

INSIDE
SPECIAL
CAMOGIE REPORT

KILKENNY GAA

YEARBOOK 1981

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No. 10



IN COLOUR

THE SHAMROCKS ● CAMOGIE ● THE FENIANS ● JAMES STEPHENS

G.A.A. IS A COMMUNITY HELPING PEOPLE

I am pleased to write this foreword to the Kilkenny G.A.A. Year Book for 1981.

In this century Kilkenny has won more Senior Hurling All-Ireland Finals than any other county. Thus, we set ourselves very high standards and by these standards 1981 was not a particularly successful year.

We feel that to be successful we must win, or at least figure prominently in, the Senior Championship. We have, however, four All-Ireland victories to show for 1981: Senior Camogie, Club, Minor and Colleges' Hurling. There are many counties who would be most content with any one of these four titles.

The G.A.A. is not primarily about winning titles. It is about a community helping as many people as possible to play its own games as often and as well as possible. To achieve this, it is necessary to have great community back-up services with a high level of personal commitment. The G.A.A. is really about a community doing its best for and with its people, particularly its young people.

Of course, I accept that it is practically impossible to keep playing games if you have not a reasonable prospect of success. For this reason alone in 1981 we in Kilkenny must salute the hurlers of Offaly. May we never become so selfish as to begrudge success to players with such heroic powers of perseverance.

On the local front, for community effort alone the All-Ireland Club success of the Shamrocks is worthy of special note. That a club from a parish with less than 300 families should win this competition indicates that whatever it takes to win the All-Irelands is still very much alive in Kilkenny.

As we face 1982 we can be certain that it will be an historic year for the G.A.A. in Kilkenny because the Association will hold its Annual Congress for the first time in our city next March. I am certain that during Congress everybody will co-operate fully to put all that is best in our city and county on show for the whole country. As Patron of St. Kieran's College, a famed nursery of hurlers, I am pleased to place the College and all its facilities at the disposal of the Association during Congress. Thus we have an opportunity to stress in a special way the links between the Association and St. Kieran's during the College Bicentenary year.

I thank the G.A.A. for all it has done during the past year and I wish it every success in all its undertakings in 1982.

FOREWORD

By Bishop Laurence Forristal



AERIAL DUEL



Up they go . . .
Kilkenny's Eddie Aylward
and Michael Cleere in an
aerial duel with Wexford's
Pat Cummins in the
Leinster under-21
final at Nowlan
Park.

KILKENNY GAA YEARBOOK 1981



PETER HOLOHAN
EDITOR

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Editorial

It wouldn't be easy to get the idea implanted in people's minds that despite the disappointments - and disappointments there were - Kilkenny won four all Ireland titles, minor, club championship, senior colleges and camogie and our handballers gave our honours list a considerable boost.

In addition we won four Leinster championships in hurling - minor, club, college and under-21. We had four hurling sides in all-Ireland finals and won three. The question arises, therefore, how does one measure what is a good year and what is a bad year. In Kilkenny we use the senior hurlers' success or failure as a yard-stick. Are we inclined to view success in other grades with a certain amount of disdain?

With three grades in hurling and football only six counties at a maximum can win all-Ireland honours and the number can be reduced significantly when a county or counties win more than one. That leaves little room for jubilation in the other counties. Some of them have rarely if ever won a provincial title.

Defeat in the Leinster championship with relegation in the National League is something to which we are not accustomed and for that reason supporters find it hard to accept a situation that is unusual, to say the least, in Kilkenny.

We won our last all-Ireland senior final in 1979 and the slump came so unexpectedly that we find it hard to accept. But we have got to accept it. It is tough at the top and no county can hope to stay there permanently.

The victory of Kilkenny CBS in the colleges all-Ireland final has a special significance, the team was drawn almost exclusively from city clubs.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Photos courtesy Tom Brett, The Cork Examiner and the Kilkenny Standard.

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The Editor also gratefully acknowledges the support of contributors and all who helped in the publication.

The Yearbook was published and printed by the Kilkenny People Ltd., High Street, Kilkenny.

JIMMY O'BRIEN

**James
Stephens
Captain**

A young hurler who has been making steady progress over the past few years is James Stephens captain Jimmy O'Brien. He led his club to victory over old rivals, The Fenians in this

year's county senior final. A left half back he has developed into a fine player. He also plays with Avonmore Creameries, one of the most outstanding sides in inter-factory hurling.

**LIZ
NEARY**

**Camogie
Captain**



Kilkenny camogie got a big boost this year when the county side won back the all-Ireland senior crown. This great side was led by a very talented player, Liz

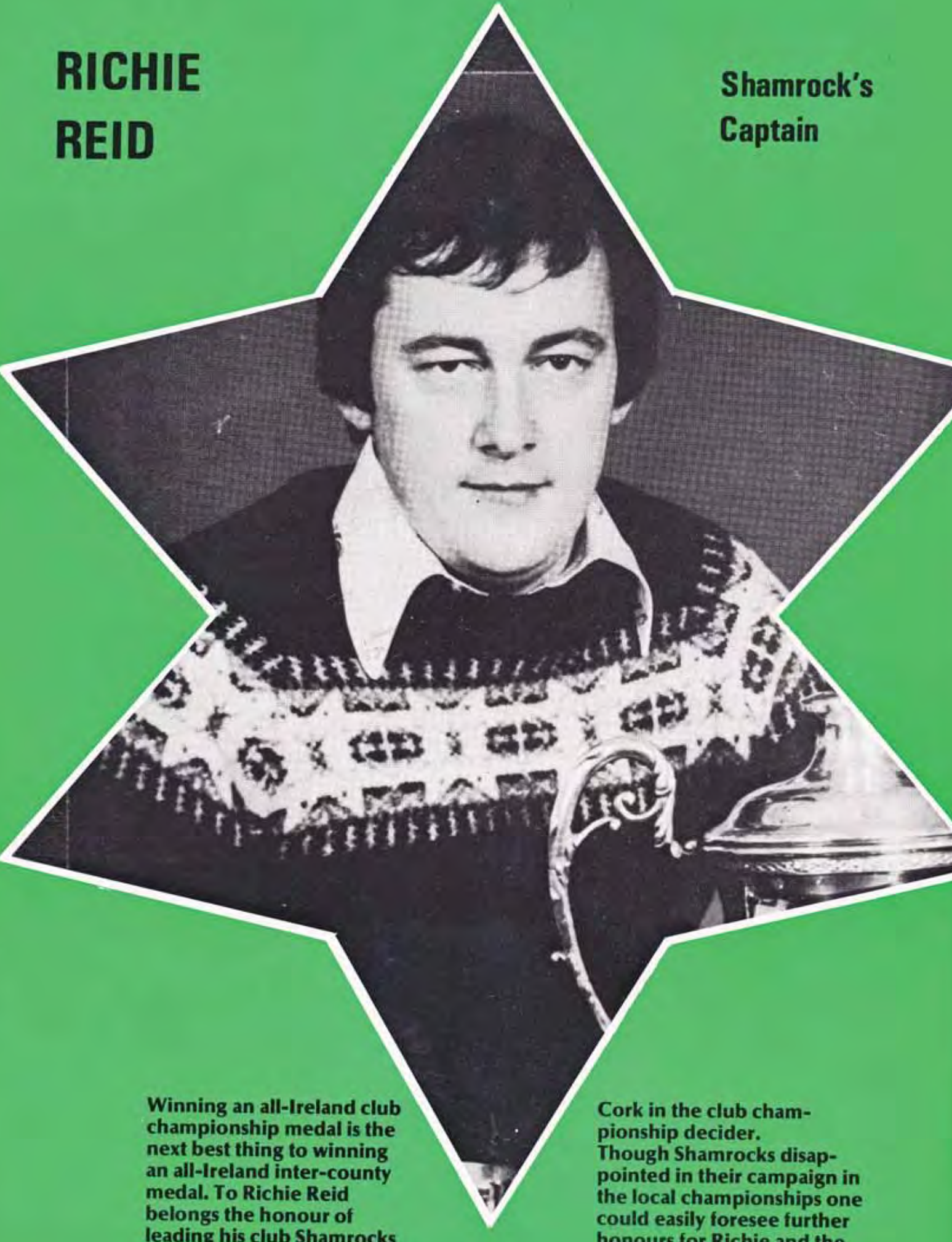
Neary. Liz has given conspicuous service to the game in Kilkenny and has been chosen for a Smithwicks sports stars award on two occasions.

RICHIE REID

**Shamrock's
Captain**

Winning an all-Ireland club championship medal is the next best thing to winning an all-Ireland inter-county medal. To Richie Reid belongs the honour of leading his club Shamrocks to victory over St. Finbarr's,

Cork in the club championship decider. Though Shamrocks disappointed in their campaign in the local championships one could easily foresee further honours for Richie and the Shamrocks.



EDDIE KENNEDY

Minor
Captain

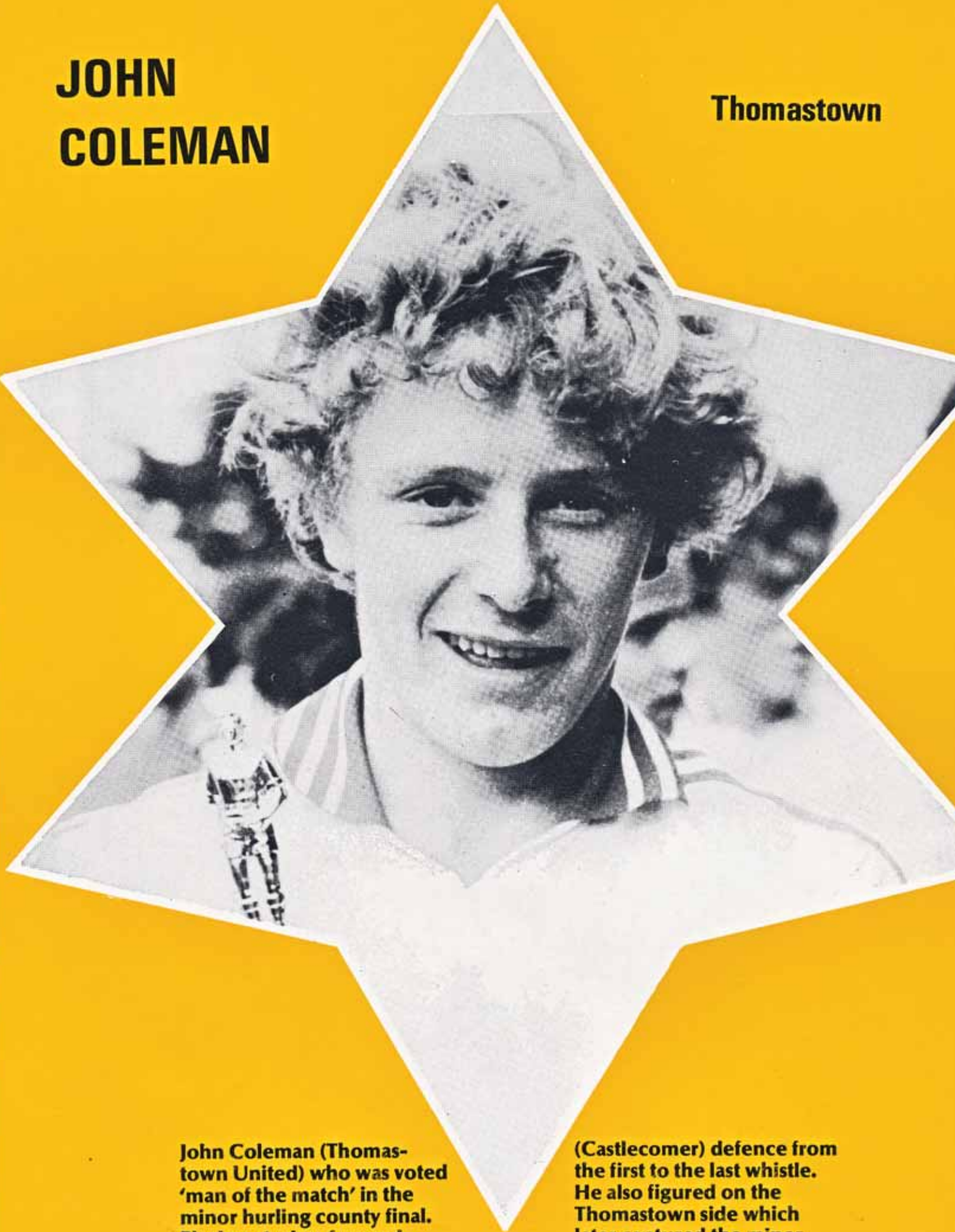


Eddie Kennedy who played in minor, under-21 and special junior grades this year led the Kilkenny side to victory in this year's all-Ireland minor final. He plays on the full back line. Eddie, like Paul Cleere, enjoys the rare distinction of having won two all-Ireland medals in the same year. He is a university student.



JOHN COLEMAN

Thomastown

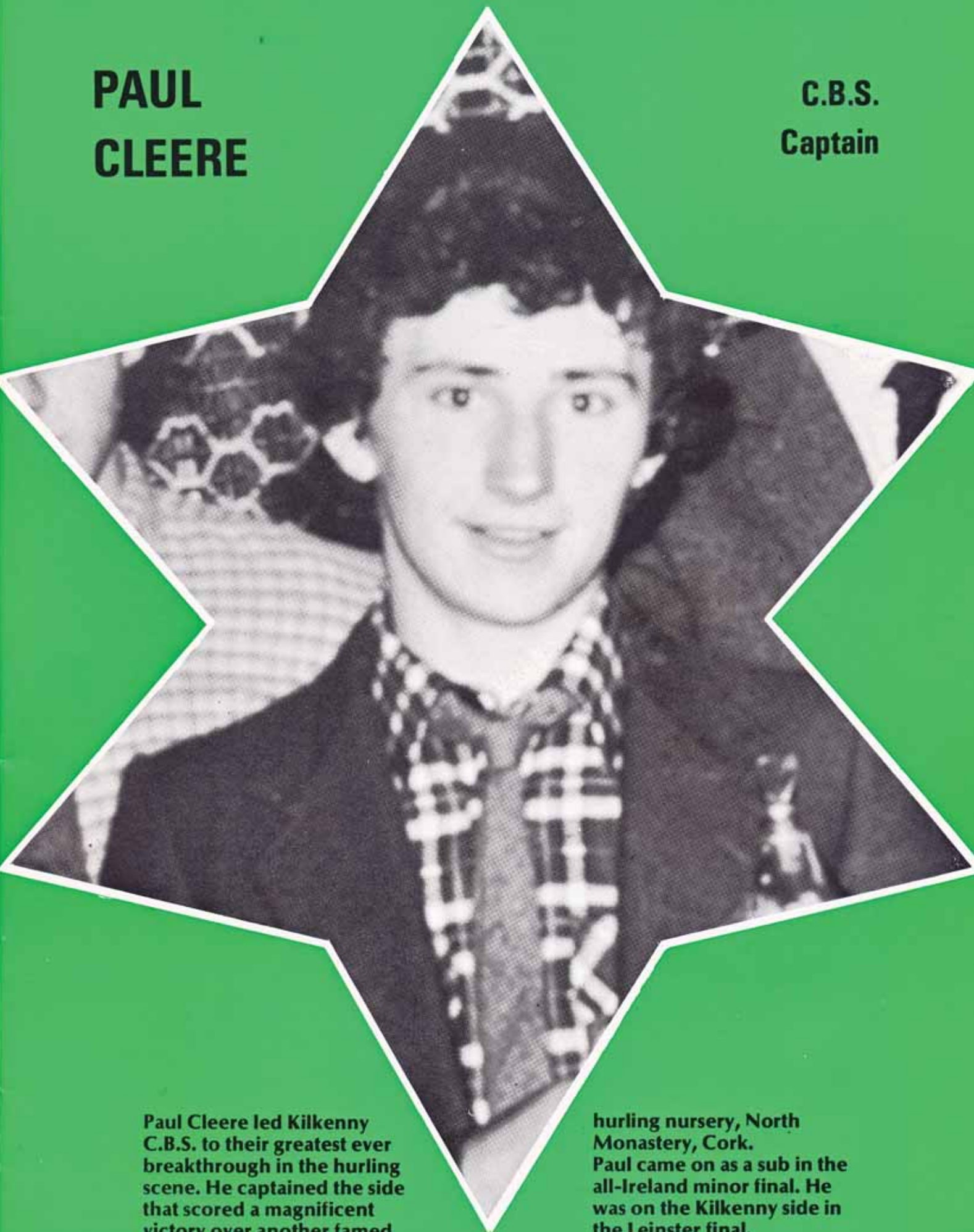


John Coleman (Thomastown United) who was voted 'man of the match' in the minor hurling county final. Playing at wing-forward, John scored 2-1 and tormented the Erin's Own

(Castlecomer) defence from the first to the last whistle. He also figured on the Thomastown side which later captured the minor league.

**PAUL
CLEERE**

**C.B.S.
Captain**



Paul Cleere led Kilkenny C.B.S. to their greatest ever breakthrough in the hurling scene. He captained the side that scored a magnificent victory over another famed

hurling nursery, North Monastery, Cork. Paul came on as a sub in the all-Ireland minor final. He was on the Kilkenny side in the Leinster final.

KILKENNY BOW OUT IN FIRST ROUND

It is 20 years since Kilkenny bowed out of the Leinster senior hurling campaign in the first round but they only lost by three points, 4-10 (22) to 1-18 (21) in a game that with a little luck could have gone their way.

This was largely an inexperienced Kilkenny side; they lacked maturity and that can be a telling factor against a side like Wexford.

Wexford won because they planned their strategy to meet the occasion. They over-ran Kilkenny in the early stages and having established themselves firmly in control concentrated on maintaining their grip. But they almost lost and at one stage Kilkenny came back to go a point ahead.

It was at this stage that Wexford showed their real character. Bringing all their reserves of energy into play they slowly but surely climbed back and even allowing for Kilkenny being a little bit out of luck the Model County men clinched a deserved win.

Wexford had scored eight points in the first

seven minutes and it looked as if Kilkenny were about to be completely demolished, John Fleming had blasted to the net in the first minute and Martin Quigley followed with another goal. Martin Casey put on a Wexford point and Martin Casey and Tony Doran also contributed to Wexford's first half tally while Billy Fitzpatrick, Kieran Brennan and Liam Fennelly helped Kilkenny to recover.

Kilkenny were only two points behind (2-6 to 1-7) at half time and despite Wexford's apparent superiority they were not by any means out of it.

It was Kilkenny who blazed the trail in the second half and Matt Ruth who had been introduced for Christy Heffernan had a point in less than a minute. A Ger Fennelly point midway through the second half put Kilkenny in front but the advantage did not stay with them for very long and Wexford's two goals, one each by Sean Kinsella who replaced Martin Quigley and Tony Doran, sealed the issue for Wexford.

In the Wexford defence

dangerous with John Fleming, Martin Casey and sub Sean Kinsella also turning in fine displays.

Paddy Prendergast performed very creditably in the Kilkenny defence while Brian Cody who replaced Jim Moran was also in top form. Frank Cummins and Ger Fennelly were in powerful form at midfield while Billy Fitzpatrick, Kieran Brennan and Liam Fennelly were most prominent among the forwards.

Wexford scored two goals and six points in the first half to Kilkenny's 1-7. They had three frees, 11 wides while Kilkenny had six frees and five wides. Wexford also scored two goals and six points in the second half to Kilkenny's 11 points. In this period the winners had five frees and three wides while Kilkenny had six frees and four wides. Kilkenny had four '65's' and Wexford none.

Jack Russell, Colm Doran, Mike Jacob and John Conran starred while George O'Connor was the hero of the winners' side at midfield and in attack.

Tony Doran was always

Continued overleaf

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KILKENNY BOW OUT IN FIRST ROUND

Cont'd. from previous page

Wexford: J. Nolan, W. Rowsome, J. Russell, L. Bennett, J. Conran, M. Jacob, C. Doran, P. Courtney, J. Murphy, M. Casey, G. O'Connor, J. Fleming, N. Buggy, T. Doran, M. Quigley. Subs: S. Kinsella for N. Buggy; J. McDonald for M. Quigley; N. Buggy and M. Casey.

Kilkenny: N. Skehan, P.

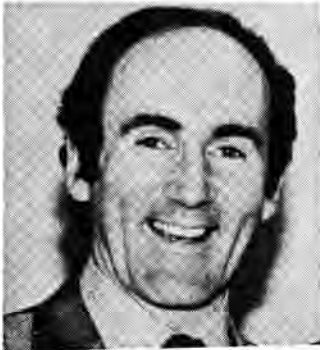
Prendergast, J. Moran, R. Reid, J. Hennessy, M. Mason, G. Henderson, G. Fennelly, F. Cummins, B. Fitzpatrick, P. Lannon, K. Brennan, M. Brennan, C. Heffernan, L. Fennelly. Subs: B. Cody for J. Moran; M. Ruth for C. Heffernan; B. Fennelly for P. Lannon.

Scorers for **Wexford:** S. Kinsella (1-2); G. O'Con-

nor (1-1); T. Doran (1-1); J. Fleming (0-4, two from frees); M. Quigley (1-0); P. Courtney (0-1); N. Buggy (0-1).

For **Kilkenny:** B. Fitzpatrick (0-8, six from frees); G. Fennelly (0-4, all from '65's'); K. Brennan (0-3); L. Fennelly (1-0); G. Henderson (0-1); M. Brennan (0-1); M. Ruth (0-1).

WHY DID KILKENNY FAIL IN THE LEINSTER SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIP THIS YEAR?



By: **Eddie Keher**

One of the overall reasons was that the team was not confident in itself. There was a lot of people on trial on the day and a lot of positions untested.

Kilkenny were, consequently, forced to take chances in the selection of the team and, unfortunately, a lot of these did not work out.

Probably the team itself was not sure of itself start-

REASONS FOR FAILURE

ting off and Wexford took advantage of this uncertainty as was seen in their opening flurry.

