

★
IN DEPTH LOOK AT
HURLING LEAGUE AND
ALL-IRELAND VICTORIES

KILKENNY GAA YEARBOOK 1982

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No. 11



IN COLOUR

- The Shamrocks ● James Stephens Minor and Senior Teams ● Action Shots From All-Ireland
- Paddy Buggy, G.A.A. President

FEATURE ARTICLES ON ● EIRE OG ● THE CHAMPIONS OF '57 ● SCHOOLS GAMES

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Editorial

Not enough in with a chance



JOHN KNOX
Editor

SUCCESS in some fields is not easily recognised. Not so in sport. Trophies and awards distinguish the good from the bad.

Nothing braces a Kilkenny hurling follower for a harsh Winter more than victory in the big one. Whoever they like can have the rest, if the McCarthy Cup can be brought to the Noreside. We have won it 22 times now, and the novelty has not worn off yet. It never will!

A senior all-Ireland victory has an unusual influence on games locally. It reverses the regular trend. The normal procedure is to foster games among young players. A senior all-Ireland win sends such a ripple of enthusiasm and pride from one end of the county to the other, that youngsters naturally take to the game.

That is all very fine, but the promotion work must never be neglected. The work should be reinforced when at the top. Standards must be maintained. It should always be remembered that the top of a tree doesn't grow of its own accord!

The message is the same for the G.A.A. from top to bottom. In these days of growing counter attractions, the promotion of hurling and football must be a full-time job. No half measures. The old idea that 'the games will survive and grow because they are part of our heritage' is old fashioned.

At a quick glance at the counties in Ireland, really, how many are in contention for the main honours? In football you have Offaly, Kerry, Cork, Dublin, Galway and to a lesser extent Roscommon and Down. Then in hurling today you have Kilkenny, Cork again, Offaly again, Wexford, Limerick, Galway, Clare and it is debatable about Tipperary nowadays.

That makes a dozen counties from 32 who are good enough to make it. Not a good average. It is only natural that one will be stronger than another, but to have 20 counties almost without hope suggests something is wrong.

Perhaps the right way forward involves more coaching, on all sides. Men like our own Pat Henderson and Diarmuid Healy, Mick O'Dwyer, Eugene McGee, Kevin Heffernan and Joe McGrath have helped counties improve with careful coaching. Unfortunately, the idea of proper coaching is slow to take off. So for another while yet we can expect nearly 20 counties to be there just to make up the numbers. What a pity!

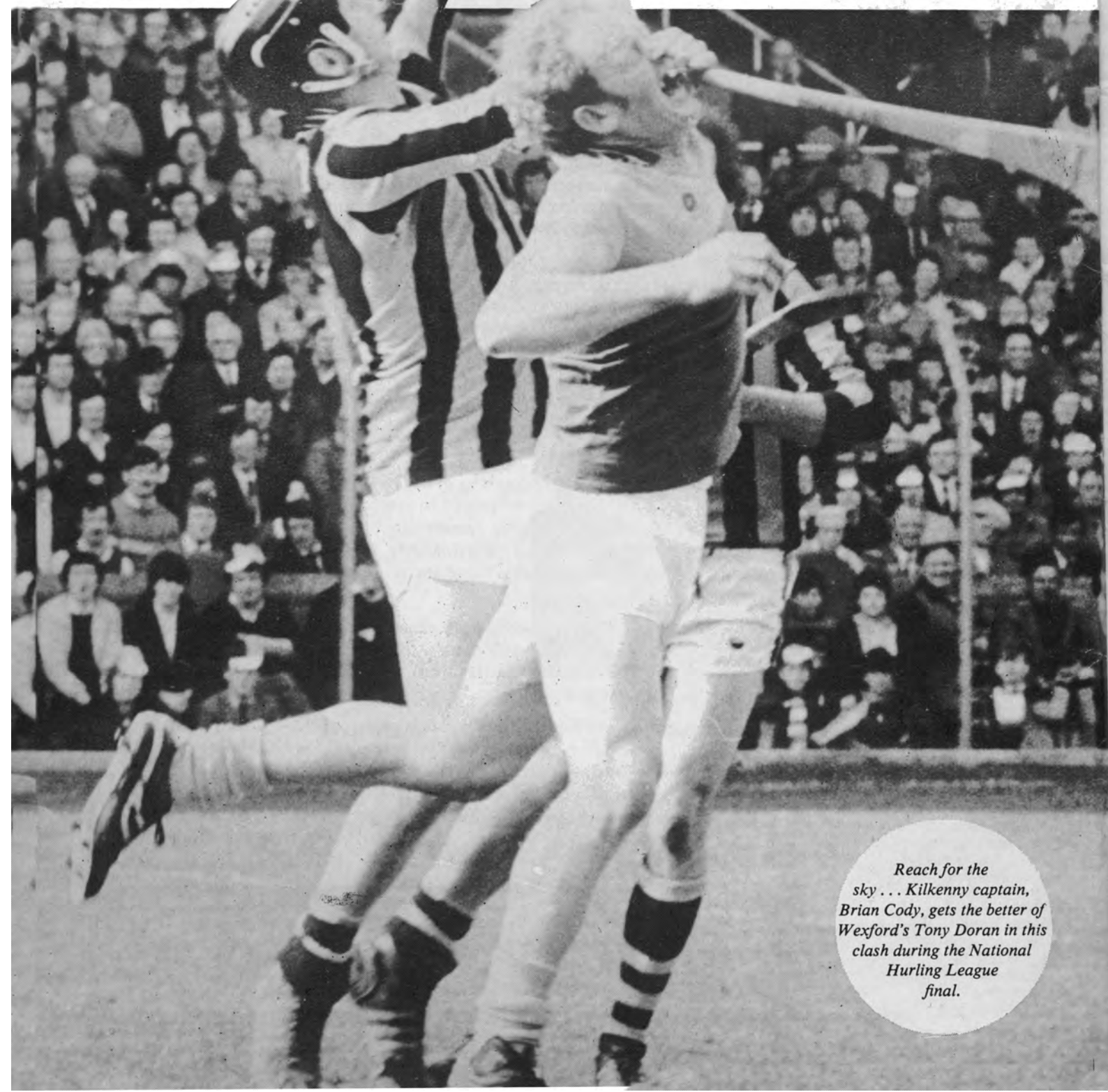
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Close Encounter



Reach for the sky . . . Kilkenny captain, Brian Cody, gets the better of Wexford's Tony Doran in this clash during the National Hurling League final.

Paying players would spoil the fun

G.A.A. players should be paid, if not all the time, at least for All-Ireland finals! That is a point of view that is often thrown about. The top players in other sports make money, why not Gaelic players?

"It just wouldn't work", was the cold summary from Co. Board secretary Paddy Grace, a man who had a club and inter-county career which lasted over 20 years. "Gaelic players are in it for the enjoyment. The attraction is different to any other sport.

"When would you start and finish paying?" Paddy asked. "Here in Kilkenny we might use 35 to 40 county players in the one year. You would need a mathematician to keep track of it all. Anyway, I don't think it would go down right with players or, indeed, spectators".

The county secretary for 34 years said he had heard the talk about paying Gaelic players, in some cases only for All-Irelands.

"To pay men in All-Ireland finals would bring a form of class distinction into the games", he argued. "It just wouldn't work. You start with paying one man, and then a star would want more.

"You wouldn't know where it would end. It would not be fair to make one thing of county players and then another of the club players. Remember, they are both members of the one Association. They are all amateurs and it wouldn't be right to place one above the other.



● Paddy Grace

"You look at it this way – you have two men playing for the one club. Next week one is picked for the county team and the other stands on the terrace or sits in the stand and supports him. The county man gets paid. How do you think the club man would react when that other player would come back from inter-county duty? No, it would cause more trouble than it would be worth.

NOT POSSIBLE

Paddy won two senior All-Ireland

titles in 1939 and 1947, and he said that if it was mentioned in his day that players should be paid there would have been a riot.

"To make it work at all you would want players paid by clubs as well", he argued. "No way is that possible. Where would you get the money?

"To bring money into Gaelic games would change the people who are keeping the G.A.A. going. Payment for playing will never be part of the Association.

"Amateurism is what it is all about. The games are in-bred in the players and they strive for perfection. Like in all walks of life, some shine through while others don't. But you don't treat one any different than the other".

The secretary has always pushed the idea that the players are the "No. 1 People". Even the highest men in office take a back seat to the players, in Paddy's eyes.

"The county players get a fair 'do' here in Kilkenny", he explained without making any bones about it. Using the fond term of "the lads", he said they are always well looked after.

"They got the best treatment when we had nothing, and they will continue to get it", he declared.

So that the players can enjoy the odd perk, the secretary is all for sponsorship, once it doesn't get bigger than the actual games.

CO. BOARD HELPS

"Players deserve little perks like the presents business people give them when they are in finals. I would like to thank the people who give these gifts. I know the players appreciate them".

And for occasions like the All-Stars tour to America, the Co. Board helps the players because it wants to, and not for any other reason.

"This year in Kilkenny we brought off a fantastic double. Trainer-coach Pat Henderson got a magnificent response from the players. Most people saw the team training in the build-up to the All-Ireland, but I saw them in the 'Park on miserable, wet and cold Winter nights. Money didn't matter to those lads. They were driven by that something special which makes the G.A.A. unique", he said.

"In Kilkenny we try and treat the players as we think they like to be treated. That will always be the way. And they have never let us down yet".



M. J. RYAN Galmoy

They say every cloud has a silver lining, and so it was when darkness descended after the county under-21 team lost in the championship. The one

bright note was the promise shown by bustling forward M. J. Ryan. Later he guided his club under-21 team to victory in the 'B'

championship. In some games he literally carried the team. One to watch out for in the future as a senior inter-county player. He is also a good footballer.



PAUDIE LANNON Thomastown United

At one time several League of Ireland soccer teams were anxious to sign-up the fleet-footed Thomastown United player, who won an Oscar Traynor (soccer) medal with

the Kilkenny and District League (1976). Paudie is an all-rounder. He was a brilliant minor and under-21 player with Kilkenny and some

classy displays in the intermediate grade gained him due recognition with the county senior selectors. He is a van salesman.



PAT RYAN Young Irelands (Gowran)

Last year Kilkenny were hammered in the under-21 All-Ireland against Tipperary. One player who starred for the losers that day was Pat

Ryan. A one-time double winner of the Féile na nGael skills competition, he has proved himself a man for the big occasion. He is a first-class

defender. He has been honoured at county under-14, minor and under-21 level. Could the next jump be onto the senior team?



FRANK HOLOHAN Shamrocks

This exciting young defender has been one of the most consistent Shamrocks' defenders over the past five years. He shared in all the

successes of the club, but he was called to duty with the United Nations forces in the Lebanon and missed this year's senior hurling victory

over James Stephens. He is equally effective on the half-back or full-back line. He is an Officer in the Army.



