

Outspoken in his views his frank and controversial statements were often despised only to be later lauded by his critics.

## True friend

A true friend of every player who wore the black and amber jersey Paddy Grace has won the esteem and respect of sportsmen throughout the country.

When players were almost deserted in the aftermath of defeat it was Paddy Grace's loyalty and inspiration which motivated them to persevere and try again.

He possessed the rare gift of being able to criticise when necessary and at the same time maintain the highest respect from those whom he criticised.

by  
**Diarmuid Healy**

Paddy Grace's great love for hurling was nurtured in the green fields of his native Palmerstown on the outskirts of Kilkenny city where as a young boy he played hurling.

The young Grace's hurling talent became obvious at an early age and by the time he was nine years old he had won his first county medal as a member of his native St. Canice's school team which captured the Browne and Nolan cup.

He recalls with delight the joy of winning that first medal and remembers being transferred from the full-back position to full-forward during the game and netting three goals to earn honours for his school.

## Hurling career

His hurling career was nurtured further during his secondary school days at Kilkenny C.B.S. where he hurled side by side with other students who were later to join him on the famous Kilkenny teams of the 'Thirties and 'Forties.

Having been introduced to minor hurling at the tender age of fourteen years Paddy Grace went on to win four county minor finals with Kilkenny city club *Eire Og*.

It was at this stage that he first donned the black and amber jersey at the early age of fifteen years when he gained his place on the Kilkenny minor team.

Grace was slotted into the right corner back position, a position which he retained for three successive years as a minor and later returned to the same position on the senior team.

The first great moment of his hurling career soon arrived and in 1935 he captained the Kilkenny minor team which scored a memorable win over arch rivals Tipperary in the all-Ireland final.

He soon graduated to senior club hurling and in 1938 he joined Carrickshock and went on to win four finals in a row with the famous club.

## Highlights

And in the same year he was introduced to the Kilkenny side when he played against Limerick in a National League game at Nowlan Park.

He retained his position at corner back until he retired in 1950 and during that period he won two all-Ireland medals in 1939 and 1947.

To the older generation Grace's hurling career was full of highlights and to the following generations his administrative career was even more spectacular.

The fear and respect which his opponents held for him on the field of play soon spread to the board room where he proved to be an able and strong willed administrator.

As a spokesman for his county at National level Paddy Grace made an early impression on the powers that be and his uncompromising stance on numerous occasions won him the utmost respect and esteem throughout the country.

A committed hurling man Grace always reminded the association that games and its players were the most important aspect of the G.A.A.

## The real Grace

From my involvement with Kilkenny hurling over the years I had the privilege of getting a deep insight into the Grace philosophy.

He was a man who "knew" hurling. He understood players. He knew what was needed to get the best out of players. And as an administrator he always aimed to ensure that coaches and trainers were given ample scope to prepare players to their maximum.

For the last thirty-two years Paddy has administered Kilkenny's G.A.A. affairs. It was a thirty-two year period which was crowned with glory, but it also had its periods of adversity.

And as William A. Ward once said: "Adversity causes some men to break; others to break records". Grace broke the records.

No doubt Kilkenny hurling followers look forward to many more years with Paddy Grace turning adversity into glory.



# KILKENNY SPORTS STARS AWARDS

THREE handballers, a hurler and a camogie player won Smithwick's sports stars awards last year. Strange as it may seem, this was the first time that Noel Skehan won the hurling award though he had already won a sports star award for squash.

The presentation of the awards has become probably the most colourful function in the social calendar in Kilkenny. This is clearly demonstrated by the volume of support the function has received from the start.

The G.A.A. award winners were:

**Noel Skehan:** Hurling — Noel Skehan has a very enviable record in hurling and joins an illustrious band of great hurlers of the first decade of the century, four of whom won seven All-Ireland medals and others winning six and five.

He has six All-Ireland senior medals, several Leinster medals; Railway Cup and county championship medals and was five times chosen for a Carrolls All Stars award. One of the greatest goalies the game has known, he basked in the shadow of Ollie Walsh for some time before making the rôle of county goalkeeper his own.

**Ollie Harold and Paddy Reilly:** Handball — The handball award was shared by two outstanding Kilkenny handballers, Ollie Harold and Paddy Reilly, both of whom have won the award in previous years. The joint award was made because the two shared in bringing an All-Ireland title to Kilkenny and they spanned a 15-year gap in doing so.

Apart from their performance at national level, the two players have

contributed significantly to the development of the game locally in recent years. They helped to put Kilkenny back on the handball map.

**Camogie:** Ann Downey — With her sister, Angela, Ann Downey has proved herself one of the best camogie players in the country. She began her camogie in Castlecomer Presentation Convent and won a Leinster junior colleges medal. She then went to Callan Convent of Mercy and captained the convent's senior side that reached the All-Ireland for the first time in 10 years. They lost, however, to Athenry.

It was with St. Paul's that Ann first made the intercounty championship scene and was a sub. on the Kilkenny team that won the 1974 All-Ireland title. She played on the victorious sides

*Continued overleaf*



Members of the Downey family, Ballyragget, at the Sports Star dinner to see Ann receive her camogie award (from left): Angela, Olga, Maria, Shem, Ann, Bridget and James.





Gaelic Sports winners pictured at the Sports Star Awards dinner in Springhill Hotel (left to right): Paady Reilly (handball), Billy Bourke (juvenile), Mr. Jim Doyle (Smithwicks), sponsors, Ollie Harold, (handball), Noel Skehan (hurling) and Ann Downey (camogie).

# SPORTS STARS AWARDS

Continued from page 11

of 1976 and 1977. In addition she won all-Ireland club championships, National League and inter-provincial medals. She has three senior all-Ireland medals; two National League medals; two Gael Linn inter-provincial medals and many senior county championship medals. Her father, Shem Downey was a well known county hurler.

**Juvenile:** Billy Burke: The juvenile award winner was another handballer, Billy Burke who was selected by R.T.E. for the 'Let's Go' programme. He won the Leinster under 14 singles title in

American sized courts and the all-Ireland final in the under 14 championship. He won Vocational Schools Leinster titles in under 13, under 15, under 17 and under 18; the Leinster under 14 singles title in Irish sized courts and the all-Ireland title in this championship.

He won the division I title in the Feile na Gael and played a leading part in winning the under 15 championship for St. Canice's in the Community Games as well as the gold medal for St. Canice's, his third gold medal in the games.



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**SO THE 1980 senior hurling championship gave the Shamrocks (Ballyhale) a special place in the annals of the game in Kilkenny. They clocked up the three-in-a-row and are now bang on course to follow in the illustrious footsteps of their not too distant neighbours, Carrickshock, who with one more on the trot have performed the greatest feat.**

No matter how good or bad the opposition, to accomplish such a run is a wonderful reflection on the Shamrocks players, club officials and the supporters who never seem to tire following the side around. How such feats of grandeur by the Shamrocks must cast former Carrickshock men back to their playing days, and the blood and sweat they oozed setting up the milestone in the first place.

The creation of a record is a great and sad thing. Great from the point that it has been done, but sad knowing that some day it will be broken. And it takes so much to put it there in the first place.

Shamrock rightly refuse to even consider going for four-in-a-row. They are the type of club that will take it if it comes along. If it doesn't, well and good, they will try and get back the next year.

But how good are Shamrocks in the overall context of Kilkenny hurling? How would they stand up by comparison with sides of the past?

It says a lot, and at the same time nothing, to say it would take some team to be better than them. They are fast, mobile, versatile, and each player can perform no matter what the conditions, rain, frost or sunshine. And they are fair, while at the same time they are hard.

#### **Wonderful sides**

There have been many wonderful club sides in Kilkenny down through the years. Tullaroan, Mooncoin, Carrickshock, of course, Bennettsbridge, Fenians and James Stephens are but a few. But when measuring one side against another, one must always bring in the era in which the team performed.

# Shamrocks could be the undisputed title champs

In the early years Tullaroan won many of their 23 championships. The drawing together of a team was somewhat different then, but then the tools of the trade made the actual playing of the game much, much harder than it is today. They were great in their own right.

So too were the rest, so perhaps it is a futile exercise to compare with teams of the past. Its like trying to compare Muhammad Ali with Jack Dempsey. Who really was the better boxer? We will never really know. The answer has been lost in time.

Shamrocks at present are hot-footing it towards an all-

Ireland club title. They missed out on this honour in 1978 when they came back from a deficit in excess of 10 points at half-time in the final only to be pipped by the narrowest of margins by Blackrock (Cork).

The following year they were bundled out of the championship in their first outing against Kinnity (Of-faly), but as the solicitor in court might say, there were extenuating circumstances.

So to date, the only Kilkenny team, and indeed Leinster team, to win the all-Ireland club championship are James Stephens, who did so in 1976.

The Ballyhale brigade have

made no secret of the fact that they are after this Blue Riband club event. They don't look upon it as having to make up for missing out on it once, but twice, as they are convinced that only a lack of big time experience beat them against Blackrock.

#### **Undisputed champs**

If Shamrocks manage to win the all-Ireland title, they will be the undisputed champions of the clubs in Kilkenny. They will have matched the accomplishment of James Stephens outside the county. They have already matched the three-in-a-row in Kilkenny by the Fenians (1972 to 1974).

And as Carrickshock never got the opportunity to play in an all-Ireland club event, they cannot successfully compete. But it should be stated, that the title only takes into consideration the honours won, not the individual who performed. It is an honour of titles, nothing else.

In their halycon days, Bennettsbridge were as well known outside Kilkenny for their hurling skill as they were within. Even in those not too long gone days there was no all-Ireland club championship. But the exploits of the 'Bridge outside makes one wonder how really good club hurling has always been in Kilkenny. Given the opportunity the old clubs could have performed mountainous deeds.

That in-depth club strength has helped make Shamrocks what they are. And they are bearers of the flag that Carrickshock, Mooncoin and Bennettsbridge never got the chance to carry, and they can be depended upon to loft it high.

\* Carrickshock did the four-in-a-row in 1940, 1941, 1942 and 1943.



# SHAMROCKS

## Senior Hurling Champions 1980



Back row (l. to r.): Kevin Fennelly, Frank Holohan, Johnny Wash, Sean Fennelly, Maurice Mason, Liam Fennelly, Michael Fennelly, Liam Dalton, Watty Phelan.  
Front row (l. to r.): Seamus Grace, Sean Reid, Brenian Fennelly, Richard Reid (captain), Ger Fennelly, Michael Kelly, Tom Ryan (trainer).

[Photo: TOM BRETT]



FAMILY involvement in sport has always been a feature in Kilkenny. Since the championships began in 1885 teams revolving around families have always been to the fore.

From Tullaroan alone there came the Mahers, Graces and Hennessys. Then at the opposite end of the county the Dunphys and Doyles were prominent for Mooncoin. The Larkins kept the city link and the Lalors of Threecastles were also an outstanding clan. In more recent years there have been the Morans of Muckalee and the Brennans of both Castlecomer and Conahy.

In the 'forties the Fennellys from Ballycaum, Stoneyford, made a big name for themselves. The local parish team, including six brothers, carried off the county junior hurling title.

They were Richie, John, Michael, Jimmy, Peter and Kevin Fennelly. The exact year was 1943 and Kevin Fennelly is the present day chairman of the Shamrocks (Ballyhale). That achievement of the Fennellys had been until then a record catch in a county final by any one set of brothers.

But during the 'seventies, the Fennellys went one better. Kevin's six sons took county senior hurling and football honours, and they continue to pile up the medals.

For the present-day hurling Fennellys, medals do not represent their entire stock. Three of them have also led county teams to victories in All-Ireland finals, so they have set up Everest-like peaks of sporting achievements that would seem like never being matched — never mind being beaten.

### Winning act

The Fennellys involved here are Michael, Ger, Kevin, Brendan, Liam and Sean, and now another brother, Dermot, is getting in on the winning act.

Their family haul of senior championship medals — hurling and football — today stands at 32. Eighteen are for hurling and the rest are for football, for in 1979 and in 1980 the Shamrocks also won a double in senior football.

Michael, Ger, Kevin, Brendan, Liam and Sean all played on the three-in-a-row sides

# FENNELLYS

## Can any family match them?

(1978 to '80). Then they were joined by Dermot, who played on goal on the football championships winning teams.

All that only takes into account the Fennelly success at the very top level of hurling in the county. But they have also distinguished themselves at lower levels.

In the under-21 grade, the brothers have also collected the honours — 13 to be exact. Michael, Ger, Kevin and Brendan won them in 1972, when the Shamrocks started a three-in-a-row in that grade. And in 1973 they were joined by Liam. Then in 1974 Ger, Kevin, Liam and Brendan again collected the honours.

The Fennellys carried their Midas-medal touch through to the inter-county stage. Ger led Kilkenny to victory twice. His first time was at under-21 level against Waterford in

Thurles in 1974. Then he was captain when the county lifted the McCarthy Cup for the 21st time in 1979.

In 1975 Kevin followed in the footsteps of his brother, and all led Kilkenny to victory at under-21 All-Ireland level. Cork were defeated at Dungan. And sure not to be out-done, Sean skipped Kilkenny to an All-Ireland success over Cork in 1977 in a replay.

The Fennellys are certainly a sporting family apart. As well as all the honours they have piled up, there is probably no other family in Ireland which can boast that three members led their county successfully through three championships. The Fennelly brothers — Ger, Kevin and Sean — did this at minor, under-21 and senior level. Now match that!



The Fennelly brothers with the county hurling and football trophies at the Shamrocks G.A.A. dinner in Springhill Hotel. They are (from left): Michael, Kevin, Liam, Brendan, Ger, Sean and the youngest brother Dermot is sitting in front.



# Are things really that bad?

**Not many people in Kilkenny would look at the present situation of hurling in Kilkenny and say that things are not good. In fact they are as bad as they have ever been. But should we be pessimistic about the future? One man who is not is the chairman of the County Board, Michael O'Neill who strikes a rather optimistic note in this article in which he looks to the tasks ahead.**



Mick O'Neill

It was not a good year for Kilkenny. We would be fooling ourselves if we tried to say it was. Things seemed to go wrong right from the start. Nevertheless a little thing could have meant that we would be celebrating an all-Ireland victory. I believe that if we had beaten Offaly we would have gone the whole way. Though inter-county wise we did not do good, the local championships were up to the best Kilkenny tradition. The senior championship was really good and so was the intermediate and the junior even though the junior final was a little bit one-sided. We also had some good games in the under-21 and minor championships. All the championships were completed in good time and though the under-21 series have been backward for some years this year's championship was completed. That, I may say, is the first time this has happened for some time. All the clubs deserve to be congratulated on their efforts and are to be praised for their wholehearted co-operation. It was this co-operation that enabled us to complete a very heavy programme within the year. This is particularly true because of the fact that our championships are run on a league basis. One of the major surprises of the inter-county campaigns was the defeat of our minor hurlers by Antrim but it would be wrong to draw from this the inference that minor hurling is bad. Defeat by Antrim was, naturally, very disappointing but these things happen. We were short some players and Antrim proved themselves quite a good side by making quite an impact. I think if we had beaten Antrim we would have won the all-Ireland. But all that is now water under the bridge and we have to count our losses and set out to make amends this year. Certainly we have some great minor players in the county but our biggest problem seems to be to get over the first hurdle. Another factor that has to be taken into

account — and in my opinion it is an important factor that can be easily over-looked — is that we have been on top in Leinster for the past 11 years and it is easy to become complacent. The main thing is that there is an abundance of minor talent in the county. Our under-21 hurlers were considered a bit unlucky not to have the all-Ireland title. They were only beaten by a point by Tipperary. We didn't get the breaks; if we had it would have made a world of difference. There was nothing between the two teams.

Turning to the tasks ahead the most immediate problem is to try and retrieve our losses in the National League. We are looking forward to a good run and if we can maintain a winning sequence and if Laois lose one of the three games they have to play we could be in the final shake-up. But the most important task of all is the championship campaign and in the first round we face formidable opposition when we clash with Wexford. Nobody should have any doubts about the strength of the opposition. Wexford can always rise to a very high level in the championship and we appear to bring out the best in them this makes the job much more difficult. That will almost certainly mean that the winners of this game will meet the current title holders, Offaly in the Leinster final.

While even in Kilkenny we could not begrudge Offaly their Leinster title it will be generally conceded that a Leinster final without Kilkenny and Wexford does not look like a Leinster final at all. A certain glamour was built up around the many stirring games between the two counties over the past quarter of a century and while departure from the established order of things much be welcomed the final loses some of its traditional appeal. All our efforts must, therefore, be directed first of all towards the National League and then towards the

formidable task of regaining the Leinster crown. We should not dwell too much on last year's defeat by Offaly. We were beaten by Laois in 1948 after we had won the all-Ireland final in 1947 and again in 1949 and in 1951. That means that Laois beat us three times in four years. While our National performances to date have not been good we must remember that we never had a full team since the league started. I am not despondent about the future. There are as many good hurlers in Kilkenny now as ever. We need the full commitment first of all of our players and secondly our officials and if we get that I believe Kilkenny will be back again where they belong — at the top.

## LONG SERVICE

DICK GRACE of Tullaroan who won all-Ireland medals in 1909 (as a sub), 1911, 1912, 1913 and 1922 started his inter county career at the age of 18 and played in the county final with Tullaroan against Mooncoin at the age of 42. He played in his last all-Ireland in 1926 against Cork.

## UNIQUE RECORD

**THE late Dan Kennedy, Bennettsbridge had the unique distinction of having won senior county championship medals with three different clubs. He won the 1946 final with Thomastown; the 1950 with Dicksboro and the 1952, 1953, 1955 and 1956 with Bennettsbridge.**

## SCORING FEAT

**IN THE 1895 all-Ireland final in which Tipperary beat Kilkenny by 6-8 to 1-0, Paddy Riordan from Drumbane is credited with scoring all six goals and eight points for Tipperary.**



# COUNTY MEDAL WINNERS IN '80

## SENIOR HURLING

**Shamrocks:** Kevin Fennelly, Wattie Phelan, Liam Dalton, Richard Reid (capt.), Frank Holohan, Maurice Mason, Sean Fennelly, Johnny Walsh, Ger Fennelly, Seamus Grace, Mick Fennelly, Mick Kelly, Liam Fennelly, Brendan Fennelly, Sean Reid. Patrick Holden played in the drawn county final. Seamus Grace replaced him in the replay.

## SENIOR FOOTBALL

**Shamrocks:** Dermot Fennelly, Robert Aylward, Liam Dalton, Wattie Phelan, Richard Reid, Maurice Mason, Richard Walsh, Mick Fennelly, Ger. Fennelly, Liam Fennelly, Frank Holohan, Sean Fennelly, Brendan Fennelly, Kevin Fennelly, Mick Kelly. Subs: Seamus Grace, Noel Long.