In fairness to Kilkenny they steadied up and there were several times during the game when with a bit of luck they could have showed ahead a few points. If they had been fortunate enough to get a few points ahead at a couple of stages in the match they would have had the confidence to hammer it home.

At one particular stage the game went decidedly against Kilkenny. That was when Paddy Prendergast was fouled when coming out to clear under the Hogan Stand and the referee decided not to give a free.

Wexford took advantage of this and George O'Connor scored a goal from out the field. This was a dropping ball. Noel Skehan had it in sight but with the sun in his eyes it was more or less by instinct he was trying to judge where it was coming down.

That was one of the stages when it could have been won or lost. The luck

was with Wexford. This was the turning point in the game.

Another thing that was missing from the Kilkenny team for some time was the lack of leadership on the field. There was no one to rouse them into getting more scores when leading or to rally them when they were behind.

But this was to an extent a new Kilkenny team and it is hard to expect too much from them but I think that leadership is coming back into the team again.

As to the game itself there was a good deal of what one might call scrap-py play; patchy hurling. And while it was exciting right up to the end the hurling was not as good as in previous encounters between the sides.

Wexford started off moving the ball fast and using a lot of ground hurling in the beginning. Their intention obviously was to upset Kilkenny. Eventually they went back to their old style of lifting the ball and that gave Kilkenny time to settle. In the end there was not all that much between them.

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HURLING IS BOOMING

SAYS COUNTY SECRETARY

AN OPTIMIST by nature County Secretary Paddy Grace is not in the least worried about the future prospects of Kilkenny hurling. In fact he says hurling in the county at the moment is booming and he is confident that it will not be long until Kilkenny are back at the top again.



With 33 years behind him as county secretary a position that brought him into closer contact with affairs in the county than anyone else he is quite capable of making a sound judgment.

"At the moment" he says "we are building up a team and I believe that next year or the year after we will be making our presence felt at the top".

With Kilkenny fighting its way out of Grade 1B in the National League not everyone would make a confident prediction about the future. But the prediction is based on the number of young players keenly interested and the enthusiasm that prevails generally.

"The present set of

players we have" the secretary said "are as keen as they ever were and the interest shown has not been as great for a long time; I think the interest here is greater than in most other counties".

Paddy thinks it will not be an easy matter finding the right material but it surely will be found, whether it takes one year or two years or even more.

He is very pleased with the interest shown by the younger players; there is an abundance of top class material there and it is bound to surface when it does Kilkenny will be back in the big time.

The Presidency

WHEN Paddy Buggy takes over as President of the G.A.A. next year his term of office will have a special significance in that he will be head of the Association for the Centenary Year — 1984.

The G.A.A. was inaugurated in Hayes's Hotel, in Thurles in 1884 but it took some time before it really got off the

ground with the first couple of years marked by schisms, one section wanting it to be political and give its support to the Fenian movement and the other wanting it to remain non-political. The intervention of Archbishop Croke helped to heal the split and the hurling and football championships date from three years later — 1887.

BROTHER MINNITER HAD IT BOTH WAYS

That great Kilkenny C.B.S. win

In 1970 Rev. Brother Minniter trained North Monastery (Cork) to beat Kilkenny C.B.S. in the senior college all-Ireland final. This year he trained Kilkenny C.B.S. to beat North Monastery in the final. He has had it both ways.

This was the first senior all-Ireland title for the C.B.S. Has the mantle of greatness that once belonged to St. Kieran's transferred to the James's street, establishment. Anyway this magnificent triumph will be heartily welcomed in a year in which Kilkenny minors also won a final.

Though this was their first major victory the C.B.S. has a very proud tradition as a hurling nursery. It numbers among its past pupils such outstanding all-Ireland hurlers as Jim Langton, Seanie O'Brien and the late Jack Mulcahy – to name but three.

It is most probable that the C.B.S. would have won all-Ireland titles in the past but they are only of comparative recent origin and in the early days the St. Kieran – C.B.S. derbies were the highlights of colleges hurling in the province.

It is significant that this team was drawn largely from city clubs with one from Ballycallan and another from Castlecomer and there is clear evidence in this of the strength of the game in the city area.

The title holders had a hard battle against St. Peter's (Wexford) in the Leinster final and against Birr Community School in the all-Ireland semi-final.

Then came the big test against the famed Cork college side but in what was described as a "match par excellence", the C.B.S. scored a well merited 3-5 to 1-8 victory.

The game at Walsh Park, Waterford was a splendid exhibition of

The first win

This was the first senior title for Kilkenny C.B.S. The other all-Ireland title holders are: St. Kieran's 7; St. Flannan's, Ennis 7; St. Finbarr's, Farrenferris 4; St. Peter's, Wexford 4; North Monastery, Cork 3; Templemore C.B.S. 1; St. Colman's, Fermoy 1.

Road to the Final

After drawing with St. Peter's, Wexford (Kilkenny C.B.S. 2-4, St. Peter's 0-10) in the first round on March 15, the C.B.S. won the replay by 2-6 to 2-5 on March 22. They beat Birr Community School by 1-8 to 1-7 on April 5.

top class hurling and the Kilkenny boys had to pull out all the stops to stay ahead. The losers made a desperate bid to get on top in the closing stages and they had to withstand severe pressure in the closing stages.

With the breeze behind them in the first half, North Monastery set about their work earnestly and John Chisholm and Teddy McCarthy had two quick points on the board. Seamie O'Leary finished a Brian Young pass for a C.B.S. point. Tony Henderson who as in his previous games was brilliant in defence kept Kilkenny

on the move and Tommy Bawle and Paul Cleere gave Kilkenny a midfield pull. At half time the C.B.S. led by 1-3 to 0-5.

Robert Allen and John Drinan had Cork points and the sides were level when Tommy Bawle scored a point.

What was probably the turning point in the game came when Michael Lawlor, usually a defender but now a forward scored a great goal from 25 yards range. Terry O'Mahony (North Monastery) and Seamie O'Leary exchanged points and after Drinan had scored a Cork point Tommy Bawle sealed the issue with a C.B.S. goal.

Billy Walsh was a safe C.B.S. goalie and full backs, Mick Maher, Mick Walsh and Eddie Kennedy were very sound. Davy Foley and Joe Kennedy were safe flankers for Tony Henderson. Michael Lawlor, Michael Geoghegan, Paul Burke, Brian Young and Eamon Nolan worked hard in attack.

The Cork stars were Teddy McCarthy, John Chisholm, C. O'Donovan, Terry O'Mahony, Frank Higgins, Liam Coffey, John Drinan and Robert Allen.

Scorers for C.B.S.: M. Lawlor (2-0); Seamie O'Leary (0-4); Tom Bawle (1-1); while T. O'Mahony (1-1); R. Allen (0-2); J. Drinan (0-2) and P. Connery, T. McCarthy and J. Chisholm scored for North Monastery.

Kilkenny C.B.S.: B. Walsh, M. Maher, E. Kennedy, M. Walsh, D. Foley, T. Henderson, J. Kennedy, T. Bawle, P. Cleere, P. Burke, M. Geoghegan, M. Lawlor, B. Young, S. O'Leary, E. Nolan. Sub: E. O'Leary.

O'Loughlin's win Club of the Year award

One of the most important developments in the G.A.A. in recent years has been the provision of club premises and in this respect Kilkenny city is an example to many other

cities and towns in the county.

There are already two here, James Stephens being the first followed by O'Loughlin's while Dicksboro have started on

a major fund-raising campaign for their own club premises at an estimated cost of something in the region of £100,000.

Special credit must be given to O'Loughlin's for having achieved the distinction this year of winning an Allied Irish Banks' G.A.A. Club of the Year award, gaining first place in Ireland

The premises are attractively designed and provide a bar, lounge, handball alley with seating gallery as well as dressing rooms and showers. It was formally opened on August 26, 1979, and it can be regarded as a community centre in the best sense of the term.

The club was adjudged to be the best in Ireland under the many categories the award was made.

The significance of this achievement has a two-fold effect.

As a comparatively new club it has shown that it is

possible for new clubs to reach the ultimate.

Winning such an award is due recognition of all the hard work which so many willing people, women as well as men, put into the effort. It is even more to the credit of some of those involved that they don't take part in sport but they have the satisfaction of having achieved something really worthwhile.

The O'Loughlin's club, having been thus thrown so prominently into the limelight, are conscious of the responsibility that lies on them to project the proper image. They have hit the headlines in the national as well as the local press.

There are in all about 500 members and they include juveniles while the actual day to day running of the club is entrusted to a club executive elected at the annual meeting.

The club executive delegate power and

Continued on page 31

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QUESTION TIME ?

1. Only two counties have won Senior Hurling all-Ireland titles without scoring a goal. Name them, the years, the scores, and who they beat.

2. Who scored the equalising goal for Limerick in the drawn National Hurling League final in 1980 against Cork?

3. Who is the only man to captain two all-Ireland winning U-21 hurling teams?

4. Two men from the same county were opposing captains in a Leinster v Munster Railway Cup hurling final. Name the men and the year?

5. Who played centre-half forward for Kilkenny in the 1980 Leinster senior hurling final?

6. Three Corkmen won 21 all-Ireland senior medals between them. Name them?

7. He had the unique honour of refereeing an all-Ireland senior hurling final and three years later helped his county win their first title?

8. Name the men who captained Cork to win the four-in-a-row from 1941-1944?

9. What is the name of the new stand in Thurles?

10. Who was top scorer in the 1969 Leinster senior hurling final?

11. Who were Kilkenny's opponents in the 1979 Leinster minor hurling final?

12. What club won the Kilkenny senior hurling championship in 1946?

13. Who played centre half-forward for Cork in the 1976 all-Ireland senior hurling final?

14. Only one member of this year's victorious Offaly senior hurling team was the holder of an all-Ireland medal prior to their great win in the final. Name him?

15. In what year did Kilkenny fail to score in the second half of an all-Ireland final?

16. Who captained Kilkenny to win the 1977 all-Ireland Under-21 final against Cork in Thurles?

17. Name the first Kilkennyman to win the Caltex (now Texaco) hurler of the year award?

18. Who is the centre half-back on this year's All-Star hurling team?

19. Name the man who captained two all-Ireland senior hurling losing teams in the 60's?

20. Name the man who scored three goals in the 1966 all-Ireland senior hurling final between Cork and Kilkenny?

21. Name the only man to captain Leinster to two Railway Cup hurling victories?

22. Between 1922 and 1967 how many times did Kilkenny and Tipperary meet in the all-Ireland senior hurling final?

23. Inniscara was the club of what great hurling full-back of the 1970's?

24. Name the man who scored 2-10 in the 1973 Munster senior hurling final?

25. Two hurlers who were members of the first 'Carrolls' All-Star team in 1971 were members of the first "Bank of Ireland" All-Stars team in 1979. Name them?

26. Who played on Ned Byrne in the 1971 All-Ireland senior hurling final between Kilkenny and Tipperary?

27. Name the Kilkennyman who played for Waterford against Dublin in the 1938 all-Ireland senior hurling final?

28. Grange/Ballybeacon was the club of what great Tipperary hurler?

29. Mick Crotty, winner of County senior hurling medal with James Stephens in 1969, 1975, 1976 and 1981, also won a county senior hurling medal in another county. With what club?

30. Who refereed the 1954 Cork v Wexford senior hurling final?

Answers on Page 80.

GOLDEN YEAR FOR CAMOGIE

The 70's were a golden decade for Kilkenny camogie. The senior team reached four All-Ireland finals and won three — the first title coming their way in '74.

But the momentum lulled as the '80s approached and once again Kilkenny seemed to enter the doldrums. The spotlight was on the hurlers who grabbed the McCarthy Cup in '79.

Nineteen-eighty was a bleak start to the new decade. Kilkenny were beaten at the semi-final stage by Limerick and some of the older players, such as Helena O'Neill

and Peggy Muldowney, began to contemplate retirement. But they decided then to give it one last bash and this fierce will to win, mixed with the enthusiasm of some new young players, meant that Kilkenny would present a formidable challenge.

Luck was also on their side as they got a relatively easy draw in the championship. A bye in the first

round saw them through to the quarter-final against Tipperary. A victory here qualified them for an easy run against Down at home.

It was then on to the All-Ireland final against a skilled and tough Cork side. Cork looked unbeatable on the day, and established an early and wide lead. But Kilkenny gave a thrilling display to come back and earn a second bite at the cherry. And in the replay Cork surrendered their crown

to the determined challengers who, apparently, had the gods on their side.

An All-Ireland win is always a boost to any sport. And, this year, camogie received more publicity and interest than it ever had. The whole county backed the women's efforts to restore Kilkenny's tarnished senior image.

The team has had the right balance of successes

Continued on page 29 >



Members of the Kilkenny camogie team with the All-Ireland senior camogie trophy in Croke Park. Included are (from left): Anna Whelan, Jo Dunne, Biddu O'Sullivan, Ann Downey, Liz Neary, Angela Downey, Cathy Dalton, Helena McCormack, Bridie McGarry, Margaret Brennan, Teresa O'Neill, Peggy Muldowney, Anne Brennan.



Kilkenny — All-Ireland Senior Camogie Champions 1981, who defeated Cork in Croke Park. In front (from left): Anne Holden, Cathy Dalton, Bridie McGarry, Anna Whelan, Liz Neary (captain), Teresa O'Neill, Anne Brennan, Deirdre Malone. Behind: Margaret Brennan, Anne Downey, Angela Downey, Peggy Muldowney, Helena McCormack, Biddy O'Sullivan, Jo Dunne, Margaret Farrell, Geraldine Sutton.

Liz – the Camogie Queen

LIZ NEARY is the best. And that's official!

For her tremendous performance in this year's All-Ireland campaign Liz picked up the Smithwicks Camogie Sports Star and the B+I Player of the Year awards.

But the 28-year-old nurse says that she will definitely retire next year. "I've thought about it since 1976. How long do you stay on? It's not that I want to make room for younger players. I just feel for myself that it's the right time to go".

Liz has always found that her irregular working hours clashed with her training, especially when she was a student nurse in the Mater Hospital in Dublin. And while in the capital not only did she miss all the team's practice sessions, but she also put on over two stone, excess weight that slowed her down considerably when she did get to play.

Now she is back to her trim 8½ stone and works in St. Luke's hospital, Kilkenny. And although one of the oldest on the team, she has never played better, as is proven by her scooping the two



major camogie awards.

But she is a bit dubious herself whether she really merited them. "We weren't really tested this year. Cork provided the only challenge in the final and the replay.

"My first-half performance in the final was only mediocre. It

must have been the two goals that I scored in the second half which clinched the honours for me".

Liz began to play the game seriously when she began attending that camogie institution, the Presentation Convent, Kilkenny, in 1967. But like all budding county players, she learned the basic skills of hurling while pucking around in a field with her brothers in her native Dunbell.

Her first match was a school game in Naas which Liz remembers clearly she won. But her most memorable year was 1969 when the Presentation won the All-Ireland colleges' final and she was first selected to play for the county.

Despite her illustrious camogie career, Liz has emerged remarkably unscarred. "All I ever got was a few stitches. So much for men saying that women are clumsy with hurleys!"

So, fully determined to make next year her last year on the county team, Liz will be hoping to go out in style and add another All-Ireland medal to her dazzling collection.

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PEGGY PACKS IT IN



THE OLDEST member of the senior camogie team, Peggy Muldowney had firmly decided at the start of this year's campaign to make it her last.

And although she played extremely well and earned her fourth all Ireland medal, she is sticking to her decision to quit.

"It's better to go out at the top than on the way back down. I'm playing long enough now and there's plenty of young ones to take my place. After fifteen years playing, it's almost a case of going before I'm told to go".

"I don't want to hang on to a position because of my former fitness and skill. Selectors might feel that they would have to include me on the panel and I'd hate to get my place on the team through sympathy".

Like many camogie players, Peggy's interest in the game sprung from hurling with the lads in her native Gowran when she was a young girl. She was also strongly influenced by her uncle Paddy Phelan, who was a good hurler himself.

When she went to secondary school in Goresbridge, she began playing the game proper and her first match was against Tullow in 1963,

which she won. But her delight at this victory was quickly dispelled when three days later, her father died.

Goresbridge had built up a good tradition of playing camogie but this petered out in Peggy's first years there. So she joined Young Irelands, a camogie club in Gowran which was just starting up. And it was here that Peggy got most satisfaction and enjoyment out of the game, much more than playing for the county, she says.

The club thrived and won many leagues and championships. One of her most memorable games was in '71 when Gowran won the junior championship. Another memorable game was in '74 when Kilkenny won its first all-Ireland. Yet another was '68 when Kilkenny ended Dublin's unbroken reign in the Leinster championship.

Peggy has survived the pace with very few physical or indeed psychological scars. "The most I ever got was a few stitches. I never had any broken bones. And I've always been a very easy-going player and very even tempered. Camogie never caused me to lose control or to develop a

bad temper. In fact it's been good for me and it has taught me to cope well under pressure".

Unlike Helena O'Neill, Peggy won't have the chance to continue playing with her local club. For the Gowran club now only boast of an

under-age team but she will continue to have a great interest in the game.

And now relieved from the burden of training, she can devote more time to her husband Eamonn and their family home in Danesfort.



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**VICTORY
COMES
THEIR WAY
ON REPLAY
DAY**





ABOVE LEFT: Star forward and teacher Angela Downey pictured holding the O'Duffy Cup with her smiling students from Thomastown Vocational School.

FAR LEFT: Trainer Mary Conway eggs on the Kilkenny attack.

BELOW LEFT: Players chase the ball but Angela Downey is there up front.

ABOVE: Kilkenny's Biddy O'Sullivan in a tussle with a Cork defender.

BELOW: Anna Whelan attempts to block a shot from a Cork player.



Angela Downey caught in an uncharacteristic ballet-like pose.



While the going is good!

A PROBLEM that has existed in camogie for many years is the very slow turnover of players on the senior county team. This meant that there was no room at the top for many up and coming young players.

But one place that will definitely be vacant next year is that of **Helena O'Neill**. For after considering retiring for some years, Helena has decided to take the plunge after this year's successful campaign.

"I wanted to retire last year but I was persuaded to come back for another year. And naturally I'm delighted that I did as it's



joined in and played in goal.

Like many Presentation players, Helena joined St. Paul's camogie club when she was sixteen. Her teammates included such other stars as Liz Neary, Bridie Martin, Carmel Doyle and of course little sister, Teresa.

She was recruited almost immediately to join the county team. "I was really thrilled when I was selected to play for Kilkenny. I could not believe that I was playing on the same team as all the other players that I really admired. It made me feel that I was one of the best".

And during her 11 years playing for Kilkenny, she has justified her place on the team by helping them to win four all-Irelands, two National Leagues, and four Leinster championships. Her only injury through all these years was a facial injury which merited three stitches.

Her most memorable games were when she won the all-Ireland colleges final with the Presentation in '68 and her first all Ireland senior medal in '74. And the funniest incident that ever happened to her was when she was suspended for a month for saying on the field, when she was denied a score, "well feck it anyway".

Helena, a native of Sheestown and married to John McCormack, a member of this year's successful Village team, will not be giving up the game entirely. She will continue to play with her local Bennettsbridge club, but at the humbler junior level.

great to go out on a winning note," she said.

"It's the ideal time now for me to bow out. I'd hate to hang on and make a show of myself next year".

Helena has had a very impressive career. She began playing camogie when she started her secondary level education at the Presentation Convent, Kilkenny where a tradition of playing the game was slowly being built up, beginning with such students as Mary Fennelly.

Her first game was a humble school seven-a-side which was played in the Fair Green. Here she got her first bitter taste of defeat.

But she was not really such a raw recruit. For from early childhood, she pucked around in a nearby field with her brother Jim, sisters Marita and Una, and neighbours children including Brian Cody. Helena's father, a native of Paulstown also

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ALL IRELAND GLORY FOR SHAMROCKS



Tony Maher trying to win possession from Shamrock forwards Liam Fennelly and Michael Kelly in the All-Ireland Club Hurling Championship final.



St. Finbarr's corner back Denis Burns comes in to challenge but is too late to stop Shamrocks half-forward Ger Fennelly from scoring another point for his team in the All-Ireland Club Hurling Championship at Thurles. Other Barrs players in picture (from left): Donal O'Grady, John Blake, hidden behind Maher, and Niall Kennefick.

FORMED about a decade ago Shamrocks representing the best hurling talent in Ballyhale and Knocktopher got off the mark quickly and after successful campaigns at junior and intermediate level became one of the best senior sides in the county for quite some time.

In the past few years Shamrocks have won three senior county titles. Inheriting the Carrickshock tradition – though the townland itself is in the parish of Aghaviller, many of the Carrickshock players were from Ballyhale parish – they

excelled in teamwork and played hurling with what might be described as a ruthless efficiency.

Despite their fall from grace at county level this year must be regarded as the greatest and their finest hour was at Semple Stadium, Thurles on May 17 when they beat the famed Cork side, St. Finbarr's in the all-Ireland club final by 1-15 to 1-11.

James Stephens is the only other club in the county to achieve this honour and as a matter of interest their victims in

the all-Ireland final were also a Cork club, Blackrock.

Apart from this being a club achievement it was also to a degree a family achievement as the Fennelly brothers, Brendan, Ger and Liam got all the Shamrocks scores.

But this was not by any means a family affair. It was a team effort – a typical Shamrocks team effort – and it was team work that in the end won them the honours.

Another Fennelly, Kevin in goal also played a significant role and he crowned a brilliant display by

saving from a Cork penalty late in the game, turning the shot out for a '65'.

Some critics might hold that the Kilkenny side were a little lucky to have won; that St. Finbarrs missed easy chances in the early stages and Jimmy Barry Murphy muffed a chance when well placed for a goal.

But a winning team makes its own luck and on the run of play Shamrocks rightly deserved to win.

The Kilkenny team suffered a set back when Wattie Phelan had

to retire with an injury after about 20 minutes. Dermot Fennelly stepped into the breach.

Shamrocks led by 0-6 to 0-5 at the end of the first half in which defence dominated and Liam Fennelly's goal about midway through the second half was the turning point in the game. He hit a rasper from about 25 yards out.