BILLY BOURKE Talbot's Inch

The late John Joe Gilmartin was, arguably, the greatest handballer of all time. Promising young Talbot's Inch player Billy Bourke has shown such promise over the

past few years that he can become another of the all-time 'greats' of the local game. Equally adroit with right or left, he has been almost unbeatable in under-

age competitions. This year he made it with the 'men' when he won a place in the prestigious Top Ace competition run by R.T.E.



ANN DOWNEY St. Paul's

Defender Ann has won four All-Ireland senior camogie medals with Kilkenny, although still in her early twenties. She has helped St.

Paul's to countless local and national successes. She is daughter of former All-Ireland senior hurling medal winner Shem Downey. She is

also active in the administrative side of the game. She is a clerk with Lenehan's, fruit importers.

Players proved chairman wrong



MICHAEL O'NEILL

HE HAS been Kilkeny Co. Board chairman since 1969, but this year was Michael O'Neill's most enjoyable term since he took office.

"When you collect the National League and all-Ireland senior hurling titles, you just have to be satisfied", the respected Kilmacow official grinned. "And remember, we scored another success by the efficient way we organised Congress in the city".

A 49-year gap was bridged when the Nore-siders beat Wexford and Cork respectively in those deciders, a glorious feat the chairman thought was impossible in the present game.

"Really, I didn't think it was possible to win the double these days", he remarked. "I reckoned without the dedication of the players and the influence of Pat Henderson. They were at it hammer-and-thongs from last October with only a very small break at Christmas. It was truly a great achievement."

The insurance official cast his mind back to those dull October days when it all started and Kilkeny were in Division II of the League. The aim then was to do well in the League, and win the championship.

"Last year every game we played the lads were being pushed", he ex-

plained. "We made good progress in the League and all of a sudden we were in the shake-up and it was too late to turn back.

PLAYERS IN THE SPIRIT

"That is not to say we wanted out, but we didn't want to push the players too far. We just took it as it came from there on, but by then the players were in the spirit of things and there was no holding them. The League final victory was for the players".

The chairman was full of praise for the way Kilkeny supporters rallied behind the team after two bad years. And the patience shown helped too.

"In fairness, the followers showed great patience. You have to hand it to them, they stayed with the team", he said. "At times we were experimenting, but still they never became too demanding.

"Kilkeny supporters can be tough, but obviously they realised what had happened and what needed to be done. And they were prepared to wait and give things a chance. I would like to thank them for that".

Michael was as mystified about the slump during 1980 and 1981 as anyone. He felt there was basically an all-Ireland winning team there

because Kilkeny had won in 1979 and all those players were still around.

"It didn't add up at all when we couldn't get out of Division II at the first attempt", he mused.

There was no mystery surrounding what happened this season, and according to Michael, the formula for success "was dedication, pure and simple". He said this came from all sides — players,

selectors and trainer-coach, Pat Henderson.

CHAMPIONSHIP IS THE ONE

The chairman conceded that supporters would like to see the double landed this year again, but he warned against wanting too much.

"We just can't push the players in the League again this time", he explained. "Okay, if we can do well without putting in the same effort that is fine. This year the championship is the one. If we pressurise the players now, there is no way we will be around come September".

But there is no way Kilkeny are going to rest on their laurels.

"Just because we have brought off the double we have not lost our ambition. We are not at the top of the list for all-Ireland senior titles won yet", he said in a veiled warning to all the rest with their eyes on the McCarthy Cup.



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● NED CURRAN

Out goes Ned and in comes Ted



● TED CARROLL

THE Northern Board headed into the future from January under a new leader when Ned Curran (Emeralds) stepped down as chairman.

The former Army captain was chairman of the 'Board for 14 long years, and it was with great regret, but happy memories, that he vacated the post.

"The decision to give up was not reached lightly", the sprightly 71-year-old told convention in the Community hall, Freshford. "I think 14 years is enough to spend as chairman of any one body. There were good times and bad during my term, but I can safely say Gaelic games have made big strides".

Several clubs tried to get Mr. Curran to change his mind at the last minute and nominated him for the post of chairman, but he stood by his decision and finished up. Such a gesture by clubs just goes to prove how popular the Emeralds man was, and how highly thought of he was in the North.

Anyone who has ever held a post of responsibility knows how hard it is to be firm, and remain popular at the same time. But Ned Curran managed it, and, no doubt, his experience from his Army days helped him in his dealings with people.

Originally from Johnstown, Ned joined the Emeralds club after he left the Army — he was on reserve for years — in 1950 after serving in Cork, Limerick the West of Ireland and the Curragh. He was secretary and chairman of the Emeralds on separate occasions and in 1968 in Ballyragget he was elected chairman of the Northern Board.

KEPT BALL ROLLING

"I always played the game quietly and kept the ball rolling", Ned recalled. "I was honoured the first day I was elected chairman and I hope I have served every club well".

The former chairman was a county minor and under-21 selector and players who came under his wing were Eddie Keher, Pat Delaney, Frank Cummins and Phil Larkin. He represented Kilkenny at over 25 meetings of Congress and he served on various sub-committees of the Co. Board down through the years.

"In Kilkenny there has always been good co-operation between clubs and this made the work of the Northern Board easier", Ned explained. "This is a fine quality in club delegates in Kilkenny, and with a great improvement in the various Boards over the past few years, the games are in good

hands".

Obviously Northern clubs were pleased with the way Ned Curran handled things during his term of office. When he retired he was made numerous presentations by clubs at their annual functions, and the Northern Board also made him a presentation.

During the past few months the former chairman has remained active on the Gaelic scene locally, and he was one of the trusted people who helped organise Congress in Kilkenny. He will continue to work for the G.A.A., and the 'Association will be all the richer for that.

In all, there were seven nominations for the post of chairman, and after a vote, former county hurling star, Ted Carroll (Lisdowney) was installed in office in place of Mr. Curran. Ted won all-Ireland senior hurling medals with Kilkenny in 1963, 1967 and 1969. He also figured on the 1966 National League winning team.

Ted commenced his inter-county career as a centre-back and later moved to corner-back. In 1969 he received the supreme accolade when he won the Texaco award for hurling.

He works as an ACOT advisor with Kilkenny County Committee of Agriculture.

In recognition of her services as Secretary to the County Camogie Board prior to her election as National President of the Camogie Association, Mary Fennelly was presented with an inscribed silver tray at a County Board meeting in the Metropole Hotel. She is pictured (left) receiving the tray from Liz Neary, the new county secretary, on behalf of clubs in the county. Included in the picture are Billy Malone, County Chairman (centre) and delegates to the Board meeting.



OLDEST MEDAL WINNER DIED

FOUR times all-Ireland medal winner, Mr. J. T. Power from Piltown, Co. Kilkenny, died early in the year. He was the oldest living all-Ireland senior hurling medal winner. He was aged 99.

The late Mr. Power won all-Ireland honours with Kilkenny in 1907, 1911, 1912 and 1913. He missed a possible fifth in 1909 because of a club dispute.

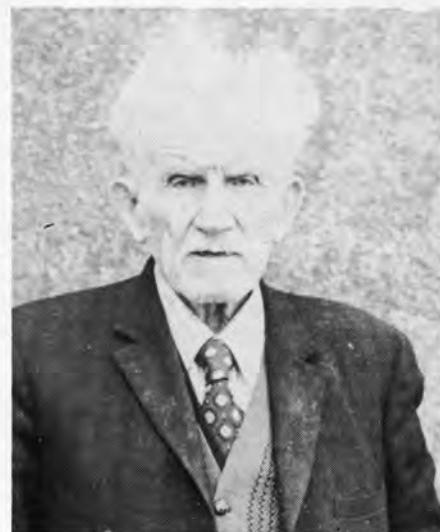
John played on the Leinster team that won the Railway Shield outright in 1908 when they beat Munster, represented by Tipperary. At that time the teams were 17-a-side and 15 Kilkenny men were joined by former President of the G.A.A., the late Bob O'Keeffe and Mike Cummins from Wexford. Mr. Power won two Kilkenny senior hurling championships with Mooncoin in 1913 and 1916. He first played in the Kilkenny championship in 1903 with Piltown. Before that he had played

with Thomas Davis hurling club in Dublin where he worked for some years as a civil servant. When he packed up that job, he returned to work on the family farm in Piltown.

When he first pulled on a Kilkenny jersey he played outfield. This was in 1907 in a challenge match against Dublin. But it was as a goalkeeper that J.T. made his name.

John Power played two county finals with Piltown and was captain on both occasions. They lost both to Tullaroan in 1904 (6-14 to 1-6) and in 1910 (7-1 to 3-0).

In an article on John T. Power in the Kilkenny G.A.A. Yearbook, Peter Holohan once wrote: "John T. Power is a symbol of hurling history in Kilkenny — a man who was a legend in his own lifetime". Following Mr. Power's death, his family presented his magnificent trophy collection to the Co. Board,



to be placed in a Kilkenny Gaelic games museum.

The only medal missing from his fine collection is the one from the 1912 all-Ireland which he gave to a priest who was going to Australia.



St. Mary's were a strong force in the forties. Here is one of their teams. Back row (l. to r.): Paddy Little, E. Walsh, John Breen, Jack Bradley, Tom Ruth, Mick Loughman. Middle row (l. to r.): Jimmy O'Connell, Gerry Lynch, Denis Doherty, Paddy Kavanagh, Mick Tynan, Ned Neary, P. J. Sweeney, Sean Durney. Front (l. to r.): Peter Lennon, Mick Berry, Ned O'Donoghue, Paddy Grace, P. J. Garvan, Mick Devane, J. Power.

BUGGY THE THIRD IN LINE



Kilkenny man Paddy Buggy (Slieverue) who was elected President of the G.A.A. at Congress which was held at St. Kieran's College.

BUGGY CAN BE ONE OF THE GREATEST

SLIEVERUE man, Paddy Buggy, may be the 27th. President in line of the biggest amateur organisation in the country, but he has an awful lot in common with the ordinary members of the Gaelic Athletic Association. Like the general club chairman or secretary, Paddy has to earn his daily bread and his labours for the 'Association come under the broad heading of 'a hobby'.

The President's wife of 24-years, Mrs. Peggy Buggy, the former Miss Irish from Glenmore, summed it up as many a woman around the country who has a husband deeply involved in Gaelic games would: "Rather than operating the G.A.A. around our marriage, our marriage is operated around the G.A.A."

No doubt, that strikes a familiar chord with many a woman who finds herself a sports widow from time to time. But Mr. Buggy's active involvement has been so long that his wife understands fully, and so too does his family, Bernard (21), John (20), Gerard (17) and little Louise (8).

During his spare time the President likes nothing better than to watch a good hurling game where the atmosphere is best, in the middle of the crowd on the bank in Thurles, Cork, Kilkenny, or at any major hurling ground. But the demands of being President are such that he will have to forego this piece of enjoyment, and instead he will have to take his place among the dignitaries.