## INTERMEDIATE HURLING

**Graignamanagh:** Jim Dowling, Tommy Whelan, Shem O'Grady, John Crean, Phil Cahill, Tom 'Tucker' Foley, Tom Dowling, Pat Kavanagh, Robert Grace, Peter Prendergast, John Gahan, Dan Grace, Jack O'Connor, Ned Lyng, Pat Kelly. Subs: Tom Prendergast, Liam Reddy.

## JUNIOR HURLING

**Glenmore:** Michael Deady, Johnny Phelan, Paddy Murphy, Eddie Aylward, Seamus Boyle, Des Ennett, Tom Murphy, Bill Doherty, Mick Kirwan, Mick Heffernan, Francis Ennett, Mick O'Connor, Johnny Murphy, Christy Heffernan, John Heffernan. Subs: Ray Heffernan, Micky Phelan.

## SPECIAL JUNIOR HURLING

**Fenians:** Jim Tobin, Seamus Behan, Shem Delaney, Donie Hughes, Martin O'Gorman, John Ryan, Sean Behan, Jim Power, Eamon Hughes, John Moriarty, Paddy Broderick, Gerry Murphy, Gerry Garrett, Willie Watson, Eamon Holohan. Sub: Canice O'Gorman.

## JUNIOR FOOTBALL

**Slieverue:** Joe Murphy, Sean Fitzpatrick, Fran Hayden, Eamon Dowling, Frank Phelan, James Walsh, Tony Haberlin, Gerry Walsh, Brendan Walsh, Dan Murphy, Mick McNamara, Brian Freaney, Tom Tyler, Jack Tyler, Sean Murphy. Sub: Tim Holden.

## SPECIAL JUNIOR FOOTBALL

**The Gaels:** Ger. Fitzpatrick, Sean Casey, Brian Tyrrell, Tom Cunniffe, Hugh Corrigan, Kevin Robinson, Paul Martin, Sean Tyrrell, Pat Fitzpatrick, Paul Cleere, Anthony Bergin, Eamon Leahy, Ollie Bergin, Pat Ward, Ger Hennessy. Subs: Ger. McEvoy, Seamus McEvoy, Richard Delaney.

## UNDER-21 HURLING ROINN A

**Glenmore:** John Kirwan, Mick Keogh, Eddie Aylward, Pat O'Connor, Brian Walsh, Seamus Boyle, Seamus Roche, Bill Doherty, Ray Heffernan, Liam Walsh, Mick Heffernan, Mick O'Connor, Dicky Hennessy, Johnny Murphy, Des Heffernan. Sub: Jim Aylward.

## UNDER-21 HURLING ROINN B

**Graignamanagh:** Harry Randle, Liam Doyle, Martin Kelly, John Crean, Phil Cahill, Jim Cody, Eddie Dowling, Robert Grace, Dan Grace, Michael Morrissey, Pat Kelly, Denis Randle, Kerry Bolger, Richard Dunne, John Meaney. Subs: Joseph Haire, Pat Nolan.

## UNDER-21 FOOTBALL

**Thomastown:** Tom Grace, Joe O'Hara, Richard Murphy, Billy Doyle, Liam O'Neill, Mick Galway, Con Moore, Joe O'Hanrahan, Harr, Murphy, Mick Lane, Pat. Manning. Subs: Willie Lannon and Michael Cody.

## MINOR HURLING ROINN A

**O'Loughlin's:** Paul Cleere, Joe Kennedy, Declan Byrne, Eddie Kennedy, Liam Tyrrell, Larry Walsh, John Barry, Benny Cleere, Tommy Moylan, Kieran Hoban, Ger. Fitzpatrick, Kieran Maher, Eamon Leahy, Joe Nolan, Nicky Bergin. Subs: David Goulding and John Morrissey.

## MINOR HURLING ROINN B

**Rower-Inistioge:** Edward Prendergast, Gerry Lyng, Jackie Lyng, Mick Cullen, Seamus Kelly, Tom Lyng, Eugene Lambert, Dick Meaney, John O'Keeffe, Pat Ryan, Brendan Kirwan, John Walsh, Sean Burke, Paul Muldoon, Danny O'Donnell. Subs: Sean Whelan, Donal O'Brien.

## MINOR FOOTBALL

**Thomastown:** Tom Grace, Garry Costelloe, Billy Doyle, Colm Murphy, Liam O'Neill, Mick Galway, Joe O'Hara, David Hoyne, Harry Murphy, Willie Lannon, Tommy Walsh, Joe O'Hanrahan, John Donnolly, Michael Cody, Kieran Power. Sub: John Dunphy.

## UNDER-16 HURLING ROINN A

**Mooncoin:** Declan Reddy, Peter Dunphy, Jim Foskin, Liam Delahunty, John Kearns, George O'Neill, Paudie Lennon, Davy Grace, John Croke, Joe Vereker, Seamus Delahunty, John Kearns, Tom O'Neill, Nicky Doyle, Jimmy Clery.

## UNDER-16 FOOTBALL ROINN A

**The Gaels:** Brian Goulding, Brian Fitzpatrick, Joe Kennedy, Nicky McGrath, Padraig Leydon, Ollie Murphy, Gabriel Kelleher, Kieran Maher, Peter Hennebry, Mick Geoghegan, Paul Cleere, Ciaran Kelleher, Sean Murphy, Andy Heffernan, Martin Purcell. Sub: Pat Hennebry.

## UNDER-16 HURLING ROINN B

**St. Mary's:** Billy Walsh, Pat Quigley, Mick Dunne, Murty Kavanagh, Pat Wall, Jimmy Donnelly, David Foley, Tommy Bawle, Michael Devane, Eddie Byrne, Eamon Nolan, Seamus Nicholson, Simon Walton, John Barry, Richard Mulrooney.

## UNDER-16 FOOTBALL ROINN B

**Mooncoin:** Nicky Doyle, Paddy Bowe, Jim Foskin, Liam Delahunty, John Kearns, Peter Dunphy, Paudie Lennon, John Croke, Davy Grace, Joe Vereker, George O'Neill, Jimmy Clery, Tom O'Neill, Seamus Delahunty, John Kearns.

## UNDER-16 HURLING ROINN C

**Graigie-Ballycallan:** Tommy Egan, Kevin Brennan, Michael Walsh, Eamon Murphy, Sean Butler, John Caldbeck, James Cahill, Tom Fennelly, John Brett, Jim Maher, Lory Comerford, Tomas McCluskey, James Hogan, Kevin Butler, Tony McCluskey.

## UNDER-14 HURLING ROINN A

**Gowran:** Thomas Dowling, Patrick Lennon, Tony Byrne, Kevin Brennan, Vincent Bollard, Robert Byrne, Patrick

Rudkins, P. J. Dreeling, Thomas Farrell, Matt O'Neill, Thomas Lennon, Michael Fitzgerald, Patrick Mackey, Noel Brennan, Michael O'Neill. Sub: Michael Kehoe.

## UNDER-14 HURLING ROINN B

**Callan:** James Quigley, Liam Power, John Holden, Michael Holden, Barry O'Shea, Bosco Bryan, Denis O'Sullivan, Philip Comerford, Aiden O'Dwyer, Liam Egan, Patrick Comerford, John Power, Michael Barry, Kieran O'Dwyer, Paul Leahy.

## UNDER-14 HURLING ROINN C

**Ballyragget:** Tom Roberts, Padraig Healy, Martin Healy, Martin Devlin, Gerry Phelan, Des Foley, Fonsie Scanlon, Tim Phelan, Kevin Butler, Gerry Doyle, John Holohan, Murt Phelan, Niall Bolger, Donie Doyle, J. P. Casey. Sub: Pat McEvoy.

## UNDER-14 HURLING ROINN D

**Conahy:** Paul Brennan, Cyril Dunne, Michael Feehan, Kevin Harding, Seamus Dooley, Denis Carroll, Timmy Mahony, Seanie Mahony, Willie Hennessy, John Feehan, Michael Carroll, Sean Cahill, Robbie Mahony, Anthony Gunner, James Brennan.

## UNDER-14 FOOTBALL ROINN A

**Thomastown:** Brendan Maher, John Moore, Gerard Finan, Pat Kirwan, John Whelan, Barry Lannon, Kevin Treacy, Brendan Costigan, Brendan Treacy, Aiden Roche, Gerard Lannon, Pat Walsh, Brendan Costelloe, Franky Kavanagh, Jimmy O'Neill. Subs: James Walsh, Stephen Bolger.

## UNDER-14 FOOTBALL ROINN B

**Slieverue:** Enda Walsh, Kevin Haberlin, Joseph Fleming, Raymond Power, Marty Connolly, Paul Murphy, John O'Dwyer, J. J. Murphy, Michael Frisby, Gerry Dowling, Laurence Walsh, Ray Murphy, David Condon, Donal Dowling, Larry O'Brien. Sub: Pat Frisby.

## UNDER-13 FOOTBALL ROINN A

**St Patrick:** Ronan Conway, Brian Kummer, Anthony Smith, Joseph Walsh, Declan Forristal, Nicholas Comerford, Tommy Fogarty, Paul Whelan, Kevin Conroy, Adrian Connick, Jimmy Morrissey, Brendan Delahunty, Brendan Nugent, Nicky Morrissey, Adrian Dempsey.

## UNDER-13 FOOTBALL ROINN B

**Kilmanagh:** Eamon Egan, Gabriel Wall, James Nugent, Ger Coyne, Martin Lanigan, Phil Cahill, Seamus Casey, Jim O'Brien, Adrian Ronan, Edward Teehan, John Teehan, Philip Doran, Eamon Butler, Michael Doran, Patrick Dalton. Sub: Mark O'Brien.

## UNDER-12 HURLING ROINN A

**Graignamanagh:** Ken O'Shea, Paul Ryan, Damien Bolger, Edward Cahill, Martin O'Brien, Alan Foley, Brendan Corbett, Michael Fenlon, Ian Ryan, Pat Fanning, John Byrne, Seamus Canning, Martin O'Grady, David Flynn, Edward Bolger.

## UNDER-12 HURLING ROINN C

**Rower-Inistioge:** Richard Bolger, John Roche, Willie Meaney, Seamus Drea, Richie Proctor, Liam Ryan, Willie Cottrell, Pat Grace, Eddie Bolger, Pat Murphy, Michael

Galavan, Michael Mackey, Sean Kennedy, Richard O'Keeffe, John Grace.

## UNDER-16 HURLING LEAGUE ROINN A

**Mooncoin:** Declan Reddy, Peter Dunphy, Jim Foskin, Liam Delahunty, John Kearns, George O'Neill, Paudie Lennon, David Grace, John Croke, Joe Vereker, Seamus Delahunty, John Kearns, Jimmy Cleary, Nicky Doyle, Noe Dunphy. Sub: Pat McCarthy.

## UNDER-16 FOOTBALL LEAGUE ROINN A

**The Gaels:** Brian Goulding, Brian Fitzpatrick, Nick McGrath, Tony Morrissey, Padraig Leydon, Gabriel Kelleher, Joe Kennedy, Ollie Murphy, Kieran Maher, Ciaran Kelleher, Paul Cleere, Mick Geoghegan, Dan O'Driscoll, Andy Heffernan, Martin Purcell.

## UNDER-16 HURLING LEAGUE ROINN B

**Bennettsbridge:** Seanie Cleere, John Maddock, Thomas Lennon, Liam Cassin, John Ryan, Larry Cleere, Sean Connolly, Gerry Cleere, Jimmy Doran, Paul Doran, Pat Comerford, Richard Moran, Own Lalor, Tim Drea, Andy Phelan. Subs: Billy Cleere, Liam O'Neill, Frank Mahon.

## UNDER-16 FOOTBALL LEAGUE ROINN B

**Mooncoin:** Nicky Doyle, Noel Dunphy, Jim Foskin, Paddy Bowe, John Kearns, Peter Dunphy, Paudie Lennon, John Croke, Davy Grace, Joe Vereker, Seamus Delahunty, John Kearns, Tom O'Neill, George O'Neill, Jimmy Cleary.

## UNDER-16 HURLING LEAGUE ROINN C

**Graigie-Ballycallan:** Tommy Egan, Kevin Brennan, Michael Walsh, Eamon Murphy, Sean Butler, John Caldbeck, James Cahill, John Brett, Tom Fennelly, Jim Maher, Lory Comerford, Tomas McCluskey, James Hogan, Kevin Butler, Tony McCluskey. Subs: Bill Harrison, Richie Maher and Phil Maher.

## UNDER-12 HURLING LEAGUE ROINN A

**Graignamanagh:** Ken O'Shea, Paul Ryan, Damien Bolger, Edward Cahill, Martin O'Brien, Alan Foley, Brendan Corbett, Michael Fenlon, Ian Ryan, Pat Fanning, David Flynn, Seamus Canning, Martin O'Grady, John Byrne, Edward Bolger.

## UNDER-12 HURLING LEAGUE ROINN B

**Freshford:** Brian Rafter, John Darmody, John Crosbie, Damien Rafter, Thomas Maher, Vincent Bolger, Martin Colclough, Anthony Dawson, Tony Brennan, Nicky Doherty, John Hickey, Richard Dawson, Ian Crosbie, Brian Darmody, Martin Campion.

## UNDER-12 HURLING LEAGUE ROINN C

**Rower-Inistioge:** Richard Bolger, John Roche, Willie Meaney, Richie Proctor, Ciaran Caulfield, Liam Ryan, Willie Cottrell, Pat Grace, Eddie Bolger, Pat Murphy, Michael Mackey, Michael Galavan, Sean Kennedy, Richard O'Keeffe, Michael Bourke. Sub: Michael McGrath.

## UNDER-12 HURLING LEAGUE ROINN D

**Tullagher:** Seamus Murphy, Simon Walsh, Seamus Bookle, John Murphy, Thomas Bookle, Seamus Kennedy, Frank Morrissey, Tom Murphy, Pat O'Neill, Mick Roche, Seamus Croke, Eddie O'Sullivan, Padraig Purcell, Pat Hennessy, Sean Kennedy. Sub: Paul Young.



Six months is not such a long time! Around 182 days in an ordinary calendar year. Still, it is long enough for us to glide through part of Summer, snuggle through Autumn and endure the biting cold of the Winter.

**Six months —  
two hours —  
tragedy**

By JOHN KNOX

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The dropping of half the points in three outings has almost certainly doomed them to another stay in the division they now play their wares. This was not bargained for. It was all meant to be so different.

A quick dash through the League. Promotion, and then a new team to tear away for the McCarthy Cup next September. Instead, the new direction has been lost and two out of three saving bullets have been shot wide of the target.

But Kilkenny are lucky. A new season is fast approaching. It is the one of growth, and as they have new men to culture the crop of hurlers, they might mature and reach full fruition around next September.

It's an old saying that things get bad before they get better. Well, Kilkenny have reached the point where they cannot move backwards.

And had one told Kilkenny people that for a different reason early last July they would have believed it too. The championships locally were good. The Leinster semi-final success over sturdy Wexford was heart-warming. There was no need to worry about Offaly. And therein lies the troubles of Kilkenny today — worries!

The self-belief and pride have seeped out of the hurlers. Like a wounded bull elephant, the county wobbles aimlessly around. But, unlike that animal, Kilkenny's vital organs are intact.

Good local championships don't produce bad county teams. Bad hurlers don't produce good championships.

Match for match, team for team, Kilkenny can compare with any county — Cork, Limerick, Galway, Tipperary.

**Shock wave**

The Leinster final defeat sent a shock wave through the county. So much was expected from the year. Once Wexford were out of the way, it was supposed to be full speed ahead to the first Sunday in September.

The Noresiders received another dart of the volts against Laois. They had not thought how they might have to cope during the interval between the Leinster final defeat and the match against Laois.

Now they are in a second lull between the Kerry game and the next League encounter. Grass doesn't grow at this time of year, but Kilkenny have been taught not to let it grow under their feet at any time. Absolutely never.

And you know, sport is really crazy. For in the next six months two hours of good hurling will put the present crisis a million miles behind. Kilkenny could be in the All-Ireland final then with the Leinster champions not having to play a semi-final. The dividing line between success and failure is truly marginal.

No, perhaps on second reflection, it is a long time. So much can happen, good and bad. The seasons can be cruel, nature suffers. The once bright and attractive green leaves wither and are eventually ripped from their tree perches. The ground will be strewn with the remnants of a once proud and wonderful thing — the dead leaves of a tree.

Sport, too, has its brush with the seasons. Summer is friendly. Autumn tolerable, but Winter has no compromise. That is with Gaelic games at any rate.

Kilkenny know well the march of the seasons of the second part of 1980. They followed much the trend that nature dictates, but they weren't meant to, in a sporting context.

On a bright and summery day in July at Croke Park, Kilkenny just couldn't get in out of the shade. By the time the next season arrived their colour had watered, and come Winter they tumbled down, but unlike the flight of the leaves, the landing was hard.

Yes, in six months a lot has happened to Kilkenny hurling. But, really, was it that long? No, we cod ourselves. It was only two hours. And tragedy had befallen.

**Good times**

June and early July were such good times. The hurlers were doing well. Into the Leinster final they were. Sure the Winter would be short with the All-Ireland to look forward to. Then an unexpected storm blew up.

When it had subsided, it had carried off the Bob O'Keeffe Cup and, instead of depositing it on Noreside, it

*Continued on next page*



## Six months – two hours – tragedy

Continued from previous page carried it all the way up to Offaly. The prize for the Leinster champions had never been landed there before, so after the initial shock everyone shrugged their shoulders and said: 'Ah sure, good luck to them, they deserve it'.

Like the weather difference of Summer and Autumn, Kilkenny's new hopes were not so haughty. There was no McCarthy Cup to aim at. No, just promotion out of Division 1B of the National League. A modest aim by Kilkenny standards, but along what proved a road full of obstacles.

Before Christmas, Kil-

kenny were scheduled to play three hours in this League. Two proved tragic.

Laois loused up the plans when they beat the now deposed Leinster champions at Nowlan Park. Some extra breathing space was won back in a victory over Dublin. Then came the tragic second 60 minutes.

Tralee, at most times a nice place to be, but on a bitterly cold early December day, Kilkenny found the Kingdom hurlers as inhospitable as Jack Frost. In a historic first hurling clash between the counties, a draw was the outcome. The Kilkenny hurlers were nearly cast into exile.

## John T. Power

– hitting  
the  
century

Almost on the century mark – he is in his 99th year – John T. Power of Piltown must surely be the oldest all-Ireland medal holder living.

He won his first all-Ireland medal in 1907 and was on successful Kilkenny teams in 1911, 1912 and 1913. He was a superb goalie.

He gave one of his all-Ireland medals to a priest friend in Australia who had it made into a key which opened the Tabernacle in the parish church.