Brendan Fennelly, scorer-in-chief had a point almost immediately after the start. This was the first of his 11 points, four of them from frees and one from a penalty and the Shamrocks attack

after Maurice Mason after a quiet enough first half plied the attacks in the second half, used the open spaces very effectively.

But the victory was not achieved without a struggle and when Jimmy Barry Murphy netted to reduce the winners' lead to four and Charlie McCarthy followed with a point, Shamrocks found themselves under pressure. But they had the upper hand in the closing stages and won quite comfortably.

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Liz is B+I "Camogie Player of the Year"



B+I "Camogie Player of the Year" Liz Neary pictured with her trophy at the B+I reception. Also in the picture are Mary Moran, president of the Camogie Association; Mrs. Mary Neary; and Mr. Billy Malone, chairman Kilkenny Co. Camogie Board.

GOLDEN YEAR FOR CAMOGIE

<Cont'd. from page 18

and failures. It has tasted just enough of victory to savour it and long for more, yet it has not had enough to make it complacent and lose its lust for the championship.

The wise team is the one that knows it can be knocked off its throne at any time and is forever vigilant. Mighty Kilkenny were humbled already this year when shortly after their All-Ireland win they lost to Dublin in the Leinster championship.

It's tough to get to the top and it's tough to stay there. But if the girls continue to show the grit and team spirit which they displayed this year, they have half next year's championship battle over them, regardless of the luck of the draw.

FACTS AND FIGURES

ALL-IRELAND CAMPAIGN Quarter-final, July 26

Kilkenny 5-8

Tipperary 1-6

Scorers: Angela Downey (3-4), Jo Dunne (1-2), H. O'Neill (1-0), Margaret Farrell and Anna Whelan (0-1) each.

Semi-final, August 16

Kilkenny 4-13

Down 1-3

Scorers: Angela Downey (3-3), Anna Whelan (1-1), Jo Dunne (0-4), P. Muldowney (0-2), H. O'Neill, Margaret Farrell and Bridie Martin (0-1 each).

Final, September 13

Kilkenny 3-9

Cork 3-9

Scorers: Angela Downey (1-6), Liz Neary (2-0), Bridie Martin, Helena O'Neill and Margaret Farrell (0-1 each).

Replay of Final October 4

Kilkenny 1-9

Cork 0-7

Scorers: Angela Downey (1-6), Helena O'Neill, Geraldine Sutton and Margaret Farrell (0-1 each).

Total Kilkenny score 13-39. Players share of total - Angela Downey (8-19), Jo Dunne (1-6), Liz Neary (2-0), Helena O'Neill (1-3), Anna Whelan (1-2), Margaret Farrell (0-4), Bridie Martin and Peggy Muldowney (0-2 each), Geraldine Sutton (0-1).

Team: Teresa O'Neill, Liz Neary, Ann Downey, Bridie Martin, Geraldine Sutton, P. Muldowney, M. Farrell, Helena O'Neill, Angela Downey, Anna Whelan, Jo Dunne. **Subs.:** Ann Holden, Ann Marie Brennan, Deirdre Malone, Margaret Brennan and Cathy Dalton.

WILL WE SEE ANOTHER GREAT TEAM LIKE THE 1972-75 SIDE ?

In recent times hurling followers have longed to see new faces at Croke Park on All-Ireland day – new champions crowned, but, ironically, with that wish there has been a hankering to see classic hurling like that provided by Kilkenny in their memorable victories over Cork in 1969 and '72.

Let me say straightaway that it was good for hurling – and good most of all for the game in Leinster – that Offaly at last made the big break through in 1981 by winning their first ever All-Ireland senior hurling crown. And it was equally good that Galway in the previous season brought the Liam McCarthy Cup back across the Shannon for the first time in fifty-seven years.

The tragedy, from my viewpoint, is that Clare in the seasons 1976-'78 when they had their best team of recent times and figured in some great League battles with Kilkenny, failed to win out in Munster in two successive years (1977 and '78) and go on and participate in at least one All-Ireland Final.

But even though we regret that the Banner County failed to win the championship honours they so richly deserved, the fact remains that the circle of counties now in a position to challenge for high honours is sufficiently wide, because of recent happenings, that there is no immediate worry about the future of the game. Indeed, it is riding a new wave of popularity at the moment.

It might seem churlish for me to write it, but Offaly won their historic first title in an All-Ireland Final that was certainly not marked by hurling of a classic standard. Galway dominated for three-quarters of the seventy-minute match and John Connolly said to me in the dressing room afterwards that the champions had thrown away their crown.

Val Dorgan, author of the recent best-selling biography of Christy Ring heard an old Glen Rovers player say in Cork the evening after the Final that a "traditional hurling county" like Tipperary, Cork or Kilkenny would never have lost it if they had found themselves in the position that Galway were in at half-time. Tipperary did not lose against Laois in 1949 and neither did they lose against an emerging Wexford team in 1951. And Kilkenny, for their part

"stole it against Galway in 1979 when it must be said that the Westerners did not have the same belief in themselves that they showed against Limerick in 1980.

The emotional scenes at the end of the 1981 Final – the great surge of cheering from the thousands of Offaly fans in front of the Hogan Stand that drowned out the President of the G.A.A., Mr. Paddy McFlynn for nearly ten minutes as he tried to speak in presenting the Cup, tended to make many forget the undistinguished nature of much of the match itself. The last five minutes of blinding excitement when Johnny Flaherty goaled for Offaly, compensated for the one-sided nature of the contest in the first half.

We shall not forget the moment when the Offaly captain, Pdraig Horan received the Cup as the rays of the September sun slanted across the Croke Park pitch.

Offaly had beaten Kilkenny to win the 1980 Leinster crown and in retaining it in 1981 had overcome Wexford – and who was there in Leinster now that could say that they did not deserve to go all the way and inscribe their names on the Liam McCarthy Cup for the first time in their history?

But there were moments during the match itself when I must confess that I longed for the classic stickwork of Kilkenny – the deft wristwork of forwards like Sean Clohosey, Eddie Keher and, more recently, Billy Fitzpatrick at their best and fine sweeping classic defensive play as I had seen it from players of the calibre of Seamus Cleere, Ted Carroll, Paddy Buggy and Pat Henderson to mention but a few.

I longed too for the cut and thrust that comes from the contrast of styles as we got it in those magnificent battles between Kilkenny and Cork in 1969 and '72 and the dash and excitement of the clash between Limerick and a depleted Kilkenny side in

1973 – the season that the men in Green and White came back to the pinnacle of glory after thirty-three years out of All-Ireland honours.

In a way, I knew I was longing again to see a great team in action like the last truly great team of our time – that is the Kilkenny 1972-'75 combination. The reason the championship scene had evened out was that there was no great side gracing the scene as the eighties dawned. Offaly would not have come as they did in 1981 if they faced in Leinster a Kilkenny team of the power of the 1972-'75 side – the team that destroyed Wexford in the 1973 Leinster Final in a shattering display of forward play.

I write this factually because it has to be written; if Kilkenny had not aged, if Pat Delaney, Kieran Purcell, Pat Henderson and Eddie Keher had not departed the scene but somehow had found the elixir of youth to play as they did in those golden seasons for the Black and Amber, we would never have seen the moment of acclaim in Croke Park as Pdraig Horan lifted the Liam McCarthy Cup high above his head on the first Sunday of September, 1981.

For Offaly, judged by the manner in which they struggled against Galway for three-quarters of the '81 All-Ireland, would not have lived with Kilkenny 1972-'75.

Tim Flood, one of the finest quicksilver forwards ever to wear the Wexford colours, said to me in the Burlington Hotel on the eve of the 1981 Final that all great teams had forward lines that had the ability to get the vital scores when the moment of decision came in a championship match. It was the night the Wexford team of 1956 – Nick Rackard, unfortunately no longer with us – came together again and I sat with Bobby and Billy Rackard at table. Memories flooded back of the climactic moments of the '56 Final and after Art Foley's save from Ring, Wexford storming back and Nick Rackard rocking Croke Park with a goal that made this for me one of the greatest finals I have seen.

Yes there were no "ifs" and "buts" about it – even allowing for the way Ring had been thwarted as he made his last effort for the ninth All-Ireland medal.

I waited then until I saw the Tipperary "machine" of 1964-'65 for another team that left no doubts in victory – completing the League-Championship-Oireachtas treble in two successive seasons.

Cork not alone beaten but hammered into total subjection in the South and Kilkenny, including in their ranks in 1964 Ollie Walsh, Pat Henderson, Ted Carroll, Seamus Cleere, Eddie Keher, Tom Walsh and Martin Coogan, also suffering a very heavy reverse in the 1964 All-Ireland Final.

Then along came Kilkenny in 1969 to turn the tables on Cork in a second half that I still remember for the magnificence of Kilkenny's forward play but it was in the 1972-'75 era that the side was fashioned into the combination that on days when it really clicked brooked no holding. I have no doubt but for the manner in which they were depleted by injuries after the Leinster Final in 1973 that they would probably have gone down as four-in-a-row side – though Limerick hurlers like Eamon Cregan and Pat Hartigan will never accept that theory and contend that the men in the Green and White, in the moon in which they approached the '73 decider,

would not have been stopped even by the full might of Kilkenny. It's a great subject for debate by winter firesides, for in 1974 Limerick did not muster the same commitment as in 1973 – so the '74 result cannot be used as conclusive evidence in trying to assess how the full Kilkenny side would have performed in '73.

In the 1969 Final Kilkenny came from the perilous position of being seven points down at one stage of the first half to beat Cork by the decisive margin of six points.

But many hold that the 1972 rally was even better. I know hurling men whose judgement I respect who will tell you that this was the last really outstanding all-Ireland they have seen in over a decade and more. Eddie Keher has admitted to me that although it was one of the proudest moments of his career to have led Kilkenny to their seventeenth crown in 1969, he actually enjoyed 1972 more.

It was Keher, in fact, who scored the goal that started the victory surge against Cork in that 1972 decider. Tony Maher had been playing it tight at corner-back against Keher, as he had played it against "Babs" Keating in Munster. Fr. Tom Maher was directing operations by means of a walkie-talkie from the Cusack Stand and was in close touch with Mick O'Neill, Chairman of the Selection Committee and fellow selectors Johnny McGovern "Georgie" Leahy, Paul Skehan and Dick Dunphy. The word had gone out to Eddie Keher to "switch out to the wing" and, of course, once Keher had space in which to utilise his craft and stickwork, Tony Maher could not counter him in the open areas along the touchline.

An angled shot by Keher deceived Paddy Barry in the Cork goal – and Kilkenny with twenty-six minutes remaining were only a point behind. Then it all exploded into a finish as great as ever seen at Croke Park – Cork sweeping back for two goals by Ray Cummins and Sean O'Leary, both "made" by Charlie McCarthy.

It was then too that Con Roche hit a superb point from eighty yards and with the lead of eight points, some young Leaside supporters had come dancing on to the pitch waving their Red and white

flags and banners as if victory was already assured.

Kilkenny looked doomed at that moment.

Then the Purcell/Delaney/Keher axis functioned in all its glory. We saw something that day that many who did not realise the pure artistry of Kilkenny hurling, never thought possible – Pat Delaney hopping the ball on the hard surface in the brilliant sunshine and letting it come up to the stick and then repeating the effort without once bringing it into the hand in unique solo runs that split the Cork defence wide open. What a player! What a dynamic man when the chips were down!

Cork, amazing as it may seem, did not score in the last twenty-three minutes of that final which belonged to Kilkenny as they put on two goals and nine points.

This was hurling as we know it; this was the beauty of Kilkenny play in its unmatched flowing grace and style, gathering power and inspiration in the challenge provided by Cork – built on a tradition going back to the days of Jimmy Langton and Terry Leahy and the Boys of the Summer of '47 and back to Lory Meagher still to Dick Grace and the immortal Sim Walton, whose name went into song when Tullaroan beat the Toomevara Greyhounds.

Kilkenny knew a lot of success in the seventies and it was natural that there should be a period of transition when the team of 1972-'75 began to break up. The 1979 side that overcame Galway was not, I am afraid, in the tradition of great Kilkenny sides; Galway threw it away rather than Kilkenny winning it by vast superiority on the day. It was tradition more than any other factor that saw the Noresiders through.

Thus, to my mind, Kilkenny are still team-building and I would not like to see the men in the Black and Amber and those, guiding the fortunes of the team lowering standards for the sake of a quick championship success. Kilkenny, like Cork, can come overnight like the mushroom but it is one thing to come with a makeshift side and vanish again; it is a different and more painstaking process to build with a

definite target ahead. I mean trying to build a combination that answers all the questions – or the ones that matter.

Tipperary, as I see it, are trying to do that at the moment. They hope, if fortune is with them, that they may overcome Cork in their opening engagement in 1982 and on the strength of that go on and win All-Ireland honours. But it is not the main target. Wise men look further ahead – to the Centenary Year in '84 and some will admit to you that they may even have to wait until the mid eighties. The team is young and has talent but lacks experience of the big time.

Tipperary and Kilkenny at Semple Stadium, Thurles in 1984 or Cork and Kilkenny in another classic. What a dream!

And played before a Kilkenny man as President of the G.A.A. – Paddy Buggy, a former outstanding performer in the Black and Amber himself, who, let me say, saw great hurling strongholds like Tipperary row in behind him when the vital votes were needed at the Congress in Killarney in '81 in his bid for the Presidency-elect.

I would want it to be a sun-lit day with Kilkenny playing hurling as they played it in the second half of '69 or in those last twenty-three electrifying minutes in '72 – hurling that makes the adrenalin flow in the veins, hurling that is all about the game being an art form.

One of the great facets of the game is the contrast of styles, Tipperary trying to tie up the artists of Kilkenny; Cork and Limerick and Wexford bringing their own particular brands too and if Kilkenny were ever to change from wrist-work and stick-work to a ponderous, plodding type of play, I would have none of it.

However Kilkenny fare in the seasons ahead, my hope for the New Year is that in our time we shall see another team wearing the Black and Amber reaching the standards of the 1972-'75 side. Is it a foolish hope, I wonder? Will they come again like Eddie Keher? And Paddy Delaney? And Pat Henderson?

Or did they say that too when Lowry Meagher called it a day . . . and Jimmy Langton . . . and Terry Leahy . . . and Sean Clohosey . . .

Perhaps it is that true artists of the camán will always flower by the Nore.



Kilkenny All-Ireland Senior Hurling Champions 1975: Back row (left to right) — Pat Henderson, Brian Cody, Tom McCormack, Mick Crotty, Eddie Keher, Mick Brennan, Pat Delaney, Phil Larkin. Front row (left to right) — Pat Lawlor, Noel Skehan, Billy Fitzpatrick (Capt.), Liam O'Brien, Kieran Purcell, Nicky Orr, and Frank Cummins.

O'Loughlin's win Club of the Year award

Cont'd. from page 16

responsibility to club members and this form of administration has worked very successfully. It was especially recommended by the adjudicators in the club of the year competition.

In addition to the club premises, O'Loughlin's have their own playing pitch and have been figuring prominently in both the hurling and football championships over the

years since its establishment in its present form over a decade ago.

On the sporting front, too, O'Loughlin's have also been very much in the limelight and they field senior and special junior, under-21, minor, under-16 and juvenile hurling and football teams.

In the past 10 years they have contested 37 finals and have won 26.

Below: Members of the various committees of O'Loughlin Gaels pictured outside their clubhouse with the 'A.I.B. Club of the Year' award. The award which is presented to the top club in the country is worth in excess of £1,000. The club also received an A.I.B. cheque of £2,500



Shamrocks failure – Kevin explains

The major surprise in the local scene this year was, of course, the failure of The Shamrocks to retain their senior hurling crown. The surprise is all the greater following on their resounding victory in the all-Ireland club championship. Club goalie and county goalie, as well as a utility man, Kevin Fennelly, offers a rational explanation – too much hurling. "We were tied up in so many different things" he said. "We had the club championship; that final was the one game in which we hit

top form – the best form we struck for the whole year.

"This was something new for us; something we hadn't won and were determined to win.

"In the local championship the harder we tried the worse we got" Kevin said. "In fact as the year went on our hurling disimproved. Mainly what happened was that over the previous three years nobody got holidays. We did take holidays this year. And I suppose there was a small bit of lack of commitment, too.

"Another thing it is hard to expect young people of 23 and 24 to commit themselves entirely to the game and sustain that commitment. They have other interests, too. They have their work and everybody must work for a living now".

Turning to the future Kevin is not without hope. "We have the material, all we need is the heart. I think we will be back again next year", he said.

Everybody will agree that the explanation put forward by Kevin Fennelly who has distinguished himself in three grades – minor, under-21 and senior at inter-county level is the correct one. Shamrocks looked a tired side throughout the championship and their performances generally were completely out of character. But if it was a bad year locally they collected the most coveted prize of all available to clubs – the all-Ireland title.

GREAT WIN FOR KILKENNY MINORS

Being at a loose end one Saturday afternoon in mid-May, I rambled down to Croke Park, where two first-round games in the Leinster minor hurling championship were listed for decision. There were not many people present that bright, breezy day to see Kilkenny beat Down by 5-15 to 0-6 and Offaly account for Antrim by 4-15 to 4-5 but, for me, it was an interesting exercise and, there and then, I satisfied myself that the boys in Black and Amber had the makings of, at worst, a Leinster title-winning squad.

It will be claimed that Down were not ideal trial tackle and it must be admitted that the Kilkenny team on duty that day displayed some ragged edges, particularly in the full line of defence. And, having forged a big lead by the interval, they simply went through the motions in the concluding 30 minutes.

Yet, I was particularly impressed by the ability of so many of their players to hit long-range points from play while the issue was in the melting-pot. That, I thought, could be the decisive difference between them and the rest of Leinster.

The semi-final saw them paired with Offaly in Athy on a Thursday evening in late June. They won comfortably, 2-15 to 2-4, and that result did not surprise me because the Tricolours had not impressed me against Antrim. Indeed, there was a five-minute spell in the second half of that game when the losers' full-forward had two goals for the taking had he been able to strike with his left as he bore down on the goalkeeper. He could not and Offaly survived to the semi-final.

The provincial final, against the defending Leinster champions, Wexford, was as much a test of Kilkenny's character as it was of their hurling ability. To their credit, they passed with full marks in both "papers", and though Wexford still claim they threw that

one away — and it is an All-Ireland — they cannot deny that it

By GERRY McCARTHY
("The Irish Press")

was Kilkenny's refusal to accept defeat that brought the honours to Noreside by 3-10 to 3-9 as a result of some late scores.

There remained one hurdle to cross and that was provided by Galway, who had caught the

Continued overleaf



Eddie Keher puts the Kilkenny minors through their paces in a training session at Nowlan Park.

Kilkenny captain Eddie Kennedy holds aloft the Irish Press Cup at the civic reception for the Kilkenny minor winning team.

GREAT WIN FOR KILKENNY MINORS

Cont'd from previous page

public imagination as a result of their 3-14 to 3-8 victory over Clare in the All-Ireland semi-final. Their inside forwards, particularly Anthony Cunningham, were in devastating form on that occasion and, with the backing of the huge support that came from the West to cheer Galway's seniors on to an expected double, they had everything going for them.

The boys in maroon got off to a dream start with a goal within half a minute but Kilkenny settled down and led by four points after seven minutes. Their goal, scored by Liam McCarthy, resulted from a lift-and-strike clearance by goalkeeper David Burke, whose quick transfer of the ball, when many would have policed it wide, caught the entire opposing team off guard.

By the 20th minute it was level pegging, 1-5 each, but four minutes later came a goal that sent the forest of maroon and white favours fluttering. A prolonged assault was finished to the Kilkenny net, and while trying to check that attack the Noreside full-back and captain, Eddie Kennedy, received a facial injury that forced him to retire.

Before he could be replaced, disaster struck the Black and Amber in the form of another Galway goal. Remarkably, the Westerners were to score but four further points.

George O'Neill switched to full-back, diminutive Stephen Whearty came on at right full, and that rearguard was bell-metal sound for the remainder of the game.

About the same time, Ray Heffernan went to midfield and Seamus Delahunty moved to the forty-yards mark. Both, in their new surroundings, were to play vital roles in the subsequent happenings. Soaring points by John McDonald and Heffernan had Kilkenny in contention, 1-8 to 3-5, by the interval and they turned over with a fitful breeze



favouring them as they played into the Canal Goal.

Points were twice exchanged in the five minutes after the resumption but thereafter Kilkenny imposed their dominance on exchanges.

They scored five points without reply and looked like pulling away until a brief Galway rally produced two quick points that tied the scores, 1-15 to 3-9, with 10 minutes to go.

That proved the losers' swansong because Kilkenny dominated the concluding stages, shot five points that were unanswered and were worthy winners, by 1-20 to 3-9, when referee Michael Kelleher called time.

It was Kilkenny's 12th All-Ireland title in the grade and gave them their 11th victory over Galway in 13 clashes at this level. David Burke kept a sound goal. Indeed, some of his saves during the opening quarter were worth their weight in gold because they denied Galway of what might have proved a decisive lead.

George O'Neill gave nothing away at right full-back and when

switched to the centre of the line was highly efficient without ever being spectacular. Eddie Kennedy played well until his untimely departure. Ned Wall, after a shaky start, produced a swashbuckling second-half performance and young Whearty, when introduced, became the darling of Kilkenny supporters as he hurled his diminutive frame into every situation.

The Clara boy proved once again that it is not the size of the dog in the fight but the size of fight in the dog that counts.

The half-backs took over after the break, with David Hoyne having the proverbial blinder, rangy Michael Morrissey tying up the middle and Pat Ryan snuffing out all Galway advances up the Cusack Stand side when switched to left half-back for the last 20 minutes.

That switch to midfield gave Ray Heffernan the scope to display his undoubted talents and once he was firing on all cylinders in that area the Kilkenny forwards thrived on the supply.

Tommy Bawle was in the thick of things all through, Seamus

Delahunty's contribution was a noble one once he moved to the 'forty', John McDonald, of the seemingly-lazy style, hit some glorious points, while Denis Carroll and Liam McCarthy were constant thorns in the side of the opposing defence.