Not that that will be any toil either. Once it is for the good of the G.A.A., then Paddy Buggy is a happy man anywhere.

Demanding Term

Now in his 53rd. year, he has grown up in the Association. He willingly combines his work with Kilkenny Co. Council with that of the G.A.A., and both masters are satisfied.

He will serve during what should be a demanding term, which will include the Centenary year (1984) celebrations of the Association. And so that few calls on the President will go unanswered, Paddy has decided to use fully the structures of the G.A.A. and the vice-Presidents will be brought into a more active role, while Paddy himself will attend as many functions as is humanly possible.

The former Kilkenny hurler and all-Ireland senior hurling medal winner of 1957, was installed as President-elect at the 1981 Congress in Killarney. It was during that 12 month apprenticeship to then President, Paddy MacFlynn (Down) that Mr. Buggy really proved what a magnificent choice the delegates had made for the next President.

At every function and club meeting Paddy attended all over Ireland, he was there with prepared script in hand. On all occasions he had a message worth listening to, and it was no co-incidence that he managed to make so many headlines during that time.

The new G.A.A. President is not a flamboyant character. He is not a headline grabber. Neither is he controversial. He is as solid as a rock and is a positive thinker and speaker, in either Irish or English.

He is a good socialiser, and he doesn't drink or smoke.

As an ever rising administrator in the game, the Centenary President was always mindful of the need to keep in touch with the grass roots. It is fair to say that when he took over from Paddy MacFlynn he was as au-fait with what was going on in Kilkenny and all over Leinster as he was with the most important task undertaken in Croke Park.

With his native Kilkenny he never lost touch. Even when he was chairman of the Leinster Council and when he was President-elect he always found time to attend the Southern District Board convention. Some weeks before Congress '82 he attended his 34th. Southern Board convention on-the-trot.

It was as a delegate from his Slieverue club that the then unknown Paddy Buggy took his first step up the G.A.A. ladder. Having just finished his education at Mount Sion C.B.S. (Waterford) he attended Southern Board meetings in his capacity as secretary of Slieverue. The career of a future President was launched.

From the beginning there was never anything complex about Paddy Buggy. He was straight, honest and hard-working. That was the way he was in 1947 when he started out with Slieverue. That is the way he is today.

With Slieverue he has served as secretary, treasurer and vice-chairman. On the hurling field he helped them win a senior championship in 1954. Three years later

Continued overleaf



● Conchur Ó Murchú



● Seamus Ó Riain



● Alf Ó Muiri



● Dr. Mick Loftus



● Padraic Ó Fainnín



● Dónal Ó Cianáin

ALL THE PRESIDENTS

1884 Muiris Ó dáibhín (Tiobrad Árann)
 1887 Éamonn Binéid (An Clár)
 1888 Muiris Ó Dáibhín (Tiobrad Árann)
 1889 Peadar S. Ó Ceallaigh (Gaillimh)
 1895 Proinsias B. Ó Duinnín (Luimneach)
 1898 Mícheál Díring (Corcaigh)
 1901 Séamus Ó Nualláin (Cill Chainnigh)
 1921 Dónal Mac Cártaigh (Áth Cliath)
 1924 Pádraig D. Ó Clúmháin (Luimneach)
 1926 Liam P. Ó Clúmháin (Luimneach)
 1928 Seán Ó Riain (Áth Cliath)
 1932 Seán Mac Cártaigh (Corcaigh)
 1935 Riobárd Ó Caoimh (Laois)
 1938 Pádraig Mac Cor Midhe (Aontraim)
 1943 Séamus Gáirnéar (Tiobrad Árann)
 1946 Dónal Ó Ruairc (Ros Comáin)
 1949 Mícheál U Ó Donnchadha (Port Láirge)
 1955 Séamus Mac Fearáin (Aontraim)
 1958 An Dr. S. S. Stiobhairt (Á Bróin (Cill Manntáin)
 1964 Alf Ó Muiri (Ard Macha)
 1967 Séamus Ó Fainnín (Port Láirge)
 1973 An Dr. Dónal Ó Cianáin (Ros Comáin)
 1976 Conchúr Ó Murchú (Corcaigh)
 1979 Pádraig Mac Floinn (An Dún)
 1982 Pádraig Ó Bogaigh (Cill Chainnigh)



● John Dowling



● Hugh Byrne

BUGGY CAN BE ONE OF THE GREATEST

Continued

he enjoyed his greatest moment on the field when he played at wing-back on the Kilkenny senior side which beat Waterford by 4-10 to 3-12 in the all-Ireland final. It was Buggy's one and only all-Ireland success.

He had previously won a Leinster junior hurling championship in 1949. He collected Leinster senior championship medals in 1950, '53, '57, '78 and 1959. When he quit the inter-county scene he continued on with his club and then took up refereeing.

This was where his considerate nature came to the fore. He was reckoned to be an easy man to play under, and he was regarded as a real 'knight of the whistle'.

He won distinction here too. He was picked to referee the 1964 and 1966 junior all-Ireland finals. He also officiated at many Leinster

championship matches and he even refereed a senior county final in Offaly.

Sampled every aspect

As if to make sure, he sampled every aspect of involvement in the G.A.A., Paddy Buggy then got into management. He was a selector with Kilkenny when they won the all-Ireland in 1967 (v. Tipperary) and again in 1969 (v. Cork) but then he was surprisingly sacked.

But his talents in this field did not go unnoticed. He was appointed manager of the Leinster Railway Cup hurling and guided the province to a record four-in-a-row 1971, 1972, 1973 and 1974.

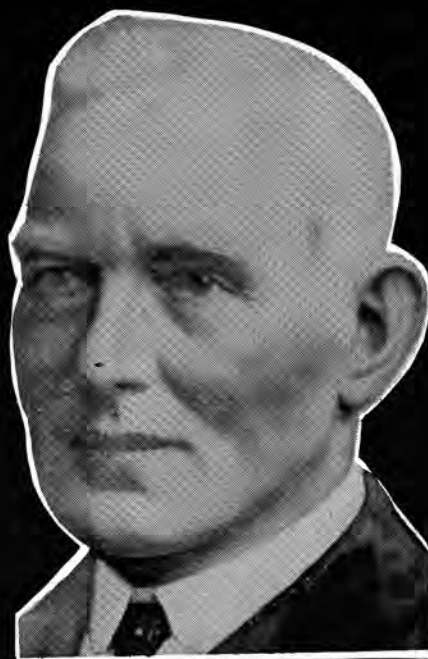
The Leinster Council was, naturally, delighted and Paddy Buggy was sent on the 1974 All-Star tour of America, compliments of the Provincial Council.

Now 22 years after taking his first step into Croke Park as an official, he has attained the highest position in the 'Association. It was in 1961 that Paddy Buggy sat in on his first meeting of the Leinster Council when the late Bob Aylward was made a vice-chairman and created an opening down the table.

Paddy followed in Aylward's footsteps and in 1975 he was elected a vice-chairman of the body which meant he would automatically be promoted to the post as chairman. He served a full term as chairman and has also worked on the Activities Committee and the Management Committee.

There are few people of the G.A.A. pedigree of Paddy Buggy. He is a true blue. He will do Kilkenny proud, and he can become one of the greatest President's ever.

Paddy third in line



Ald. James Nowlan

PRESENT President of the G.A.A., Paddy Buggy (Slieverue) is the third Kilkenny native to hold the highest office in the 'Association.

The first Kilkenny man to hold this esteemed position was the late Ald. James Nowlan, who served the longest term as President. He was elected in 1901 and he stepped down at the Congress in Dublin on March 27, 1921.

So it was 61 years and 24 hours after Ald. Nowlan vacated the seat that Paddy Buggy took over.

In between, the late Bob O'Keeffe, a native of Mooncoin, was President of the G.A.A. He served from 1935 to 1938, but he was teaching in Borris-in-Ossory, Co. Laois, at the time and served as an official of the O'Moore County. The trophy for the Leinster senior hurling champions, the O'Keeffe Cup, perpetuates the memory of Bob O'Keeffe. And Kilkenny G.A.A. headquarters, Nowlan Park, was named after the first Noreside President of the Association.

James Nowlan was elected to office in Thurles, where all meetings of Congress were held until 1908, when it was switched to Dublin. In those far-off days it was felt Dublin was more central, when travelling was not near as easy as it is today. Then in the late 'sixties a motion was passed to have Congress rotate, and in 1982 it was Kilkenny's turn.

Two Challenges

Ald. James Nowlan twice withstood challenges to his position. In 1912

he beat J. J. Walsh (Cork) on a 53-19 vote and in 1920, the year before he retired, he beat Dan McCarthy (Dublin) on a 33-32 vote. McCarthy eventually succeeded Nowlan as President.

When Ald. Nowlan retired it was unanimously agreed by Congress, on the proposition of Sean McCarthy (Cork) and seconded by J. Kirwan, that each outgoing President be an ex-officio member of the Central Council for one year following his term.

Nowlan was made a permanent ex-officio member, with power to vote, and this created another bit of G.A.A. history. As he lived until June 30, 1924, he was the only President to be an ex-officio officer of the Central Council for three years.

James Nowlan revived the G.A.A. in Kilkenny in 1893 after it had gone out of existence in 1891 and 1892. He was, at that time, a member of the Confederation hurling club. The Kilkenny Corporation member was launched on the G.A.A. road in 1896 when he was elected Kilkenny's Central Council representative for meetings in Dublin. Jack McCarthy, who was also a member of the 'Corporation, was elected to attend Central Council meetings in Thurles. This was the only occasion when Kilkenny had joint Central Council representatives.

James Nowlan was appointed a

vice-President of the Central Council in 1899. He became President in 1901. He was also the first chairman of the newly formed Leinster Council in 1900 and held that position until the well-known Kildare footballer, John Fitzgerald, took over in 1905.

Involved in National Cause

Along with his interest in the G.A.A., Ald. Nowlan was deeply involved in the National cause and served two terms in jail. He was a supporter of Parnell, but he finished up a staunch admirer of Sinn Fein.

After the 1916 Rising he was rounded up and spent terms of imprisonment in Kilkenny, Dublin and Wakefield, England. In Wakefield he was treated very harshly and was isolated. He was arrested again in 1919 and spent a term in prison in Cork. In prison with him on that occasion was Mr. E. T. Keane, editor of the *Kilkenny People*.

Ald. Nowlan was also interested in the Gaelic League. Although he never went to secondary school, he successfully took up the study of the Irish language.

James Nowlan hit the top in the G.A.A. at a time when it was not fashionable to do so. But his enthusiasm and drive gave the 'Association a progressive outlook and built it into one of the greatest amateur organisations in the world.

WHEN MASSIVE VICTORY WAS SCORED OFF THE FIELD

ONE OF the greatest victories Kilkenny scored during 1982 was off the field. It happened in our own ancient city by the Nore and received nation-wide acclaim.