Mr John Power, Main Street, Piltown, who recently celebrated his 99th birthday. John who holds five all-Ireland hurling medals with Kilkenny is seen here with the hurley he used in the 1907 all-Ireland hurling final

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# A good year with Mooncoin the stars

**It was a successful year for the Under-16 Board. All 10 competitions were completed in good time. Mooncoin were the outstanding team of the year, winning no fewer than four competitions.**

They took the double in hurling. The league victory against St. Patrick's was a hard fought affair. Played in Piltown, Mooncoin had to pull out all the stops to come through by 3-7 to 1-8. St. Patrick's made a surprise exit from the championship, losing to O'Loughlins, who went out to Mooncoin at the semi-final stage.

Castlecomer came through to the final, but had no answer to Mooncoin who ran out winners by 7-10 to 2-5. This victory gave Mooncoin their

fifth title. The outstanding players for Mooncoin were Seamus Delahunty, George O'Neill, Jim Foskin, Davy Grace and Jimmy Clery.

Mooncoin's victories in football were in Roinn B. They beat Bennettsbridge in both league and championship finals. The league final played at Hugginstown was a high scoring game with Mooncoin winning by three points, 2-10 to 3-4. In the championship, Mooncoin had just two points to spare, 0-6 to 0-4. It is interesting to note that 14 of

the same players figured in the championship victories of Mooncoin in both hurling and football.

## Double for Gaels

The Gaels had a successful year, taking the double of league and championship in Roinn A football. The standard of football in under-16 was the highest for many years. The league final was a great game in which the Gaels just edged out Graignamanagh by 2-6 to 2-3.

The championship final was the game of the year as Gaels came from behind to snatch a dramatic victory with a late goal on a score of 3-3 to 2-4 for St. Patricks. The players who did most for the Gaels were Ollie Murphy, Kieran Maher, Ciaran Kelleher, Gabriel Kelleher, Brian Fitzpatrick and Paul Cleere.

Graigie-Ballycallan was another club who had a very

**BY TOM RYALL**

satisfying year, bringing off the double of league and championships in Roinn C. These were the first under-16 titles ever won by the club. Graigue-Ballycallan had a very easy win in the league when they beat Carrickshock by 7-7 to 2-2 at Nowlan Park.

The championship win against St. Senans (Kilmacow) at Hugginstown saw the team play their best half hour's hurling of the year in the first half when favoured by the breeze. They led by 1-11 to 0-1 at half time. They withstood strong Kilmacow pressure in the second half to win by 2-13 to 2-3.

Their best players during the year were Kevin Brennan, Michael Walsh, James Cahill, John Caldbeck, Jim Maher, Lory Comerford and Kevin Butler.



*The Mooncoin hurlers who created a record during 1980. They won the under-16 league and championship in football and hurling. Included in the picture is team trainer, Fr. L. Barron C.C.*



## ST. MARY'S County Under-16 Roinn B Champions



*Back row (l to r): Billy Hayes, John Barry, Billy Walsh, Davy Foley, Bill Kavanagh, Michael Devane, Pat Cass, Martin Kavanagh, Eddie Byrne, Andy Ryan, Simon Walton. Front row (l to r) Billy Ayres, Richard Mulrooney, Eamon Nolan, Michael Dunne, Pat Quigley, Seamus Nicholson, Pat Wall, Michael Maher. Missing from the picture are Tommy Bawle and Jimmy Donnelly.*

## A good year with Mooncoin the stars

The Roinn B hurling produced two title winners. Bennettsbridge took the hurling league honours when they beat the Rower Inistioge by 5-10 to 1-2. It was a clear-cut victory for Bennettsbridge who had good players in Gerry Cleere, Larry Cleere, Jimmy Doran, Pat Cúmerford, Liam Cassin and John Ryan. The easy win for

Bennettsbridge made them favourites for the championship.

St. Mary's had used the league to build up a good team and it showed in the championship. They played a thrilling draw with Bennettsbridge in the Northern final in Danesfort.

The replay took place in Nowlan Park and St. Mary's,

despite having a man sent off just before half time, held on for a great one point win. Shamrocks beat The Rower-Inistioge in the South final, also in a replay.

St. Mary's proved much too good for the Shamrocks, running out winners by 6-11 to 1-4. St. Mary's best players were Billy Walsh, Tommy Bawle, Jimmy Donnelly,

Seamus Nicholson, Michael Devane and Simon Walton.

While the football produced a high standard, the hurling was not as good as usual, although all the winning teams had good individuals. Nevertheless, taking the position overall, the future of Kilkenny hurling seems assured with the rising crop of talent available!

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# Super performance by GRAIGNAMANAGH



Relegated from the senior grade in 1979, Graignamanagh bounced back immediately and put on the performance of the year when they beat Thomastown United in the intermediate hurling championship final.



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HEALTH AND TENNIS CLUB FACILITIES AVAILABLE

The biggest and most successful revolution in Kilkenny G.A.A. in recent years has been the re-introduction of the intermediate hurling championship.

Without doubt, the competition has transformed mediocre clubs into top class senior outfits and has proved to be an excellent preparatory stage for clubs entering the big time.

The grade has also produced a standard of hurling that would often leave senior games in the background as each contest generally served up entertaining and top class fare.

The 1980 championship appeared to generate a new-found interest and as far back as last January the contestants began their preparations.

It was very much an open field at the beginning of the season as each team made secret plans to capture the much coveted Hanrahan cup.

As the championship swung into action it certainly lived up to its high expectations with each game producing top class fare.

### Better or worse

As the competition progressed team's fortunes changed, some for the better

and others for worse.

After a very promising early campaign the newly-promoted junior champions, Carrickshock, looked favourites but their partners in the favourite bracket, Thomastown, caught them in the semi-final and qualified for the final on the score of 4-9 to 1-12.

And their opponents in the final, the newly-demoted Graignamanagh, had less difficulty in overcoming Clara by 3-8 to 1-9 in the other semi-final.

The memorable moments of the championship were completely overshadowed by a thrilling final when Graignamanagh produced a super performance to overcome Thomastown.

This game could well go down in the record books as the game of the year in Kilkenny.

Drama, thrills, excitement

*Continued overleaf.*





Defeated intermediate hurling championship finalists, Thomastown United.

## Super performance by **GRAIGNAMANAGH**

Contd. from previous page.

and superb artistry were all part and parcel of an action-packed encounter enjoyed by a £3,000-gate attendance.

Graignamanagh, who were relegated from senior ranks earlier in the year, got off to a dream start and raced into a 2-2 to nil lead after eight minutes.

Thomastown came more

into the game but were still in arrears by 3-5 to 1-5 at the interval.

After a ding-dong second half struggle Graignamanagh emerged victors by 4-12 to 1-16.

The game produced two heroes — the fleet-footed Peter Prendergast of the victors and Paudie Lannon of Thomastown.

### ● Scorers:

*Graignamanagh:* P. Prendergast (2-7), T. Dowling (1-1), P. Kelly (1-0), J. O'Connor (0-2), T. Prendergast and J. Gahan (0-1 each).

*Thomastown:* P. Lannon (0-5), D. O'Hara (1-2), R. Murphy and T. Feeney (0-3 each), P. Kearney (0-2), T. McMahon (0-1).

### ● Teams

**Graignamanagh** — J. Dowling, T. Phelan, S. O'Grady, J. Creane, P. Cahill, T. Foley, T. Dowling, P.

Kavanagh, R. Grace, P. Prendergast, J. Gahan, D. Grace, J. O'Connor, N. Lyng, P. Kelly.

*Subs.:* T. Prendergast for P. Kavanagh, L. Reddy for D. Grace.

**Thomastown:** J. Brennan, R. Moore, J. Lanigan, D. Breen, D. Prendergast, B. O'Hara, J. Prendergast, J. Costelloe, P. Lannon, M. Walsh, R. Murphy, T. Flynn, P. Kearney, D. O'Hara, T. McMahon.

*Subs.:* T. Feeney for T. Flynn, M. Farrell for M. Walsh.

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# Twenty Questions ?

1. Five Kilkennymen refereed All-Ireland finals: who were they?
2. Only one county has won five All-Ireland hurling finals in a decade. What county is it and in what years were the finals won?
3. Only one club has won four county senior hurling titles in successive years. Name the club and the years in which the finals were won.
4. Two clubs have won five county senior football titles in successive years. Name the clubs?
5. Where was the first inter-provincial hurling match between Leinster and Munster played?
6. When was the first Railway Cup hurling final between Leinster and Munster played? What was the result?
7. In 1877 hurling sides consisted of 21 players. When was the number reduced to 17 and when to 15 aside?
8. In what year did Kilkenny play in their first All-Ireland final?

9. Kilkenny once objected in a Leinster final. Name the year, the grounds of the objection and the outcome.
10. Three All-Ireland finals were unfinished. The first was in 1888 because of the American Invasion. Give the other two?
11. In what year did Kilkenny win their first All-Ireland junior title; who did they beat and what were the scores?
12. Who captained the team?
13. In what years did Kilkenny win seven All-Ireland finals by a single point?
14. Who holds the distinction of having been the longest serving President of the G.A.A.?
15. Two All-Ireland finals were played in Kilkenny; in what years were they played; what teams were involved and what were the results?
16. Only two fathers and sons have figured on winning Kilkenny all-Ireland senior hurling sides. Who are they?
17. Who is the only Kilkennyman to have refereed both a hurling and football All-Ireland final?
18. Only one Leinster senior hurling final was abandoned — when did this happen and what counties were involved?
19. What club supplied the captains of senior and minor All-Ireland winning teams on the same day?
20. Only one Kilkennyman won All-Ireland medals in hurling and football; who is he?

Answers on Page 62

# The fixtures committee was a great arrival

ORGANISING sport takes a lot of doing. The matches have to be arranged. Venues looked after. Referees appointed and teams notified.

Games have been going on in Kilkenny for so long now that everyone takes it for granted that when they see a fixture on the paper they just have to go along and things will happen. That is the way it has been, but it takes a bit of organising.

In this county last year, 360 matches were played in the major championships, ranging from senior hurling to special junior football. That huge number may not seem large at first sight, but when the championships

were run on a knock-out basis a couple of years ago one could cut that number by about five and arrive at the then overall figure.

So one can see how far organisation in this county has come over the past few years. There are more games being played, and in the end, this can be only good for the growth of Gaelic sport.

In Kilkenny, the arrival of the Fixtures Committee was, perhaps, the greatest single step forward G.A.A. games took in over two decades. Now long in advance of the start of the championships, clubs know when and where they will be playing. Players can arrange their holidays to fit in with the

championships, which is a complete turn around from years ago when clubs were able to call the shots when it came to fixing games, and more than one or two rows had to be sorted out.

While 360 was the number of major matches played, it does not take into consideration the hundreds of other under-age games staged. So, overall in Kilkenny last season, pushing on towards 1,000 hours of hurling and football were contested on playing fields scattered North, South, East and West in the county.

## Winners

The playing of such a vast number of games just doesn't happen. It has to be co-ordinated, and this was where the Fixtures Committee came out a winner. The Under-age boards had a complete list of games that were going to be decided, and they could plan their schedules knowing they would not be interfered with.

Now entering its third year, the Fixtures Committee took a gigantic amount of work to get things organised for the initial championships. Sure, there were problems, but they were ironed out and now things work like clockwork.

At first it was a bit of a problem to get clubs used to the idea that they HAD to play matches at stated times and venues. The old idea of playing the match when "it suits us" was hard to get rid of, but thanks to a no-nonsense stance, the men in authority have won over in the end.

That was just one move with the times that has helped Kilkenny. No doubt there will be others, but this far, the Fixtures Committee must be regarded as an unqualified success.



# DID YOU HEAR 'THE ONE ABOUT'...

## NO GAMES PLAYED

**IN 1890, the then Bishop of Ossory asked the G.A.A. officials not to play any games during Lent. The G.A.A. agreed and no games were played.**

## SPECTATORS PLAYED IN ALL-IRELAND

IMAGINE going to an All-Ireland as a spectator and ending up by playing in it. Well, it happened in 1909.

Three Piltown players — John Power, Jack Anthony and John Butler failed to put in an appearance because of a dispute between Piltown and Mooncoin. Tom Kenny and Jim Corr (Erin's Own) did not travel either.

This left Kilkenny with seventeen players, which constituted a team at the time. Two Mooncoin men, Jim Dunphy and Joe Delahunty, who were at the game, were asked to tog out and make the team. Kilkenny beat Tipperary by 4-6 to 0-12 and Drug Walsh, Mooncoin, was captain.

## ALL-IRELAND MEDALS RETURNED

WHEN Kilkenny got their All-Ireland medals for 1911 they returned them to the Central Council as they varied in weight. Some were too heavy, while others were light. They eventually got the right ones.

## ONE MEDAL LEFT

**WHEN it came to presenting the medals for the All-Ireland of 1909, there was one medal left over as only 19 players were on the panel.**

**At a meeting of the Co. Board, it was agreed to give the medal to Fr. Dan Grace who had helped Kilkenny to their previous wins in 1904, 1905 and 1907. Dan was not available to play in 1909 as he had been ordained and priests were not allowed to hurl in those days.**

## WON FOOTBALL AND HURLING ON SAME DAY

*EIGHT players won minor hurling and football county medals on the same day.*

*It happened on March 21, 1937, in the 1936 finals.*

*Eire Og won the minor hurling championship by beating Mooncoin by 6-5 to 0-1, while St. Magdalen's won the minor football championship by beating Knocktopher by 2-3 to 2-2.*

*The players who accomplished this fact were Tom Delaney, Jack Mulcahy, Jim Langton, Seanie O'Brien, Eddie Fitzpatrick, Tom Murphy, Paddy Kavanagh and Paddy Roche.*

## WON BY SAME MARGIN

THE last four under-21 hurling finals have all been won by the same margin of three points.

1977 — St. Lactain's 2-15, Shamrocks 3-9.

1978 — Erin's Own (Castlecomer) 2-11, Piltown 2-8.

1979 — Clara 1-5, Shamrocks 0-5.

1980 — Glenmore 2-7, O'Loughlin's 1-7.

## THE LALORS

**The Fennelly family have what must be something of a record with seven brothers on the Shamrocks team. There were eight Lalors on the Threecastles team in the early years of the century but they were not all brothers. John, Jim, Dan and Martin (brothers) were first cousins of Jack, Jim, Mick and Martin who were also brothers.**

## WHEN WAS COUNTY BOARD FORMED?

THE Kilkenny County G.A.A. Board was formed in January, 1887.

*The first officers were: Patrick J. O'Keefe, Workingmen's Club (chairman); Stephen Donleavy, Workingmen's Club (secretary). When Donleavy left in June of the same year to take up employment in Ennis, Co. Clare, Pat Geary, Kilkenny Football Club, became secretary.*

*The Southern Board commenced operations in 1919 with James Aylward, Mullinavat (chairman), Peter Walsh, Templeorum (vice-chairman) and John Ryan, Knockmoylan (secretary) as officers.*

*The Northern Board then was formed in 1929 with the officers being Sean Gibbons, Clomanto (chairman); John Dowling, Danesfort (vice-chairman) and Liam Mac Oda (secretary).*

*The first Camogie Board was formed in 1932 with Danny O'Connell as chairman, Miss Kitty Kennedy as vice-chairman (as it was known in those days) and Miss Eileen Delaney as secretary-treasurer.*

*The Handball Board was formed in October 1922. The chairman was Michael Davin, Talbot's Inch, and other officers were Hugh Murphy, City Handball Club (secretary) and Ned Purcell, City Handball Club (treasurer).*

*The Football Board held its first meeting in 1937 and the top posts were filled by Mick Hefferan, Glenmore (chairman) and Liam Mac Oda, Clomanto (secretary).*



*Tom Waldron... the St Lactain's (Freshford) official was the first chairman of the Under-16 Board.*

*In 1951 the Under-16 Board came into operation with Freshford's Tom Waldron as chairman. His fellow officers were Br. Cyril, St. Patrick's, and John Walsh, Freshford (vice-chairman) and Br. Ailbe, St. John's (secretary). When the latter resigned in July, his position was filled by Ned Curran, Urlingford, the present Northern Board chairman.*

*At the Community Games finals in 1980, Br. Cyril, no doubt, got a great amount of pleasure when he had to present the winners' medals to the boys from St. Patrick's (Kilkenny).*

*The first recorded date of the Under-14 Board holding a meeting was in 1940.*



# DID YOU HEAR THE ONE ABOUT...

## MINISTER WAS REFEREE



*Mr. John Wilson T.D. . . . the present Minister for Education played with Sarsfields (Conahy) in the Kilkenny football championship.*

THE present Minister for Education, Mr. John Wilson, once refereed a Kilkenny senior football final.

A teacher at St. Kieran's College, he took charge of the second game between St. John's and Sarsfields at Nowlan Park in the 1948 final. The result was a draw — 0-4 to 1-1 (Sarsfields).

He also kicked football with Sarsfields (Conahy) in the local championship.

## CHAMPIONSHIP DROPPED

**THE 1911 championships in Kilkenny ran so late that the Convention of 1912 was held in September. It was proposed by J. J. Deegan (Urlingford) and seconded by Mr. Lennon that the 1912 championships be dropped.**

**It was unanimously agreed to. As a result, the 1913 championships were started in late 1912.**

## FOOTBALL IN 1731

*IN January 1731 a football game between married men and single men was played at Dangan, Thomastown. The game was organised by a man named Wesley who was an ancestor of the Duke of Wellington. Believe it or not hurling was a popular game 200 years ago and the gentry and nobility were the game's most interested supporters.*

## FIRST BLACK AND AMBER JERSIES

**JOHN F. DRENNAN** of Conway Hall, Kells, presented the first set of Black and Amber jerseys to Kilkenny in December 1911. They were to have been worn against Limerick in the All-Ireland to be played in February 1912.

However, the state of the Cork Athletic Grounds caused the postponement of the final. It was refixed for Thurles. Limerick refused to play in Thurles and Kilkenny got a walk-over.

**Kilkenny first wore the jerseys against Cork in a Munster Feis game played on June 7, 1912.**

**Kilkenny went on to win the All-Ireland finals of 1912 and 1913, and as a result they presented John F. Drennan with a gold medal and a large photograph of the team in February, 1914, as a token of appreciation for having never lost a championship game since they got the jerseys.**

## FATHER OF THE GAME

**PAT ('FOX') MAHER** of Tullaroan was known as father of the game though he won only one all-Ireland medal — 1904. Just 80 years ago after a Railway Shield game at Limerick he was chosen as the best man in the game and was presented with a complete athlete's outfit.

## LONGEST-SERVING OFFICER

**THE longest-serving officer ever in Kilkenny was the late Seamus McKenna (Thomastown). He started as secretary of the Southern Board in 1924 and served until his death in July, 1971 — a total of 47 years.**

**John Ivory (Lisdowney) commenced as secretary of the Northern Board in 1947 and is starting out on his 35th year. County secretary Paddy Grace will be returned for the 34th time at the annual Convention at the end of January. He started out in 1948.**

## NEARLY REACHED FINAL

**KILKENNY** almost reached the Leinster minor football final in 1934. They beat Offaly by 2-5 to 1-2, but lost the semi-final to Kildare by just two points on the score 2-1 to 1-2.