Joe O'Hara, Michael Rafter, Paul Cleere and John Donnelly also played their parts in bringing yet another All-Ireland title to Kilkenny.

Spare a thought, too, for the contribution of the selectors. Mick O'Neill, Eddie Leahy, Ned Quinn, Frank Cleere and Christy Doyle devoted many hours of their spare time to the team from the early Spring and must have cast their eyes over literally hundreds of boys. They can be proud of the end result.

So can the trainer, Fr. Tommy Murphy, whose devotion to Kilkenny hurling dates back more than 20 years, both as player and team official.

All concerned with the 1981 minors have ensured that the future of Kilkenny hurling looks very secure indeed. For this, they deserve thanks.

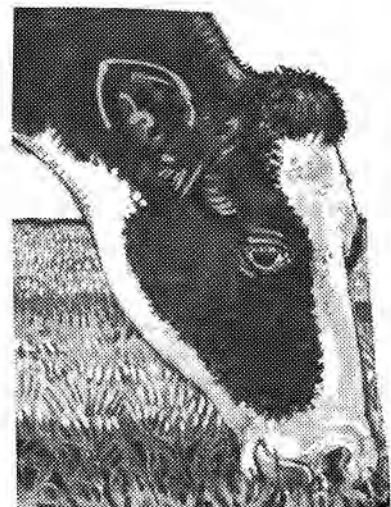
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IF WE HAD LEADERS LIKE DR. HUGHES . . .

By: PADDY BUGGY
(President elect of the G.A.A.)



When I was asked to write an article for the Kilkenny Year Book by the Editor Peter Holohan, I gladly accepted, because it gives me the opportunity to write about the late Canon D. J. Hughes D.D., V.F., P.P., Mullinavat, who died in October 1981, as an example of what one man can do, and his work for the G.A.A. in the parish of Slieverue, during his 20 years as curate.

A native of Johnstown he arrived in Slieverue from Mooncoin in April 1943, and found a parish without a hurling or football team. Prior to that time Slieverue had very little involvement in the G.A.A. They won an intermediate hurling championship in 1936 but this team broke up in 1937, and the best of the players went to hurl with Carrickshock.

Slieverue Parish produced some fine hurlers namely Bill (Lynch) Walsh, Paddy Donovan and Bobby Hincks, and they all hurled with the Carrickshock club.

Dr. Hughes reorganised the club in Slieverue in 1946 fielding minor and junior hurling teams. They quickly made their mark reaching the junior Southern final of that year, and being beaten in the minor southern final by a packed team in 1947.

Two years later, 1949, Slieverue won the junior hurling championship beating Bennettsbridge in the final, but an objection to Bobby Hincks, and Buddy Norris followed and the County Board ordered a replay which was won by Bennettsbridge.

In 1950 Slieverue again reached the Junior final and this time after a thrilling game they came from behind to beat Urlingford in the final minutes to win for the parish its first junior hurling title.

A Slieverue man, Johnny Hokey, captained Kilkenny to win the All-Ireland Junior hurling championship of 1951. That same year for the first time, Slieverue played in the Kilkenny senior hurling championship, meeting Carrickshock in the first round, and after a great game in which they led for most of the hour they went under, and Carrickshock went on to win the championship.

The following year they were beaten by the eventual county champions, Bennettsbridge, but in 1953 for the first time ever Slieverue reached the County final only to be beaten by Bennettsbridge.

That team was probably the greatest ever to repre-

Continued overleaf



Dr. Hughes with members of the 1954 team and club officers at a get-together in 1980, 25 years after the winning of the title. Back row (l. to r.): Billy Irish, Nicky Grant, Seanie Griffin, Paddy Grant, Dick Mahony, Martin Buggy, Gerry Buggy, Tom Walsh. Middle row (l. to r.): Mick Murphy, Andy Irish, Paddy Buggy, Eddie O'Dwyer, Tommy Walsh, Johnny Hokey, John Hartley. Front row (l. to r.): Billy Cahill, Jim Walsh (Club Chairman), Dr. D. J. Hughes (R.I.P.), Paddy Donovan (R.I.P.), Mick Walsh, Pat Irish.

IF WE HAD LEADERS LIKE DR. HUGHES...

Cont'd. from previous page

sent the village and a serious eye injury to John Barron during the first half hour probably meant the difference between winning and losing.

Undaunted Slieverue reached the county final the following year defeating Tullaroan to achieve their ambition and win their first senior hurling championship.

The celebrating was hectic, and the following year I captained the Kilkenny team only to be beaten by the great Wexford team of that time, and they went on to win the all-Ireland, being captained by Nick O'Donnell.

Slieverue again reached the senior hurling final in 1956 but they were beaten by John Lockes, Callan. The Slieverue players of that time have no doubt that the victories achieved were due to the leadership of their curate Dr. Hughes. The "Doc" as he was popularly known, was a great organiser, a wonderful motivator, and above everything else he was a man who would never hear of defeat. His pep talks in the Parish hall on the Friday nights before big games, and in the dressing room on the day of the match were gems of their kind.

The parish field was our training ground and he had lights erected around the field for training purposes. It could even be said that Dr. Hughes started the team manager or coach trend that now plays such an important role with all county teams. The late Bob Aylward, chairman Co. Board, once said of Dr. Hughes that he was Slieverue's 16th man. The club also purchased and developed its own field at Airmount during his stay in the Parish.

He was a great outdoor man, being very interested in shooting and we have vivid memories of him walking the parish with a gun and a pair of red setters in search of game. He was a keen greyhound man, and he owned and trained several famous dogs to win track and coursing events.

He founded the South Kilkenny Coursing Club in 1948 and was elected its first president. When parish fetes were unknown he started the Slieverue fete with a local Mayor, Fancy Dress, and games, and it went on successfully for several years.

He was responsible for the re-opening of the parish hall, and the Slieverue Vocational school is also due to his work in this field. He had additional rooms built on by voluntary workers, and the Tech. started by the use of rooms in the hall and these additions.

Always prepared to fight against an injustice he led a campaign to get a filling station for the late Tommy Desmond a great friend of his, and he also saw rural electrification come to the parish during his stay. The parish gained this privilege much earlier than might have been, again due to the work of the 'Doctor'.

Above everything else he was a great churchman, and he started a branch of the Legion of Mary which continues to this day, with the Patrician meetings, and a debating society in the hall. He organised the Pioneer Total Abstinence association, Slieverue becoming one of the strongest branches in the Diocese of Ossory; Slieverue hurling teams of the time were almost completely comprised of Pioneers.

The late Canon Hughes was transferred to Mullinavat as Parish Priest in 1962, but he will never be forgotten by the people of Slieverue, and in particular by its hurlers. We learned many lessons from him, but his wonderful enthusiasm for hurling, and his leading of Slieverue from that small beginning in 1946 to county senior honours in 1954, just eight years is a wonderful example of what can be achieved by good leadership and hard work.

He showed that nothing is impossible in sport and if we of the G.A.A. had club leaders like Dr. Hughes to-day, we could be assured that not alone would we overcome the difficulties of the present time, but that we would become a vibrant and telling force at community level in every parish in the 32 counties.

Slieverue junior champions 1950 - Dick Rockett, P. Grant, John Hokey, Stephen Hoban, Pat Irish, Paddy Doyle, Jimmy Phelan, Martin Doolan, Eddie O'Dwyer, Larry Dillon, John Barron, Tom Walsh, Jim O'Meara, Jimmy Doherty, Johnny Phelan. Sub: Paddy Buggy.

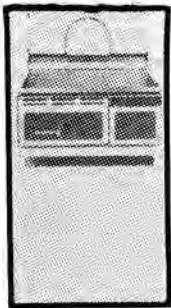
Slieverue senior hurling 1954: Tommy Walsh, Eddie O'Dwyer, Johnny Hokey, Mick Walsh, Jimmy Walsh, Paddy Grant, Paddy Buggy, Mick Murphy, Pat Irish, Gerry Buggy, John Hartley, Dick Rockett, Billy Cahill, Dick Mahoney and Seanie Griffin.

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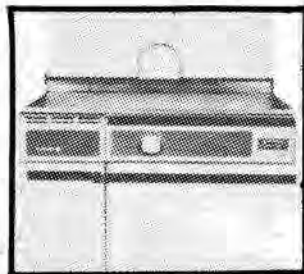
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Pat Henderson points to encouraging signs

THERE are two schools of thought in relation to the future prospects for the Kilkenny hurlers and they differ widely. There are the pessimists who regard Kilkenny's demotion to the lower echelons of the National League as a clear sign that times are bad and are not likely to get better.

On the other hand the optimists hold a completely different view. They see Kilkenny's present position as temporary – very temporary – and ex-

pect the move back to the top to come about quickly.

Pat Henderson is one of the men who will play a vital role in planning the shape of things to come. As team manager he shoulders a great deal of the responsibility for helping to take Kilkenny out of the doldrums. He knows what it takes. He has been through the mill and has seen the bad times as well as the good times.

What does Pat think of

the future and what are the chances of Kilkenny being back again at the top next year or the year after.

"I suppose the encouraging signs are there even at this stage in late November. Having played three National League games there is a very determined spirit in the camp at the moment. That is something to be encouraged about", he said.

He pointed to one or two interesting new players who have come on the scene and if Kilkenny can get into the final stages of the League they would have as good a chance as any other county when it comes to the championship.

"Even allowing for the imponderables which are part and parcel of hurling as well as every other sport we can use the League to help build a team and having done

that the chances are that we will be as good as any other side".

One of the encouraging things which Pat Henderson pointed to was the new spirit among the players. He regards this as one of the most important aspects of team building.

"We still have some players on the panel who have had the experience of winning an all-Ireland final. That is certainly something to build on. I am very hopeful of winning an all-Ireland final next year or the year after.

"The determination and spirit are there to bring Kilkenny back to where we rightly belong.

"Even if that does not happen next year I am encouraged by the number of young people who are showing great spirit and dedication so far and I have no doubt that they will continue to show the same spirit and dedication".

PAT HENDERSON

Pat Henderson, Kilkenny's team manager has won six all-Ireland senior medals and for a period of about 15 years was one of the top defenders in the country. He began his hurling career in Johnstown national school, Thurles C.B.S., before gaining his place on a Kilkenny minor team.

He won his senior all Ireland medals in 1963, 1967, 1969, 1972, 1974 and 1975. He was an automatic choice on the Leinster Railway Cup side for a number of years and won a number of Carrolls All Stars awards. He won the Texaco award in 1974. He won five county senior hurling



medals with his club, The Fenians.

He is very dedicated to the game and his selection as team manager is very popular.

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No need for despondency

DESPITE THE gloom that seems to prevail in the county, I don't think there is any reason why we should be despondent. I think the prospects for the coming year are reasonably good.

We started the National League campaign quite well and we are looking forward to our games against Wexford and Limerick after Christmas. These will be vital tests and should tell us a good deal of how things will fare in the future.

If we can win these games we will be well on the way towards getting back to top-grade hurling again.

I am quietly confident that Kilkenny can step up from its present position in the League and get back again to the top group — where we rightly belong.

We have to realise, however, that the task will not be easy. We will have to bend all our energies towards winning the two games against Limerick and Wexford. I feel fairly certain, though, that the present panel has the material to get a good side together.

Whatever about our position inter-county-wise, I am very happy about the state of the games generally in the county. And though our seniors and under-21 sides lost out in the championships, we had a very good year.

Shamrocks won the All-Ireland club final and our minor hurlers brought home another All-Ireland title. Kilkenny C.B.S.

added to the honours list by taking the senior colleges' All-Ireland title and it gives me great satisfaction to record another great All-Ireland triumph for our camogie players.

On the handball front, too, we had a big share of All-Ireland victories.

On the local scene it must be admitted that the standard in the senior championship might not have been all that we would like it to be, though we did have some very entertaining games, but in the other grades there was a lot for us to be happy about.

The intermediate and junior championships were very good as were the minors and we can take some consolation from the fact that the young players are showing typical Kilkenny style. We look to them to shape our fortunes in the future.

We had an awful lot of games played during the year and this reflects the strength of our clubs and of the association generally in the county.

Though it is hard to be optimistic about the future for football in the county, I think we may at last be beginning to see some light at the end of the tunnel. We have at last one National League win to our credit

By **MICHAEL O'NEILL**



Chairman of the County Board

and now that Thomastown are senior champions I feel a big effort will be made to promote the game in the county.

In the final analysis the prosperity of our games depends very largely on the schools — national, secondary and vocational — and while we have dedicated teachers and other people prepared to involve themselves so wholeheartedly we have nothing to fear. Our games will continue to flourish.

I think, on the whole, we can look to the future with a good deal of confidence.

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ALL IRELAND GLORY FOR SHAMROCKS

Continued from page 27

After Wattie Phelan's retirement Shamrocks had to make several adjustments in their line-out. Phelan's departure was a big blow.

Apart from saving from the penalty Kevin Fennelly also made two brilliant saves late in the game. Richard Reid also showed up very well and Liam Dalton acquitted himself in style by keeping Jimmy Barry Murphy in check.

Ger Fennelly also contributed much to the victory and his point from about 80 yards was a classical effort. Frank Holohan also had a fine game.

Sean Fennelly and Johnny

Walsh had it all to do to hold out against the efficient Cork midfield pairing of John Mayler and John Cremin.

John Blake, Bertie O'Neill, Niall Kennfick, Christy Ryan and Charlie McCarthy were also in useful form for St. Finbarr's.

Shamrocks had 14 frees, eight wides and one 65 while St. Finbarrs had 13 frees, 12 wides and two 65's.

Scores for Shamrocks: Brendan Fennelly (0-11, 0-4 from frees, 0-1 from a penalty); Ger Fennelly (0-3, 0-1 from a free); Liam Fennelly (1-1).

St. Finbarrs scorers: Charlie McCarthy (0-5, 0-3 from frees);

Jimmy Barry-Murphy (1-0); J. Cremin (0-2, 0-1 from a free, 0-1 from a penalty); T. Maher (0-2); J. Allen (0-1 free); C. Ryan (0-1).

Shamrocks: K. Fennelly, W. Phelan, L. Dalton, R. Reid (captain), F. Holohan, M. Mason, D. Connolly, J. Walsh, S. Fennelly, M. Fennelly, P. Holohan, G. Fennelly, B. Fennelly, L. Fennelly, M. Fennelly. Sub - D. Fennelly for W. Phelan.

St. Finbarrs: G. Cunningham, Tony Maher, D. O'Grady, D. Burns, J. Blake, B. O'Brien, (captain), N. Fennelick, J. Meyler, J. Cremin, Thomas Maher, C. Ryan, J. Allen, E. Fitzpatrick, J. Barry Murphy, C. McCarthy.

SHAMROCKS: ALL IRELAND SENIOR CLUB CHAMPIONS 1981



Back row (left to right): Kevin Fennelly, Frank Holohan, Sean Walsh, Pat Holden, Sean Fennelly, Maurice Mason, Michael Fennelly, Liam Dalton.
Front row (left to right): Liam Fennelly, Ger Fennelly, Declan Connolly, Richard Reid (captain), Mick Kelly, Brendan Fennelly, Wattie Phelan.

THE FAILURE OF THE UNDER 21's

KILKENNY'S defeat by Tipperary in the under 21 all-Ireland final for the second year running was the biggest disappointment after the fall of the seniors in the Leinster championship.

But they lost to a far superior side and the final tally of 2-16 to 1-10 in Tipp's favour does not flatter the Premier County side. This was a highly competent Tipperary outfit and they set about the task of demolishing the opposition from the word go.

Apart from being beaten by a better side Kilkenny did not show the

same commitment as last year when they were considered a bit unlucky not to have forced a draw, at least. They were never really in the hunt this year.

With the wind in their favour in the first half Tipp were quick to get moving and at the end of the first half with a lead of 1-8 to 0-4 it didn't look as if the black and amber boys would catch up.

Even against the wind in the second half Tipperary did not relax their efforts and they had a point on the scoreboard in less than a minute.

Michael Walsh in the Kilkenny goal saved a

hard shot but the ball remained in the goal area and was forced over the line by Tipp forward Donie O'Connell. The score was disputed by the Kilkenny defenders but the referee allowed it.

Kilkenny had a brief spell following positional changes which brought M. J. Ryan to midfield to partner Sean Tyrrell who had come on as a sub and the switching of Matty Byrne to centre forward but three points by Billy Walton, two coming from frees was not enough to make any impact and Tipp still enjoyed a commanding lead of 2-9 to 0-7.

Tipp came back for further points by Michael McGrath (2) and Gerry O'Neill and after O'Neill and Billy Walton had exchanged points Pat Gannon and Matty Byrne had consolation points for Kilkenny.

Sean O'Farrell (goal); P. Fox, Gerry O'Neill, Donie O'Connell, Peter Brennan, Ian Conroy, Alar Kinsella and Nicholas English were best for Tipperary while Michael Walsh, in goal, Pat Ryan, Sean Norris, Pat Gannon when moved to centre back, Billy McEvoy and

Continued on Page 49



The Kilkenny team beaten by Tipperary 2-16 to 1-10 in the All-Ireland Under-21 final.

THOMASTOWN COMPLETE UNIQUE DOUBLE

Thomastown have joined the ranks of the select few to achieve the notable distinction of winning senior county titles in both hurling and football. They won the senior hurling title in 1946 and the senior football title this year. This year marked a spontaneous upsurge in football in Thomastown and they crowned a remarkable year by beating Muckalee in the county final at Nowlan Park on October 25 by 2-6 to 0-6.

This was an entertaining game with the sides level three times during the hour. In the second half Muckalee made a gallant bid to get the upperhand but they came up against a

Thomastown defence that gave nothing away.

A wet, windy day did not help matters but despite this some very good football was served up. Thomastown had a slight advantage in class and their forwards eagerly grasped the chances that were offered to them. The scores were level (Thomastown 1-1, Muckalee 0-4) at half time but the Muckalee attack was so well contained in the second half that they could only add two more points while Thomastown put on a goal and five points.

David and Alan Hoyne played a vital role in Thomastown's win. Alan got the two Thomastown

goals and David had two points. In addition David Hoyne contributed significantly by keeping the pressure on the Muckalee defence, thus leaving more scope for his colleagues.

Dick O'Hara had a fine game at full back and his brother, Joe who came on as a sub also played very well. M. Galway, D. Breen and M. Walsh were also prominent in the defence while Brendan Daly played well when he came on as a sub.

Alan Hoyne got two very fine goals and was a constant worry to the Muckalee defence. Kieran Brennan, Nickey Morrissey, Jimmy Kelly, Tom Moran, Martin



Morrissey, Johnny Brennan, Pat Maher were best for Muckalee.

Alan Hoyne (2-0), David Hoyne (0-2), Paudie Lannon, Brendan Daly, Eddie Kavanagh and T. Flynn (a point each) scored for Thomastown while Johnny Brennan and N. Morrissey (0-2 each), A. Maher and Pat Maher (0-1 each) were the Muckalee scorers.

CUMANN LUITH-CHLEAS GAEL

Kilkenny County Board

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 1981.

Their kind support is deeply appreciated.

P. de Grás, Runaí

GREAT YEAR FOR THOMASTOWN

THOMASTOWN had 13 teams in action this year in hurling and football ranging in grade from under 12 to senior. They have already won five county championships and two league finals including the senior football title for the first time.

That is not the end of the story, however. At the time of writing they are still in the under 14 and under 13 football finals; the minor football final; they won the Southern under 21 football final.

They were beaten by Graignamanagh in the under 12 hurling league final; by Dicksboro in the under 16 football league final (after beating Dicksboro in the championship final). They are finalists in the minor football championship and the under 21 county football final.

They were somewhat surprisingly beaten by Carrickshock in a play off in the intermediate hurling championship and lost to St. Patrick's De La Salle in the under 14 hurling semi final. They lost to Mooncoin in the southern under 21 hurling final and lost to Glenmore in the southern junior football semi-final.

This was probably Thomastown's best year since 1946 when they won the county senior hurling title.

A lot of the credit for these successes goes to the Thomastown national school where Brendan O'Sullivan, the Leinster Council hurling officer is in charge and to the Vocational School where all games get every encouragement and support.



Deep concentration — two players in the minor hurling final show the strain of it all.



The Thomastown team pictured with the cup after their county minor final victory over Erin's Own (Castlecomer).



Above: Man of the match – Thomastown’s John Coleman with his trophy after he was picked as man of the match in the minor hurling county final.



Above right: Chairman of Bord na nOg Sean Leahy presents the cup to the Thomastown captain after they had won the county minor hurling final.

Right: John Coleman heads for the Erin Own goal.



The Thomastown team pictured after their victory in the Under-16 County final.

THE FAILURE OF THE UNDER 21's

<Cont'd. from page 43

sub Sean Tyrrell were Kilkenny's best triers.

Tipperary had 11 frees, eight wides and one '65' while Kilkenny had 10 frees, 13 wides and two '65's'.

Scorers for Tipperary: D. O'Connell (2-1); G. O'Neill, (0-6); M. McGrath (0-5 from frees); N. English (0-2); P.

McGrath (0-1); B. Ryan (0-1).

The Kilkenny scores were got by B. Walton (1-7, the goal from a penalty and five points from frees); P. Gannon (0-1); M. J. Ryan (0-1); M. Byrne (0-1).

Tipperary: S. O'Farrell, M. Ryan, P. Brennan, P. Fox, I. Conroy, J. McIntyre, P. McGrath, A. Kinsella, P. Kennedy, N.

English, B. Ryan, M. McGrath, G. O'Neill, D. O'Connell, A. Buckley.

Kilkenny: M. Walsh, P. Ryan, E. Aylward, J. Holden, S. Norris, B. O'Hara, M. Cleere, P. Gannon, M. Byrne, B. McEvoy, M. J. Ryan, B. Walton, J. Murphy, S. O'Dwyer, B. Purcell. *Subs:* S. Tyrrell for Holden; E. Crowley for Murphy.