The cost of this extravaganza was estimated at £10,000, but G.A.A. people from the four corners of Ireland raised their hats to salute Kilkenny Co. Board before they took to their cars, trains and buses to head home.

The success of G.A.A. Congress '82 in Kilkenny was a success beyond adequate words. Pre-planning, good stewarding and supervision during the week-end activities and a fast and efficient clean-up operation after all the business of Congress had been completed, made the event one of the most successful ever.

With 21 all-Ireland senior hurling victories to its credit, Kilkenny no longer has to make a name for itself on the G.A.A. sports fields. The successful staging of Feile na nGael on two occasions during the seventies proved that Kilkenny could do it off the

field as well, and Congress '82 enhanced further the reputations of G.A.A. organisers locally.

One of the main reasons Congress '82 was held in the Marble City was because former Kilkenny hurler, Paddy Buggy (Slieverue) was taking over as the 27th. President of the 'Association. The smooth running of the event was a silent tribute from G.A.A. people locally to Mr. Buggy, and an open declaration to the rest of the country that Kilkenny was proud that one of its native sons was going to be the First Citizen of the G.A.A.

Great Men

It was significant, too, that St. Kieran's college should be chosen as the conference centre for Congress. It proved the most comfortable and suitable centre ever and was handsomely decorated for the work of the weekend. The year 1982 marked the 200th anniversary of the founding of the famed institute.

St. Kieran's has given many great men to the G.A.A., not only players, but also administrators.

The college President, then Fr. Tom Maher, but now Monsignor, was a proud man after all the excitement.

"Didn't we do well", he asked after the weekend in typical modest fashion. He was not only delighted that St. Kieran's had been so acceptable to delegates, but it was an additional source of joy when he looked around and saw such people as Eddie Keher, Ted Carroll and Nicky Purcell, all past pupils of St. Kieran's, so actively involved in the organising of the event.

The present secretary of the Leinster Council, Michael Delaney (Laois), also held a prominent position at the top table over the weekend, and he is also a graduate of St. Kieran's.

The excellent facilities at the college were complimented by the nearby V.E.C. buildings which housed the communications and refreshments centres. The Newpark hotel then was the scene for the Congress banquet, and here over 600 people were entertained in style.

For four months, the half-a-dozen sub-committees hand picked

by Co. Board chairman, Michael O'Neill, worked feverishly in the background to make Congress '82 a huge success. Their every move was monitored by Croke Park. Director General of the G.A.A., Liam Mulvihill, paid fortnightly visits to the city to work hand-in-hand with locals and see that all the needs of the 500-plus delegates and their wives were catered for.

Workers

For the city generally there was a gift from Congress. It was estimated that in the region of £70,000 would have been pumped into the local economy over the weekend. Every hotel and guest house was full and some stores offered special Congress discounts for delegates and their wives, some of whom came from as far away as England and America.

There were 1001 jobs that had to be seen to before the curtain was raised on Congress, and the diligent behind the scenes workers in Kilkenny included: Brendan O'Sullivan and George Leahy (Leinster Council delegates); Pat Henderson (Fenians), Paddy Neary and Noel Ryan (James Stephens), Dick O'Neill (Thomastown), John Knox (teacher, Gowran), Noel Skehan (Bennettsbridge), Joe Pyke (Clara), Rev. Liam Cassin, C.C. and Barry Henriques (Callan), Paul Kinsella (Coon), John Healy (Tullagher-Rosbercon), Ned Curran (Emeralds), Tom Ryall (Graigue/Ballycallan) and, of course, county secretary, Paddy Grace.

These people not only worked for themselves and the G.A.A. but to promote Kilkenny as well. For the weekend Congress was in our city, the eyes of the nation were on Kilkenny.

Members of the G.A.A. had their eyes opened by the Kilkenny Congress. No doubt, many others had too, and the city could yet end up as a major conference centre in Ireland.



The Kilkeny Congress organising committee (back row, left to right): Eddie Keher, Ted Carroll, Ned Curran, George Leahy, Nicky Purcell, John Healy, Tom Ryall. Front row (left to right): Barry Henriques, Paddy Buggy, Michael O'Neill, Paddy Grace and Brendan O'Sullivan. Inset: Paul Kinsella.

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THE LEAGUE TITLE THAT WAS PUSHED ON KILKENNY

THE victory of Kilkenny in the National Hurling League final of 1982 was as remarkable as it was praiseworthy. There was no early season plan that 'we will go for this one' or anything like that, and when the fifth League success was registered, it was more or less pushed on the county.

It is fair to say that the 1982 League title was one Kilkenny did not really want. Fine, they took it in their stride, but until they were caught up in the hubbub of the semi-final and replay against Waterford, sources close to the team confided that they would have preferred to have opted out after winning promotion.

The all-Ireland in September was the one the new selectors set their eyes on when they took over for the second League match against

Westmeath. A big number of players who would be in the running for the county panel were 'wined and dined' at the now "getting to know you" dinner in the Newpark hotel last October.

After a disaster in the championship the previous June, the new backroom boys wanted to wash out all the dirty linen and make a fresh start. The players were asked for a commitment, but, as well, the selectors too gave a commitment that they would match effort with effort.

Promotion a priority

It all worked out better than expected, as it turned out. The main priority in the National League was promotion. This had to be so because Kilkenny had failed to get

out of Division 1B – really the Second Division – the previous year. That did more damage than just dented pride.

It shook the game to its very roots and the first round championship defeat on top of that left a lot of doubts in the minds of people about the real strength of the game locally. Even the players were left wondering.

So the selectors – Phil Larkin (James Stephens), Pat Delaney (Fenians), Kieran Meally (Erin's Own), Brendan O'Sullivan (Thomastown) and Michael O'Neill (Co. Board chairman) with Pat Henderson (Fenians) as trainer-coach – set promotion as a stepping stone to success in September and the all-Ireland final, the golden trophy of hurling.

KILKENNY: National Hurling League Champions 1982



Back row (l. to r.): Dick O'Hara, Paddy Prendergast, Billy Fitzpatrick, Frank Cummins, Richie Power, Ger Henderson, John Henderson, Liam Fennelly. Front row (l. to r.): Ger Fennelly, Mick Brennan, Noel Skehan, Brian Cody, Kieran Brennan, Joe Hennessy, Nicky Brennan.

THE LEAGUE TITLE THAT WAS PUSHED ON KILKENNY

Kilkenny's fifth victory in the League final was a real rags to riches story no matter what way you look at it. But the relaxed atmosphere in the dressing-room after the game told its own story – it was a job that had to be done on the day and that was all there was to it.

And Co. Board chairman, Michael O'Neill, said so afterwards: "The job is only half done yet. The all-Ireland final is the one we are after".

Supporters patient

Until Kilkenny had secured promotion with seven straight victories, the supporters were very patient and understanding. Then came that smashing semi-final draw against Waterford at Semple Stadium, Thurles, and suddenly everyone seemed confident that great things would again be achieved, and soon. And when Kilkenny won the replay, well, the old less than charitable mood returned.

"No one will stop us winning the all-Ireland now", was the talk the week after the League final. The players had just regained status, and immediately the pressure to win, win, win was back on them again.

It was all forgotten that Kilkenny had started out in the unglamorous ranks of Division 1B. That their time in the championship the previous year was only of 70 minutes duration. And the new selectors had practically re-built – certainly reshaped – the team.

Only a short few months earlier when Kilkenny opened against the unknown hurlers from Kerry, many of the same people were dissatisfied with the 1-19 to 1-9 outcome. That victory was achieved in the last days of the old selectors, so the one thing that was going for the new selectors was that there was a 'wait and see' attitude about. They had time on their hands, but not an awful lot of it.

No real test

Subsequent wins over Westmeath, Antrim and Dublin still left Kilkenny with no real test. Their next engagement was against Limerick on the Shannonside on January 24. Limerick were the Munster champions and had been defeated in a replay in the all-

Ireland semi-final by Galway, so they had a lot going for them.

But they proved less than bad opposition when the Noresiders hammered them by 4-13 to 2-5 to as good as clinch promotion. With Wexford, Limerick and Kilkenny the three 'big guns' in Division 1B, and with two promotion places going, it was obvious before the campaign commenced that two of the three would go up. Limerick blew their promotion hopes that day as they had already fallen to Wexford.

Kilkenny wrapped up promotion when they beat Wexford on February 7 down on the Slaneyside. The same day a number of players were robbed when thieves entered the Kilkenny dressing-rooms.

The only outstanding Division 1B game after that was against lowly Carlow. That day Glenmore's Christy Heffernan went to town and set a new scoring record.

So it was onto the money spinning quarter-finals and a chance to mix it with the big boys. Galway provided the opposition. In a match full of bite and crunching tackles, the Connacht men were sent packing on a 1-11 to 1-6 scoreline.

Wanted out

It was after this that the Kilkenny selectors realised really how far they had progressed with their team building plans. Funny thing about it, though, they wanted out because they didn't really want to put too much into the League and wanted to hold something back for the championship.

A Kilkenny selector recalled afterwards: "Against Galway we won, and after that we had gone too far to stop. So we decided to go for the pot".

Promotion plus a bonus point had been collected against Galway. Then it was Waterford in the semi-final, and after a brilliant drawn match (2-14(K) to 1-17), the Munster men were beaten by 3-14 to 4-6. The drawn tie was one of the best matches of the decade.

There were two casualties after that draw – full-back and captain, Brian Cody injured a thigh muscle and later Christy Heffernan broke a finger. They were both sidelined for the replay, and the loss of Heffernan opened the door for Liam Fennelly to show his

devastating talents as a full forward.

The young Shamrocks (Ballyhale) man turned on a sizzling display in the semi-final, and helped himself to 2-2, but later he even bettered this performance in the League decider against Wexford in general, and Jack Russell in particular. The new wonder full-forward took Russell apart with his turn on a six-pence style and added a new dimension to the Noresiders attack.

It was ironic that it had to be Heffernan to go, because he was the top scorer nationally in the National League, but afterwards, he was always fighting to win back his place, whereas until he picked up his injury he was a natural choice for the number 14 jersey.

Defence in tangle

Over 23,000 people flocked to Croke Park for the final, and they were not disappointed as the two Division 1B team, Wexford and Kilkenny, threw up a battle of rare proportion. Kilkenny won by 2-14 to 1-11 after trailing by 1-4 to 0-6 at half time.

Stars of the Kilkenny show that day were goalkeeper Noel Skehan, who later won the B+I Award because of this match, and Liam Fennelly, who had the Slaneyside defence in a tangle. Brian Cody, too, made a handsome contribution and held Tony Doran scoreless while veteran midfielder, Frank Cummins, hurled as if he was out to prove something to himself and those who felt he was past it.