## TULLAROAN PLAY THEMSELVES

ONE OF the most unusual county finals ever played was that of 1899. It was contested by two teams from Tullaroan!

The game was played in Tullaroan on September 17 and was refereed by James Grace, the first captain of the Tullaroan hurling team. In 1897 Tullaroan and Threecastles joined together. The team was to be known as Tullaroan in the first year and as Threecastles the following year, and so on in alternate years.

As a result, Tullaroan took the county title in 1897 and Threecastles in 1898. As some of the younger players in Tullaroan could not get on this team they entered a second team for the 1899 competition, calling themselves Young Irelands.

Beating Freshford by 2-10 to 1-5 and Urlingford by 3-8 to 0-0, they qualified for the county final. The official Tullaroan team got a bye in the first round and beat their neighbours, Graine, by 0-8 to 0-1 in an unfinished semi-final.

The official Tullaroan team beat the Young Irelands (Tullaroan) in the final by 3-6 to 1-5. Included on the Young Irelands side was Sim Walton, who later went on to win seven All-Ireland senior medals and Jack Hoyne, who won three All-Ireland senior medals (1904, 1905 and 1907 as a sub.).

For the record, the teams were:

**Tullaroan** — Jackie Walsh (capt.), Jack Lalor, Tom Grace, Jer Doheny, J. Dowling, Jim Galor, Ed Kelly, Pat Malone, Mike Malone, Paddy Ryan, Joe Ryan, Ned Hennessy, Mick Dalton, Fox Maher, Willie Walsh, Dick Hoyne, Ned Teehan.

**Young Irelands:** John Holohan, Paddy Cass, Stephen Cass, J. Ryan, J. Cahill, P. Dowling, Jack Hoyne, P. Hoyne, R. Dunne, Sim Walton, Bill Malone, J. Maher, P. Leary, Pat Young, D. Kerwick, J. Cummins, T. Cassin.

*Continued overleaf.*



# DID YOU HEAR 'THE ONE ABOUT'...

## FOOT-AND-MOUTH AND FOOTBALL

**KILKENNY** reached the Leinster junior football final in 1941 for the first time since 1914, but owing to the foot and mouth disease they could not play the game against Carlow, who were given a walk-over.

The football delegates to the Co. Board were very critical of the Leinster Council representatives when the senior, junior and minor hurlers were allowed to play their Leinster championship games in the Autumn, when normality had returned.

They claimed that Carlow should not have been conceded the game.

## SOME KIND OF RECORD



Paul Cleere (16) . . . the O'Loughlin's/Gael's player must have set up some kind of record by appearing in seven finals in 12 months.

**YOUNG O'Loughlin's/Gaels** player, Paul Cleere must have created some kind of championship record during 1980.

Although only 16 years of age, he played in seven county finals during the past 12 months. And he collected four winners medals.

Paul figured in the under-16 football league and championship decider; the minor hurling and football championship finals; the under-21 hurling and football (the 1979 final which was played late) deciders and then to cap it all he turned out in the special junior final.

He collected winners medals in both under-16 games, as well as the special junior football and in the minor hurling county championship.

He is son of Mr. Joe and Mrs. Eileen Cleere, Newpark, Kilkenny. Mr. Cleere (senior) was no mean player in his day and he lined out with Graigue.

## LINING THE PITCH WITH NO BOOTS ON

**CONDITIONS** were so bad at the Athletic Grounds, Cork, for the 1911 All-Ireland final between Kilkenny and Limerick that the groundsman was found lining the pitch with no boots on and his trousers tucked up above his knees.

This was the amazing sight facing the Kilkenny officials when they went out to inspect the pitch before the game. Limerick, who had defeated Tipperary in the Munster final at the same venue a few weeks previously in similar conditions, were anxious to play the match.

The Central Council officers, as well as the referee, Tom Kenny (Galway), ruled that the pitch was unplayable.

Limerick lined out and began to puck the ball around. Only the Mooncoin men turned up at the grounds from Kilkenny. The other players, who had arrived in a different train, stayed at the hotel until word came that the match was off.

## UNUSUAL FINAL DECISION

**ONE OF** the most unusual decisions regarding a Kilkenny championship final was that of the minor football final in 1949. Castle Rovers (Goresbridge) and Tullogher met in the final at Thomastown on December 8.

Castle Rovers won by 5-4 to 1-2. Tullogher objected to Castle Rovers on the grounds that they included three players from Carlow, while Castle Rovers counter-objectioned on the grounds that Tullogher had two unregistered players.

Both teams were disqualified and Rialtyard and Spike Rangers (Castlecomer) who had been beaten by Castle Rovers in the North, and Kilmoganny, who had been beaten by Tullogher in the South, were allowed back into the championship.

Spike Rangers beat Rialtyard in the Northern final by 0-5 to 0-3 and then won the final by 3-8 to 0-1 for Kilmoganny. Thus Spike Rangers ended up as county champions after being beaten in the first round and not getting back by an objection put in by themselves.

# Plenty of Hurling— but no Sliothar

IT WAS a night when plenty of hurling matches were played, but not a sliothar was struck, even though goals and points were scored to beat the band.

Noreside players who had helped the county win 21 all-Ireland senior hurling titles were all assembled. It was the gala celebrations at the Newpark hotel on March 5 to mark Kilkenny's coming-of-age of championship successes.

The 400 strong attendance sat down to enjoy a menu flavoured by local clubs. There was Mooncoin melon to start and Rower-Inistioge salad and Fenians cream to finish.

Cork's favourite hurling and political son, Jack Lynch was there too. So too was the president of the G.A.A., Paddy McFlynn and Director General, Liam Mulvihill, as well as all the top brass in the local game.

The walls of the hotel were adorned with pictures of Kilkenny greats — Drug Walsh (Mooncoin), Ollie Walsh (Thomastown), Lory Meagher (Tullaroan), John T. Power and pictures of the 21 teams.

It was not a night for speech making, more a night when the hurlers came together for one big game away from the arena of Croke Park.

The 21 all-Ireland captains were: Jer Doherty, Tullaroan (1904); Dan Stapleton, Erin's Own (1905); Drug Walsh, Mooncoin (1907 and '09); Sim Walton, Tullaroan (1911, '12); Drug Walsh (1913); Watty Dunphy, Mooncoin (1922); Jimmy Walsh, Carrickshock (1932); Eddie Doyle, Mooncoin (1933); Lory Meagher, Tullaroan (1935); Jimmy Walsh (1939); Dan Kennedy, Thomastown (1947); Mickie Kelly, Bennettsbridge (1957); Seamie Cleere, Bennettsbridge (1963); Jim Treacy, Bennettsbridge (1967); Eddie Keher, Rower-Inistioge (1969); Noel Skehan, Bennettsbridge (1972); Nicky Orr, Fenians (1974); Billy Fitzpatrick, Fenians (1975); Ger Fennelly, Shamrocks (1979).



# PADDY FOR PRESIDENT?



*Paddy Buggy . . . the Leinster Council chairman from Slieverue is seeking election as President of the G.A.A.*

**FOR ONLY the second time in the near 100 year history of the G.A.A., a Kilkenny official could hold the top post of president of the Association.**

Leinster Council chairman, and Slieverue native, Paddy Buggy has agreed to allow his name to go forward in the G.A.A. presidential election.

Kilkenny Co. Board chairman, Michael O'Neill has pledged a nomination from County Convention for the provincial chairman.

"Paddy has been a good chairman of the Leinster Council, O'Neill said. "He would be like an injection of new blood into the Association, and I feel he is the outstanding man for the job as president".

Buggy, who won an all-Ireland senior hurling medal with Kilkenny in 1957, could also receive support from Ulster before the job comes up for grabs at Congress in Killarney at Easter.

"He would be one of our favourite sons", commented Armagh Co. Board secretary, Gerry Fagan, who has already sounded out Buggy about going for what would be one of the top sports posts in Ireland. He hinted strongly that if Buggy wanted the Armagh nomination, it was his.

Paddy Buggy has been ac-

tively involved in G.A.A. circles since 1947. He filled every post with his club, Slieverue, and was their Co. Board representative for years.

Later he represented Leinster on the Activities Committee and was subsequently elected vice-chairman of the provincial council. After completing his term in this position, he was automatically promoted to the post of chairman.

As a fluent Irish speaker, he could carry another important qualification for the job.

The only Kilkenny official to hold the post of president was the late Ald. James Nowlan, who held office from 1901 to 1921, the longest reign by

any man in the job. He was subsequently made an honorary president of the Association.

Another Kilkenny man, but serving as a Laois official, also held the job as president. He was Mr. Bob O'Keeffe, who was born in Mooncoin.

The post as president will not become vacant until Paddy McFlynn's term ends at Congress 1982. The new president would hold office during the G.A.A. centenary celebrations in 1984.

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# 1980 WAS HECTIC YEAR FOR CAMOGIE

**The message rang out loud and clear from the 1979 Convention that 1980 would be a busy year on the Camogie fields. The county senior team commenced training at the end of February after a long recess as 1979 had been a relatively lean year.**

Their first encounter was on 23 March when they travelled to Limerick to take on the home side in the first round of the National League. Kilkenny emerged victorious, but were considered lucky.

On April 27, the Noresiders continued on their winning way by defeating Cork in the second round of the National League. However, it was obvious that there was room for improvement in certain areas, so it was back to the drawing board again.

On May 18, the Kilkenny girls reached the final of the National League, with an easy victory over Galway. At this stage the girls were well on their way to a second league title and were training very hard with this in mind.

On June 22, the Noresiders travelled to Roscrea and scored a tremendous victory over Tipperary in the National League final. This was indeed a great boost, as the months of hard work finally bore fruit.

With the winning of the

League title all eyes were set on the all-Ireland senior championship, and the girls started as hot favourites.

## DEFEATED

With easy victories over Wexford and Galway in the preliminary rounds and with training becoming intense the Noresiders had only one purpose in mind. However, this dream was shattered on August 17 when Kilkenny were defeated by Limerick in the all-Ireland semi-final, and the rest of course is history.

The girls did make a comeback on October 26 by beating Dublin in the Leinster final. This was some consolation and maybe 1981 will see the O'Duffy Cup back in Kilkenny again.

In mid-April the county junior, minor and under-14 teams were all preparing for the Leinster championship. It was the general opinion that good fortune would come to Kilkenny in these grades. This did not materialise as all teams were defeated by Dublin in the first round.

With this experience, once again maybe 1981 will be the year for the lower grades to bring honours to our county.

On the domestic front, the camogie season commenced with the staging of the under-14 championship. This competition was run on a league system and 21 teams participated. The winners of this competition, each year, go forward to represent Kilkenny in the Feile-na-nGael. As a result of this extra bonus there is tremendous interest in this championship.

While teams battled it out North and South in the preliminary rounds, it was obvious after the first few matches that the Blacks and Whites would be a force to reckon with in the North.

In the South, Mooncoin, Slieverue, Tullogher and Shamrocks were all in with a sporting chance.

## REMARKABLE FEAT

The final took place on May 28 between Blacks and Whites and Mooncoin. The Blacks and Whites emerged victorious and this was truly a remarkable feat for a club which was only reformed two years ago.

The Blacks and Whites were not prepared to rest on their laurels, and they were busy preparing for their trip to

the West. On the weekend of July 4 a large contingent of supporters travelled from Skeough and the surrounding area to the fair city of Galway to cheer on their heroes.

The Blacks and Whites once again gave a wonderful performance, but were defeated in the final of Feile '80 by Woodville (Dublin), who were also the previous year's Feile winners.

The first Primary Schools competition ever to take place in Kilkenny was held during June. Twelve schools participated.

The final was held at Nowlan Park on June 25 between Shamrocks and Castlecomer, with Shamrocks taking the title.

The minor championship was held during June, July and August. Twenty-one teams participated and the standard of play was considered very high.

The final between Ballycallan and Shamrocks took place on August 13 with Ballycallan emerging victorious.

## STRONG CONTENDERS

The junior championship, which was held in conjunction with the intermediate and senior championships, took place during the Summer months. Tullogher, Carrickshock and Shamrocks were strong contenders in the South, while Castlecomer and newcomers Bennettsbridge were doing well in the North.

The final between Castlecomer and Carrickshock took place on October 18 with Carrickshock emerging worthy winners.

In the intermediate championship, it was decided that divisional teams would be formed in order to provide extra competition. The Division I South team, comprising of Mullinavat, Tullogher, Slieverue and Shamrocks won the intermediate title, with St. Paul's taking the senior title.

St. Paul's also brought honours to Kilkenny by winning the all-Ireland 7-a-side and many of their players also represented Leinster in the Gael Linn competition.

Yes, 1980 was indeed a hectic year with a reasonable amount of success. This progress will have to continue and this will of course depend on the dedication of players, workers and the love all have for the national game.



**When a county team finishes on the right end of a one point win, it's amazing how easily supporters can forget about the opposition. A case of all going to the winners, and nothing for the losers.**

Well, in Kilkenny during the last season, supporters got a triple dose of how it feels to be at the wrong end of a marginal defeat. The seniors, minors and under-21 side all lost out by just one point, which is something for a county in which its hurlers are renowned for their ability to land the long-range point.

The seniors' demise in the Leinster final against Offaly was a bitter pill to swallow. After the change in the championship draw which threw Kilkenny and Wexford together in the semi-final instead of the usual final showdown, the popular opinion on Noreside was that the real Leinster final would be against the Slaneysiders.

After that it would be an all-Ireland semi-final clash with the Connacht champions, with not a thought given to Offaly. There was more than a bit of ground for this optimism, because Offaly had never beaten Kilkenny in the championship, so why should 1980 be any different.

Well, it was, in a big way. The Offaly boys showed absolutely no regard for Kilkenny, and from the word go they tore at the then Leinster champions. They got off to a flying start, were hauled back, but still managed to get through by one point for their first championship victory.

Will one ever forget Kilkenny's last saving chance. Matt Ruth broke through to the left of the Canal End goal, but his

parting effort went wide. No one blamed Matt, for were it not for his personal tally of 3-2, Kilkenny would have been long dead before the final whistle.

great Kilkenny side all its time to down Offaly in the championship with a late goal. But that was so long ago, the warning light had faded.

The Kilkenny team on that

nan, B. Fitzpatrick, M. Ruth. Subs: L. O'Brien, M. Crotty, M. Kennedy.

### Minors

The minors committed the same mortal sin as the seniors of underestimating the opposition. In their case, that was provided by Antrim, always a game side, but one lacking in the rudiments.

If Antrim lacked anything on their trip to Nowlan Park it certainly wasn't guts. They hustled and bustled and never let the home side settle and were never far from striking distance. Going into the final 10 minutes they trailed by four points. Then a pointed free gave them hope. A lucky goal from a placed ball situation brought them level. And the winning point was also from a free.

For years the appearance of a Kilkenny team in a minor final was virtually part of all-Ireland hurling day. This shattering defeat subsequently led to an investigation being held into the state of under-age games on the Noreside.

To a degree one could call this whitewashing. The standard of the county final between O'Loughlin's (winners) and Mooncoin gave solid proof that the game is in a healthy state. What happened against Antrim was not the fault of the championship, and

*Continued overleaf.*

**A Point,  
is a point,  
is a Point!**

If Kilkenny ever learned a lesson, it was in that match. And it was an elementary one – never underestimate the opposition. They had been warned in 1969 when it took a

July day was – N. Skehan, J. Henderson, B. Cody, D. O'Hara, R. Reid, G. Henderson, N. Brennan, J. Hennessy, F. Cummins, G. Fennelly, J. Wall, K. Fennelly, M. Bren-

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*Kilkenny, beaten in the Leinster senior hurling final, by Offaly. Back row (l to r) Dick O'Hara, Matt Ruth, Frank Cummins, Billy Fitzpatrick, Ger Henderson, Kevin Fennelly, Brian Cody. Front (l to r) Joe Hennessy, Noel Skehan, Ger Fennelly, Nicky Brennan, Richard Reid (capt.), Mick Brennan, John Henderson, Joe Wall.*

*Contd. from previous page.*

thankfully a new minor league has been started in Leinster which will give fringe players a real chance of showing their worth.

The defeat of a minor side so early on must always be regarded as an immense loss. It is at this impressionable age that players make up their minds either to stick with the game seriously or in less than wholehearted fashion.

The crop of players who constituted the minor division of 1980 might now never reach full maturity, and in the long run, the county will lose out in such a situation. Minors must always be looked after, with even more care than the seniors.

Members of that minor team were - J. Kirwan (Glenmore), N. Cleere (Dicksboro), D. O'Keeffe (Mooncoin), J. Holden (do.), P. Fleming (Slieverue), J. Crean (Graignamanagh), G. Brennan (Conahy Shamrocks), M. Byrne (Gowran), B. Cleere (O'Loughlins), R. Heffernan (Glenmore), C. O'Gorman (Johnstown), P. Holden (Gowran), E. Leahy (O'Loughlin's), T. Moylan (do.), P. Ryan (Emeralds). Subs: S. Roche, M. Rafter.

### Under-21

The longest championship run was enjoyed by the under-21 team who went to the all-

Ireland final, only to bow the knee to Tipperary, by that single point.

There was no shame in finishing second in this match. This Kilkenny side showed more guts and gutting than many a team before it, even at senior level, and while Tipp won, they were sick, sore and sorry afterwards.

That is not to suggest that this was a tussle full of unwholesome stuff. Far from it. But Kilkenny hurled Tipp in a real Tipperary style, and looked well done it.

At the finish, the Noresiders had their chances to force a draw, but they didn't take them, and that was that.

While it was a second best on the day display in the showdown, it was a mixed championship for this side. They were poor early on against Westmeath. Then in the Leinster final against Wexford there were real fireworks.

At Dr. Cullen Park, Carlow, the two teams tore into each other like hungry wolves, and the issue could have swung either way had not the Kilkenny selectors decided to throw in a trump card. This was in the shape of Jimmy Heffernan, who banged in 1-3 in 11 minutes to become the hero of the hour and win Kilkenny a place in the all-Ireland semi-final.

That same semi-final against Antrim at Croke Park was not something to put the Noresiders in too confident a state of mind going into an all-Ireland final. To be true,

they made very hard work of dismissing Antrim, but when they turned out against Tipperary, the transformation was hard to credit.