Fine win for Urlingford

Urlingford under-16 side scored a fine win (3-4 to 1-3) over Callan in the final of the under 16 (Roinn A) hurling campaign at Nowlan Park on October 25. Playing against the wind in the first half they led by 1-1 to 0-3 at the interval. Callan missed several good scoring chances during this period, Callan's three points coming from frees by Liam Egan.

The game that set the seal on the Urlingford triumph came in the 23rd minute of the first half – a fine effort by Des Fitzgerald, one of the best players on the field.

Urlingford stretched their lead to four points, 1-4 to 0-3 at the end of the third quarter and when D. Butler got through for another goal midway through the second half Urlingford had the game safely in their grasp. To put the icing on the cake Jimmy Queally added another goal eight minutes after.

Callan's goal was scored

by Tom Lennon near the end.

Urlingford had to play without one of their best players, Henry Leahy. Joe Coady had a brilliant game at full back and other defenders to shine were Milo Phelan, Gerard Kavanagh and James Leahy. Willie Stanley who took up a position in the defence also did well while Nicholas Healy at corner back and Kevin Cleere in goal also contributed to the success.

Jimmy Queally was in fine form at midfield, being ably supported by John Joe Grace, while in addition to Des Fitzgerald, Brian Burke, D. Butler, Christy Farrell, Donal Broderick and Laurence Phelan also figured prominently.

James Quigley, in goal, Sean Hogan, John Holden, Pat Comerford, Aiden O'Dwyer and Willie Fennelly in addition to Liam Egan tried hard to keep Callan's end up.

J. Queally (1-3), D. Fitzgerald (1-1), D. Butler

(1-0), scored for Urlingford while Liam Egan (0-3) and Tom Lennon (1-0) were the Callan scorers.

Four for Galmoy

Galmoy had a spectacular year in the under age grades in 1981 – winning four county titles. They won the minor (C) league and championship finals and the league and championship in under-16, Roinn C.

The Selectors

The senior hurling selectors, the men on whom the responsibility of getting Kilkenny back to the top, are: **Brendan O'Sullivan, Thomastown; Pat Henderson, The Fenians; Pat Delaney, The Fenians; Phil Larkin, James Stephens; Kieran Meally, Erin's Own and the chairman of the County Board, Mick O'Neill.**

WE WERE DOWN BEFORE

IT IS Kilkenny's performance in the League rather than the championship, despite Offaly's rise to the top in Leinster, that have given rise to the feeling of gloom. Certainly we have been down for longer periods in the past and it must be realised that it is only two years since we won an all-Ireland title.

Kilkenny waited from 1887 until 1904 – 1906 to be exact as the 1904 championship was not played until 1906 – to win their first national title.

We won seven between that and 1913 and then had a lean spell of nine years until 1922 for our next title victory. This was, in fact, 10 years as the 1922 final did not take place until 1923.

Another 10 years went by until 1932 when Kilkenny were back again at the top and in the early 30's we won four, 1932, 1933, 1935 and 1939.

Eight years later in 1947, Kilkenny won again and then we had another 10 year gap until 1957.

We won our 15th title in 1963 and came out of the 60's with two more titles, 1967 and 1969. The seventies were our best years after the glorious years of the first decade. We won in 1972, 1974, 1975 and 1979 to bring our tally of all-Ireland victories to 21.

Kilkenny's Famous hurling Champions — All-Ireland Winners, 1909



KILKENNY — ALL-IRELAND JUNIOR CHAMPIONS, 1946

By: MICK DUNNE of RTE Sport

International outlet

– Kilkenny's stance

No doubt the recent, increasing discussion about the need for the G.A.A. to have an international outlet has been greeted with wry and mixed feelings by players in Kilkenny, both hurlers and footballers.

The hurling fraternity, the bigger of the two, will have noticed the absence from utterances about international competition of any reference to their sport; the football folk, the minority in Kilkenny, will have allowed such talk to drift over their heads as something irrelevant to their circumstances and ambitions – as they might do with speculation about the man in the street taking the space shuttle to the moon in the foreseeable future.

The lack of international competition for those participating in Gaelic games has been a talking-point, if nothing else, every so often. Rarely though has it been a severe drawback in the promotion and popularity of hurling and football; certainly not of major concern to the vast majority of players. But in relatively recent times some people – players, administrators and press – but by no means everybody connected with our games, have become more and more assertive that there is a growing need for an international outlet in a G.A.A. context.

The necessity, the argument goes, is emphasised by the availability of international competition in other sports, most notably rugby and soccer. Lately we have been warned by no less a player than Jimmy Deenihan, Kerry's captain and Bank of Ireland All-Star right corner back, that there will be a drain away of players from the G.A.A. to those other games if the G.A.A. does not actively seek international competition.

Perhaps, this whole question of international competition, and the lack of it from Gaelic games, is highlighted by the increasing number of international matches brought into our homes from every corner of the world by satellite television. Maybe a case of being happy and satisfied with our humble possessions until we visit the homes of the rich; their wealth making us all the more aware of our own poverty.

The strange thing is that nobody seemed

to be very much aware of this deficiency in the G.A.A.'s make-up until about a decade and a half ago. Yet, throughout the previous eight decades of the G.A.A.'s existence its hurlers and footballers could not have been ignorant of the fact that rugby and soccer players were, annually, being honoured with international selection for Ireland. Does anyone ever wonder why, throughout the Thirties, Forties and Fifties, our hurlers and footballers do not appear to have been concerned about fellow Irishmen, but not themselves, being able to play internationally at their chosen sports? Why indeed it is only in the last decade or so that our players, or some of them, feel so deprived?

This attitude has grown, as I already mentioned, from the frequency with which we see international sports portrayed on our television screens, but the clamour that is increasing among G.A.A. people does not take into account that in any sport – rugby, soccer, golf or whatever – international competition caters only for the elite minority of that sport's participants.

Thoughts about international competition were strengthened among G.A.A. people by the visit of the first Australian Rules players to this country in 1967. A logical tie-up with the Australian code of football, because of its similarity to Gaelic football, seemed to be the answer. But in every statement made recently – particularly since Kerry's return from Australia – it will be noted that the original ideas about compromise rules have been discarded.

The way ahead now lies in an Irish team going to Australia to play Australian Rules football, oval ball and all, and the Australians coming to Ireland to play real Gaelic football without any concessions. Nobody has pointed out to the advocates of this means of helping the G.A.A. to "survive" that such an international outlet would be UNREAL for both Gaelic foot-

ballers and the Australians. Neither would be an international at his own sport when travelling abroad: the Irish players would be Aussie Rules internationals, the Australians would be Gaelic footballers when they tour Ireland. Of course, it would be different for the home players, but you will find there are not too many people advocating international competition if it does not involve trips abroad, and abroad meaning going farther than to, say, London or Birmingham.

Australian Rules footballers returned to this country in 1978 and played Dublin and Kerry, who were without question the top teams of the Seventies, and debate about international competition was revived after this visit for a time. Perhaps, then as now, the most noticeable feature of the discussion is that it takes place almost exclusively among the leading players and the top teams – the ones who have won all the titles and every honour the sport has to offer, so that only international competition remains.

Take the teams below the level of the very top: in the 1970's, these were Roscommon, Armagh, Galway, Down and Cork, the winners of provincial championships. You can be darned sure that their ambitions would have been satisfied if they could have won the All-Ireland title. Any year they were in the running for it, or since, international competition was the farthest thing from their minds.

Then there are the big majority of the others – the counties that rarely, if ever, win titles. Just imagine how a footballer in Wicklow, Fermanagh or Westmeath (the three counties that still have to win a senior provincial championship), Leitrim, Clare or Waterford reacted to the assertion that the G.A.A. must not let the opportunity for international competition with the Australians slip by again. Any player in

Cont'd. on page 57 >

JAMES STEPHENS — County Senior Hurling Champions 1981



Back row (left to right): Mick Moore, Billy Walton, Andy Egan, Denis McCormack, Tom McCormack, Mick Crotty, Brian Cody, Fan Larkin. Front row (left to right): Martin Hennessy, Joe Hennessy, Philip Brennan, John McCormack, Jim O'Brien, Paddy Neary, Ned Kelly.

THE FENIANS — County Senior Hurling Finalists 1981



Back row (left to right): Ger Henderson, Dick Dowling, Eugene Grehan, Pat Henderson, Billy Fitzpatrick, Mick Garrett, P. J. Ryan, Martin Fitzpatrick, Pat Delaney. Front row (left to right): John Power, Nicky Orr, John Henderson, Joe Ryan, Billy Purcell, Jim Power.

GOLDEN OLDIES DON'T WIN COUNTY FINALS

Golden oldies don't win hurling games. That was clearly shown in this year's county final at Nowlan Park when a young, eager James Stephens side won a comfortable 2-10 to 0-8 victory over The Fenians.

Age was the fundamental difference between the sides and James Stephens proved that even the experience of men of such former greatness as Pat Henderson and Pat Delaney is not enough to redress the imbalance. And so the game was won and lost.

The Fenians contributed to their own downfall. Their strategy was wrong; their shooting was very bad and they lacked the tenacity which was the main characteristic of their opponents.

This was not a county final to remember except for James Stephens and their supporters. It bought their tally to six.

They won by adopting the right approach. They kept the ball moving and used their speed to good effect.

The first quarter was so dull that a stranger to Nowlan Park would find it hard to believe this was a county senior final. It did make a brave effort to come to life in the second half but generally it fell far short of expectations.

Johnstown made a brave effort to overcome the age disadvantage and tried valiantly to put their game together but an extravagant waste of favourable chances made their task difficult if not impossible. They were only a goal behind at the interval, 1-6 to 0-6.

The most salient feature of the first half was a well worked goal by Mick Crotty who forced his way through to shoot past the helpless P. J. Ryan in the Johnstown goal. The score had an immediate impact

and from then on The Fenians were fighting a lost cause.

James Stephens then took command and proceeded to pile on the pressure. Johnstown had no comeback and their only answer was two points, one each by Mick Garrett and Pat Delaney late in the game.

The Village were quickly into their stride and had points by Andy Egan, John McCormack and Billy Walton in the early stages. Billy Fitzpatrick hit back with two points from frees but Andy Egan with a goal and Billy Walton a point kept The Village ahead.

At this stage The Fenians made their best effort but they wasted some golden opportunities and had an almost incredible tally of 12 wides in the first half.

They did put severe pressure on the James Stephens defence with Pat Delaney, Billy Fitzpatrick and Billy Purcell making frantic efforts to break through but the scores didn't come. They missed two chances that could well have been goals.

The third quarter produced nothing of note. There was a lot of scrappy hurling and it was not until Mick Crotty scored the goal that the winners tidied up their game. They had the game safely in their grasp at that stage.

There were no Oscars won in this game. Mick Moore had a clean slate in the winners goal and Phil Larkin played with his customary confidence in the full back line with Paddy Neary and Brian

Cody teaming up well. Joe Hennessy was a very hard worker on the half line and in the attack, Andy Egan, Mick Crotty, Billy Walton who was an accurate free taker and John McCormack figured prominently. Denny McCormack was sound at centrefield.

P. J. Ryan and the more experienced players in The Fenians defence, Nickey Orr and Martin Fitzpatrick with John Henderson did well with Eddie Grehan doing splendidly on the half line with Pat Henderson also playing well. Ger Henderson had a hard hour at midfield while the best that Pat Delaney, Mick Garrett, Billy Fitzpatrick and Billy Purcell had to offer fell short of what was required.

Andy Egan (1-1); B. Walton (0-4); M. Crotty

(1-0); J. McCormack (0-2); J. O'Brien, D. McCormack and T. McCormack (0-1 each) scored for James Stephens and Billy Fitzpatrick (0-4); Billy Purcell (0-2), Mick Garrett and Pat Delaney (0-1 each) scored for The Fenians.

James Stephens: M. Moore, P. Neary, B. Cody, P. Larkin, J. Hennessy, M. Hennessy, J. O'Brien, D. McCormack, T. McCormack, P. Brennan, B. Walton, N. Kelly, M. Crotty, A. Egan, J. McCormack. Sub: D. Collins for P. Brennan.

The Fenians: P. J. Ryan, J. Henderson, N. Orr, M. Fitzpatrick, D. Dowling, P. Henderson, E. Grehan, J. Ryan, M. Garrett, Jim Power, G. Henderson, Joe Power, B. Purcell, P. Delaney, B. Fitzpatrick. Subs: J. Moriarty for Power; P. Broderick for John Power.



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Members of the organising committee at the first meeting to announce details of the 1982 G.A.A. Congress to be held in Kilkenny. Seated (from left): Mr. Paddy Grace (County Secretary), Mr. Mick O'Neill (County Chairman), Mr. Liam Mulvihill (Director General), Mr. Paddy Buggy (President Elect G.A.A.), Mr. Finbar Hazel, Regional Manager, Allied Irish Banks (sponsors). Behind: Father Liam Cassin, Mr. Paul Kinsella, Mr. Barry Hendriques, Mr. John Healy, Mr. Eddie Keher, Mr. Pat Quigley, Mr. Brendan O'Sullivan.

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INTERNATIONAL OUTLET – KILKENNY'S STANCE

◀Cont'd. from page 53

those counties would be extremely happy to get into the provincial final and would regard it as ecstasy to win a provincial championship medal. Unquestionably the footballers of Kilkenny, now that they have won one match in the National League, will hardly be thinking thoughts of international competition; they might be satisfied by finishing a National League for once not occupying the bottom of the table.

However, leaving all of that aside, there is a dangerous aspect to the cry for international competition which counties like Kilkenny must guard against. It is the willingness to leave hurling and hurlers out of consideration; the too ready acceptance that there is no suitable opposition which could provide international competition for hurlers as the Australian Rules players can for our footballers. Of course, footballers are concerned with football, and rightly so. But if we are to be persuaded that the G.A.A. must go out and search for an international outlet then the footballers, who advocate such a course, must convince us that they are just as concerned that the Association will find, or even manufacture, international competition for hurlers, too.

There is the great danger that the G.A.A. will allow itself to be convinced that, in this matter of internationalism, all its playing members cannot be equal. That must never happen. There can never be a dis-

tinction made between a footballer and a hurler as far as the Association itself is concerned. The day the G.A.A. ever regards one as better than, or less than equal to, the other that is the day the G.A.A. will not survive. We make no distinction between the All-Ireland medal given to the hurling winners and the football winners, we honour both in the same way, so we must never dishonour one by favouring the other. And favouring one at the expense of the other is exactly what the G.A.A. will do if it ever officially organises an international tour for a football team – either a selection or the All-Ireland champions – and leaves the hurlers at home.

This is just what the G.A.A., with a total lack of wisdom and sensitivity, planned doing as recently as 1979. It will be remembered that the Central Council approved of the Bank of Ireland All-Star footballers continuing on from Los Angeles in November that year to play in Australia while the Bank of Ireland All-Star hurlers, along with Kilkenny hurlers and Kerry footballers, would return home from America. Talk about inequality: by that very decision the hurlers were shown to be the real poor relations they often believe themselves to be.

The representatives of the hurling counties who attended the Central Council meeting, which sanctioned that proposed trip to Australia in 1979, made no fuss about the hurlers being unequally treated. They did not object because they obviously had swallowed the football fraternity's propaganda that "there's nobody for the hurlers to play in Australia."

Never believe it. The people who run the Australian G.A.A. – as distinct from the

administrators of Australian Rules – will assert very vehemently that they are most capable of putting a hurling team on the field against any visiting side from Ireland. Of course, they acknowledge that their team would not match the standard of the visitors and would have very little hope of winning. But, winning such a match would be way down on the priority list if international competition to Australia ever came about. Think what an attraction a hurling match between Ireland and Australia (as represented by the Irish in Australia) would be as a curtain-raiser to an Ireland-Australia football game. It would show-off our ancient sport to a wide Australian audience.

Being realistic, of course, such international tours are very unlikely to take place given the huge costs involved. With increasing air fares and rocketing inflation it's reckoned that it would require almost IRE3,000 per player to take a party (fare and hotels) to Australia after 1982. The expense involved in taking one, or two teams to Australia will be astronomical. In an official G.A.A. situation there could not be the once-off fund-raising so successfully carried out in Kerry on the heels of their four-in-a-row triumph.

But if the G.A.A. ever seriously contemplates making the search for international competition a high priority Kilkenny and all the other hurling counties must insist that such competition be for hurling as well as football. Moreover, they must use their muscle in voting, at Congress or Central Council, to ensure that hurlers are not left out in the cold while footballers bask in the warmth of internationalism.

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Handballers never had it so good

The year 1981 was a fabulous one for Kilkenny handballers with titles coming to the county in a variety of grades never before achieved. Even the halycon days in the 1940's failed to produce such a range of winning runs. Who, then, were the handball heroes of 1981? Here are ten of them.

PADDY REILLY

Paddy Reilly must be counted as being in the autumn of his career in terms of senior handball. His success in doubles last year was seen by many as a deserved bonus for a player who had graced the scene for so many years.

Even Paddy himself was looking towards retirement from the major scene. He was persuaded to put these plans aside for a while, however, and launched a final major attempt on titles.

At one stage, he was one of very few in with a chance in both singles and doubles but then came the shock and the fall of himself and Ollie Harold in senior doubles.

This did not deter him, however, and he scaled the heights in singles to beat Pakie Ryan in a three-game thriller; Tony Ryan in a two-game lesson; and faced Tom O'Rourke in the final.

It was one game each when O'Rourke hurt himself as a vital stage in the third game. Reilly was 14-7 ahead when O'Rourke found he could not continue and it was all over - Paddy Reilly was the reigning monarch in Irish handball.

ANTHONY GREENE - PEADAR HUGHES

Anthony Greene and Peadar Hughes were something of a makeshift pairing from the start, thrown together for the Jimmy O'Brien Tournament. They played well together and decided to make a pact for the 1980 Coca Cola. They lost 21-20 in the third game against eventual winners, Paddy Reilly and Ollie Harold.

Many thought that they had seen their greatest hour. Greene and Hughes were not among those who thought so. Still, when Greene was beaten by Tony Ryan in senior singles and Hughes was k.o.'d by an unfortunate walkover in that championship, their thoughts of success must have been remote. They began their first look at success by beating Tony Ryan and Tom Morrissey. In the semi-final they met Wexford heroes, Dick Lyng and Seamus Buggy and beat them decisively in the third game of a thriller.

This put them in the final, against the conquerors of Reilly and Harold - Tom and John Quish. It is a matter of history now that the Kilkennymen annihilated the

By Tommy O'Brien

Limerick pair. Both players played superb ball to outscore the favourites on all counts and win for Kilkenny their second successive senior doubles title - but for the first time ever, a county had won successive senior doubles using four separate players.

WILLIE PRATT

St. Canice's produced a real hero this year in Willie Pratt. Playing in junior ranks, Willie was expected to do best in 40 x 20. This is the code of handball he favours but it was the only one where he did not gain a Leinster title.

In hardball, Willie wasn't really tested. He easily matched all opposition in the junior handball singles campaign and the all Ireland final at Kells was a personal triumph for the strong ambidextrous player as he hammered vastly experienced Tom Derrig 2-0.

It was the softball title Willie really wanted. He had overcome very strong contention in Kilkenny and Leinster and found the Ulster champion no softie either. However, he maintained his winning impetus all throughout the series and eventually arrived on the biggest night in any handballer's life - a night in the glass at Croke Park with a capacity crowd.



Gaelic Sports winners pictured at the Sports Stars award dinner in Springhill Hotel (left to right): Tommy O'Brien (committee), Anthony Green (handball), Michael Walsh (juvenile handball), Ray Heffernan (hurling), Liz Neary (camogie) and Peadar Hughes (handball).

Willie's opponent was Tipperary's Pakie Mullins. Willie lost two close games but could easily have won either. He was far from disgraced in losing a good final to an accomplished player and will surely return for more of the same next year.

BILLY BOURKE

Billy Bourke became a household name in sport last year by winning all six minor all Ireland handball titles – a feat never before achieved. The fact that he did not repeat the dose this year showed the reason why this was never before achieved – even a player of his ability must some time have an off-day and then his record is gone.

Billy did, however, win 5 all Ireland minor titles (softball doubles was the one that got away). This brought his tally to 14, far outstripping any player before him.

He got good runs – especially in the hardball all Ireland singles but there was no denying that Billy Bourke was way ahead of his peers in present day minor handball.

His final tally was: minor singles – 7, 40 x 20 in 1980 and 1981; 60 x 30 in 1979, 1980 and 1981; hardball in 1980, 1981; minor doubles – 7, 40 x 20 in 1979, 1980, 1981; 60 x 30 in 1979 and 1980; hardball in 1980 and 1981.

MICHAEL LAWLOR

Billy Bourke was very happy with Mark Cantwell as partner in 1979 but he was equally happy when Michael Lawlor more than adequately filled the void when Mark was overage.

Michael was a latecomer to handball but his great natural ability saw him make up the gap in an extremely short time. He almost made it in under 15 and 16 and was thought by many to be too inexperienced for minor grade.

How Lawlor revelled in proving them wrong. His confidence grew with every game and, in fact, this year he also qualified for the all Ireland under-21 doubles title with Eugene Downey.

Michael's minor record was: Minor doubles – 5, 40 x 20, in 1980 and 1981; Softball in 1980; hardball in 1980 and 1981.

JOHN DOYLE

John Doyle won the all Ireland under 16 softball doubles title this year but possibly his greatest feat was being runner-up in 40 x 20 under 16 singles. This might not be agreed by all connected with the game but a closer examination of his 40 x 20 feat is a worthwhile exercise.

In the recent under 17 American trials, Egin Jensen (Meath) and John Duggan (Clare) were lauded nation wide for their splendid 40 x 20 play. Well, Jensen fell to Doyle's guile at O'Loughlin's in the under 16 Leinster final while Duggan had to pull out all the stops before getting through Doyle in the all Ireland final proper.

Still, when John Doyle's medal collection is examined in years to come, it will be his gold medal for softball which will get more acclaim than his silver 40 x 20 one – but I'm prouder of his small court efforts.