Indeed, a lot had been spoken about Skehan and Cummins after the dismal championship of the previous year, but they turned in League performances that made people sit up and notice. Veterans they may be, but they are young at heart too. And the will is still there.

A new arrival on the inter-county scene for Kilkenny during League '82 was Richard Power. The Carrickshock man did not burst on the scene and promise all sorts of great things with flash performances. He worked hard and slowly gained the respect of followers.

Conahy's Kieran Brennan, too, build on the promise he had shown in the one championship match the previous June and Paddy Prendergast hit new heights as a wing-back instead of a corner man. And sure what about Billy Walton who

Continued on Page 23

Piltown give a lead to others

MORE and more clubs are taking the ambitious step of buying their own grounds and building expensive sports facilities year after year.

Invariably, one of the main features of such buildings is the provision of a bar. Finance generated by trade in the bar can help with the back payments. It makes it easier on clubs.

But G.A.A. headquarters has expressed some anxiety about this growing trend. In some cases too much emphasis was being placed on the bar, it was felt, than on more important things like playing pitches and dressing-rooms.

Wasn't it nice to see Piltown taking the bold step of embarking on an ambitious £65,000 development WITHOUT a bar. From the very start, club officials were against having a bar included. Perhaps it is a sign of things to come?

"This undertaking is very ambitious for a club like ours which really only has about 75 members", explained dynamic chairman, Billy Norris. "We thought about having a bar included, but from the word 'go' the committee was against it".

The go ahead Piltown committee hope to have their plush premises completed by Centenary year of the G.A.A. in 1984. The facilities will include handball and squash courts, sauna and meeting rooms, kitchen and assorted dressing-rooms, and of course, a fine playing field.

The men spearheading the drive are — V. Rev. Fr. Woods (president); Fr. Hoyne and Fr. Maher (vice-presidents); Billy Norris (chairman); Dick Cuddihy (vice-chairman); Michael Brennan (secretary); Sean Norris (assistant secretary); James O'Keeffe, John O'Shea and Ned Power (treasurers).

Grim determination on the face of Nicky Brennan as he attempts to charge down a shot from Ray Cummins in the All-Ireland final. Ger Henderson watches anxiously in the background.



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HEFFERNAN BECAME A RECORD MAKER

EVEN THOUGH he did not figure in all of the Kilkenny National Hurling League matches, Glenmore forward Christy Heffernan was the top scorer in the whole country in the competition.

Thanks to his uncanny ability to grab goals, the towering full-forward outdid every other forward in the country. And in one League match against Carlow at Nowlan Park he finished just a goal outside an all-time record.

From a Kilkenny point of view he did set a new League record, which also equalled the best ever score by a local player in one match. Christy rattled home 5-4 and might have done even better had he known a new record was 'on'.

The Hurling league record was held by the late Christy Ring (Cork). He rammed home 6-4 against Wexford in 1959.

Before this, the best one-match scoring performance by a Kilkenny player in the League was that of Denis Heaslip who grabbed 6-0 in a 1962 game against Offaly at Birr. Christy Heffernan bettered that by a single point.

But a tally of 6-1 has been recorded by a Kilkenny player. This was done by Billy O'Dwyer for Leinster in a Railway Cup tie against Ulster in 1962.

WROTE HISTORY

So on that February day Christy Heffernan wrote his name into the history book as the joint holder of the all-time top scoring record by a Kilkenny hurler.

The best individual score in any one match was recorded by the late Nicky Rackard (Wexford). He hit 7-7 once in a championship game against Antrim.

Eddie Keher holds the record for the highest score by a Kilkenny man in the championship. The Rower-Inistioge ace registered 2-11 in the 1971 All-Ireland final against Tipperary, a super performance he had previously achieved in the League against Laois in 1966 at Nowlan Park.

Heffernan might have bettered his full League tally of 13 goals and 7

CHRISTY HEFFERNAN

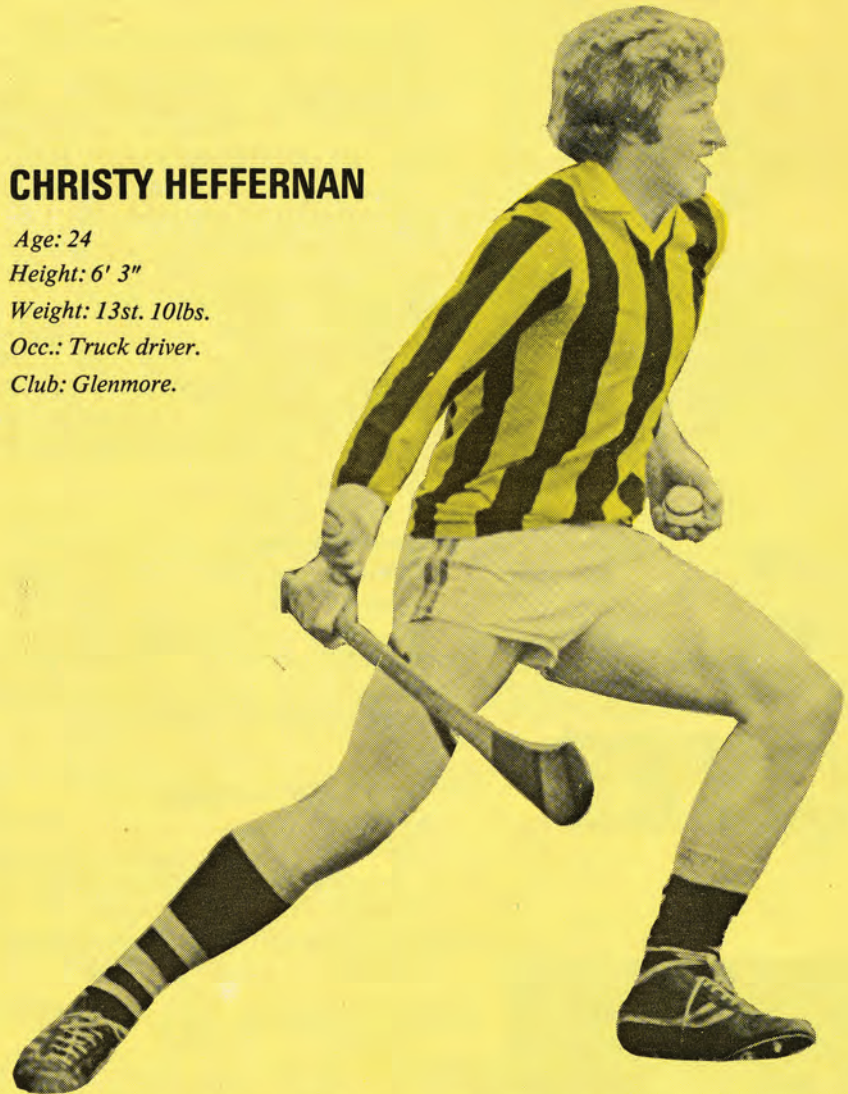
Age: 24

Height: 6' 3"

Weight: 13st. 10lbs.

Occ.: Truck driver.

Club: Glenmore.



points but he was laid low by injury in the semi-final draw against Waterford at Thurles. He missed the replay of that match, plus the League final against Wexford.

Second on the Kilkenny scoring chart was Billy Fitzpatrick (Fenians) with two goals and a whopping 39 points. Overall, six Noreside players reached double figures on the point-scoring chart.

The players who bagged the scores were: Christy Heffernan (13-7), Billy Fitzpatrick (2-39), Kieran Brennan (3-18), Ger Fennelly (1-25), Liam Fennelly (3-14), Richard Power (3-10), Mick Brennan (2-5), Billy Walton (0-11), Joe Hennessy (0-8), Billy Purcell (1-3), Matt Ruth (1-1), John Lawlor (0-4), Michael Nash (0-3), N. Brennan (0-2), Frank

Cummins, Johnny Brennan, Sean Fennelly, Paudie Lannon (0-1 each).

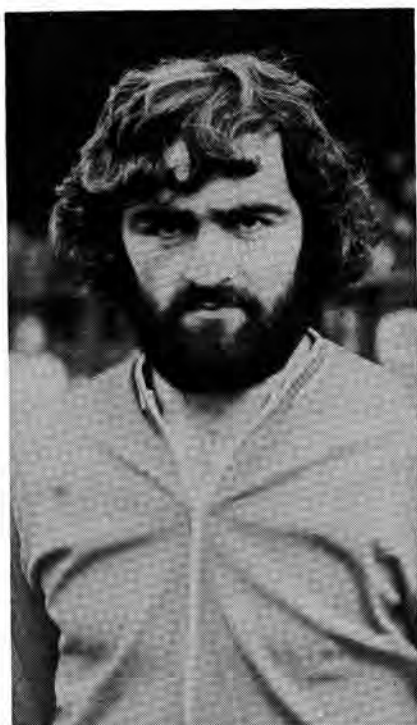
THE LEAGUE TITLE THAT WAS PUSHED ON KILKENNY

◁ *Continued from page 21*

showed his worth as a man to throw in during the last few minutes to shake-up a match?

Progress was the name of the game for Kilkenny during the National Hurling League. When they won the title they had no problem finding a resting place for it. But they would not have worried either had they been made go without.

When they grabbed the scores



Dick O'Hara . . . had a great year as a corner-back.

October 4 at Nowlan Park.

Kilkenny 1-19
Kerry 1-9
Scorers: G. Fennelly (0-8); R. Power (1-1); M. Nash, K. Brennan (0-3 each); M. Brennan, J. Brennan, S. Fennelly, L. Fennelly (0-1 each).

November 8 at Nowlan Park.

Kilkenny 5-12
Westmeath 0-6
Scorers: C. Heffernan (2-0); K. Brennan, B. Fitzpatrick (1-3 each); L. Fennelly (0-3); R. Power (1-0); G. Fennelly (0-2); J. Hennessy (0-1).

November 22 at Shaw's Road.

Kilkenny 1-12
Antrim 1-6
Scorers: B. Fitzpatrick (1-5); R. Power (1-2); G. Fennelly, J. Hennessy (0-2 each); K. Brennan (0-1).

December 6 at Nowlan Park.

Kilkenny 0-16
Dublin 1-7
Scorers: B. Fitzpatrick (0-5); K. Brennan (0-4); G. Fennelly, L. Fennelly (0-2 each); M. Brennan, N. Brennan, J. Lawlor (0-1 each).

January 24 at Limerick.

Kilkenny 4-13
Limerick 2-5
Scorers: C. Heffernan (2-1); L. Fennelly (1-2); B. Fitzpatrick (0-4); K. Brennan (1-1); G. Fennelly (0-3); J. Hennessy, J. Lawlor (0-1 each).

February 7 at Wexford

Kilkenny 2-9
Wexford 1-8
Scorers: C. C. Heffernan (2-1); G. Fennelly, B. Fitzpatrick, B. Walton (0-2 each); R. Power, K. Brennan (0-1 each).