*Continued* ▶

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## KILKENNY: All-Ireland Under-21 Finalists 1980



Back row (left to right): Billy Doherty (Glenmore), Gordon Ryan (St. Lactain's), Tom Lennon (St. Lactain's), Richard Murphy (Thomastown), John Mulcahy (O'Loughlin's), Sean Fennelly (Shamrocks), Michael Meagher (John Lockes), Michael Nash (Erin's Own). Front row (left to right): Mick Morrissey (St. Lactain's), Eamon Wallace (Erin's Own), Lester Ryan (Clara), captain, Bill O'Hara (Thomastown), Billy Purcell (The Fenians).

### A Point is a Point, is a Point!

◀ Continued

But even in defeat, the men who did Kilkenny very proud were M. Walsh (Dicksboro), N. Morrissey (St. Lactain's), M. Meagher (John Lockes), B. O'Hara (Thomastown), T. Lennon (St. Lactain's), B. Doherty (Glenmore), S. Fennelly (Shamrocks), E. Walk (Erin's Own), G. Ryan (St. Lactain's), J. Mulcahy

(O'Loughlin's), R. Murphy (Thomastown), M. Nash (Erin's Own), B. McEvoy (Lisdowney), L. Ryan, captain (Clara), W. Purcell (Fenians). Sub: S. Heffernan (Tullagher-Rosbercon).

For Kilkenny teams, 1980 was the year of the missing point. So perhaps for the new

season the advice should be – 'For God's sake take the points, and let the goals look after themselves'.

● The scores in those three games were – senior, 3-17 (Offaly) to 5-10; minor, Antrim 2-9, Kilkenny 1-11 and under-21, Tipperary 2-9, Kilkenny 0-14.

### CUMANN LUITH-CHLEAS GAEL

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*The Board would like to express its sincere thanks to the many firms and individuals who contributed large and small amounts and to their loyal followers for their kind patronage during 1980*

*Their kind support is deeply appreciated.*

*P. de Grás, Runaí*



# Is the G.A.A. facing anarchy and rebellion?

By DIARMUID HEALY

ANARCHY and rebellion are two possibilities staring the G.A.A. in the face as it advances into the 'Eighties.

And unless the organisation is governed by men of vision with real leadership qualities these possibilities could well become realities.

The G.A.A. to-day is allowing itself to be dictated to by so-called "Nationally minded idealists" who have infiltrated its ranks.

According to Rule 1 of the

G.A.A.'s Official Guide, the association is a National organisation which has as its basic aim the strengthening of the National Identity in a 32-county Ireland through the preservation and promotion of Gaelic games and pastimes.

That is a genuine and noble aim. But the recent happenings at the Dublin annual Convention has left many doubts in the minds of Irishmen about the real nature of the G.A.A.

Tom Woulfe of the Dublin Civil Service club sought to add to rule 1 an emphatic rejection of violence as a means towards the achievement of national unity.

## Image damaged

For some extraordinary reason, which I fail to understand, the motion was rejected.

Unfortunately, the rejection of the motion has caused untold damage to the image of the Association.

It appears that the so-called "idealists" within the organisation are using the G.A.A. as a means of propagating their pre-historic ideas of Nationalism.

They are certainly entitled to their ideas and views but they have no right to use a sporting organisation as a means of expressing their political tendencies.

Why haven't these 'idealists' got the courage to stand behind their own convictions in public instead of using the G.A.A. as a 'cover'?

If the G.A.A., which is a strong and resilient organisation, is to live up to its noble tradition, it must elect leaders who are fully committed to the aims of the Association.

## Political beliefs

Unfortunately, to-day certain elements within the organisation are trying to change these aims to suit their own political beliefs.

They are using their muscle to lobby gullible members to vote in a certain way on issues of a non-sporting nature.

Down through the years the G.A.A. has quite often been accused of being a political organisation. It is not and was never intended to be.

There is certainly a place for politics and sport in Irish life. But the two must work independently. There is no place for politics in sport, whatever about sport in politics, of which we seem to have an abundance.

The G.A.A. has obviously allowed itself to be steered off course. And it can only get back on course by real leadership right across the whole organisation both at county level and national level.

"The tuppence ha'penny" leader has no place in the G.A.A.

## Need for leadership

A thorough re-examination must be made of the calibre of county representatives who are elected to attend Congress each year.

How many of them are capable of actually standing up and taking part in debates on various issues?

Congress is no longer a week-end out for the boys! It is a decision-making body which shapes the future of the organisation. And if the wrong decisions are taken at Congress the Association could take a nose-dive from which it might never recover.

My first message to G.A.A. leaders is to rid the association of anything that will fuel the ammunition tanks of its cynics.

And I think a priority in this area is a definite stance on the aims of the Association and a declaration that politics and, more especially, political violence have absolutely no place within the Association.

## No relevance

The present distasteful elements in the Association first appeared at the 1979 Congress at which two motions were passed which had absolutely no relevance to a sporting organisation.

At the Congress, Rule 7 which declared that "The Association shall be non-political and non-sectarian" was altered to read "The Association shall be non-party political and non-sectarian".

Another motion declaring support for "the struggle" for national unity was also passed.

And more recently we had the Dublin Convention's rejection of a motion condemning violence.

We as members of the G.A.A. are portraying a disastrous image which is open to many interpretations.

I was not a bit surprised when I saw a cartoon comment in an edition of the *Irish Times* which appeared after the Dublin Convention which read: "Sport. I ask you. Is that a decent way to bring up the children?"

Don't point the finger at the cartoonist. The solution to the poor image problem lies with the ranks of the G.A.A. and only its members can provide the remedy.

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# 1980 – The year Avonmore were beaten



By TOM RYALL

THE YEAR 1980 will be remembered in inter-firm circles for the defeat of four-times all-Ireland champions, Avonmore Creameries by City Commercials who went on to win the title themselves. Avonmore had gone 35 games without defeat before bowing out at muddy St. John's Park on Tuesday, October 7.

Eight teams entered the senior inter-firm league. They were divided into two groups of four with two teams to qualify for the semi-finals from each group.

Commercials beat Avonmore Creameries B, and Green Isle (Banagher) as well as getting a walk-over from St. Canice's hospital / Tynan Electrical to reach the semi-final.

Avonmore Creameries scored victories over Clover Meats (Waterford), Roadstone-Runtalrad and Public Services to make the last four. Public Services and Commercials played a draw in their first game, where it took a late

point to save Commercials. But they made no mistake in the replay, winning by 2-11 to 3-4.

Up to this stage Eddie Keher had not played with Commercials. Avonmore showed signs of staleness when they overcame the handicap of playing with 14 men for 25 minutes to beat Green Isle (Banagher) in the semi-final by two points.

The first game between Commercials and Avonmore Creameries attracted a record crowd to a Kilkenny inter-firm final, although it was played at six o'clock in the evening. Those who came expecting a classic were not disappointed. After a lack-lustre first half during which Avonmore missed numerous chances of sealing victory they led by 0-8 to 1-3 at half time.

#### EPIC SECOND HALF

The Commercials goal had come in the first minute when Dick Nolan pushed the ball past Morgan Kelly. The second half however was an epic with

the crowd on their feet with excitement. Commercials had the better of the ten minutes after half time; but they only added two points per Milo Hennessy and Joe Mulcahy to level the scores.

Commercials missed a great goaling chance when Dick Nolan burst through and appeared to have a goal at his mercy. His parting effort was knocked over the line by Willie Murphy to save the situation. After this let-off Avonmore took over for ten minutes and in a brilliant spell of hurling they went six points clear with a goal by Mick Walsh and points by Jimmy Skehan, Jimmy Ruth and John Bourke. With ten minutes remaining and six points clear it looked like another title for Avonmore.

Commercials came back and a goal by Seamus Callanan plus a point from the same player left just two points between the sides with five minutes remaining.

#### IMPORTANT GOAL

A Billy Fitzpatrick point four minutes from the end seemed likely to give Avonmore victory but with one minute to go John Henderson, who had moved up into the forwards, was fouled as he headed goalwards and Joe Mulcahy shot the most important goal of his life to level the scores, Commercials 3-6, Avonmore Creameries 1-12.

The scorers in this game were: Commercials – Joe Mulcahy 1-3, Seamus Callanan 1-1, Dick Nolan 1-0, Milo Hennessy 0-1, Donie Collins 0-1. Avonmore – Willie Fitzpatrick 0-5, Mick Walsh 1-1, Jimmy Ruth 0-2, Jim Ring 0-1, Eamon Quirke 0-1, John Bourke 0-1, Jimmy Skehan 0-1.

The replay drew another good crowd despite a 5.30 start, a terribly cold evening and a petrol shortage. Again it was an outstanding game despite the waterlogged state of St. John's Park. Avonmore looked likely winners when they were just one point behind at half-time after playing

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## 1980 – The year Avonmore were beaten

against a strong breeze. Commercial led by 0-7 to 1-3 at half time. This game saw the first appearance this year of Eddie Keher and it was just as well for Commercial as he scored nine points of the winners' total of 1-12 to take the "Man of the Match" award sponsored by P. J. Butler of the Ormonde School of Motoring.

When Avonmore Creameries pulled ahead to lead by 1-7 to 0-7 after four minutes of the closing half it looked as if they were going to run out comfortable winners. Then John Joe Cullen scored a great goal for Commercial and inspired by this score they went ahead by four points, 1-11 to 1-7. Seeing their title slipping away Avonmore staged a late rally but they finally had to concede defeat by two points, 1-12 to 1-10.

These Commercial – Avonmore games were wonderful advertisements for inter-firm hurling and already both sides are looking forward to a repeat in 1981. The scores in that replay were – Commercial – Eddie Keher 0-9, John Joe Cullen 1-0, Mick Brophy 0-1, Donie Collins 0-1 and Seamus Callanan 0-1. Avonmore – John Bourke 1-1,

John Mulcahy 0-3, Billy Fitzpatrick 0-2, Nicky Brennan 0-2, Jimmy Ruth 0-1, Mick Walsh 0-1.

**Commercials:** Pat Dunphy, Mick Nolan, Pat Henderson, Jimmy Walsh,

Martin Hennessy, Jim Lennon, John Henderson, Joe Mulcahy, Richie Delaney, Donie Collins, Michael Brophy, Eddie Keher, Seamus Callanan, John Joe Cullen, Milo Hennessy. Sub: Ger Devane, John Devane.

### Took all-Ireland title

Commercial followed up this victory by going on to take the all-Ireland title. Their first game was against the Tony and Colm Doran led Doran Engineering Ltd. (Wexford), who they beat by 2-16 to 4-4 at St. James's Park. The Leinster title was taken in Athy when Tara Mines (Meath) were beaten by 2-12 to 2-4. The Commercial scorers were Eddie Keher 0-8, John Joe Cullen 1-0, Dick Nolan 1-0, Donie Collins 0-1, Ritchie Delaney 0-1, Joe Mulcahy 0-1 and Michael Brophy 0-1.

The all-Ireland final against McLysaght's (Clare) took place in Bansha and saw Commercial comfortable winners by 2-14 to 0-8. The first half was evenly contested with Commercial leading by 0-8 to 0-5. A goal by Eddie Keher eleven minutes

into the second half finally wrapped up the game and a further goal by Dick Nolan killed the game as a contest.

The scorers for Commercial were Eddie Keher 1-7, Dick Nolan 1-1, Joe Mulcahy 0-4, Ritchie Delaney 0-1, John Joe Cullen 0-1. For the record the winning team was Pat Dunphy (Rower-Inistioge), John Henderson (Fenians), Pat Henderson (do.), Jimmy Walsh (Bennettsbridge), Martin Hennessy (Bennettsbridge), James Stephens, Jimmy Lennon (Bennettsbridge), Ger Devane (Dicksboro), Tom McCormack (James Stephens), Richie Delaney (O'Loughlins), Joe Mulcahy (do.), Michael Brophy (Lorrha), Donie Collins (Blackrock), John Joe Cullen (St. Mary's-Rioch's), Dick Nolan, capt. (Muckalee-Ballyfoyle Rangers), Eddie Keher (Rower-Inistioge).

## ... and how the juniors went

The Kilkenny junior inter-firm league was contested by 10 teams, Kilkenny Products, Ross Co., Dugkean, Fieldcrest, Army, Derrinlough Briquette Factory, System Buildings, Mahon & McPhillips, Tallis Bros., and Smithwicks. The teams were divided into three groups with two teams coming through from each group to the knock-out stages.

The teams to make the knock-out stages were Kilkenny Products, Ross Co., The Army, Derrinlough Briquette Factory, Mahon & McPhillips and Tallis Bros. Kilkenny Products and Ross Co. made it to the junior final. Kilkenny Products came out on top by 1-14 to 1-7. Products led by 0-11 to 0-3 at half time.

Best for the Products were Jack Morrissey, Joe Doherty, Dick Roche, Martin Morrissey, John Molloy, Michael Nash, Michael 'Cloney' Brennan and Michael 'China' Brennan. The scorers for Kilkenny Products were Mick 'China' Brennan 1-2, Michael Nash 0-5, Mick 'Cloney' Brennan 0-3, Martin Morrissey 0-2, John Molloy 0-2.

The winning team was Frank Minogue, Joe Doherty, Dick Roche, John Barcoe, Pat Gunner, George Doyle, Jack Morrissey, John Molloy, Martin Morrissey, Michael Nash, Kevin McCormack, Mick 'Cloney' Brennan,

Mick 'China' Brennan, Martin 'Goggy' Brennan, Larry Neill. Sub: Tommy Moylan.

Kilkenny Products beat Donoghoe's (Enniscorthy) in the Leinster semi-final by 2-12 to 1-7, but lost to Coolrain Timber Industries (Laois) in the Leinster final by one point, 5-2 to 1-13. The loss of Tommy Moylan through injury and Dick Roche through suspension was a big blow to Products who conceded three early goals. Coolrain Timber Products later went on to win the all-Ireland junior title.

The local football competition also produced some good games with ten teams taking part in two groups of five. The teams taking part were Roadmaster Caravans, St. Canice's Hospital, Ross Co., Green Isle (Banagher) and Fieldcrest in one group, while Avonmore Creameries, Clover Meats, Public Services, Amalgamated Meats (Bagenalstown) and Dugkean contested the other group.

Roadmaster Caravans defeated Avonmore Creameries in one semi-final while St. Canice's hospital defeated Public Services in the other. An early goal by Roadmasters saw them defeat St. Canice's hospital in the final by 2-9 to 0-8. Roadmasters failed to Smiths (Wexford) in the first round of the Leinster championship.

## First game under the rules

The first football match played in accordance with the rules of the G.A.A. was a game between Kilkenny and Callan at Callan on February 15, 1885. The rules were printed a fortnight before in the *United Irishman*.

Michael Cusack who wrote for the *United Irishman* reporting on the game commented: 'The utmost order and good humour prevailed though some difficulty was experienced in controlling the enthusiasm of the crowd which comprised upwards of 4,000.'

The match ended in a draw as neither team scored a goal. It was played on the Fair Green and the Kilkenny team were entertained to lunch by their Callan opponents in the town hall.

## "Most noble game"

**The Countess of Northumberland who attended a hurling game at the Curragh in October 1763 described it as the most noble game in the world. She described it as the most noble and manly exercise in the world. She thought there was nothing like it in Europe.**



# Where all the titles went

## SENIOR HURLING C.

Shamrocks (Ballyhale) beat Muckalee-Ballyfoyle Rangers

## INTERMEDIATE H.C.

Graignamanagh beat Thomastown United.

## JUNIOR H.C.

Glenmore beat Tullaroan.

## SPECIAL JUNIOR H.C.

Fenians (Johnstown) beat Rower-Inistioge.

## UNDER-21 H.C.

Glenmore beat O'Loughlin's.

## UNDER-21 H.C. Roinn B

Graignamanagh beat Galmoy.

## MINOR H.C. Roinn A:

O'Loughlin's beat Mooncoin.

## MINOR H.C. Roinn B:

Rower-Inistioge beat Lisdowney.

## SENIOR F.C.

Shamrocks beat Muckalee.

## JUNIOR F.C.

Slieverue beat Dicksboro.

## UNDER-21 F.C.

Thomastown beat The Village.

## MINOR F.C.

Thomastown beat The Gaels.

## SPECIAL JUNIOR F.C.

The Gaels 3-3, St. Senan's 0-5.

## UNDER-16 H.C.

*Roinn A* - Mooncoin 7-10, Castlecomer 2-5.

*Roinn B* - St. Mary's 6-11, Shamrocks (Ballyhale) 1-4.

*Roinn C* - Graigue-Ballycallan 2-13, Kilmacow 2-3.

## UNDER-16 F.C.

*Roinn A:* The Gaels 3-3, St. Patrick's 2-4.

*Roinn B:* Mooncoin 0-6, Bennettsbridge 0-4.

## UNDER-16 H.L.:

*Roinn A:* Mooncoin 3-7, St. Patrick's 1-8.

*Roinn B:* Bennettsbridge 5-10, Rower-Inistioge 1-2.

*Roinn C:* Graigue-Ballycallan 7-7, Carrickshock 2-2.

## UNDER-16 F.L.:

*Roinn A:* The Gaels 2-6, Graignamanagh 2-3.

*Roinn B:* Mooncoin 2-10, Bennettsbridge 3-4.

## UNDER-14 H.C.

*Roinn A:* Gowran 4-8, Castlecomer 2-4.

*Roinn B:* Callan 3-4, Tullaroan 0-1.

*Roinn C:* Ballyragget 1-2, Rower-Inistioge 0-3.

*Roinn D:* Conahy 11-3, Kilmacow 4-3.

## UNDER-14 F.C.

*Roinn A:* Thomastown 4-1, St. Patrick's 1-2.

*Roinn B:* Slieverue 3-2, Freshford 2-2.

## UNDER-13 F.C.

*Roinn A:* St. Patrick's 2-6, Gowran 2-3.

*Roinn B:* Kilmanagh 2-2, Freshford 2-1.

## UNDER-12 H.C.

*Roinn A:* Graignamanagh 7-7, Kilkenny C.B.S. 4-1.

*Roinn C:* Rower-Inistioge 9-8, Galway 1-2.

No championship finals in Roinn B or D.

## UNDER-12 H.L.

*Roinn A:* Graignamanagh 6-5, St. Patrick's 5-3.

*Roinn B:* Freshford 3-0, Kilmanagh 1-0.

*Roinn C:* Rower-Inistioge 5-1, Slieverue 3-0.

*Roinn D:* Tullogher 7-4, Dunnamaggin 3-1.