PAT MAHER

Pat Maher's father is a county selector and this should ensure Pat of representation on county teams. Such is the fair mindedness of Ollie Maher, however, that he had frequently agreed to his son not being selected despite being county champion.

This year was a case in point in 40 x 20 when Maher, John Doyle, and Joe Walsh were county champions but it was Doyle, Walsh and Michael Walsh who were selected.

The same three players won through in softball also and this time it was felt that Maher had deserved his place by being such a consistent winner.

The faith the selectors placed in him was not unfounded. He partnered John Doyle to success in under 16 softball, adding another niche to Kilkenny success – we used four different players to win two separate under-16 titles in doubles.

JOE WALSH

Joe Walsh has never had a go at singles – until this year. Previously, he played on alternate years with Liam Law and Michael Walsh.

In this year's 40 x 20, he played once more with Michael Walsh and they won handsomely to add to Walsh's sideboard of handball trophies.

When it came to softball, however, Walsh decided that as this would be his last juvenile championship, he would concentrate on singles. He was playing great handball at the time and was tipped widely to success.

He came a cropper in the Leinster final against the aforementioned Egin Jensen and so the curtain came down on the juvenile activity of another great juvenile.

MICHAEL WALSH

Michael Walsh failed to win a county title this year – but still ended up with a

Smithwick's Juvenile Sports Star trophy.

After losing the 40 x 20 county championship in both singles and doubles, the selectors decided to select him, nevertheless, with Joe Walsh, a tried and trusted partnership.

They won through easily against all opposition and won their third all Ireland in partnership.

This would not, of course, earn him a 'Sports Star' rating. After all, there were three other All-Ireland champions in the county at his age; Doyle had reached two all Ireland finals; Maher, Doyle and Joe Walsh had starred in all Ireland colleges while Michael Walsh had failed in Vocational Schools.

The key was, in fact, the juvenile American Trials in Cork last October. Walsh entered the under 15 with Pierce O'Keeffe, and Pat Maher; John Doyle, Joe Walsh and Liam Law entered under-17; Billy Bourke, Michael Bourke, Michael Lawlor, Murty Lawlor and Liam Hickey entered under-19.

The prize was a trip to America for the winner in each section. All those top Kilkenny Juveniles fell by the wayside – except Michael Walsh who won the right to represent his country. Billy Bourke will also be making this trip and, who knows, next year's Yearbook may feature an account of the first Irish player (Players?) to win an American open championship in any sport!

That is another matter, however. No matter who does what over there, 1981 will go on record as the year of Kilkenny handball. It can be stated with certainty that no other county could boast a 'Top Ten' like the ones listed above. Well done, all of you.

OTHERS

The list does not end there, of course. Mick Kirby won the all Ireland 40 x 20 singles masters title when Kerry failed to appear in Ballincargy for the final; Eugene Downey appeared in three all Ireland under-21 finals; Ollie Harold, and Seamus Reade joined Paddy Reilly and Billy Bourke in winning the all Ireland senior interclub title for Talbot's Inch.

All of this was at national level – if one were to include Provincial and County successes, this article could become a Yearbook in itself!

Let's hope that success continues into 1982.



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Gaelic football is there any future?

IN English football, teams who don't fare so well in competition are the butt of music hall and public house jokes.

In many cases they are the bread and butter of the comedian who sneers at their lowly league position, their poor attendance and less than adequate players.

The joker tells of the team which has so few supporters that it is handier to introduce the spectators to the players than to do the normal.

The Kilkenny senior footballers are lucky that music halls don't exist in Kilkenny while our amateur comedians don't bother too much with sport.

Without belittling the county's Gaelic players all G.A.A. followers must admit that the footballers are the poor relation here.

In the great majority of cases officials, spectators and even players don't want to know. If the Kilkenny footballers are playing at Nowlan Park after a hurling game then the crowd just dwindles away home.

At one game in the headquarters of Kilkenny G.A.A. there was no one on the terraces to throw back the ball after it went wide.

For the most part Co. Board officials — with some exceptions — are interested only in the game of hurling. The players too have shown themselves to be quite apathetic.

On occasions when county panels have been named more than half of the players have failed to turn up. They have been threatened with suspensions but thankfully nothing has happened.

Regarding suspensions the real football enthusiast will argue that a player who is not really interested in the code should never be considered anyway.

COULD WIN

The year 1981 was hardly a memorable one for our footballers. Granted they showed they could win a game when they beat Waterford and were somewhat unfortunate against Wexford but,

for the most part, it was a case of another miserable year.

The real interested believe that the win over Waterford could be the start of something good and for their part the Co. Board attempted to give a boost by supplying a new set of jerseys.

But, one win and a new set of jerseys, plus great dedication from a handful of officials throughout the county, will not change the face of Kilkenny football.

Back in the very early part of this century Kilkenny looked like having a football future when we won an all Ireland — only to have it taken away from us by Tipperary on an objection.

It appears that we tried to pull a quick one on the Tipp. men then by playing some of their own county men against them in the final.

WON, BUT LOST

But, the point is that we reached the final and even though we lost it, we won it. If one was writing a book about the successes of Kilkenny footballers in the intervening years then there would still only be a few chapters by 1981.

In the past Dublin supremo Tony Hanahoe came to Kilkenny to talk about the game. His words of wisdom fell on deaf ears.

He spoke of the great dedication of Dublin footballers and of the commitment demanded from players. The sacrifice needed must have frightened off our boys.

With dual players now the norm rather than the exception football also suffers badly. Not only does it take second place to hurling but it often comes well behind rugby, soccer, and even less popular pastimes.

So it would appear as if the Co. Board is indifferent towards the game, the players are less than half interested while the great majority of G.A.A. supporters in Kilkenny just don't care.

They watch the G.A.A. results on a Sunday evening to find out how much Kilkenny lost by.

Is there a cure for the ills of Gaelic football in Kilkenny you might ask? The skills shown by under-age teams in recent times would suggest there is a future.

MOST POPULAR

But, it would appear as if the

Continued overleaf

Cont'd. from previous page

Gaelic football is there any future?

majority of these young boys become disinterested at near adult level or else concentrate their efforts on hurling — by far the most popular game with G.A.A. clubs throughout the county.

People like Seamus Delaney, P. J. O'Neill, Bill Walsh, Kieran Meally, Larry Swayne, Jack Murphy, Tom Ryan and Malachy Hogan take Gaelic football in Kilkenny very seriously.

Can these people put the senior game in the county on a decent footing? I believe they can. But, it will require a hell of a lot of hard work and even hard work may not achieve ultimate success.

Firstly I would suggest that they draw up a panel of players who would almost swear allegiance to Gaelic football. I would not use any threats or bribes to players to play but would pick players who would give their lot for the love of Gaelic football.

I would then appoint a team manager and wouldn't be shy about going outside the county for the right man. We have exported our hurling brains so why not import football brains?

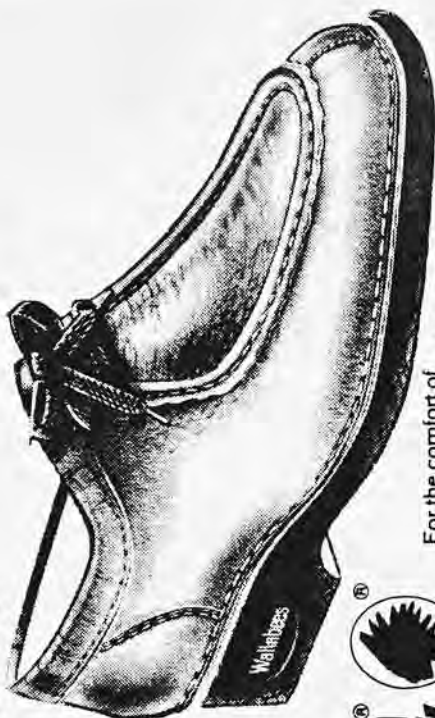
He would then draw up a training schedule which would have to be strictly adhered to. But, more importantly I would concentrate on the skills of the game.

If this training - coaching campaign were maintained for a period the results would eventually come. It would be a long, hard slog but like in any sport success never comes easy.

Granted Kilkenny may never win another football all-Ireland but if any measure of success was achieved and Kilkenny gained some respectability in the football world then there would never be the worry of comedians turning their attention to sport.

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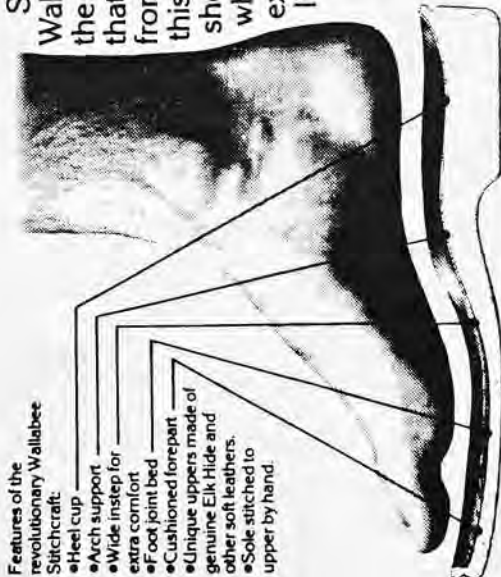


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 - Sole stitched to upper by hand.

Senior Hurling Championship

ROUND 1

Muckalee-Ballyfoyle Rangers 1p12, Shamrocks 0-11.
 St. Lactain's (Freshford) 3-9, James Stephens 3-8.
 St. Patrick's (Ballyragget) 4-11, Graignamanagh 2-5.
 Conahy Shamrocks 2-13, Rower-Inistioge 1-9.
 Erin's Own (Castlecomer) 1-14, Mooncoin 3-8.
 Galmoy 3-6, O'Loughlin's 2-9.

ROUND 2

James Stephens 1-8, Muckalee-Ballyfoyle Rangers 1-8.
 St. Lactain's (Freyford) 3-14, Graignamanagh 0-10.
 St. Patrick's (Ballyragget) 0-8, Bennettsbridge 0-5.
 Mooncoin 2-9, Conahy Shamrocks 1-11.
 Erin's Own (Castlecomer) 1-10, O'Loughlin's 0-9.
 Fenians (Johnstown) 1-9, Galmoy 1-8.

ROUND 3

James Stephens 1-14, Shamrocks 2-4.
 Muckalee-Ballyfoyle Rangers 1-15, St. Lactain's (Freshford) 1-12.
 Graignamanagh 1-5, Bennettsbridge 1-4.
 Rower-Inistioge 1-8, Mooncoin 1-6,
 Erin's Own (Castlecomer) 3-7, Conahy Shamrocks 3-6.
 Fenians (Johnstown) 3-5, O'Loughlin's 3-5.

ROUND 4

James Stephens 4-20, Graignamanagh 1-6.
 St. Patrick's (Ballyragget) 1-14, St. Lactain's (Freshford) 2-11.
 Shamrocks 4-17, Bennettsbridge 1-7.
 Mooncoin 1-14, O'Loughlin's 2-7,
 Erin's Own (Castlecomer) 2-18, Galmoy 3-7.
 Fenians (Johnstown) 1-10, Rower-Inistioge 0-8.

ROUND 5

Shamrocks 5-21, Graignamanagh 1-7.
 Muckalee-Ballyfoyle Rangers 1-13, Bennettsbridge 4-4.
 James Stephens 2-10, St. Patrick's (Ballyragget) 0-6.
 Rower-Inistioge 4-9, O'Loughlin's 1-7.
 Conahy Shamrocks 3-14, Fenians (Johnstown) 2-9.
 Mooncoin 5-11, Galmoy 5-4.

ROUND 6

Shamrocks 4-11, St. Lactain's (Freshford) 0-7.
 St. Patrick's (Ballyragget) 2-14, Muckalee-Ballyfoyle Rangers 1-12.
 James Stephens 0-18, Bennettsbridge 0-3.
 Rower-Inistioge 4-12, Erin's Own (Castlecomer) 2-15.
 Conahy Shamrocks 2-13, Galmoy 3-5.
 Fenians (Johnstown) 4.15, Mooncoin 0-5.

ROUND 7

St. Patrick's (Ballyragget) 1-16, Shamrocks 4-3.
 Muckalee-Ballyfoyle Rangers 5-14, Graignamanagh 2-4.
 Bennettsbridge 3-4, St. Lactain's (Freshford) 0-10.
 Rower-Inistioge 3-16, Galmoy 1-10.
 Conahy Shamrocks 1-15, O'Loughlin's 1-8.
 Fenians (Johnstown) 2-14, Erin's Own (Castlecomer) 1-16.

PLQ-OFF

Erin's Own (Castlecomer) 4-14, Mooncoin 2-7.

QUARTER-FINALS

James Stephens 1-15, Conahy Shamrocks 0-10.
 Fenians (Johnstown) 3-9, Shamrocks 1-15.
 Erin's Own (Castlecomer) 0-24, St. Patrick's (Ballyragget) 3-9.
 Muckalee-Ballyfoyle Rangers 3-15, Rower-Inistioge 3-9.
 Fenians (Johnstown) 2-11, Shamrocks 1-12.

SEMI-FINALS

James Stephens 0-16, Muckalee-Ballyfoyle Rangers 0-7.
 Fenians (Johnstown) 2-15, Erin's Own (Castlecomer) 2-7.

COUNTY FINAL

James Stephens 2-10, Fenians 1-9.

RELEGATION PLAY-OFF

Galmoy 1-9, Graignamanagh 1-9.
 Galmoy 3-7, Graignamanagh 0-5.
 Total number of games played: 53.

Intermediate Hurling Championship

ROUND 1

Young Irelands (Gowran) 3-9, Windgap 1-10.
 Dicksboro 1-8, Lisdowney 0-6.
 Glenmore 6-9, Carrickshock 1-12.
 Thomastown 1-9, Clara 0-9.

ROUND 2

Dicksboro 4-7, Young Ireland's (Gowran) 1-10.
 Carrickshock 1-11, Lisdowney 0-11.
 Glenmore 4-8, Clara 2-7.
 Thomastown 3-12, Windgap 2-6.

ROUND 3

Dicksboro 2-12, Windgap 2-4.
 Young Irelands (Gowran) 3-12, Lisdowney 1-3.
 Clara 2-10, Carrickshock 1-7.
 Glenmore 3-11, Thomastown 4-7.

ROUND 4

Dicksboro 4-6, Carrickshock 4-4.
 Glenmore 5.16, Lisdowney 2-5.
 Clara 2-18, Windgap 1-12.
 Young Irelands (Gowran) 0-11, Thomastown 1-7.

ROUND 5

Carrickshock 2-14, Windgap 1-3.
 Clara 3-11, Young Irelands (Gowran) 1-9.
 Glenmore 1-7, Dicksboro 1-6.
 Thomastown 6-12, Lisdowney 3-9.

ROUND 6

Windgap 2 Lisdowney 1-5.
 Glenmore 2-8, Young Irelands (Gowran) 1-6.
 Dicksboro 3-11, Clara 3-11.
 Carrickshock 4-7, Thomastown 0-10.

ROUND 7

Glenmore 6-13, Windgap 3-6.
 Carrickshock 2-11, Young Irelands (Gowran) 2-7.
 Clara 4-12, Lisdowney 3-10.
 Thomastown 2-12, Dicksboro 2-7.

PLAY-OFF

Carrickshock 0-15, Thomastown 1-10.

SEMI-FINALS

Dicksboro 2-12, Clara 1-8.
 Glenmore 1-12, Carrickshock 1-12.
 Glenmore 5-11, Carrickshock 3-7.

COUNTY FINAL

Glenmore 1-11, Dicksboro 2-6.
 Total number of games played: 33.

JUNIOR HURLING CHAMPIONSHIP

South Division

ROUND 1

Dunnamaggin 5-11, Carrigeen 0-5.
 Mullinavat 6-7, Tullogher-Rosbercon 3-12.
 John Locke's (Callan) 5-15, Slieverue 2-5.
 Piltown 4-10, St. Senan's (Kilmacow) 3-8.

ROUND 2

Mullinavat 3-10, Carrigeen 3-6.
 Tullogher-Rosbercon 2-10, John Lockes (Callan) 1-5.
 Piltown 6-11, Slieverue 1-1.
 St. Senan's (Kilmacow) 5-8, Dunnamaggin 3-7.

ROUND 3

Mullinavat 4-8, Dunnamaggin 0-2.
 Tullogher-Rosbercon 6-8, Carrigeen 3-5.
 Piltown 1-7, John Lockes (Callan) 0-4.
 St. Senan's (Kilmacow) 5-8, Slieverue 3-1.

ROUND 4

Tullogher-Rosbercon 3-12, Slieverue 2-2.
 Piltown 2-18, Dunnamaggin 1-9.
 St. Senan's (Kilmacow) 7-12, Carrigeen 2-6.

ROUND 5

Dunnamaggin 1-12, John Lockes (Callan) 1-8.
 Piltown 3-11, Carrigeen 0-7.
 St. Senan's (Kilmacow) 3-7, Tullogher-Rosbercon 4-1.

ROUND 6

Dunnamaggin 2-7, Tullogher-Rosbercon 3-3.
 Carrigeen 3-6, Slieverue 3-3.
 Piltown 1-4, Mullinavat 0-7.
 John Lockes (Callan) 0-9, St. Senan's (Kilmacow) 1-6.

ROUND 7

Dunnamaggin 3-11, Slieverue 0-0.
 Carrigeen 3-12, John Lockes (Callan) 2-10.
 Tullogher-Rosbercon 5-11, Piltown 2-8.
 Mullinavat 0-10, St. Senan's (Kilmacow) 0-9.

PLAY-OFF

Dunnamaggin 3-11, Tullogher-Rosbercon 2-11.

SEMI-FINALS

Piltown 5-14, St. Senan's (Kilmacow) 2-7.
 Mullinavat 1-12, Dunnamaggin 2-4.

FINAL

Piltown 1-17, Mullinavat 1-7.

North Division - Group A

ROUND 1

Tullaroan 1-12, Emeralds 0-6.
 Blacks and Whites 6-12, Ye Faire Cille 0-2.

ROUND 2

Emeralds 1-8, Blacks and Whites 0-9.
 Tullaroan 2-17, Fenians (Johnstown) 2-5.

ROUND 3

Emeralds 0-16, Fenians (Johnstown) 0-6.
 Tullaroan 6-11, Ye Faire Cille 0-7.

ROUND 4

Emeralds 4-13, Ye Faire Cille 3-2.

ROUND 5

Tullaroan 5-14, Blacks and Whites 2-8.

Group B

ROUND 1

Danesfort 3-11, Barrow Rangers 2-11.

ROUND 2

Danesfort 2-15, Coon 2-8.
 Barrow Rangers 2-12, Graigue-Ballycallan 2-10.

ROUND 3

Graigue-Ballycallan 2-13, Danesfort 1-4.

ROUND 4

Graigue-Ballycallan 1-15, Coon 0-7.

ROUND 5

Barrow Rangers 4-11, Coon 2-8.

PLAY-OFF

Graigue-Ballycallan 1-10, Danesfort 1-10.
 Graigue-Ballycallan 2-15, Danesfort 1-10.
 Barrow Rangers 5-15, Danesfort 1-10.

SEMI-FINALS

Emeralds 2-8, Graigue-Ballycallan 0-9.
 Barrow Rangers 4-11, Tullaroan 2-8.

FINAL

Emeralds 2-14, Barrow Rangers 2-11.

COUNTY FINAL

Piltown 3-6, Emeralds 2-6.

Total number of games played: 51.

Special Junior Hurling Championship

North - Group 1

ROUND 1

James Stephens 1-10, Dicksboro 2-4.
 Clara 5-3, St. Patrick's (Ballyragget) 1-1.
 Bennettsbridge 6-10, Danesfort 5-7.

ROUND 2

James Stephens 6-11, St. Patrick's (Ballyragget) 1-2.
 Dicksboro 2-10, Danesfort 2-4.

ROUND 3

Dicksboro 2-12, Clara 1-6.

ROUND 4

James Stephens 4-12, Clara 1-1.
 Dicksboro 3-8, Bennettsbridge 1-4.

ROUND 5

James Stephens 4-9, Bennettsbridge 2-6.

Group B

ROUND 1

O'Loughlin's 1-13, St. Lactain's (Freshford) 3-6.
 Muckalee-Ballyfoyle Rangers 5-4, Erin's Own (Castlecomer) 2-3.

ROUND 2

St. Lactain's (Freshford) 4-4, Erin's Own (Castlecomer) 0-8.
 O'Loughlin's 4-10, Young Irelands (Gowran) 2-3.

ROUND 3

Muckalee-Ballyfoyle Rangers 4-6, O'Loughlin's 0-10.

ROUND 4

Muckalee-Ballyfoyle Rangers 0-6, St. Lactain's (Freshford) 1-1.

ROUND 5

Erin's Own (Castlecomer) 2-10, O'Loughlin's 1-9.

PLAY-OFF

Erin's Own (Castlecomer) 4-11, St. Lactain's (Freshford) 2-7.
 O'Loughlin's 4-9, Erin's Own (Castlecomer) 2-3.

SEMI-FINALS

Muckalee-Ballyfoyle Rangers 0-13, Dicksboro 1-6.
 O'Loughlin's 3-11, James Stephens 2-6.

FINAL

O'Loughlin's 4-8, Muckalee-Ballyfoyle Rangers 3-11.
 O'Loughlin's 3-6, Muckalee-Ballyfoyle Rangers 2-7.

South - Group A

ROUND 1

Rower-Inistioge 4-7, Carrickshock 2-3.
 John Locke's (Callan) bt Carrigeen.
 Thomastown 1-10, Shamrocks 1-10.

ROUND 2

Rower-Inistioge 2-14, John Lockes (Callan) 0-4.
 Shamrocks bt Carrigeen.
 Thomastown 4-12, Carrickshock 2-6.

ROUND 3

Rower-Inistioge 0-9, Thomastown 2-2.
 Carrickshock 4-11, Carrigeen 1-5.
 Shamrocks 6-9, John Lockes (Callan) 0-5.