February 14 at Nowlan Park

Kilkenny 8-20
Carlow 0-6
Scorers: C. Heffernan (5-4); B. Walton (0-7); B. Purcell (1-3); G. Fennelly, K. Brennan (1-1 each); J. Lawlor (0-2); M. Brennan, P. Lannon (0-1 each).

March 14 at Thurles

Kilkenny 1-11
Galway 1-6
(Quarter-Final)
Scorers: B. Fitzpatrick (1-3); K. Brennan, B. Walton (0-2 each); G. Fennelly, R. Power, L. Fennelly, J. Hennessy (0-1 each).

April 4 at Thurles

Kilkenny 2-14 (20 pts)
Waterford 1-17 (20 pts)
(Semi-Final)

Scorers: C. Heffernan (2-1); B. Fitzpatrick (0-6); R. Power (0-3); G. Fennelly (0-2); K. Brennan, L. Fennelly (0-1 each).

April 11 at Thurles

Kilkenny 3-14
Waterford 4-6
(Semi-Final Replay)

Scorers: L. Fennelly (2-2); B. Fitzpatrick (0-4); M. Brennan (1-0); J. Hennessy (0-3); G. Fennelly (0-2); N. Brennan, R. Power, M. Ruth (0-1 each).

April 18 at Croke Park

Kilkenny 2-14
Wexford 1-11
(N.H.L. Final)

Scorers: B. Fitzpatrick (0-7); M. Brennan (1-2); M. Ruth (1-0); L. Fennelly (0-2); F. Cummins, K. Brennan, R. Power (0-1 each).

We are fourth

KILKENNY stand fourth in the honours list for the number of National Hurling League titles won. In the '82 decider with Wexford, both counties were going for their fifth, so the Noresiders jumped ahead of their age old rivals.

Tipperary lead the field with 14 successes with Cork second with 12 and Limerick third with seven. Kilkenny come next with five while Wexford have four. Our successes were registered in:

1933:

Kilkenny 3-8, Limerick 1-5.

1962

Kilkenny 1-16, Cork 1-8.

1966

Kilkenny 0-9, Tipperary 1-11.

1976

Kilkenny 6-14 Clare 1-14 (replay)

1982

Kilkenny 2-14, Wexford 1-11.

THIRTY-TWO PLAYERS HELPED IN THE LEAGUE

IN ALL, 32 players donned the Kilkenny jersey during the successful National Hurling League campaign. But only four figured in all 11 matches which were played over a six-month period between October 4 (1981) and April 18 (1982).

The ever-presents who started out against Kerry under the old selectors and who were still there at the finish against Wexford under new management were Nicky Brennan, Ger Fennelly, Kieran Brennan and newcomer Richard Power (Carrickshock).

Kieran Brennan and Maurice Power did not start in every game, but they made an appearance at some stage.

During the first two games against Kerry and Westmeath at Nowlan Park, both lots of selectors used a total of 26 players. After that the team became more or less settled.

In all, three players acted as captain. Maurice Mason (Sham-

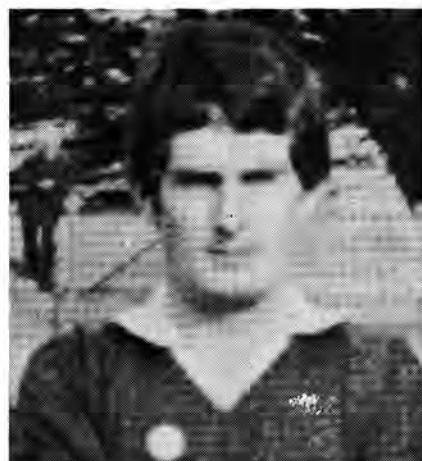
rocks) was skipper when Kilkenny opened against Kerry. Then Brian Cody (James Stephens) was elected captain for the rest of the year. While Cody was injured for the semi-final replay against Waterford, his clubmate Joe Hennessy led the team.

The men who played were (number of games in brackets) – Nicky Brennan, Ger Fennelly, Kieran Brennan, Richard Power (11 each); Liam Fennelly, Ger Henderson (10 each); Noel Skehan, Paddy Neary, Brian Cody, Joe Hennessy, Billy Fitzpatrick (9 each); Paddy Prendergast, John Henderson, Christy Heffernan (8 each); Mick Brennan (7).

Dick O'Hara (6), Matt Ruth, Billy Walton, Frank Cummins (5 each); Denis McCormack, John Lawlor (4 each); Kevin Fennelly, Frank Holohan (two each); Maurice Mason, John Marnell, Jack Morrissey, Johnny Brennan, Michael Nash, Sean Fennelly, Billy Purcell, Paudie Lannon, Eamon Wallace (one each).



● Maurice Mason



● John Marnell

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County was proud of Thomastown



The Thomastown team beaten by Glen Rovers in the Division 1 final of Féile na nGael.

DESPITE a hectic programme which forced them to play, and win, three matches in the one day, Thomastown, did Kilkenny proud when they carried the colours in the Feilina-nGael competitions in Dublin.

The Thomastown boys were in the crack Division 1 section, and while they finished runners-up to the mighty Glen Rovers (Cork), there was absolutely nothing to be ashamed of. No one would have beaten Glen Rovers, and an indication of their power and strength can be gauged from the fact that they conceded only one point all the weekend. And Thomastown scored that against them.

The decider was played on the Sunday. The previous day the Kilkenny boys hurled three matches, and that took a certain amount out of them. But Glen Rovers were absolutely magnificent in the final. Really, they were unbeatable.

At half-time the Leesiders led by 1-3 to no score, and they eventually won by 1-5 to 0-1. Thomastown really put it up to their highly rated opponents in the second half, and the Cork officials conceded afterwards that the 'Town were the

best side by far they had played.

It was an early 11 a.m. start for Thomastown on the Saturday. They opened against their hosts, Erin's Isle Finglas) and encountered little opposition as they romped to an 8-5 to 1-1 win. Later St. Mary's (Clonmel) were beaten by 4-4 to 1-1 before the Noresiders had to prepare for their third outing the same evening.

CAPITAL AFFAIR

The third tie was against Dublin's, Croabh Ciaran. From a competitive point of view, this was a capital affair. The teams battled through extra-time, and this energy sapping exercise didn't do Thomastown any good in the long run.

At half-time the winners led by 2-1 to 1-1. It was tit-for-tat during the second moiety and with five minutes to go the Dubliners went two points up. Then lively substitute, R. Maher turned the match on its head when he sneaked in for a goal. But Croabh Ciaran didn't give in, and they forced a draw on the final whistle.

So the teams battled through extra-time, and once again the

presence of a fresh R. Maher helped the 'Town. He slotted home two goals and then at the other end, goalkeeper, T. O'Keeffe defied the losers time and time again.

The talented young hurlers from both teams received a standing ovation as they left the field after as good a game as one could expect to see. Thomastown did their own parish and all of Kilkenny right proud.

The Thomastown panel was - T. O'Keeffe, B. Murphy, J. Barry, J. Cullen, M. Lannon, M. Brooke, A. Finan, J. O'Neill, C. Fitzgerald, O. O'Neill, P. Cullen, S. Morrissey, P. Treacy, P. Cassin, B. O'Keeffe, R. Maher, D. Walsh, M. Murray, J. Skehan, J. Challoner, S. O'Sullivan.

This was the fourth time a Kilkenny team reached the Division 1 final. In 1980 St. Patrick's won it, after being beaten the previous year. And in 1975 the Kilkenny C.B.S. lost, also to Glen Rovers.

Subsequently, Thomastown went on to win the Kilkenny under-14 (Roinn A) hurling championship by defeating St. Patrick's De La Salle by 2-3 to 2-1.

'Babes' show big brothers the way



The Kilkenny under-14 hurling team who won the Leinster final for the third time on-the-trot. Back row (left to right): John Barry, Liam O'Neill, Eamon Brennan, Matt Bookle, Pat Grace, Derek Rothwell, Shane O'Neill, Liam Dowling, Nicky Comerford, Pat Hoban, Joe Murphy. Front (l. to r.): Jimmy O'Neill, Tony Cleere, John Byrne, Tom O'Keeffe, Pat Heffernan, Donal Kennedy, Michael Keogh, Jimmy Walton, Tom Murphy, Phil Murphy.

YOUNGSTERS on the Noreside are giving the lead to their bigger hurling brothers. While over the past two years the seniors found the going tough, 'the babes' piled up the honours.

The county under-14 hurling team this year clocked up an unprecedented three-in-a-row when they walloped Wexford by 6-7 to 2-4 in the Leinster final. And judging on the standard of matches in the under-age divisions, it will take a good side to stop the bid for the never before achieved four-in-a-row.

This year the team was helped by players from St. Patrick's De La Salle, who provided most of the players for the Division I Feile-na-nGael winning team in 1980. Next year Thomastown, runners-up in Feile this time, can guarantee a good stock, so bright days seem assured.

Selectors with these under-age teams in Kilkenny have developed the happy knack of coming up with the best sides for specific occasions. The champions only scraped over Dublin in an early round, but the wholesale changes improved matters no end in the provincial decider.

This was the third time Wexford were beaten in successive years. Since the competition was inaugurated in 1972, the Noresiders have won it seven times.

The early exchanges were close and it was Liam Dowling who opened the winners account, somewhat against the run of play. As the match wore on, Wexford lost out at midfield where Shane O'Neill and Derek Rothwell proved too powerful a combination. At half-time Wexford trailed by 1-0 to 2-4.

Then for the second half the Noresiders introduced the lively

Jimmy Walton in attack. He made a big impression and went on to score two goals. In the end, the Slaneysiders were well and truly beaten.

Players who showed exceptional skill that day were goalkeeper, Tom O'Keeffe, Tony Cleere, Joe Murphy, Liam Dowling, Jimmy Walton and Pat Grace.

Kilkenny: T. O'Keeffe (Thomastown), T. Cleere (Bennettsbridge), D. Kennedy (St. John's), N. Comerford (St. Patrick's), M. Bookle (Thomastown), J. Murphy (Mooncoin), P. Murphy (Clara), D. Rothwell (Mooncoin), S. O'Neill (Gowran), P. Grace (Rower/Inistioge), P. Hoban (Mullinavat), L. Dowling (Coon/Muckalee), J. Byrne (Gaignamanagh), M. Keogh (Gowran), P. Heffernan (St. Patrick's). Subs - J. Walton (Tullaroan), T. Murphy (Mooncoin).

Two New Selectors

TWO NEW senior hurling selectors were nominated when champions, Shamrocks (Ballyhale) announced the men to mastermind the defence of the National Hurling League and all-Ireland titles.

All-Ireland medal winner of 1979, Michael Crotty (James Stephens)

and former county junior star, Tom Ryan (Shamrocks) replaced Phil 'Fan' Larkin (James Stephens) and Kieran Meally (Erin's Own).