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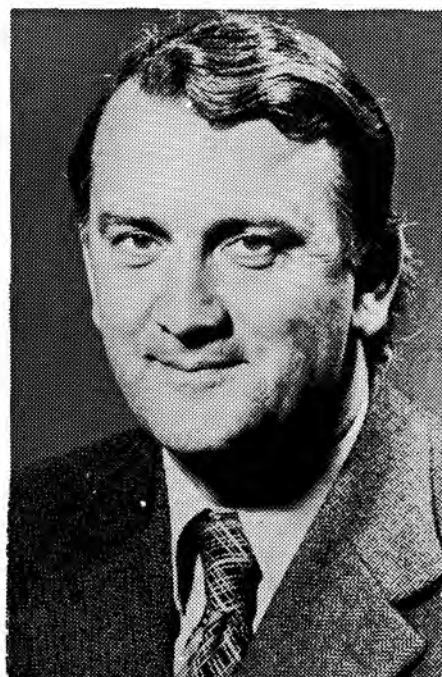
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# Youngsters show the way to success

**YOUNGSTERS** in Kilkenny showed the way to success last season. While the more senior sides were stuttering and stumbling, under-14 hurlers from the city and county climbed to the top of provincial and national trees.



*The Kilkenny under-14 team who won the Leinster hurling championship last year. Back row (l to r) Francis Kirwan, Jimmy Queally, Brendan Treacy, Tim Phelan, James Moore, Seamus Power. Front row (l to r) Billy Ayres, Paul Doran, Martin Healy, Michael Law, Tony Byrne, Tom Buggy, Thomas Farrell, John Power and Thomas Lennon.*

In the Leinster under-14 championship, the Noresiders accounted for a hitly fancied Wexford side on the same day the seniors lost to Offaly. To regain the provincial title, the youngsters had to battle hard, but they showed they were made of strong stuff and came through with flying colours.

The final scoreline was a convincing 3-7 to 1-4. The losers had arrived in the final with excellent credentials having walloped Offaly by 10-16 to 1-0, while Kilkenny were less than flattering in their 3-9 to 1-2 semi-final win over Dublin.

A combined effort by the youngsters on the field, and

the selectors off – they made several changes for the final – made it a dream day for the hurlers. Wexford even enjoyed the luxury of a good start, and Kilkenny had to wait until the 7th minute to open their account.

But when they did, the crisp play of the likes of Michael Law, Tommy Buggy,

a hero in defence; James Moore, Tony Byrne, Seamus Power, Jimmy Queally and captain Billy Ayres proved too much for the Slaneysiders, who were no mean performers themselves.

It was Thomas Lennon who got Kilkenny off the scor-

*Continued on page 43.*

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*St. Patrick's, Kilkenny who won the gold medals at the national Community Games finals in Mosney. Back row (l to r) Dan Cody, Declan Mullen, Tony Coyne, Alan McCormack, Mark O'Leary, Murty Leahy, Tony McEvoy, Paul Thornton, Pat Heffernan, Seated (l to r) Jimmy Walton, Jim Smyth, Seamus McGuire, Frank Morgan (capt.), Jody O'Dwyer, Seamus McCarthy, Noel Morrissey. Kneeling (l to r) Kevin Conroy, Richard Minogue, John Larkin and John Mullen.*

## **Youngsters show the way to success**

*Continued from page 41.*

ing mark, but despite some all round good play, they still trailed at the interval. Six minutes into the second half the winners got level when Paul Doran pointed after receiving a cute pass from Seamus Power. Four minutes later Jimmy Queally was put through by Billy Ayres, but his sizzling shot was deflected out for a 65. But Queally was not to be denied, and he collected the ball when it was driven into the goalmouth and he drilled it into the back of the net.

After that, Kilkenny never looked back. That goal was a staggering blow to Wexford, but being the sturdy contenders they are, they never gave up the chase and Kilkenny had a battle royal on their hands right to the end.

While this was a great victory for Kilkenny, it just reflected the excellent work being done by dedicated people in schools and on underage boards throughout the county. Some of the best hurling in the county every year is witnessed at this level, and this Leinster championship

success was the verification of a job well done.

The Kilkenny team that day was — M. Law (Mullinavat); J. Moore (Tullaroan), M. Healy (Ballyragget); T. Byrne (Gowran), T. Phelan (Ballyragget), T. Buggy (Castletomer), J. Power (Callan), T. Farrell (Gowran), B. Treacy (Thomastown), T. Lennon (Gowran), B. Ayres (Kilkenny (C.B.S.)), J. Queally (Urlingford), P. Doran (Bennettsbridge), F. Kirwan (Glenmore), S. Power (Dunnamaggin). Sub: B. Bryan (Callan).

## **Went one better**

The hurling giants from St. Patrick's went one better when they collected a national title — the Community Games gold medals at under-14 level. The boys had to spend from Friday to Monday at the scene of battle, Mosney, Co. Meath, and while it was no holiday they made the best of it and carried away the top prize.

Again ground work paid rich dividends. Coming under the umbrella of the famed James Stephens club, all

these youngsters had been groomed in a special streets competition organised by The Village in the parish.

To get to Mosney was no easy task. St. Patrick's had to win four games, just to get *Continued overleaf.*



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## Youngsters show the way to success

Contd. from previous page.

out of Kilkenny, and then they had to beat the best from Carlow, Wexford, Offaly and Dublin.

In the national finals, they got a walk-over in their opening game from Armagh city, who were representing their own county and Ulster. The final showdown was with Killeedy, who were bigger physically, but lesser in hurling heart than the eager St. Patrick's boys.

It was a smashing encounter, and the Kilkenny youngsters won by 2-7 to 4-0 after making the running most of the way. At half-time they led 2-4 to 1-0.

This was an occasion when all the boys were stars, but the one who shone particularly bright was gritty captain Frank Morgan. The all-Ireland champions were presented with gold medals by Bro. B. Cyril, who taught for some

years in St. Patrick's school, Kilkenny.

The winners' trophy was put up by the Central Council, which gives an indication of how much importance the G.A.A. place on this annual event. The last time a Kilkenny team won it was in 1974 when Martin Morrissey was the captain.

The St. Patrick's panel was: Dan Cody, John Larkin, Frank Morgan (capt.), Tony McEvoy, Seamus Maguire, Declan Mullen, Murt Leahy, Jim Smyth, Jimmy Walton, Mark O'Leary, Tony Coyne, Paul Thornton, John Millea, Alan McCormack, Jody O'Dwyer, Pat Heffernan, Kevin Conroy, Richard Minogue, Noel Morrissey, Martin McCarthy.

Inter-county star Brian Cody was team coach. And officials who travelled with the team were Val Malone and Willie Smyth of the James Stephens club.



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**WE'VE** never had it so bad ! That's the simplest way to summarise the state of hurling in Kilkenny at the moment. Whether or not it is the correct prognosis remains to be seen. We have had our indifferent periods in the past but defeat by Laois and a drawn game against Kerry surely show that we have struck rock bottom. Defeat by Laois and the draw against Kerry were National League games and Kilkenny were never noted for their National League performances. We rarely took the National League really seriously but we are now faced with the possibility of ever further demotion and this is surely something we would hardly bargain for.

Hurling in Kilkenny like in every other county has, inevitably to face its ups and downs. We have had them down through the years from the time the all-Ireland championships started in 1887. We had to wait 17 years for our first triumph in 1904. The wait, in actual fact, was 16 years because the 1904 final the first Kilkenny victory was not played until 1906. We waited nine years from 1913 until 1922 for another break even though we had won seven titles in the meantime. We were not at the top again until 1932. We won four titles in the 1930's - 1932, 1933, 1935 and 1939. We were again victorious in 1947, eight years after

**We've  
never  
had it  
so bad !**

the 1939 victory and 10 years elapsed to our next win, 1957. We were back again in 1963, 1967 and 1969.

There is a distinct parallel between the 1930's and the 1970's. We won four senior titles in both decades and in the light of our present position it is almost impossible to imagine that we won the 1979 title.

It is not new for Kilkenny to have a period of depression like the present one. But we have always had the capacity to come back. Our present position is due to some extent to an air of despondency and the principal reason for this is that it is not easy to see any

light at the end of the tunnel.

Kilkenny appeared to go downhill after the defeat by Offaly in the Leinster final, coming as it did after their victory in the 1979 all-Ireland final. That engendered a malaise that has dogged the black and amber since and a rejuvenation of spirit now is just as vital as a rejuvenation of standard. Consequently much will depend on how the problem will be approached. First of all confidence will have to be restored and this applies as much to the mentors as it does to the players. Care will have to be taken to choose players and what is equally important, chose

them for the right positions.

After the spectacular win in the 1947 final against Cork in one of the greatest finals ever we lost to Laois in the Leinster championship in 1948. That led to a decade in the wilderness but even then the situation did not appear as gloomy as at present.

Maybe it is wrong to sound so pessimistic but it is almost impossible to suppress the notion that there is an air of pessimism surrounding Kilkenny hurling at the moment. The pessimism will have to be got rid of. That is the first pre-requisite for a come back. That is the first task to be faced.

As in the first decade of the century and in the 1930's Kilkenny hurling was at its glorious best in the 1970's. Obviously that standard could not be maintained. Players come and go and it is inconceivable that we could stay with the side that won four titles in the past decade.

We can take some consolation from the knowledge that we have a great tradition and sooner or later that tradition will assert itself. Kilkenny will be back. How soon depends very largely on the attitude of those charged with the responsibility of those in charge of the game. They will have as vital a role to play as the players themselves.

## The G.A.A. loses a friend

*North Kilkenny G.A.A. lost one of its most noted characters this season in the death of Joe Phelan.*

*Joe, a former member of the Kilkenny Schools Board was vice-president of Conahy Shamrock's G.A.A. club until the time of his death.*

*He will be remembered for his dedication and commitment to fostering among the youth of his club a deep love for hurling.*







*Jovial Kilkenny Co. Board secretary, Paddy Grace being made a presentation on behalf of Kilkenny Association in Dublin by Mooncoin man, Joe Butler.*

# 21 YEARS OF VICTORY



*Kilkenny and 'Bridge captains . . . four Bennettsbridge captains who led their county to all-Ireland senior success. Left to right: Noel Skehan (1972 v. Cork), Mickie Kelly (1957 v. Waterford), Seamie Cleere (1963 v. Waterford) and Jim Treacy (1967 v. Tipperary) at the 21st all-Ireland victory celebration dinner at the Newpark Hotel in March.*



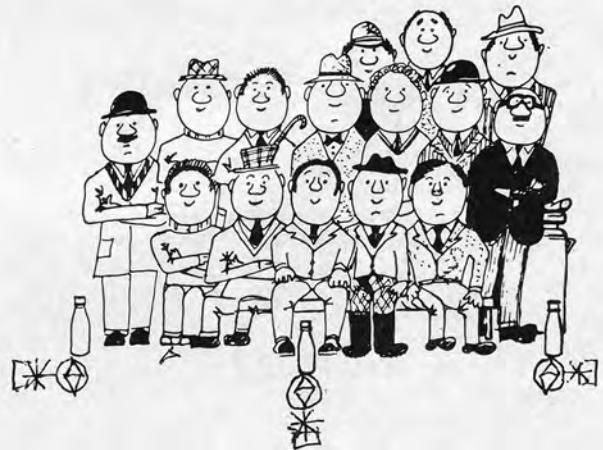


Above: Greats of the past and present . . . old Kilkenny team mates enjoy a night together. From left - Kieran Purcell and his wife, Pat Delaney and his wife (both have now retired), while Frank Cummins, who is accompanied by his wife, is still part of the county team.

Right: Mick and his uncle . . . all-Ireland senior hurling medal winner of 1972, '74, '75 and 1979, Mick Crotty (James Stephens) pictured with his uncle, Martin White (centre) who played with Kilkenny in 1932, 1933 and 1945. They are pictured with Jack Duggan who won an all-Ireland with Kilkenny in 1933.



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**THE KILKENNY senior hurling championship, 1980, was without any shadow of a doubt one of the most successful ever. The 30,000-strong attendance at the final and replay was living proof of this.**

# THANKS TO MUCKALEE AND ST. PAT'S

Why the championship just ended should be such a crowd-pleaser is not too difficult to pinpoint. Not alone was it noteworthy for the good number of top class and exciting games it produced, but it also marked the arrival of new contenders on the scene.

Muckalee-Ballyfoyle Rangers' emergence added a unique touch to the climax in the Kilkenny championship. Their dash to the fore, coupled with the introduction of the quarter-finals were the two reasons why the Co. Board enjoyed a financial bonanza last season.

Another contributory factor was the presence of the champions, Shamrocks (Ballyhale). They have set such a high standard in the local game that all the rest have had to reorganise themselves to live in the company of the Shamrocks.

But, without any shadow of a doubt, the arrival of Muckalee added

thousands to the gate at every venue they displayed their very considerable skills.

The Rangers had an attraction all of their own, and, with all due respect to the Shamrocks, everyone went to Nowlan Park for the final hoping Muckalee would be victorious. It was the usual story, everyone was for the underdogs, and in the case of Muckalee, they were all likeable lads.

At Convention last January a motion moved by St. Patrick's (Ballyragget) got a very favourable response from delegates, and it mapped a new way forward in the championship. It marked the introduction of the quarter-finals, which for clubs and supporters turned out to be a godsend.

## More competitive

For one thing, it made the early round games that bit more com-

petitive, and clubs were scampering to get points together to make the final out of eight. This in turn meant the supporters were getting so many more games with real bite attached, so all the time they were getting value for money.

And as the county final pairing proved, if you give the supporters what they want, they will turn out, and there will be no grunting or groaning about prices. Value for money is what its all about.

In another way, the quarter finals helped the clubs. All the gate money from these last 8 matches went to the clubs. With the rising cost of keeping outfits going now, the additional revenue was very much appreciated.

Clubs didn't make the killings they might have at these matches, mainly because it was the first time the system was in operation, but next year should be a different story. Last season there was a mix-up about prices, but that was only a teething problem.

The quarter finals meant that the climax to the championship was that bit slower, but when it really began to matter, it had gained considerable momentum.

Heretofore, the semi-finals were interest grabbing, but from the quarter-finals of 1980 the championship was captivating. The build-up to the final subsequently was like a snowball running down a hill; it collected more followers all the time. And sure Muckalee were there all the time with their following which was a steady 4,000 or so, and increasing all the way.

Yes, the quarter finals and the arrival of Muckalee added a new breath of fresh air to the championship. And make no mistake about it, hurling in Kilkenny needed such a double boost.

## Disaster

For the Co. Board, the local championship could have proved a financial disaster following the defeat of the county team by Offaly in the Leinster final. The morale was low in the county. So much had been expected from the county side, that everyone felt a letdown when they didn't get out of the province.

What was left to look forward to only the conclusion of the local championship? And even when things were much, much better at county team level, the interest in the senior championship was not nearly as great. So there had to be some reason or reasons why 30,000 turned out for the final and replay when the Kilkenny team itself was going through a lean patch.

Muckalee-Ballyfoyle Rangers and the interest building quarter-finals look the obvious answers. So a lot of people have an awful lot to be thankful for to Muckalee and St. Patrick's.



# Muckalee-Ballyfoyle

## Senior Hurling Finalists 1980



Front row (l. to r.): Johnny Brennan, Danny Coonan, Pat Comerford, Jimmy Kelly, Murty Coonan, Michael Maher, Jack Morrissey.  
Back row (l. to r.): Jim Moran, Dick Nolan, John Moran, Patsy Moran, Tom Moran, Nicky Morrissey, Tony Maher (captain), Martin Morrissey.



# SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT

**Would you believe it, the records of the winners of the Kilkenny senior hurling championship, as published and spoken about for years, have been wrong all the time?**

This is a fact that only because it transpired that they came to light during research have been credited with work into the history of the championships other clubs G.A.A. in Kilkenny being won, as well as champion-carried out by Co. Boardships that weren't even P.R.O., Mr. Tom Ryall played. (Graigue-Ballycallan).

Tom is in the process of still, with 19, they head writing the history of Gaelic the list of senior champion-ship winners, but this is a Games on the Noreside, and it figure cut-back from the near was when he was gathering quarter-century they were information for what should be a super edition that the record was able to be put straight.

The re-writing of the records involves Tullaroan actually won by the Confederation Club. But for more than any other club, years Tullaroan have been

listed as the winners.

In 1912, 1917 and 1918 no senior hurling championship was contested, so, naturally enough there could be no winners.

Tullaroan were given credit for winning the championship of 1916, but some years ago when a brief history was done on the senior competition, a number of people from Mooncoin cleared up the matter when they produced medals they had won for the senior championship of 1916.

Two years previously, Tullaroan were also given

credit for a county final success. The mix-up occurred here because 9 or 10 Tullaroan men lined out with the real champions, Johnstown. In fact, the same year Tullaroan gave a walk over to Mooncoin.

Then in 1919 the championship was declared null and void, but for most mysterious reason, Tullaroan were again listed as the winners. So overall, the Tullaroan club was given credit for four championships more than they actually won.

## Where the County Senior Titles have gone

**Tullaroan (19)** – 1887, 1889, 1895, 1897, 1899, 1901, 1902, 1904, 1907, 1910, 1911, 1915, 1924, 1925, 1930, 1933, 1934, 1948, 1958.

**Mooncoin (12)** – 1888, 1900, 1906, 1908, 1913, 1916, 1927, 1928, 1929, 1932, 1936, 1965.

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

**Carrickshock (7)** – 1931, 1938, 1940, 1941, 1942, 1943, 1951.

**Carrickshock (7)** – 1931, 1938, 1940, 1941, 1942, 1943, 1951.

**Fenians (Johnstown have 5)** – 1970, 1972, 1973, 1974, 1977.

**James Stephens (5)** – 1935, 1937, 1969, 1975, 1976.

**Eire Og (4)** – 1939, 1944, 1945, 1947.

**Dicksboro (3)** – 1923, 1926, 1950.

**Confederation (3)** – 1893, 1894, 1896.

**Erin's Own (city) (2)** – 1905, 1909.

**Shamrocks, Ballyhale (3)** – 1978, 1979, and 1980.

**Threecastles (2)** – 1898, and 1903.

**St. Lactain's, Freshford (2)** – 1961 and 1963.

**Johnstown (1)** 1914.

**Thomastown (1)** – 1946.

**Graigue (1)** – 1949.

**Slieverue (1)** – 1945.

**Rower-Inistioge (1)** – 1968.

**John Lockes (1)** 1957.



Kilkenny, the 1957 all-Ireland senior hurling champions who beat Waterford by 4-10 to 3-12 with Mickie Kelly of Bennettsbridge as captain. It was to be six years later (1963) before Kilkenny landed their next title, and Waterford were beaten again by 4-17 to 6-8 with Kelly's clubmate, Seamie Cleere this time the captain.

Back Row (L. to R.) Sid Bluett (masseur), Jim 'Link' Walsh, Dick Rockett, John Sutton, Mick Brophy, Sean Clohessy, Mick Kenny, Ollie Walsh, Bob Aylward (Co. Board chairman).

Front Row (L. to R.) Johnny McGovern, Billy Dwyer, Paddy Buggy, Denis Heaslip, Mickie Kelly (capt.) Mick Walsh, Tom Walsh, John Maher.



# Interest in Scór grows

A NON-PLAYING but nonetheless important part, of G.A.A. activities are the Scór competitions.