ROUND 4

Rower-Inistioge 6-8, Carrigeen 0-2.
 Thomastown bt John Lockes (Callan).
 Shamrocks 1-13, Carrickshock 2-3.

ROUND 5

Thomastown bt Carrigeen.
 Shamrocks 1-9, Rower-Inistioge 1-3.

Group B

ROUND 1

Glenmore 5-13, Piltown 2-4.
 Gaignamanagh bt Windgap.
 Mooncoin 3-6, Mullinavat 0-3.

ROUND 2

Windgap 4-9, Piltown 5-6.
 Mooncoin bt Glenmore.
 Mullinavat 2-3, Gaignamanagh 1-5.

ROUND 3

Glenmore 2-10, Gaignamanagh 2-6.
 Windgap 2-6, Mullinavat 0-4.

ROUND 4

Mooncoin 4-9, Windgap 1-4.
 Glenmore 6-13, Mullinavat 2-8.

Continued overleaf

SEMI-FINALS

Glenmore 2-12, Shamrocks 1-10.
Mooncoin 3-7, Rower-Inistioge 1-10.

FINAL

Mooncoin 5-5, Glenmore 1-10.

COUNTY FINAL

O'Loughlin's 4-8, Mooncoin 2-0.

Number of games played: 50.

Special Junior Hurling Roinn B

North - Group A

ROUND 1

Fenians (Johnstown) 3-5, Barrow Rangers 1-1.

ROUND 2

Fenians (Johnstown) 3-4 Emeralds 2-2.

ROUND 3

Lisdowney 3-3, Emeralds 2-1.

Group B

ROUND 1

Blacks and Whites 3-8, Graigue-Ballycallan 3-7.

ROUND 2

Blacks and Whites 5-8, Galmoy 2-5.

Graigue-Ballycallan 7-4, Conahy Shamrocks 4-4.

ROUND 3

Graigue-Ballycallan 4-5, Galmoy 0-0.

SEMI-FINALS

Graigue-Ballycallan 5-4, Lisdowney 3-8.

Fenians (Johnstown) 7-5, Blacks and Whites 1-3.

FINAL

Graigue-Ballycallan 4-4, Fenians (Johnstown) 2-1.

Number of games played: 10.

Under 21 Hurling Roinn A

South

ROUND 1

Thomastown and Piltown played a draw.

Glenmore 4-11, Shamrocks 0-2.

Thomastown 1-10, Piltown 0-10.

Mooncoin 1-17, Rower-Inistioge 1-5.

SEMI-FINALS

Mooncoin 2-14, Graignamanagh 1-7.

Thomastown 4-3, Glenmore 0-14.

FINAL

Mooncoin 0-12, Thomastown 0-2.

North - Group A

ROUND 1

Fenians (Johnstown) 2-8, James Stephens 1-10.

Dicksboro 5-11, Young Irelands (Gowran) 4-12.

ROUND 2

James Stephens 2-10, Dicksboro 2-5.

Fenians (Johnstown) 1-9, Young Irelands (Gowran) 1-9.

ROUND 3

James Stephens 1-18, Young Irelands (Gowran) 2-4.

Fenians (Johnstown) 3-10, Dicksboro 4-7.

Group B

ROUND 1

Bennettsbridge 3-6, Clara 0-8.

O'Loughlin's 6-16, St. Lactain's (Freshford) 1-2.

ROUND 2

O'Loughlin's 7-12, Clara 0-3.

Bennettsbridge 1-9, Erin's Own (Castlecomer) 1-4.

ROUND 3

Clara 1-15, Erin's Own (Castlecomer) 1-5.

Bennettsbridge 1-7, St. Lactain's (Freshford) 1-3.

ROUND 4

O'Loughlin's 6-10, Erin's Own (Castlecomer) 1-0.

ROUND 5

O'Loughlin's 4-9, Bennettsbridge 2-5.

SEMI-FINALS

Bennettsbridge 1-10, Fenians (Johnstown) 1-10.

Bennettsbridge 6-2, Fenians (Johnstown) 2-7.

O'Loughlin's 2-11, James Stephens 2-9.

FINAL

O'Loughlin's 1-11, Bennettsbridge 0-5.

COUNTY FINAL

O'Loughlin's 4-6, Mooncoin 1-7.

Number of games played: 26.

Under 21 Hurling Championship Roinn B

South - Group A

ROUND 1

Mullinavat 4-6, Windgap 1-5.

ROUND 2

Mullinavat 2-6, Tullogher-Rosbercon 2-3.

Slieverue 1-12, Windgap 2-0.

ROUND 3

Mullinavat 1-6, Slieverue 2-1.

Group B

ROUND 1

John Lockes (Callan) 4-10, St. Senan's (Kilmacow) 1-5.

Dunnamaggin and Carrickshock played a draw.

ROUND 2

John Lockes (Callan) 4-7, Dunnamaggin 2-2.

Carrickshock bt St. Senan's (Kilmacow).

ROUND 3

John Locke's (Callan) 8-7, Carrickshock 3-5.

Dunnamaggin 1-14, St. Senan's (Kilmacow) 0-5.

PLAY-OFF

Dunnamaggin 2-9, Carrickshock 1-7.

SEMI-FINALS

John Lockes (Callan) 2-13, Slieverue 2-5.

Mullinavat 2-10, Dunnamaggin 2-10.

Mullinavat 4-10, Dunnamaggin 3-4.

FINAL

Mullinavat 2-10, John Lockes (Callan) 1-10.

North - Group A

ROUND 1

Coon-Muckalee 3-6, St. Patrick's (Ballyragget) 1-4.

Barrow Rangers 3-4, Danesfort 1-2.

Lisdowney 7-6, Barrow Rangers 0-6.

Group B

ROUND 1

Graigue-Ballycallan 7-2, Tullaroan 2-9.

Emeralds 10-11, Moneenroe 0-1.

ROUND 2

Tullaroan 6-17, Moneenroe 0-1.

Emeralds 1-10, Galmoy 1-5.

ROUND 3

Galmoy 1-14, Tullaroan 2-5.

ROUND 4

Emeralds 4-1 Graigue-Ballycallan 1-4.

ROUND 5

Galmoy 1-13, Graigue-Ballycallan 2-2.

Emeralds 1-11, Tullaroan 1-8.

SEMI-FINAL

Galmoy 5-18, Coon/Muckalee 1-7.

FINAL

Emeralds 3-11, Galmoy 1-5.

COUNTY FINAL

Mullinavat 2-8, Emeralds 1-9.

Number of games played: 29.

Minor Hurling Championship Roinn A

South

ROUND 1

Glenmore 3-6, Rower-Inistioge 1-10,
Thomastown 1-14, Mooncoin 2-9.

SEMI-FINAL

Glenmore 1-17, Graignamanagh 4-6.

FINAL

Thomastown 6-7, Glenmore 0-17.

North

ROUND 1

Bennettsbridge 6-3, Dicksboro 2-4.
Erin's Own (Castlecomer) 4-11, O'Loughlin's 5-4.

SEMI-FINAL

Bennettsbridge 2-10, James Stephens 2-6.
Erin's Own (Castlecomer) 5-16, Emeralds 3-6.

FINAL

Erin's Own (Castlecomer) 3-14, Bennettsbridge 4-4.

COUNTY FINAL

Thomastown 5.12, Erin's Own (Castlecomer) 2-1.
Number of games played: 10.

Minor Hurling Roinn B Championship

South

ROUND 1

Piltown 2-10, John Lockes (Callan) 0-2.
Slieverue 6-12, Shamrocks 1-6.

SEMI-FINAL

Mullinavat 4-9, Piltown 3-11.

FINAL

Mullinavat 3-9, Slieverue 2-2.

North

ROUND 1

Lisdowney 2-11, Graigue-Ballycallan 1-2.
Fenians (Johnstown) 2-7, St. Lactain's (Freshford) 1-3.

SEMI-FINAL

Lisdowney 3-11, Clara 0-3.

FINAL

Lisdowney 8-11, Fenians (Johnstown) 1-0.

COUNTY FINAL

Mullinavat 1-8, Lisdowney 1-8.
Mullinavat 5-5, Lisdowney 3-6.
Number of games played: 10.

Minor Hurling Championship Roinn C

South

ROUND 1

Carrickshock 1-5, Tullogher-Rosbercon 1-1.
Dunnamaggin 3-3, Windgap 1-3.

SEMI-FINAL

Carrickshock bt St. Senan's ilmacow).

FINAL

Dunnamaggin 4-6, Carrickshock 2-4.

North

ROUND 1

Moneenroe 5-11, Coon/Muckalee 2-1.

ROUND 2

Moneenroe 3-6, Danesfort 2-4 (unfinished).
Danesfort 2-7, Moneenroe 2-5.

Comahy Shamrocks 1-9, St. Patrick's (Ballyragget) 2-4.
Galmxh3-9, Blacks and Whites 1-9.

SEMI-FINAL

Galmoy 3-7, Conahy Shamrocks 1-7.

FINAL

Galmoy 4-6, Danesfort 3-3.

COUNTY FINAL

Galmoy 4-3, Dunnamaggin 0-8.
Number of games played: 12.

Minor Hurling League Roinn A

South

ROUND 1

Thomastown 4-6, Graignamanagh 1-6.
Mooncoin bt Rower-Inistioge.

ROUND 2

Thomastown 3-5, Glenmore 2-5.
Graignamanagh 3-9, Rower-Inistioge 2-2.

ROUND 3

Thomastown 3-10, Mooncoin 3-3.

ROUND 4

Thomastown bt Rower-Inistioge.
Mooncoin 8-10, Glenmore 0-7.

North - Group A

ROUND 1

James Stephens 4-18, Dicksboro 0-5.
Erin's Own (Castlecomer) 8-14, Young Ireland's (Gowran) 0-1.

ROUND 2

Erin's Own (Castlecomer) 4-18, Dicksboro 2-5.

ROUND 3

Erin's Own (Castlecomer) 3-9, James Stephens 2-8.

Group B

ROUND 1

O'Loughlin's 1-15, Emeralds 3-4.

ROUND 2

Bennettsbridge 3-7, Emeralds 1-4.

ROUND 3

Bennettsbridge 4-2, O'Loughlin's 2-7.

FINAL

Erin's Own (Castlecomer) 4-9, Bennettsbridge 3-9.

COUNTY FINAL

Thomastown 2-12, Erin's Own (Castlecomer) 1-5.
Number of games played: 16.

Minor Hurling League Roinn B

South

ROUND 1

Mullinavat 2-13, Piltown 0-8.
Slieverue bt John Locke's (Callan).

ROUND 2

Piltown bt Shamrocks.
Mullinavat 4-8, Slieverue 2-2.

ROUND 3

John Locke's (Callan) 4-13, Piltown 1-5.
Mullinavat 3-3, Shamrocks 0-3.

ROUND 4

Piltown 6-10, Slieverue 1-7.
Mullinavat 5-8, John Lockes (Callan) 4-3.

ROUND 5

John Lockes (Callan) bt Shamrocks.

PLAY-OFF

John Lockes (Callan) 4-9, Slieverue 1-8.
John Lockes (Callan) 9-9, Piltown 5-8.

North

ROUND 1

Graigue-Ballycallan 4-8, Fenians (Johnstown) 1-3.
Lisdowney 5-13, Clara 4-3.

ROUND 2

Graigue-Ballycallan 5-11, St. Lactain's (Freshford) 0-1.
Lisdowney 7-8, Fenians (Johnstown) 0-2.

ROUND 3

Graigue-Ballycallan 4-3, Clara 3-4.

ROUND 4

Clara 2-6, Fenians (Johnstown) 1-7.
Lisdowney 3-9, St. Lactain's (Freshfgd) 0-0.

COUNTY SEMI-FINALS

Mullinavat 7-11, Graigue-Ballycallan 1-3.
John Lockes (Callan) 4-11, Lisdowney 0-6.

COUNTY FINAL

Mullinavat 2-11, John Lockes (Callan) 1-4.
Number of games played: 21.

Cont'd. from previous page

Minor Hurling League Roinn C

South

ROUND 1

Windgap 1-10, Tullogher-Rosbercon 2-3.

ROUND 2

Windgap bt Dunnamaggin.
St. Senan's (Kilmacow) 4-2, Tullogher-Rosbercon 3-4.

ROUND 3

Windgap 8-11, Carrickshock 1-3.
Dunnamaggin 4-7, Tullogher-Rosbercon 3-3.

ROUND 4

Windgap bt St. Senan's (Kilmacow).
Dunnamaggin 3-5, Carrickshock 0-2.

ROUND 5

Dunnamaggin bt St. Senan's (Kilmacow).

North - Group A

ROUND 1

Galmoy 3-1, Barrow Rangers 1-4.
Blacks and Whites 1-5, Conahy Shamrocks 1-3 (unfinished).

ROUND 2

Galmoy 7-5, Coon/Muckalee 0-1.

ROUND 3

Galmoy 6-9, Blacks and Whites 2-7.

ROUND 4

Galmoy 3-7, Conahy Shamrocks 2-4.

Group B

ROUND 1

Moneenroe 7-7, Danesfort 2-3.
St. Patrick's (Ballyragget) 4-10, Tullaroan 0-1.

ROUND 2

St. Patrick's (Ballyragget) 3-8, Danesfort 0-5.
Moneenroe 4-10, Tullaroan 1-4.

ROUND 3

St. Patrick's (Ballyragget) 4-15, Moneenroe 3-3.

COUNTY SEMI-FINALS

Galmoy 1-11, Windgap 1-2.
St. Patrick's (Ballyragget) 5-7, Dunnamaggin 1-11.

COUNTY FINAL

Galmoy 6-5, St. Patrick's (Ballyragget) 3-3.
Number of games played: 21.

Senior Football Championship

South

ROUND 1

Thomastown 0-7, Shamrocks 0-7.
Thomastown 3-6, Shamrocks 1-4.

SEMI-FINALS

Thomastown 6-12, Slieverue 0-7.
Bigwood 4-3, Craginamanagh 0-3.

FINAL

Thomastown 1-9, Bigwood 1-4.

North

ROUND 1

Railyard 0-7, Sarsfield 0-3.
The Village 1-8, St., Lactain's (Freshford) 1-1.

SEMI-FINALS

Muckalee 0-6, Railyard 0-6.
Muckalee 0-11, Railyard 0-6.
The Village 2-5, O'Loughlin's/Gaels 1-6.

FINAL

Muckalee 0-11, The Village 0-6

COUNTY FINAL

Thomastown 2-6, Muckalee 0-6
Number of games played: 12.

Junior Football Championship

South

ROUND 1

Carrigeen 2-10, St. Senan's (Kilmacow) 0-0.

ROUND 2

Carrigeen 1-6, Rower-Inistioge 0-6.
Tullogher-Rosbercon 2-9, Piltown 2-7 (disputed game).
Tullogher-Rosbercon 3-10, Piltown 3-3.
Dunnamaggin 4-3, Lamogue 2-3.
Carrickshock 1-10, Bigwood 1-90.
Mooncoin bt Shamrocks.
Glenmore 0-8, St. Patrick's (Kilmacow) 0-4.

ROUND 3

Tullogher-Rosbercon 3-8, Carrigeen 3-6.
Coolagh 1-6, Dunnamaggin 1-5.

Thomastown 3-5, Carrickshock 1-3.

Glenmore 1-9, Mooncoin 0-4.

SEMI-FINALS

Coolagh 2-7, Tullogher-Rosbercon 1-3.
Glenmore 2-8, Thomastown 2-5.

FINAL

Glenmore 3.10, Coolagh 2-3.

North

ROUND 1

Barrowmount 3-5, Fenians (Johnstown) 1-4.
Bennettsbridge 5-7, Ye Faire Citie 1-2.

ROUND 2

Barrowmount 4-10, Sarsfield (Ccahy) 1-2.
Blacks and Whites 3-3, O'Loughlins/Gaels 1-7.
Bennettsbridge 2-6, Dicksboro 1-7.

ROUND 3

Blacks and Whites 0-6, Clara 1-2.
Bennettsbridge 3-5, Castlecomer 2-4.
Danesfort 4-5, Galmoy 1-1.

SEMI-FINALS

Barrowmount 2-7, Blacks and Whites 0-4.
Danesfort 4-7, Bennettsbridge 3-5.

FINAL

Danesfort 1-9, Barrowmount 0-9.

COPUNTY FINAL

Glenmore 1-8, Danesfort 0-2.
Number of games played: 27.

Under 21 Football Championship

South

ROUND 1

Slieverue 5-7, Shamrocks 1-1.

ROUND 2

Slieverue 2-7, Mooncoin 1-7.
Thomastown v Glenmore to be played 6/12/'81.

SEMI-FINALS

Slieverue v Glenmore or Thomastown on 13/12/'81.
Bigwood v Tullogher-Rosbercon on 6/12/'81.

FINAL

Thomastown 1-12, Glenmore 0-5

North

ROUND 1

Clara 2-3, Railyard 1-6.
Clara 1-5, Railyard 1-4.
Dicksboro 3-9, Tullaroan 0-3.

ROUND 2

O'Loughlins/Gaels 4-9, Clara 1-2.

SEMI-FINALS

O'Loughlins/Gaels 0-6, The Village 1-1.
Dicksboro 3-9, Danesfort 2-5.

FINAL

O'Loughlins/Gaels v Dicksboro to be played 13/12 '81

COUNTY FINALS

To be played on 3/1/'82.
Number of games which will be played: 14.

Minor Football Championship Roinn A

North

SEMI-FINALS

O'Loughlins/Gaels 1-8, The Village 2-3.
Dicksboro 2-5, Lisdowney 1-5.

FINAL

O'Loughlins/Gaels 3-5, Dicksboro 1-5.

South

SEMI-FINALS

Thomastown 4-10, Mooncoin 1-4.
Graignamanagh 0-3, Bigwood 0-1 (unfinished).
Both teams disqualified giving Thomastown
a walk-over to final.

COUNTY FINAL

O'Loughlins/Gaels v Thomastown to be played on
20/12/'81.

Number of games which will be played: 6.

Minor Football Championship Roinn B

North

ROUND 1

Bennettsbridge bt Sarsfield (Conahy) by 4 pts.
Danesfort 1-2, Clara 0-2.
Railyard 1-7, Blacks and Whites 2-4.
Railyard 3-6, Blacks and Whites 3-4.
Castlecomer 3-5, Graigue/Ballycallan 1-3.

SEMI-FINALS

Bennettsbridge 2-10, Danesfort 0-6,
Castlecomer 2-6, Railyard 0-6.

South

ROUND 1

Slieverue 3-11, Shamrocks 1-1.
Coolagh 1-9, St. Patrick's (Kilmacow) 1-5.
Piltown bt Tullogher-Rosbercon by 4 pts.

SEMI-FINALS

Piltown 2-5, Coolagh 2-4.

FINAL

Piltown 3-5, Slieverue 0-11.

COUNTY FINAL

Castlecomer v Piltown to be played on 13/12/'81.
Number of games which will be played: 14.

FINAL

Castlecomer 4-5, Bennettsbridge 0-3.

Special Junior Football Championship

North

ROUND 1

Dicksboro 1-5, Ye Faire Citie 1-5.
Dicksboro bt Ye Faire Citie.

FINAL

O'Loughlins/Gaels 1-5, Dicksboro 0-5.

South

FINAL

St. Patrick's (Kilmacow) 0-9, Dunnamaggin 1-5.

COUNTY FINAL

O'Loughlins/Gaels v St. Patrick's (Kilmacow)
to be played on 27/12/'81.

Number of games which will be played: 5.

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Glenmore's title

Dicksboro lost their fourth intermediate hurling final when beaten by a competent and compact Glenmore side in the county decider by two points, 1-11 to 2-6 in a game that provided a real hurling treat.

Glenmore led by 1-5 to 1-4 at the interval after an entertaining and closely contested first half and the winners had it all to do to contain a great Dicksboro fight in the second half. With two minutes left John Marnell dropped a Dicksboro "65" in the square but the Glenmore defence held firm.

Most prominent on this stylish Glenmore sides were Paddy Murphy, Eddie Aylward, Tom Murphy, Des Ennett, Billy Doherty, Ray Heffernan and Christy Heffernan, while Michael Walsh, John Marnell, Tom Maher, Ger Devane, Phil Doyle, Benny McGarry, Jimmy Grace and Paddy Grace excelled for Dicksboro.

Scorers for Glenmore: C. Heffernan (1-2), J. Murphy (0-4), B. Doherty (0-2), Ray Heffernan (0-2), M. O'Connor (0-1), while P. Grace (1-4), S. McCarthy (1-0), P. Mullally (0-1), J. Marnell (0-1) scored for Dicksboro.

Like fathers, like sons

IT IS probably not generally known that Paddy Buggy, president-elect of the G.A.A., and Ned Buggy both winners of all-Ireland senior hurling medals are cousins. And the fathers of both men were also hurlers.

The late Bill Buggy, Paddy Buggy's father won a county junior hurling title with Conahy in the late 1920's. Some time later, after getting employment in Clover Meats he came to live in Ballinamona, Slieverue where Paddy was born. He also played for some time with Slieverue.

Jim Buggy, a nephew of Bill Buggy's also worked with Clover Meats and he played with the great

Mount Sion senior side. He later went to work with Clover Meats in Wexford where Ned Buggy was born. An uncle of Paddy Buggy's on his mother's side, Jack Dooley, Jenkinstown was also on the Conahy team that won the junior title. The younger men inherited the skills of their fathers. They had one thing in common — they were both stylists. Both gave sterling service to their counties and Ned Buggy is still young enough to continue that service to the Model County. Ned Buggy's brother, Seamus won the world doubles handball series in America some years ago partnered by Ned Lyng.

THE TENTH YEAR

This is the tenth year of the Kilkenny G.A.A. Year Book. First published in 1972, a great year for Kilkenny when they scored a double over Cork in the senior and minor All-Ireland finals, they cover a period during which Kilkenny won three more senior All-Ireland titles including their triumphal march through the championship series in 1975 by winning senior, minor and under-21 national titles.