The new men joined Michael O'Neill (Co. Board chairman), Brendan O'Sullivan (Thomastown), Pat Delaney (Fenians) and Pat Henderson (Fenians), the trainer/coach.

In the four games up to the Christmas break, Kilkenny collected five points, and were second in the table behind

defeated League finalists of last season, Wexford.

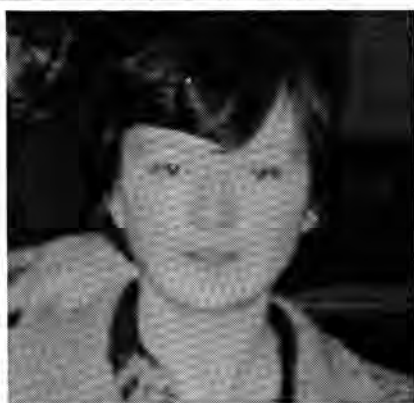
It was announced that Kilkenny's share from the Leagues, hurling and football, from last year was a massive £33,000. Of this, £29,000 came from the hurling.

"We can thank the hurlers for our good fortune", Co. Board secretary, Paddy Grace remarked. "They came from nowhere last year to win the League. In a financial and trophy sense they cleaned up for the county".

"TWO all-Ireland tickets are the only perks attached to my job", smiles Camogie Board President, Mary Fennelly.

Installed in office in March for a three year term, Mary found the going very tough at first. Along with familiarising herself with the new role, she was also forced to fill the gap when Jo Golden, general secretary, decided to return to teaching when her contract expired.

And despite plenty of notice from the Association's girl Friday, the inevitable delay in filling the post heaped a huge second helping of



By Breda Wall

Underage camogie players are "out of this world", she says, largely due to girls starting to play younger.

Hurling pitch

She predicts that senior players will be using a full hurling pitch in a few years time, in view of the increasing strength of players and the changing pattern of play from the traditional down-the-wings style, to the picking off of points outfield.

But she is not in favour of increasing the number of players from the present 12, as this would make it more difficult for a club to be able to field a team.

Has she experienced any conflict of

FEW PERKS FOR BUSY MARY

work onto Mary's plate.

Basically the President's work involves chairing Central Council meetings, representing the Association at functions and attending games. And added to this in the busiest months of August and September was all the administrative work of the Camogie Board, normally the task of the general secretary.

In spite of the tough start, she has plenty to look forward to. For the highlight of her term of office will be the G.A.A. centenary year in 1984, when she will join with G.A.A. President, Kilkennyman Paddy Buggy, in celebrating 100 glorious years of Gaelic sport.

Nursery school

A nursery school for her work was Mary's six-year service as secretary of Kilkenny Co. Board. But she admits she found it a "very big step" from county secretary to national President - her only previous experience of the big time was serving as a national sub-committee member.

As far as the Presidency is concerned, behind every good woman is another good woman. This was Jo Golden, who was responsible for making the Association develop camogie in line with other sports, mindful of the competition from other sports which were siphoning off players. Her crusading campaign to organise, glamorise and publicise camogie is now firmly in Mary Fennelly's hands and is a responsibility she takes very seriously.

"The sporting world is a very

competitive market", she commented. "And we have to sell our ideas and traditions if we are to survive. This year our main projects are a Superstars competition, in Dublin for county camogie players, and a National Camogie Day on October 10".

The present image of the game, Mary feels, will neither attract nor even hold young players. But she is confident the Association will get that vital breath of life from the Jo Golden inspired development play



● MARY FENNELLY

which includes administration, coaching, finances, facilities, running of competitions and publicity.

She is delighted as far as the standard of play is concerned.

interests so far between her home county and her national position?

"Well, I resigned my position as county secretary when I was elected President as I thought it impossible theoretically to hold both posts", the pretty Stoneyford lady replied. "Where there is any issue involving any counties, including Kilkenny, I have to be broadminded and look at all sides of the story. But, of course, I can never forget my roots".

This year has meant a lot of adjustment for Mary, three times all-Ireland medal winner and now in her mid-thirties. Along with her daunting new Presidential role, certainly no mere figurehead position, She also changed jobs. From secretary to a firm of architects in Dublin, she is now a secretary in Callan Wood Ltd., formerly Avonree buildings, and now producing a new type of fuel from waste sawdust.

She has little spare time. I met her in the Clubhouse hotel on a Thursday night, after a week of helping to recruit new staff for her new employers, and spending her nights catching up on camogie administration. Despite getting a bit of golf to relax, she was obviously feeling the pinch. But speaking of the game, its present state and its future, the jaded expression was gradually replaced by an intensely happy one.

"Often I get frustrated with the circus of meetings and functions", she admitted. "But when I see young girls enjoying themselves out on the field it makes it all worthwhile".

CHAMPIONS UPSTAGED BY CORK

THE HURLERS may have had the championship all their own way, but there was little joy for the ladies who had to swallow the bitter pill of defeat inflicted by Cork in the camogie championship semi-final replay.

After an amazing rally to earn a 1-14 to 3-8 draw, Kilkenny's exit in the replay was very disappointing, especially when a gruelling 20 minutes of extra time gave the girls a third chance to win.

But the tougher and fitter Leesiders stole the show by 7-8 to 3-13 and went on to become All-Ireland champions, beating Dublin in the final.

Kilkenny's exit from the championship, having earlier disposed of Clare in the quarter-final, did not constitute a severe blow to camogie in the county, as the hurling win permeated the ladies' ranks and created greater interest in the game. Also, the national Camogie Association made a greater drive than ever to uplift the image of the game and make it more attractive and to recruit more players.

The first national camogie day on October 10 proved an immense success. Seven-a-side tournaments were

organised in St. Kieran's College and the day's activities were rounded off with an enjoyable social, Oíche Gaelach, in the Village Club.

TURNOVER OF PLAYERS

This year saw a good turnover of players on the county team. Two familiar faces missing were retired players Helena McCormick – now mum-to-be – and Peggy Muldowney, both of whom made an immense contribution to camogie throughout their careers.

Exciting new additions to the panel were Rita Wemyss (Bennettsbridge) and Chrissy Walsh (The Rower – Inistioge). Rita held her place throughout the semi-final replay, and fittingly for her first full game for the county, played cautiously and made no mistakes.

Chrissy Walsh came on towards the end of the game and was very courageous outfield. If she maintains this standard of play, she should earn her place on the team next year.

Again to the forefront of camogie this year were the Downey sisters, Angela and Ann. Defender Ann made a marvellous contribution to the 1982 campaign and looked the most improved player on the team.

Meanwhile, Angela continued in high-scoring fashion while Bridie McGarry gave some fine displays of really stylish hurling. Ann Holden was the pick of the bunch in the semi-final replay.

Former double All-Ireland winner Mary Canavan also made a return to the county camogie panel this year, but her experience was not availed of during the championship.

DISAPPOINTED

Although Kilkenny were bitterly disappointed by their performance this year, the emergence of Cork as champions was good for the game on a national level. The Noresiders proved the bogie for Cork in the sides' five meetings before the drawn semi-final and morale in Cork was beginning to flag.

Another unlucky loss might have been a serious setback for the game in Cork, a county which boasts the greatest number of clubs and players and where the sport is most organised.

As for Kilkenny, with the existing hard core of young and extremely talented players and new "finds" every year, the black and ambers could claim their fifth All-Ireland title next year.



● Biddy O'Sullivan



● Margaret Farrell



● Bridie McGarry



● Ann Holden

THE HOBBY OF A LIFETIME FOR JO

GETTING to know someone in every corner of Ireland was one of the happy spin-offs of Kilkenny-born Jo Golden's seven years as general secretary of the National Camogie Association.

One of the drawbacks was constant fixtures, meetings and functions to attend, making her timetable too cluttered to fit in with the regular bachelor girl's lifestyle.

For the first five years as secretary, she fitted in the enormous amount of work after her daytime job as teacher in the all-Irish Scoil Mhuire in Dublin.

A Department of Education grant enabled the Association to appoint a full-time officer in 1980. Jo got the nod after she was given two years' leave of absence from her teaching post.

The post was that of general secretary cum development officer. The secretaryship entailed arranging the over 100 inter-county fixtures throughout the year, arranging meetings, sending out notices, and a huge volume of other work.

Jo approached her new task of Development Officer very methodically. She drew up a very pragmatic development scheme which outlined short range and long-term plans.

Getting the grant for a full-time officer was

considered a major breakthrough for Camogie, the Cinderella of most sports. An office was also provided in Croke Park as a permanent base for the Association.

There was also an additional £5,000 grant from Cospóir to promote the game. This enabled the Board to run various publicity-seeking events, notably this year's National Camogie Day.

EFFICIENT

Publicity was one of the major priorities for the efficient secretary. At first it was a case of begging for space in the daily newspapers. Jo is happy to report that rather than her hounding the press each week, she now gets regular phone calls from reporters. This is giving increasing recognition to the sport and some of its fine players.

Another of her priorities was to promote the game at primary school level. It was felt if the sport became rooted at this level, people would carry on playing during secondary school and into their working life.

Another of her aims was to organise the fund-raising better as camogie has not the attendance levels that are the major source of income for hurling. Her efforts raised a considerable sum, and she is remaining on as a member of the central finance committee.

The game itself has



● JO GOLDEN

developed immensely throughout the country. For many years camogie was confined to a few strong counties – Cork, Kilkenny, Wexford and Dublin – but up and coming counties have made their presence felt.

"There are now 11 counties with only a puck of the ball between them", asserted ex-secretary Jo. "And not only that, but the game has become much tougher and it is only a matter of time before the pitch is extended to the full length of the hurling field".

DISAPPOINTING

A disappointment to her is the small number of members who support the All-Ireland camogie final in Croke Park. After football and hurling finals, camogie is the fourth final in a row and most people have little money to spare for yet another trip to Dublin.

But it's a vicious circle. R.T.E. will not give live coverage of the event until there are up to 20,000 people present at the final!

Jo has worked hand-in-hand with Mary Fennelly, another Kilkenny woman and now President of the Camogie Association.

"I couldn't praise Mary high enough", she says. "She has all the right ideas, has ability and energy, is a great mixer and projects a great image for the Association".

Jo maintains a keen interest in her native county. She played with Kilkenny, but it was before their glory days.

Self-pronounced as being able to hurl before she could walk, she captained St. Paul's camogie team in Kilkenny city. She also won camogie honours with U.C.D. and won Gael Linn medals. A native of Dominic street, her teacher-mother and seven generations Kilkenny, Mary O'Sullivan still lives there. Jo is now a maths teacher.

A source of great pride to her is how the game has caught on in Kilkenny. The number of clubs has jumped from five in the late 'Sixties to 20 this year, and there are 16 teams taking part in the recently-formed primary schools' competition.

Still very much involved in the game, Jo is serving on finance, history and administrative sub-committees. And an involvement that started from when she could walk is likely to extend to a life-long commitment.