The senior Scór events have been running on a national level for the past 10 years. Kilkenny first took part in 1972, and the harvest of success reaped has been respectable.

Tom Ryall (Graigue-Ballycallan), Fr. Tom Murphy C.C. and Philip Cahill (Graigue-Ballycallan) are the three men who spearheaded the competitions locally. Against a certain amount of apathy, they do a thankless job with commendable courage and pride.

At the initial stage, Scór did not attract much attention, even today it involves a certain struggle to keep clubs involved. Still, but the will to succeed on behalf of the organisers, interest has grown and the talent that goes on stage can be an eye opener.

In 1973, Philip Cahill took over as secretary from Tom Ryall. The involvement by clubs grows and grows each year, and the aim is to have every outfit in Co. Kilkenny participating in the not too distant future.

J. Burke has won county and Leinster honours as a solo singer in the senior Scór. Others who collected titles were O'Loughlin's, Mooncoin, Dicksboro, James Stephens at ceili dancing, question time and music.

But the greatest rewards have been captured by the set dancers from Kilmangh, representing Graigue-Ballycallan club. Led by Paddy Malone, they have dominated on the home front since 1972 and have been twice successful in Leinster, and have taken part in the all-Irelands on two occasions.

## Scór na nOg

Kilkenny first took part in the Scór na nOg events in 1977. Clubs who have won county honours since then are:

Galmoy, Erin's Own (Castlecomer), Dunnamaggin, Tullaroan, Dicksboro, Mooncoin, James Stephens, John Lockes (Callan) and O'Loughlin's.

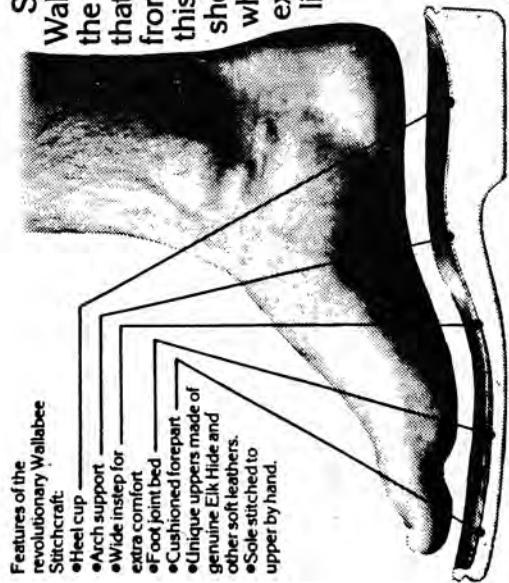
The most prominent club in this section are O'Loughlin's. In the ceili-dancing section, they were good enough for Leinster on two occasions and Dicksboro took part in the set dancing section.

The 'Boro were at their best in the instrumental music division, where the McCauley family have made a massive impact. They have won the four county finals and Leinster twice, which meant they were able to take part in the all-Ireland finals.

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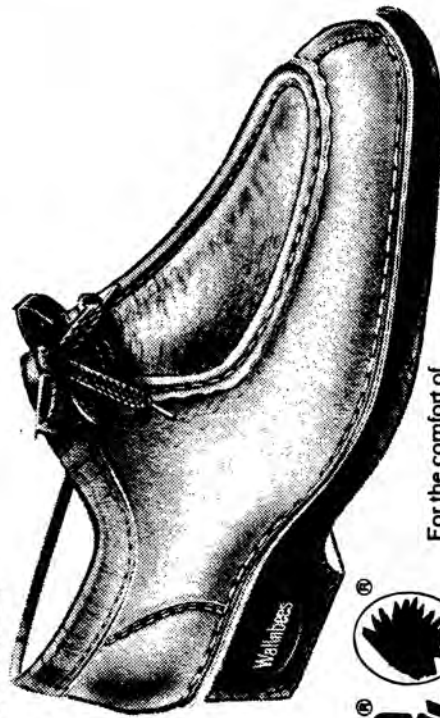
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# SEASON'S RESULTS

## Senior Hurling

### ROUND 1:

Erin's Own (Castlecomer) 2-11, Bennettsbridge 1-5.  
 Fenians (Johnstown) 2-12, Windgap 1-9.  
 Conahy Shamrocks 3-11, Galmoy 1-9.  
 St. Lactain's (Freshford) 2-14, Mooncoin 2-6.  
 Shamrocks (Ballyhale) 3-8, St. Patrick's (Ballyragget) 3-8.  
 Rower-Inistioge 0-14, James Stephens 1-11.

### ROUND 2:

Fenians 2-15, Conahy Shamrocks 0-4.  
 Shamrocks 3-7, James Stephens 0-7.  
 Rower-Inistioge 3-8, O'Loughlins 2-6.  
 St. Patrick's 5-9, Mooncoin 1-8.  
 Erin's Own 4-16, Windgap 1-13.  
 Muckalee-Ballyfoyle 4-10, Galmoy 3-4.

### ROUND 3:

James Stephens 2-9, O'Loughlins 0-8.  
 St. Lactain's 2-10, St. Patrick's 2-8.  
 Fenians 2-8, Erin's Own 1-7.  
 Muckalee-Ballyfoyle 2-11, Conahy Shamrocks 1-10.  
 Shamrocks 7-13, Mooncoin 2-5.  
 Bennettsbridge 4-6, Windgap 2-9.

### ROUND 4:

Conahy Shamrocks 3-12, Windgap 1-6.  
 James Stephens 2-17, St. Patrick's 3-7.  
 Fenians 0-13, Galmoy 0-3.  
 O'Loughlins 3-9, St. Lactain's 0-12.  
 Shamrocks 2-9, Rower-Inistioge 4-3.  
 Muckalee-Ballyfoyle 1-13, Bennettsbridge 0-9.

### ROUND 5:

Muckalee-Ballyfoyle 2-11, Erin's Own 1-5.  
 James Stephens 3-10, St. Lactain's 2-6.  
 Galmoy 7-10, Windgap 3-6.  
 O'Loughlins 5-15, Mooncoin 0-5.  
 Conahy Shamrocks 2-9, Bennettsbridge 1-2.  
 Rower-Inistioge 5-8, St. Patrick's 5-8.

### ROUND 6:

Shamrocks 2-13, St. Lactain's 2-12.  
 Muckalee-Ballyfoyle 1-21, Windgap 1-5.  
 Galmoy 3-11, Erin's Own 1-13.  
 Fenians 1-11, Bennettsbridge 1-9.  
 St. Patrick's 2-12, O'Loughlins 1-10.  
 Rower-Inistioge 5-9, Mooncoin 3-4.

### ROUND 7:

Rower-Inistioge 2-8, St. Lactain's 1-9.  
 James Stephens 3-8, Mooncoin 3-2.  
 Shamrocks 2-17, O'Loughlins 3-5.  
 Galmoy 3-10, Bennettsbridge 3-5.  
 Muckalee-Ballyfoyle 3-9, Fenians 0-18.  
 Erin's Own 1-11, Conahy Shamrocks 0-9.

### PLAY-OFFS:

Erin's Own 3-13, Galmoy 1-5.  
 Galmoy 5-9, Conahy Shamrocks 2-11.

### QUARTER-FINALS:

Fenians 2-17, Rower-Inistioge 2-9.  
 Muckalee-Ballyfoyle 2-16, St. Patrick's 1-5.

James Stephens 2-12, Erin's own 1-10.  
 Shamrocks 4-13, Galmoy 0-9.

### SEMI-FINALS

Shamrocks 1-7, James Stephens 1-7.  
 Replay: Shamrocks 2-13, James Stephens 0-12.

### FINAL:

Shamrocks 3-10, Muckalee-Ballyfoyle 2-13.  
 Replay: Shamrocks 3-13, Muckalee-Ballyfoyle 1-10.  
 In a relegation match, Mooncoin and Windgap drew but the latter decided to go back intermediate.

## Intermediate Hurling

### ROUND 1:

Graignamanagh 5-7, Barrow Rangers (Paulstown) 2-4  
 Thomastown 4-11, Lisdowney 1-9  
 Carrickshock 3-8, Clara 1-9.  
 Dicksboro 2-9, Young Irelands (Gowran) 2-9.

### ROUND 2:

Clara 2-6, Barrow Rangers 1-7.  
 Lisdowney 4-8, Young Irelands 2-8.  
 Dicksboro 1-10, Carrickshock 1-8.  
 Thomastown 3-11, Graignamanagh 2-11.

### ROUND 3:

Young Irelands 2-8, Thomastown 1-8.  
 Clara 1-11, Graignamanagh 1-7.  
 Carrickshock 6-8, Barrow Rangers 2-12.  
 Lisdowney 1-8, Dicksboro 1-7.

### ROUND 4:

Barrow Rangers 1-13, Thomastown 2-9.  
 Dicksboro 3-7, Clara 2-8.  
 Graignamanagh 0-14, Lisdowney 2-5.  
 Carrickshock 1-12, Young Irelands 2-8.

### ROUND 5:

Thomastown 3-13, Carrickshock 2-16.  
 Lisdowney 0-12, Barrow Rangers 2-5.  
 Clara 1-14, Young Irelands 0-13.  
 Graignamanagh 0-9, Dicksboro 0-7.

### ROUND 6:

Clara 2-19, Lisdowney 1-10.  
 Thomastown 1-11, Dicksboro 2-5.  
 Graignamanagh 2-10, Carrickshock 1-10.  
 Barrow Rangers 3-7, Young Irelands 3-7.

### ROUND 7:

Carrickshock 3-10, Lisdowney 2-4.  
 Thomastown 3-12, Clara 3-8.  
 Dicksboro 3-12, Barrow Rangers 2-10.  
 Graignamanagh 4-10, Young Irelands 2-4.

### SEMI-FINALS:

Graignamanagh 3-8, Clara 1-9.  
 Thomastown 4-9, Carrickshock 1-12.

### FINAL:

Graignamanagh 4-12, Thomastown 1-16.  
 Total number of games 31.

*Continued overleaf.*



Continued from previous page.

## Junior Hurling

### ROUND 1:

Tullaroan 1-10, Coon 2-5.  
Danesfort 7-12, St. Mary's-Riochs 2-5.  
Emeralds 4-11, Blacks and Whites 2-7.  
Graigue-Ballycallan 0-15, O'Loughlin's 2-6

### ROUND 2:

Tullaroan 1-11, Danesfort 1-9.  
Coon 6-15, Ye Faire Citie 1-2.  
Black and Whites 2-12, O'Loughlin's 3-7.  
Graigue-Ballycallan 1-12, Emeralds 0-15.

### ROUND 3:

Coon 2-6, St. Mary's-Rioch's 2-4.  
Emeralds 6-5, O'Loughlin's 2-6.  
Graigue-Ballycallan 3-15, Blacks & Whites 2-12.

### ROUND 4:

Coon 2-5, Danesfort 1-7.

### SEMI-FINALS:

Coon 2-12, Graigue-Ballycallan 2-7;  
Tullaroan 2-12, Emeralds 1-4.

### NORTH FINAL:

Tullaroan 2-12, Coon 3 6.

### ROUND 1 (South):

Dunnamaggin 4-8, Piltown 2-10.  
Glenmore 1-18, Tullogher-Rosbercon 1-13.  
John Lockes (Callan) 3-10, Mullinavat 1-9.  
Carrigeen 1-13, St. Senan's (Kilmacow) 2-9.

### ROUND 2:

Dunnamaggin 2-14, Tullogher-Rosbercon 2-14.  
Piltown 5-22, Slieverue 1-2.  
John Lockes 1-11, St. Senan's 1-5.  
Mullinavat 1-12, Carrigeen 2-5.

### ROUND 3:

Dunnamaggin beat Slieverue.  
Glenmore 2-9, Piltown 1-10.  
John Lockes 2-7, Carrigeen 1-6.  
Mullinavat 1-10, St. Senan's 1-10

### ROUND 4:

Glenmore 5-11, Dunnamaggin 3-11

### ROUND 5:

Tullogher-Rosbercon 2-14, Piltown 2-7.

### PLAY-OFF:

Dunnamaggin 1-12, Tullogher-Rosbercon 1-10.

### SEMI-FINALS:

Dunnamaggin 1-12, John Lockes 2-8.  
Glenmore 5-12, Mullinavat 3-3.

### SOUTH FINAL:

Glenmore 2-18, Dunnamaggin 1-10

### COUNTY FINAL:

Glenmore 3-16, Tullaroan 2-6.  
*Number of games played - 34.*

## Special Junior Hurling

### NORTH — ROUND 1:

St. Lactain's 4-9, Blacks and Whites 0-2.  
Bennettsbridge 5-7, Erin's Own (Castlecomer) 4-3.  
Young Ireland's (Gowran) 2-10, Tullaroan 0 8.  
James Stephens 3 11, St. Patrick's (Ballyragget) 2-7  
Galmoy 4 3, Emeralds 2-6.  
Muckalee Ballyfoyle Rangers 3 8, Fenians 2 5  
Graigue Ballycallan 7-2, O Loughlin's 3-7

### ROUND 2:

Blacks and Whites 4-9, Erin's Own 2-11.  
Dicksboro 4-2, St. Lactain's 2-5.  
James Stephens 1-8, Young Irelands 1-7  
Tullaroan 2-3, Lisdowney 1-3  
Emeralds beat Clara by five points.  
Galmoy 2-4, Danesfort 0-6.  
Muckalee-Ballyfoyle Rangers 4-9, O'Loughlin's 2-6.  
Fenians beat Barrow Rangers.

### ROUND 3:

Blacks and Whites 2-14, Dicksboro 3-7.  
St. Lactain's 2-9, Bennettsbridge 3-5.  
Young Irelands 4-12, Lisdowney 1-3.  
St. Patrick's (Ballyragget) 3-6, Tullaroan 0-2.  
Emeralds beat Danesfort.  
Fenians 8-7, Graigue-Ballycallan 1-3.

### ROUND 4:

Bennettsbridge 1-8, Blacks and Whites 1-7.  
Dicksboro 3-8, Erin's Own 0-4.  
St. Patrick's 2-3, Young Irelands 1-4.  
Danesfort 4-3, Clara 1-6.  
Muckalee-Ballyfoyle 6-15, Graigue-Ballycallan 2-4.

### ROUND 5:

St. Lactain's 6-10, Erin's Own 1-3.  
Bennettsbridge beat Dicksboro.

### QUARTER-FINALS:

St. Patrick's 1-6, Galmoy 0-9 (a draw)  
James Stephens 6-15, Emeralds 3-3.  
Fenians 2-5, St. Lactain's 0-5.  
Bennettsbridge 3-3, Muckalee-Ballyfoyle 0-9.  
St. Patrick's 2-3, Galmoy 0-9 (replay).

### SEMI-FINALS:

Fenians 3-10, Bennettsbridge 0-11.  
James Stephens 3-8, St. Patrick's 2-1.

### NORTHERN FINAL:

Fenians 2-11, James Stephens 0-13.

### SOUTH — ROUND 1:

Rower Inistioge 7-3, Shamrocks 1 3.  
Thomastown 3-4, Windgap 2-1.  
Glenmore 4-4, John Lockes 2-1.  
Mooncoin and Carrickshock played a draw.  
Graignamanagh 4-5, Mullinavat 3 2.

### ROUND 2:

Rower Inistioge 4-14, Windgap 0-2.  
Shamrocks beat John Lockes.  
Glenmore beat Thomastown.  
Mooncoin 2-5, Mullinavat 2-2.  
Carrickshock beat Piltown.

### ROUND 3:

Rower-Inistioge 3-7, John Lockes 2 3.  
Shamrocks 3-12, Thomastown 1-6  
Glenmore 5-15, Windgap 2-3.  
Carrickshock beat Graignamanagh.  
Mooncoin 3-11, Piltown 1-7

### ROUND 4:

Rower-Inistioge 9-8, Thomastown 0-2.  
John Lockes 5-6, Windgap 4 6.  
Glenmore 2-10, Shamrocks 0-8  
Mooncoin 5-9, Graignamanagh 0-1  
Mullinavat beat Piltown.

### ROUND 5:

Rower Inistioge 3-6, Glenmore 2 8

### PLAY-OFF:

Mooncoin 4 2, Carrickshock 3-3

### SOUTH FINAL:

Rower Inistioge 2 6, Mooncoin 1-2

### COUNTY FINAL:

Fenians 1 8, Rower Inistioge 1-6

*Total number of games 60*



Continued ▷

## Senior Football

### ROUND 1

North: Sarsfields (Conahy) 1-13, St. Lactain's (Freshford) 2-3.  
The Gaels 1-8, The Village 0-9.

### ROUND 2

Muckalee 4-6, Sarsfields 2-4.  
Railyard 1-3, The Gaels 0-6 (draw)  
Railyard 0-12, The Gaels 0-3.

### FINAL

Muckalee 1-9, Railyard 1-6.

### ROUND 1

South: Thomastown 1-8, Bigwood 3-1.  
Shamrocks 1-8, Graignamanagh 1-7.

### SEMI-FINAL

Shamrocks 2-7, Thomastown 2-1.

### COUNTY FINAL

Shamrocks 24-7, Muckalee 1-1.  
Total number of games, 10.

## Minor H.C. Roinn A

### ROUND 1

North: Young Irelands 7-9, St. Lactain's 0-2.  
Dicksboro 3-4, James Stephens 2-3.  
Emeralds 4-9, Fenians 0-1.  
Erin's Own 3-5, Bennettsbridge 1-6.

### ROUND 2

Dicksboro 1-10, St. Lactain's 2-5.  
O'Loughlin's 6-8, Young Ireland's 1-17.  
Bennettsbridge 3-7, Fenians 0-4.  
Emeralds 1-8, Erin's Own 0-3.

### ROUND 3

Young Irelands 4-14, James Stephens 2-4  
Erin's Own 8-6, Fenians 1-5.  
Emeralds 5-14, Bennettsbridge 2-1.

### ROUND 4

O'Loughlin's 8-18, Dicksboro 1-3.

### SEMI-FINALS

O'Loughlins 5-12, Erin's Own 3-3.  
Emeralds 4-11, Young Irelands 4-2.

### NORTH FINAL

O'Loughlin's 2-6, Emeralds 1-9 (draw).  
O'Loughlins 5-10, Emeralds 2-2 (replay).

### ROUND 1

South: Mooncoin 5-7, Glenmore 2-9.  
Graignamanagh 2-8, Thomastown 3-1

### ROUND 2

Mooncoin 3-16, Thomastown 1-4.  
Glenmore 1-12, Graignamanagh 0-8.

### ROUND 3

Mooncoin 7-10, Graignamanagh 2-9  
Glenmore 3-12, Thomastown 3-2.

### SOUTH FINAL

Mooncoin 4-8, Glenmore 1-7.

### COUNTY FINAL

O'Loughlin's 3-7, Mooncoin 2-7.  
Total number of games, 24.