The Year Books would not have been possible without the support of advertisers and contributors. One man who has been associated with all 10 is Tom

Ryall, G.A.A. historian par excellence. Tom Ryall must be one of the best informed authorities on G.A.A. affairs in the country. The amount of information on G.A.A. history which he has at his finger-tips is really unbelievable.

Martin Brett, Milo Hennessy and their fellow workers in the composing, setting and printing departments of the *Kilkenny People* have also played their parts.

The Year Book is not and could not be expected to be a complete record of all the events in the county over a year but it details the most important ones and year by year has looked at some of the major historical events.

YEAR BOOK

THE ROLL OF HONOUR

EIGHTY-SIX county senior hurling championships have been decided since the first in 1887. They were won as follows:

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, 1957.

James Stephens (6): 1935, 1937, 1969, 1975, 1976, 1981.

The Fenians (5): 1970, 1972, 1973, 1974, 1977.

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

Dicksboro (3): 1923, 1926, 1950.

Confederation (3): 1893, 1894, 1896.

Shamrocks (3): 1978, 1979, 1980.

Erin's Own (City) (2): 1905, 1909.

Threecastles (2): 1898, 1903.

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

Johnstown (1): 1914.

Thomastown (1): 1946.

Graigue (1): 1949.

Slieverue (1): 1954.

John Lockes (Callan) (1): 1953.

The Rower-Inistioge (1): 1968.

St. Kieran's Rôle in Colleges Hurling

Next year will see St. Kieran's College celebrate the bicentenary of its foundation and the G.A.A. Congress will be held there.

This Congress will be of great importance to Kilkenny because it will see the inauguration of a Kilkennyman as President of the Association when former all-Ireland hurler Paddy Buggy takes over.

St. Kieran's College was once a Rugby stronghold but it changed over to Gaelic games in the first decade of this century.

When the Leinster Colleges Council was founded in 1910 its first president was Fr. John Doody of St. Kieran's, while its first secretary was the 1916 hero Pádraig Pearse of St. Enda's. Although the Leinster Colleges competitions were started around 1918, St. Kieran's did not enter until 1922 and won both the hurling and football championship in that year.

At that time ecclesiastical students were allowed to play and this resulted in St. Kieran's having a good football team with boys from all over Ireland available for selection.

Both winning teams were captained by Michael Teehan of Tullaroan, and for the record, the teams were:

Hurling: M. Teehan, W. O'Hanlon, J. Dillon, T. Scriben, J. Fitzpatrick, M. Lalor, J. Kennedy, F. Warner, R. Lowry, P. McCormack, J. Kenny, P. Walsh, D. Hughes, J. Coughlan, P.

McDonald, J. Walsh.

Richard Lowry who figured on that victorious team was later Dean at the college and trained a number of St. Kieran's winning teams.

Football: The football team who beat Dominican College (Newbridge) by 1-5 to 0-4 in the final was M. Teehan (capt.); T. Casey, Jack Walsh, P. McCormack, J. Walsh, M. Lalor, T. Brown, J. Dillon, J. Kenny, T. Scriben, J. Fitzpatrick, D. Brophy, P. Walsh, M. Brophy, D. Hughes, L. Brennan and D. Noonan.

St. Kieran's never again won the Leinster Colleges senior football title but they have won two 'B' football titles in 1917 and 1971. St. Kieran's took their next Leinster senior hurling title in 1925 and for the following nine years they took the title on eight occasions only losing out to Coláiste Caoimhín (Glasnevin) in 1930. As a result of these victories St. Kieran's was given custody of the original Leinster Colleges hurling cup.

In 1930 Kilkenny C.B.S. took the Leinster junior colleges hurling cup and thereafter became a force in Leinster Colleges hurling competitions.

The clashes of St. Kieran's and Kilkenny C.B.S. in the 1930's brought a new dimension to colleges' hurling. Kilkenny C.B.S. eventually took the title in 1936 with a side captained by Martin McEvoy (Lisdowney) and including Jim Langton later to become one of Kilkenny's

greatest hurlers.

St. Kieran's figured in the first all-Ireland Colleges final when they lost to St. Flannan's (Ennis) by 5-5 to 3-3.

By a strange coincidence both these colleges top the Roll of Honour in colleges hurling with seven All-Ireland senior hurling titles each.

St. Kieran's took their first title in 1948 when they beat St. Colman's (Fermoy) in Croke Park by 2-12 to 2-2. A member of that winning side is the present Kilkenny - Carlow T.D. Kieran Crotty.

These individual Colleges hurling finals were discontinued after 1948 and when they resumed in 1957 St. Kieran's again took the title when a side captained by Ted Carroll (Lisdowney) staged a great last quarter rally to beat St. Flannan's by 4-2 to 2-7. With 15 minutes to go St. Flannan's led by 2-5 to 0-1 and looked home and dried.

Eddie Keher, who also won a medal in 1957, captained St. Kieran's to victory in 1959, while another Rower-Inistioge man Pierce Freeney was captain when the title was brought back in 1961. St. Kieran's took the title again in 1965 when captained by Conahy's Tom Nolan they beat a Limerick C.B.S. side powered by Eamon Grimes.

St. Kieran's took the all-Ireland again in 1971 when they beat St. Finbarr's (Farrenferris) in the final by 8-6 to 5-8 with a side that contained future all-Ireland medal winners in Brian Cody, Billy

Fitzpatrick and Nicky Brennan. St. Kieran's took their seventh and last title in 1975 when they beat Coláiste Iognaid Rís (Cork) in Dungarvan by 6-9 to 2-3.

Since then they have lost one all-Ireland to St. Colman's (Fermoy) in 1977 and have been out of the Leinster honours list since.

This is certainly a long time for St. Kieran's without a Leinster title but the display of their juveniles in taking the Leinster title in 1981 suggests that the good days are again on the way back. Quite a number of this team figured on the St. Patrick's team which won the Féile na nGael and brought the honours to Kilkenny for the first time in 1981.

It is, of course, much more difficult for St. Kieran's to have a good team nowadays as formerly they drew their players from all over Kilkenny and part of Laois with other good players coming along from Wexford, Waterford and Tipperary. The rise of Vocational schools in Castlecomer, Thomastown, Slieverue, Ballyhale, Graignamanagh, Mooncoin and

Johnstown where boys can now take their Leaving Certificate has meant that pupils from these areas now go to secondary school at home and this the selection area for St. Kieran's has been drastically reduced.

Although St. Kieran's has dominated Leinster Colleges hurling, their input to inter county hurling has not matched that of Kilkenny C.B.S. particularly in the 1930's, but many of the greats of St. Kieran's went for the priesthood and were thus lost to the game, answering the nobler call.

Nicky Rackard of Wexford was one of St. Kieran's best known past pupils and he figured on the St. Kieran's side of the late 1930's and also in 1940. His brother, Willie also went to school in St. Kierans but left early.

Fr. Tommy Maher who played in the 1945 all-Ireland final, was a team-mate of the late Nicky Rackard on St. Kieran's teams.

Mark Marnell, winner of an all-Ireland medal in 1947 was on the first St. Kieran's team to play in a colleges all-Ireland in 1944.

Players like Eddie Keher, Ted Carroll, Billy Fitzpatrick, Kieran Purcell, Brian Cody, Paddy Prendergast and Nicky Brennan, all of whom won all-Ireland medals with Kilkenny in recent years, have all learned hurling at St. Kieran's.

John Maher, who won an all-Ireland medal in 1957, is another ex St. Kieran's player, while John Mitchell (Wexford), Kevin Long (Limerick), Dermot Sheedy (Clare) and Declan Fitzpatrick (Waterford) have all worn the black and white jersey.

Mick Delaney, the present secretary of the Leinster Council, won an all-Ireland Colleges medal in 1965 with St. Kieran's while Kilkenny's Central Council representative Nicholas Purcell won a Leinster Colleges medal with St. Kieran's in 1943.

Tom Ryall, the present Secretary of Bórd na nÓg played for St. Kieran's in 1952, losing to Roscrea. So looking at this list one can see the part St. Kieran's has played not alone in supplying players to Kilkenny hurling but also officials. Long may it continue so.

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THE SCORE ON SCÓR

IN THE preservation of our cultural heritage the G.A.A. has played a vital role and continues to do so. Apart from the games it has encouraged cultural development in other ways, particularly in the promotion of our language, music and dancing.

It was with the object of extending this aspect of its activities that the Scor competitions were introduced in 1971. This was a very praiseworthy idea and it seems a pity therefore that Scor did not get the support it deserved.

Though started in 1971 Scor did not get off the ground in this county until 1972 and despite repeated appeals Kilkenny's contribution though satisfactory to an extent, is, possibly, not all that it might.

Tom Ryall, a man of apparently limitless energy was first secretary and held the position until 1974 when demands on his services in so many other ways made it impossible for him to continue and he handed over to another man, Phil Cahill of Kilmanagh who has been equally energetic and enthusiastic.

Scór na nOg

It has been the practice to hold the Scor na nOg competitions before Christmas and the most prominent among the clubs in this county that have been participating over the years are: O'Loughlins; James Stephens; Mooncoin and Dicksboro.

The McCauley family (Dicksboro) have won the

Leinster title on three occasions and this brought them into three all-Ireland finals in 1979, 1980 and 1981. They lost the 1981 all-Ireland final by one mark.

Mary Moore of Tullaroan won the county final in the solo singing competition but was beaten in the Leinster final.

The O'Loughlins ceili dancers were also narrowly beaten in a Leinster final.

The Dicksboro set dancers took part also but they, too, were out of luck being out a few percentage points.

Miss Denieffe representing O'Loughlins took part in the Leinster final in solo singing.

Incidentally the McCauley family provide the music for the ceili dancing and set dancing.

Senior Scór

The senior Scór also began in Kilkenny in 1972 and it was generally the same clubs that took part — all the city clubs and a few from the North and the South. The numbers taking part have risen appreciably over the past few years and the signs are that this will continue.

In 1972 J. Bourke, Urlingford-Johnstown won the county title in solo singing and he went on to take the Leinster title. He

put up a very good show in the all-Ireland final.

Other clubs who have taken a prominent part in the senior Scor are: James Stephens and O'Loughlins (both in ceili dancing).

Mooncoin: A group of musicians from this famed G.A.A. stronghold won the county final and like James Stephens and O'Loughlins put up a great show in the Leinster finals without bringing home any awards.

The set dancing competitions have been the highlight of the Scór com-

petitions over the years and winners in this section are the Graigue-Ballycallan set. They won the Leinster final in successive years in 1977 and 1978, thus qualifying for two all-Ireland finals.

The James Stephens set dancers have also been prominent in the past few years while this year a group of set dancers from Tullagher put up a very good show.

Others taking part include: The Rower Inistioge ballad group who also had a novelty act. Eddie Keher was active in having The Rower-Inistioge taking part in the competition.

The officers of Scór are: Rev. T. Murphy, Rev. Fr. Dunphy (Adm.); Rev. M. Barron C.C., Eddie Keher, Tom Ryall, Miss H. Mulhall; Phil Cashin; Paddy Mullins; John Healy and Ned Buggy with Harry Bryan and Phil Cahill as joint secretaries.

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Bord na nÓg

-A GREAT FIRST YEAR

At the time of writing, 16 of the 18 competitions run by Bord na nÓg have been completed. The two competitions still to be decided are the minor football championships Roinn A and Roinn B.

Both these competitions will be completed by Christmas, weather permitting, with the "B" final between Castlecomer and Piltown fixed for St. John's Park and the "A" final between O'Loughlin/Gaels and Thomastown at Danesfort.

This was the first year of Bord na nÓg and a successful year it proved with five new competitions created, thus giving youthful players extra competition. The new competitions were leagues in minor

hurling, Roinn A, B and C. The minor "C" hurling championship and the "B" minor football championship.

The most successful club was Thomastown who took five titles and still has a chance of taking another. Thomastown brought off the double in minor hurling with easy victories over Erin's Own (Castlecomer) in both deciders. The championship game was very one-sided with Thomastown winning by 5-12 to 2-1 while in the league they triumphed by 2-12 to 1-5. Thomastown had the assistance of three of the Kilkenny minor team that took All-Ireland honours in David Hoyne, Joe O'Hara and John

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Bord na nOg

—A GREAT FIRST YEAR

Continued

Donnelly. In addition to these they had outstanding players in Billy Doyle, Liam O'Neill, Michael Cody and John Dunphy.

John Coleman, who also figured in the under-16 winning team took the "Man of the Match" award for his display in the minor final.

Erin's Own, too, had some good players and more will be heard of players like John Brennan in goal, Paul Rice, Peadar Healy, Seamus Coogan, Brian Young and Johnny Boran.

Thomastown took three titles in the under-16 grade. They had a double in the hurling, beating Bennettsbridge in the championship by 3-4 to 0-6 while in the league they beat the same opposition by 3-11 to 2-9. Amongst those who played well in the under-16 grade were players like Seamus O'Hara, Ger Walsh, John Coleman, Donal Lanigan and Michael Donnelly, all of whom won minor hurling medals. In addition, Barry Lennon, John Whelan, Brendan Treacy and Peter O'Hanrahan also played well. Best for Bennettsbridge were John Brennan, a fine goalkeeper; Pakie Lennon, Tom Lennon, Lar Walsh and Owen Lawlor.

Thomastown reversed their League final defeat in the Under-16 Football League when they beat Dicksboro by 2-8 to 1-4. Thomastown fielded 14 of their hurling team in the winning of the football title. Brendan Maher, who figured in the under-16 hurling league victory, was the only change from the championship winning hurling team. John Whelan did not figure on the football team. Thomastown's best players in football were Seamus O'Hara, John Coleman, Barry Lennon and Ger Walsh.

Galmoy was the next most successful club with four victories. They won the under-16 hurling Roinn C league and championship and also the minor hurling Roinn C league and championship. They had a double over Dunnamaggin in the minor hurling championship and the under-16 hurling championship. St. Patrick's (Ballyragget) were their victims in the minor hurling league while Carrickshock were overcome in the under-16 hurling league.

The results were: Minor hurling championship, Galmoy 4-3, Dunnamaggin 0-8. Minor hurling league: Galmoy 6-5, St. Patrick's (Ballyragget) 3-3. Under-16 hurling championship, Galmoy 5-7, Dunnamaggin 4-5. Under-16 hurling league: Galmoy 1-10, Carrickshock 0-11.

Players who figured on all four winning teams were Pat Ryan, Martin McEvoy, Tommy Drennan, Nicky Grace, Gerry Drennan and Jim Bergin. Others to play well for the minors were Anthony Bergin, Paul Fogarty, Pat McEvoy (a great prospect) and John Duggan, while for the under-16-s, Michael Campion, Robert Delaney, Eamon Herke and John Delaney.

Mullinavat put up a double in the minor hurling B League and championship. They beat Lisdowney in the championship in a replay by 5-5 to 3-6 after the sides had played a thrilling draw, 1-8 each. In this game Mullinavat were four points in arrears with four minutes to go but grabbed the equalising scores before the finish. In the replay they played a great second half to take the title. They fielded out the exact same team as won the replay against John Lockes (Callan) in the league final.

The sheet anchor of this Mullinavat side was a magnificent half-back line of Sean Murray, Dan Power and Joe Walsh. The artistry of John McDonald up front also played a big part in these victories. In addition to the four players mentioned, four other players from this minor team went on to win Under-21 "B" medals. The additional four were John Dunphy, a great goalkeeper; John Haberlin, Francie Waters and Liam Law.

Lisdowney had good players in Paul Brennan, Eddie Wall, another All-Ireland medallist in 1981; Laurence McEvoy and Gerry Henderson. John Lockes had good players in Michael O'Shea, Brian O'Neill, Michael Maher, Declan Wall and Jim Lynch.

Callan made up for their loss at minor hurling by taking the Under-16 Roinn "B" championship and figured as runners-up in the league, losing to Urlingford. Callan had an easy win the championship against a youthful Tullaroan team by 7-13 to 1-2. Callan was well served by James Quigley, John Holden, Sean Hogan, Jimmy Corcoran, Liam Egan, Bosco Bryan and Aidan O'Dwyer.

Eamon Holland in the Tullaroan goal was brilliant for the losers and saved his side from a heavier defeat.

Urlingford — after thinking they had won the league by 3-5 to 2-6, the referee declared it a draw: 3-6 each — had their moment of glory when they won the replay against Callan by 3-4 to 1-3. Urlingford's best players were Joe Cody, a staunch full back; Milo Phelan, Des Fitzgerald, Brian Burke and Jimmy Queally.

Dicksboro were impressive winners of the under-16 Roinn A football league, beating Thomastown by 4-6 to 1-3. However, they were surprised in the championship, losing to the same opposition. Dicksboro's best players were Maurice Wall, a great goalkeeper, who brought off some fantastic saves in both games; Frank Garvan, Pat Cass, Billy Walsh and Simon Walton.

Bennettsbridge, who suffered so many frustrating defeats during the year, eventually took a title when they won the under-16 "B" football championship. Bennettsbridge beat Piltown by 3-5 to 1-3. This victory was some compensation for three defeats in Under-16 competitions, having lost both the league and championship in hurling and the football league to Slieverue by one point — 2-3 to 1-5. Their best players on the football team were Lar Walsh, Tom Lennon, John Ryan, Owen Lawlor, John Brennan and John Phelan.

Slieverue took the under-16 football "B" league title when they held out against Bennettsbridge for a great win. Slieverue had outstanding players in Michael Sutton, Willie Fleming, John J. Murphy, Michael Frisby and Laurence Walsh.

Diarmuid carried best wishes with him



Best wishes from home. . . Kilkenny Co. Board chairman and secretary, Michael O'Neill (right) and Paddy Grace (left) give Conahy man and Offaly trainer, Diarmuid Healy, a word of encouragement and extend best wishes for success before the senior hurling all-Ireland against Galway.



Le Dea Mhéin ó Chomhairle Laighean C.L.G

M. Ó Dubhsláine
Runaí



GLENMORE – Intermediate Hurling Champions 1981



Back row (left to right): Ray Heffernan, Johnny Murphy, Bill Doherty, Mick Kirwan, Christy Heffernan, Eddie Aylward, Des Ennett, Paddy Murphy. Front row (left to right): Pat O'Connor, Mick O'Connor, Seamus Boyle, John Heffernan (captain), Mick Phelan, Tom Murphy, John Kirwan, Francis Ennett.



Eye on the ball . . . Dicksboro centre-forward Paul Mullally gets in a shot at goal despite the efforts of a Glenmore defender. Des Ennett (headband) moves in to cut off the danger as Pat Hickey and Bill Doherty await developments.

Should G.A.A. players be paid?

The G.A.A., one of the world's leading amateur sporting organisations may some day have to face up to the fact that professionalism may overcome. Gaelic football and hurling are games enjoyed by thousands of Irishmen who pay at the turnstiles for the privilege of watching their heroes do battle. But, in marked contrast to many other sports, not a shilling of the 'gate' goes to the main participants – the players. Gaelic players, it is argued, do their bit for "the love of the game". Granted, hurling and football are second nature to many Irishmen and women but will the commitment demanded in the eighties eventually bring a demand for wages.

We hear stories of how players in places like Dublin and Kerry travel hundreds of miles each week to high powered training sessions.

NEW BREED

The new breed of manager such as Kevin Heffernan and Mick O'Dwyer demand that their players give 100 per cent. This means strenuous training, often on cold, Winter evenings, leaving the wife and children by the warm hearth. For successful teams there are the rewards, but, what about the also rans? How long will they continue to sacrifice time and energy for "the love of the game". Of course it must also become a burden for the successful sides. For the committed player there are many snags. The children have many interests but daddy is always pursuing his own. Work also suffers as sometimes it is imperative to get time off and overtime is a luxury enjoyed only by workmates.

G.A.A. WIDOWS

Then of course there are the moans of the Gaelic football or

hurling widow.

From time to time we hear of the player taking a rest, getting away from it all. Players with dual commitment are really tempting fate. However, as compensation for the hard training there is always the roar of the crowd, the all Ireland medal, the crack with the lads and much more.

Recently a leading Gaelic football team trainer said that if teams required a professional training they should be prepared to cough up a professional fee – he mentioned the sum of £10,000 a year. Is this a sign of things to come? We hope not, for paying players would be completely against the ideals of the founders of the G.A.A.

It would be far healthier for the Association if it could maintain complete amateur status. Let's hope all keep playing for "the love of the game".

ANSWERS ANSWERS ANSWERS ANSWERS ANSWERS ANSWERS ANSWERS

(Questions on Page 17)

1. Kilkenny 0-14, Cork 2-7, in 1947. Tipperary 0-16, Dublin 1-12, in 1961.
2. Ollie O'Connor.
3. Philip Kennedy (Tipperary) in 1980 & 1981.
4. Pdraig Horan (Leinster) and Joe McKenna (Munster) in 1981. Both are Offaly men.
5. Joe Wall.
6. Christy Ring — 8 hurling, Jack Lynch 5 hurling, 1 football, and Danno Keeffe 7 football with Kerry.
7. Vin Bastion refereed 1945 S.H. final Kilkenny v Tipperary. Helped Waterford beat Dublin in 1948.
8. Connie Buckley 1941, Jack Lynch 1942, Mick Kennefick 1943 and Sean Condon 1944.
9. Ardán O Riain.
10. Pat Delaney (Kilkenny) 3 goals.
11. Antrim.
12. Thomastown.
13. Brendan Cummins.
14. Tom Donoghue U-21 hurling with Galway in 1972.
15. 1926.
16. Mick Lyng (Rower-Inistioge).
17. Seamus Cleere in 1963.
18. Sean Stack (Clare).
19. Mick Roche (Tipperary) in 1967 and 1968.
20. Colm Sheehan (Cork).
21. Tony Doran (Wexford) in 1971 & 1977.
22. Four times — 1937, 1945, 1950 & 1964.
23. Pat McDonnell (Cork).
24. Francis Loughnane (Tipperary).
25. Tadgh O'Connor (Tipperary), and John Connolly (Galway).
26. Liam King.
27. Loughlin "Locky" Byrne.
28. Michael "Babs" Keating.
29. U.C.C. in 1970.
30. Jack Mulcahy.