Continued overleaf.

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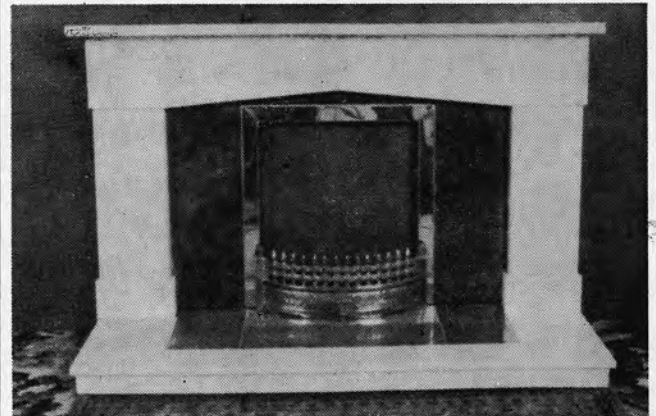
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Continued from previous page.

**Under-21 H.C. Roinn A****ROUND 1**

North: St. Lactains 4-7, Dicksboro 0-1.  
O'Loughlins 3-10, James Stephens 0-6.  
Clara 2-5, Erin's Own 1-6.  
Bennettsbridge 2-5, Fenians 1-8.

**ROUND 2**

O'Loughlin's 3-10, St. Lactain's 1-4.  
Young Ireland's 1-13, Dicksboro 3-6.  
Clara 1-8, Fenians 2-2.  
Erin's Own 0-7, Bennettsbridge 1-1.

**ROUND 3**

Clara 4-10, Bennettsbridge 1-0.  
Erin's Own 1-16, Fenians 1-7.

**ROUND 4**

St. Lactain's 3, James Stephens 2-10.  
O'Loughlin's 4-12, Young Irelands 1-9.

**ROUND 5**

O'Loughlin's 1-12, Dicksboro 1-1.

**SEMI-FINALS**

Clara 2-9, St. Lactain's 1-8.  
O'Loughlin's 3-7, Erin's Own 2-7.

**NORTH FINAL**

O'Loughlin's 3-10, Clara 1-11.

**ROUND 1**

South: Glenmore 2-7, Mooncoin 1-8.

**ROUND 2**

Glenmore 2-17, Thomastown 1-11.

**SOUTH FINAL**

Glenmore 2-7, Piltown 1-6.

**COUNTY FINAL**

Glenmore 2-7, O'Loughlin's 1-7.  
Total number of games 19.

**Under-21 H.C. Roinn B****ROUND 1**

North: Emeralds 2-12, Coon-Muckalee 2-4.  
Tullaroan 2-13, Barrow Rangers 2-3.  
Graigue-Ballycallan 5-6, Lisdowney 4-7.  
Danesfort 3-9, St. Mary's / Rioch's 2-3.

**ROUND 2**

St. Patrick's 1-12, Coon-Muckalee 1-6.  
Lisdowney beat Tullaroan.  
Graigue-Ballycallan 2-0, Barrow Rangers 0-0. Unfinished owing to an injury. Barrow Rangers conceded the game.  
Galmoy 4-6, Danesfort 2-5.

**ROUND 3**

Emeralds 5-11, St. Patrick's 1-6.  
Graigue-Ballycallan 3-5, Tullaroan 2-5.

**SEMI-FINAL**

Galmoy 4-6, Emeralds 1-3.

**NORTH FINAL**

Galmoy 0-13, Graigue-Ballycallan 2-4.

**ROUND 1**

South: Carrickshock beat Rower-Inistioge by one point.  
Gaignamanagh 4-8, Tullogher-Rosbercon 4-3.  
Dunnamaggin 4-7, Slieverue 0-3.

**ROUND 2**

Rower-Inistioge 7-10, St. Senan's 0-2  
Mullinavat 3-13, Carrickshock 4-3.  
Gaignamanagh 5-17, Windgap 1-1  
Dunnamaggin 7-9, John Locke's 3-7

**ROUND 3**

Mullinavat 1-12, Rower-Inistioge 2-5.

**SEMI-FINALS**

Mullinavat 5-6, Dunnamaggin 2-2.  
Gaignamanagh 10-11, Carrickshock 0-2.

**SOUTH FINAL**

Gaignamanagh 4-10, Mullinavat 3-5

**COUNTY FINAL**

Gaignamanagh 3-11, Galmoy 3-9  
Total number of games 24.

**Under-21 Football****ROUND 1**

North: Tullaroan 3-5, Danesfort 0-4.  
The Gaels 6-10, Railyard 0-6.

**ROUND 2**

Muckalee 1-2, Tullaroan 1-2 (draw).  
The Gaels 3-5, St. Lactain's 2-7.  
The Village 1-7, Dicksboro 0  
Muckalee 0-4, Tullaroan 0-4 (replay).  
Muckalee 3-5, Tullaroan 1-4 (second replay).

**SEMI-FINAL**

The Village 4-4, The Gaels 0-4.

**NORTH FINAL**

The Village 2-7, Muckalee 2-5.

**ROUND 1**

South: Thomastown 5-6, Gaignamanagh 2-3.  
Mooncoin 2-3, Bigwood 1-3.  
Tullogher-Rosbercon 3-8, Slieverue 2-5.

**SEMI-FINALS**

Thomastown 4-6, Glenmore 1-0.  
Mooncoin 3-11, Tullogher-Rosbercon 1-1.

**SOUTH FINAL**

Thomastown 1-6, Mooncoin 0-8.

**COUNTY FINAL**

Thomastown 1-3, The Village 1-1.  
Total number of games, 17.

**Junior Football****PRELIMINARY ROUND**

North: Lisdowney 2-8, Galmoy 2-7.  
Bennettsbridge 3-4, Barrowmount 0-3.  
Danesfort 1-11, Graigue-Ballycallan 1-3.

**ROUND 1**

Lisdowney 2-4, Blacks and Whites 1-3.  
Clara 2-1, Bennettsbridge 0-6.  
Danesfort 4-11, St. Mary's-Rioch 5-5.  
Dicksboro 2-12, Railyard 1-5.  
Fenians 1-16, Muckalee 0-1.  
Young Irelands 3-6, St. Lactain's 1-4.  
The Gaels 2-10, Railyard 2-2.  
Castlecomer 5-11, Tullaroan 0-1.

**ROUND 2**

Clara 3-2, Lisdowney 0-4.  
Dicksboro 0-14, Danesfort 2-6.  
Fenians 9-11, Young Irelands 0-1  
Castlecomer beat The Gaels.

**ROUND 3**

Dicksboro 2-10, Clara 1-3.  
Fenians 3-2, Castlecomer 0-3.

**FINAL**

Dicksboro 2-8, Fenians 15.

**ROUND 1**

South: Glenmore 3-6, Carrigeen 1-2.  
Tullogher-Rosbercon 1-6, St. Patrick's (Kilmacow) 1-3.  
Mooncoin 0-14, Bigwood 0-4.  
Dunnamaggin beat the Rower-Inistioge.  
Coolagh 1-10, Gaignamanagh 0-6.  
Lamogue 2-0, Carrickshock 1-1.  
Slieverue 3-11, Piltown 1-0.

**ROUND 2**

Glenmore 3-4, St. Senan's 2-6.  
Mooncoin 1-9, Tullogher-Rosbercon 1-7  
Coolagh 3-4, Dunnamaggin 0-4.  
Slieverue 3-7, Lamogue 2-2

**ROUND 3**

Glenmore 3-11 Mooncoin 1-1.  
Slieverue 2-5, Coolagh 1-0.

**FINAL**

Slieverue 4 9 Glenmore 2-6

**COUNTY FINAL**

Slieverue 1 10, Dicksboro 0-11 (after 56 minutes). Result allowed stand after hearing by Co. Board)  
Total number of games 33



## Minor H.C. Roinn B

### ROUND 1

North: Clara beat Coon/Muckalee by one point.

### ROUND 2

Graigue-Ballycallan 4-4, Moneenroe 2-6  
Lisdowney 4-9, Danesfort 1-2.

### ROUND 3

Graigue-Ballycallan 2-11, Conahy Shamrocks 1-5.

### SEMI-FINALS

Graigue-Ballycallan 1-6, Clara 1-4.  
Lisdowney 3-6, Moneenroe 1-3.

### NORTH FINAL

Lisdowney 3-3, Graigue-Ballycallan 2-4

### ROUND 1

South: Rower-Inistioge 4-3, Mullinavat 1-3.  
Slieverue beat Tullogher-Rosbercon.  
Dunnamaggin 2-6, Shamrocks 2-2.  
John Lockes beat Carrickshock.

### ROUND 2

Mullinavat 10-6, Tullogher-Rosbercon 0-0.  
Rower-Inistioge 8-6, Windgap 2-1.  
Dunnamaggin beat St. Senan's.  
John Lockes 8-17, Shamrocks 0-3.

### ROUND 3

Mullinavat and Windgap played a draw  
Rower-Inistioge 7-9, Slieverue 0-1.  
John Lockes 3-8, Dunnamaggin 1-6.  
Piltown beat Shamrocks.  
Carrickshock beat St. Senan's.

### ROUND 4

Mullinavat 7-8, Slieverue 2-2.  
Piltown beat Dunnamaggin.  
John Lockes beat St. Senan's.

### ROUND 5

Rower-Inistioge 10-8, Tullogher-Rosbercon 0-0.  
St. Senan's beat Shamrocks.

### PLAY-OFF

Mullinavat 5-15, Windgap 6-0.

### SEMI-FINALS

Rower-Inistioge 5-11, John Lockes 1-3  
Piltown 4-9, Mullinavat 3-11.

### SOUTH FINAL

Rower-Inistioge 3-13, Piltown 3-4.

### COUNTY FINAL

Rower-Inistioge 2-4, Lisdowney 1-5.  
Total number of games played 30.



## Minor Football

### ROUND 1

North: The Gaels 5-4, Danesfort 0-0.  
Railyard 1-6, The Village 0-8.

### ROUND 2

The Gaels 6-15, Bennettsbridge 0-1.  
Clara 2-3, Lisdowney 0-6.  
Graigue-Ballycallan 0-9, Blacks and Whites 2-1.

### SEMI-FINALS

The Gaels 2-14, Railyard 1-5.  
Clara 4-4, Graigue-Ballycallan 0-4.

### NORTH FINAL

The Gaels 5-7, Clara 1

### ROUND 1

South: Bigwood 3-3, Gaignamanagh 2-5.  
St. Senan's beat Tullogher-Rosbercon by five points.  
Dunnamaggin 1-9, Coolagh 1-8.

### ROUND 2

Bigwood 2-6, Mooncoin 2-4.  
Thomastown 6-10, St. Senan's 0-3.  
Slieverue 7-9, Dunnamaggin 0-1.

### SEMI-FINALS

Thomastown 6-6, Slieverue 0-4.  
Bigwood 2-11, Shamrocks 0-2.

### SOUTH FINAL

Thomastown 3-4, Bigwood 2-3.

### COUNTY FINAL

Thomastown 3-2, The Gaels 0-6.  
Total number of games, 18.

## Special J.F.

### NORTH FINAL

The Gaels 2-6, Blacks and Whites 1-5.

### ROUND 1

South: Rower-Inistioge 0-12, St. Patrick's 0-9.  
Tullogher-Rosbercon 1-9, Carrickshock 1-4.

### SEMI-FINAL

St. Senan's 2-3, Rower-Inistioge 1-3.

### SOUTH FINAL

St. Senan's 0-5, Tullogher-Rosbercon 0-2.

### COUNTY FINAL

The Gaels 3-3, St. Senan's 0-5.  
Total number of games, 6.

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# Football – what chance is it given?

**Football, according to the dictionary definition, is a 'person or thing continually kicked or tossed or bandied about'. Well, in the broadest sense, the latter half of that assessment certainly applies to Kilkenny, that it is something that is 'bandied about'.**

In the ambience of Gaelic games on the Noreside, football is the black sheep among the family. Each year high hopes are expressed that if this and that is done, there will be an improvement.

In the latter part of 1979 and in the early part of 1980 an investigation was held into the state of the game in Kilkenny. The findings were interesting, and they pointed out many ills. The biggest single point that was made by the members of that investigation committee was that the Football Board should be scrapped, done away with, use what words one will, but the end result was to be final.

When the Co. Board dealt with the report of the investigation committee, the findings were, as the definition above would have, 'bandied about' with. The Football Board lived to rule another day and the game survived in the state it has for the past few dull years.

And you know, when the Co. Board reached such a decision, they were right and wrong at the same time. Members may not have meant it to be so, but in spite of them it happened.

## SHAMBLES

Football is good and bad in Kilkenny. Unfortunately, the bad part is the shop-window of the game, the state at the very highest, the senior grade. The senior county side is little short of a shambles. And it is getting worse.

Some years ago they were respectable county footballers in Kilkenny provided

by the Meally family and men like Kieran Purcell, Dick McNamara, and others, and that is not too long ago. On the inter-county scene, Kilkenny commanded some sort of respect. But today, for an unknown quantity of reasons, the image of the senior inter-county side has been damaged beyond repair and the whole game in the county suffers.

For down at the other end of the scale, among the youngsters from the schools and with the most junior sides from clubs, football would lie between the good and moderate bracket. As the ladder to the top is climbed, there is a marked deterioration in the standard.

To go to Kilkenny's performances in the National Football League would suggest football is in a hopeless state in the county. When the minors venture out in the Leinster championship in the early Summer, there is not much that can be expected from them unless they get past the first round and then they will receive something like the attention they require. If defeat is the order of the day, no one really worries, the attitude is 'sure it was only to be expected'.

Still, to pass on down to under-16, 14 and even 12 year olds, Kilkenny could accomplish a lot against other football counties. The difference in standard is not that great. But as the years pass, Kilkenny players seem to lose out drastically by comparison with their counter-

parts in other counties. Hurling takes over, football is pushed to the side as a time filling sideline.

This year in Kilkenny a big push was made to get all the football championships finished within the 12 months. It was a good idea, but one has to wonder about genuine interest in the game when 10 matches were good enough to give Shamrocks a 4-7 to 1-1 win over Muckalee in the county final, when it took 54 games to complete the same grade of competition in hurling.

## COMPARE FAVOURABLY

The junior football campaign compared much more favourably with its hurling counterpart. And the climax to the championship between Slieverue (winners) and Dicksboro consequently threw up fare that spectators

would at least go back to see.

One has to wonder how hurling would fare in Kilkenny if the senior championship consisted of 10 games. It would hardly do much to promote the game and attract youngsters.

Again the special junior football championship, which took 6 matches to complete by comparison with 60 for its hurling counterpart, is shown up in a bad light.

Football, as the opening paragraph suggested, is something to be 'bandied about', and in Kilkenny that has been taken literally, but thankfully not right down the line because the under-age competitions are well organised. But while the shop-window remains in a tattered state, there is not much hope of a change in attitude by the former youngsters who add on the years.



St. Lactain's (Freshford) official, Mr. Jim Farrell who attended his 51st Northern Board Convention last year.

He is pictured with his nephew, Pa Dillon (St. Lactain's) who hurled with Kilkenny from 1964 to 1972 and won three all-Ireland senior hurling medals in 1967, '69 and 1972.



# A *Twenty questions — the answers*

*Questions on page 27*

1. John McCarthy, John Lalor, John Roberts, Jack Mulcahy and Paddy Johnston.
2. Cork. The Rebel County won All-Ireland hurling finals in 1941, 1942, 1943, 1944 and 1946.
3. Carrickshock. They won the titles in 1940, 1941, 1942 and 1943.
4. Railyard and Glenmore have won five county senior football titles in successive years. Railyard, in fact, did it twice.
5. The first inter-provincial hurling game between Leinster and Munster was played in Stamford Bridge, London (later the headquarters of the Chelsea Soccer Club) on April 6, 1897. The game was won by Munster by 5-7 to 2-8. Pat ('Fox') Maher and Jim Grace from Tullaroan and Pat Foley from Mooncoin were on the Leinster side.
6. The first Railway Cup hurling final between Leinster and Munster was played in 1927, Leinster beating Munster by 1-11 to 2-6.
7. The number of players on a hurling team was reduced from 21 to 17 in 1893 and to 15-a-side in 1913.
8. Kilkenny played in their first All-Ireland final in 1893 when they were beaten by Cork.
9. The only objection Kilkenny ever made in a Leinster final was in 1925 when they objected to Dublin after having been beaten by 6-4 to 4-7. The grounds of the objection were that Dublin were eight minutes late taking the field; a J. Conroy from Laois played with Dublin after having played for Laois and Dublin scored a goal one minute, 47 seconds after half an hour's play.
10. Three All-Ireland finals were unfinished. The first in 1888 was because of the 'American Invasion'; the second was in 1890 when Cork were awarded the final against Wexford at a time when Wexford were leading by 2-2 to 1-2 and the third was in 1892 when Dublin withdrew after 50 minutes, the match being awarded to Cork who were leading by 2-4 to 1-1.
11. Kilkenny won their first All-Ireland junior title by beating Tipperary by 4-6 to 4-4 at Waterford on May 8, 1929.
12. The Kilkenny side was captained by Tom Mullins, Thomastown.
13. Kilkenny won All-Ireland finals by a single point in 1904, 1907, 1912, 1935, 1939, 1947 and 1957.
14. Alderman Jim Nowlan of Kilkenny is the longest serving G.A.A. President, having served from 1901 to 1921. He is the only man to have been appointed an honorary life president, an honour conferred on him after his retirement. Nowlan Park is, of course, named in honour of his memory.
15. The All-Ireland football final between Dublin and Tipperary was played in Kilkenny in 1902, Dublin winning while the 1906 hurling final was played here, victory this time going to Tipperary, their opponents again being Dublin.
16. Matt Gargan was on five all-Ireland winning sides between 1906 and 1913, while his son, Jack, was on the Kilkenny team that won the 1939 all-Ireland. Paddy Larkin won all-Ireland medals in 1932, 1933, 1935 and 1939 while his son, Phil 'Fan' went one better and won five in the years, 1963, '72, '74, '75 and '79. Pat Clohosey and his son, Sean and Paddy O'Brien and his son, Liam are other father and son combinations to win all-Ireland medals, but the fathers were subs and did not play.
17. Councillor John McCarthy is the only Kilkennyman to have refereed both a hurling and football final.
18. The 1929 Leinster final between Kilkenny and Dublin was abandoned, both teams being disqualified for being late taking the field. In a game between the sides, Kilkenny won by 3-6 to 2-6 and were nominated to represent the province.
19. Graigue (Now Graigue-Ballycallan) supplied the captain of the senior team, Mick Kenny, and the captain of the minor team, Paddy Lennon, when Kilkenny won the senior and minor titles in 1957.
20. Dr. Pierce Grace won All-Ireland football medals with Dublin and All-Ireland hurling medals with Kilkenny.

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