AT THE DOUBLE THEY BECAME 'MIGHTY, MIGHTY RANGERS'

UP TO this year they were regarded as the Rangers who weren't so mighty. Like the deceptive dog, their bark was worse than their bite.

But the hardy sportsmen from Paulstown added some might to their name when they proved the best in the junior football championship. And when they completed a junior double by capturing the hurling title also, well, they were entitled to shout that they were 'Mighty, Mighty Rangers'.

The year 1982 was a good one for the Gaelic games players from Paulstown, who carry the name of their native village on the football field and are known as Barrow Rangers on the hurling front. Up to

this they had never won an adult championship in Kilkenny, but they corrected that at the double in a glorious three week spell in September.

For years trojan off-the-field work was done for the club by such as Jack O'Neill, Michael Shortall, Jimmy Staunton, Hughie Doyle, Jack Kealy, Phil Walsh (chairman), Bill Hennessy and Denis Meaney, but somehow it just would not happen on the field for Paulstown.

Then former Kilkenny selector, Paddy Johnston was drafted in to work with the hurlers, and as subsequent developments prove, this was a turning point in the history of the club. Barrow Rangers or Paulstown, call the club sides what you

will, proceeded to make two winning entries in the history books. A story of success breeding success perhaps, and who knows what they can go on to achieve now that they have made the breakthrough.

DESERVED SUCCESS

It is good for any game to have the honours spread about. No one can say but a Paulstown team deserved some success. They have been hard battlers over the years, and at last their efforts have been rewarded.

The first title they landed was the football one. In this they beat St. Patrick's (Kilmacow) by 1-7 to 1-5 in a final that was regarded as one of the best in years. Not only was the scoring close, the game com-



The Barrow Rangers (Paulstown) players who helped the club bring off a junior double this year. Back row (l. to r.): Michael Doyle, Tom O'Neill, Eamon Cahill, Ger Lawlor, Lar Gittens, Liam Whitely, John Murphy, Michael Doyle (Garryduff), Phil Walsh (selector), Charlie Purcell, Martin Hanlon. Front row (l. to r.): Hugh Doyle, Andy Whelan, Pat Purcell, Seamus Brennan, Michael Staunton, John Lawlor, Jimmy Morrissey, Jerry Hennessy, Gerry Purcell, Syl Hennessy.

AT THE DOUBLE THEY BECAME 'MIGHTY, MIGHTY RANGERS'

petitive and the standard of sportsmanship exemplary, but the football played by both sides would have done justice to the grade in any of the top football counties.

The teams were level at 0-4 each at half-time and then St. Patrick's rocked their opponents when Thomas Costelloe rammed home a goal. This only sparked the determined Paulstown men into action, and for the closing 20 minutes, they dominated.

In the 40th minute Paulstown grabbed their goal when Pat Purcell slipped through. Shortly afterwards Mick Doyle pointed to square the game at 1-5 each. The winners had the bit between their teeth at this stage and in the end a brace of points from Syl Hennessy gained them the crown.

That victory only gave the Paulstown men the taste of success, and they liked it. In the meantime they had also qualified for the junior hurling final, and 10 of the same players went after the double.

In their very first junior final, Barrow Rangers had to get over the challenge of John Lockes (Callan). In impressive fashion they did, on the score 0-12 to 0-6, in a decider that was the first in which no goal was scored. The competition was started way back in 1905.

WRITING ON THE WALL

Over 1,500 supporters turned out for the match, and even the most ardent Callan supporters must have seen the writing on the wall at half-time when Barrow Rangers led by 0-8 to 0-2. That feeling wasn't because of what 'Rangers had actually done scoring wise, but on account of what they hadn't done. They clocked up 13 wides in that half.

'Rangers continued to play their sure, confident hurling on the switch around, and with John and Ger Lawlor, Syl Hennessy, Jack Murphy, Seamus Brennan, Mick Doyle (Garryduff), Pat Purcell and Liam Whitely all proving that they had the temperament for the big occasion, there was little or no hope for the hard-trying Callan boys.

Yes, all things considered, it was a memorable year for Paulstown sportsmen. They will now take their rightful place in the intermediate hurling championship next year, and judging on the improvement they showed during the run through championship 1982, they should be a side to be reckoned with.

The teams

Hurling Barrow Rangers 0-12; John Lockes (0-6); A. Whelan, J. Murphy, S. Brennan, L. Gittens, G.

Purcell, J. Lawlor (0-2), E. Cahill, S. Hennessy (0-4), P. Purcell, M. Doyle, Garryduff (0-3), J. Hennessy (0-1), M. Staunton, J. Morrissey, M. Doyle, The Hill (0-1). Subs: L. Whitely (0-1), H. Doyle. Referee: D. Butler (Freshford).

Football (Paulstown 1-7; St. Patrick's 1-5): M. Whitely, T. O'Neill, J. Murphy, P. O'Neill, D. Donoghue, L. Whitely, G. Lawlor, S. Hennessy (0-5), G. Purcell, S. Brennan, J. Lawlor, M. Doyle (0-2), P. Purcell (1-0), H. Doyle, M. Staunton. Sub: C. Purcell. Referee: J. McGrath (Danesfort).

WHAT ABOUT THE OTHERS?

So Paulstown brought off the junior double, but what about the others? In the Northern junior championship, the team everyone was watching was Emeralds (Urlingford). In the early rounds they fell to Graigue-Ballycallan and Tullaroan and missed out on the knock-out stages.

Emeralds had contested the county final the previous year, and with a good blend of youth and experience, they were expected to be knocking on the door again. As events turned out, they did not even make the divisional final and here Lisdowney bowed the knee to Barrow Rangers.

The general favourites in the South, Mullinavat, also failed to shine through. Much was expected from Mullinavat because they had won the Roinn B minor hurling championship the previous year as well as the Roinn B under-21 championship. But things didn't go according to plan, and they missed out.

Tullogher and Dunnamaggin were also expected to do great things, and when they beat John Lockes early on they looked good. When the chips were down in the cut-and-thrust stages they both lost to the Callan boys, who showed plenty of grit and determination.

The junior grade produces some of the best hurling in Kilkenny year in and year out. Now with the county again fielding in the junior all-Ireland championship the incentive should be there for the players to do even better.

There is a general feeling among the top brass in the county that there is a wealth of talent lurking in the depths of this division. With the return of the junior inter-county championship, this hidden talent should be unearthed. And who knows, by 1984 we could be heading the list for the county with the most all-Ireland senior successes.

Going prospecting for talent at junior games

WHAT would appear to be lush, new pastures have been opened up to Kilkenny sportsmen for next year by the top brass in the G.A.A. At Congress in this city last March, the decision makers in the 'Association agreed to re-introduce the junior hurling and football inter-county championships, much to the delight of Noreside officials.

For years at Congress, Kilkenny have been pushing for the return of these championships. Year in and year out their plea fell on deaf ears, but this time they managed to muster enough support to defeat the opposition which was being promoted, for the most part, by the strong football counties.

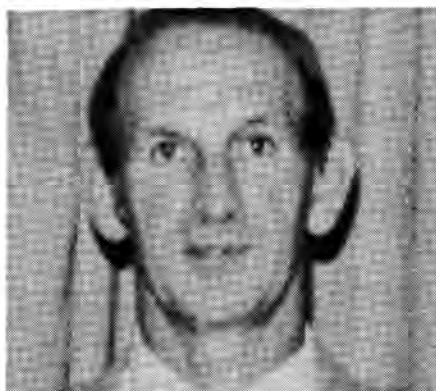
This opposition from the strong football counties was mainly aimed towards the junior football competition. It was felt too many would opt for the junior event, and the field in the senior inter-county championship would be reduced to such an extent it would take altogether from the prestige of the competition.

Strangely, the opposition to bringing back the junior inter-county hurling championship was not nearly as strong. But as one could not be brought back without the other, the motion was lost year after year.

Maybe the fact that Kilkenny were in favour of the idea and Congress was in Kilkenny might have swayed indifferent delegates. Whatever the reason, from a Kilkenny point of view, the decision should bear nothing but good results.

WILL SURVIVE

Hurling in this county will always survive, no matter what upsurge of interest is shown in other sports. The game is in the blood of the people, and there is just no way they can get away from it. Even those who like to give the impression they have absolutely no interest in the game, can invariably tell you how a county team has



Michael Brophy (Danesfort) . . . he looked so good in the junior grade he gained immediate inclusion in the Kilkenny senior team.

fared. There is nothing wrong with that. It just proves a point.

Football is a different story. Unlike hurling, it is unglamorous, mainly, not entirely, due to a lack of success. A Kilkenny football team has never won anything of consequence, while the hurlers have captured 22 all-Ireland senior titles, and hundreds of other lesser prizes besides.

In this county, football is battling for results on the one hand, and against a poor image on the other. For instance, if the hurlers were to be beaten by 25 points, people would be shocked. If the same thing happened the football side, the same people would laugh it off with such throw away comments as: 'Oh, did you see what happened the footballers? They were second again'.

Under the system where Kilkenny had to compete at senior level in football, they were never going to be anything but a laughing

stock. This was the same with other counties too, but some were too proud to admit it. At least in this county they recognised the problem, which meant they knew what they had to do to get it right, which was half the battle.

Over the past five years you could count on one hand the number of victories county football teams — minor, under-21 and senior — have scored. If the situation that prevailed was continued, it would be the same in another five years.

HOUSE IN ORDER

Surely that would not have been good for the game in Kilkenny, or anywhere else? Just imagine, if Kilkenny had to wait until this year, like Donegal had, to win their first all-Ireland inter-county title, what state would Gaelic games be by the Nore? Our football situation is a week-in-week-out occurrence for a lot of counties. We should not forget that. They are great to battle on.

But it is up to everyone to get their own house in order and great credit to the local officials who kept plugging away to have the junior championships re-formed.

More than likely the hurling event will prove the most rewarding, but football should get a boost too. Maybe we might not win any football title, but the code commanded great respect before when there was a realistic chance of one being landed. In the senior grade, this dream of success was in the realm of fantasy. Now the possibility or chance of something is back again. There is a carrot dangling.

In the mid-sixties Kilkenny qualified for a Leinster junior football final. They can do that again. In those heady football days the game

Continued overleaf >

Going prospecting for talent at junior games



Joe Millea (Graigue-Ballycallan) . . . one of the stars of a senior all-Ireland winning team who was spotted in the junior ranks.

◀ Continued from previous page

was no joke. The crowds followed the team. The players were interested. The atmosphere was healthy.

Nearly 20 years ago the Meallys from the famed Railyard club helped gain respectability for football. Clann na nGael was another club who had a lot to offer when the circumstances for progress was right.

In later years such good footballers as Dick McNamara, Kieran Purcell, Phil Larkin, Mick Brennan, the Morrisseys from Muckalee and present day Football Board chairman, Barry Henriques showed pride in the county colours and gave of their best although out of their depth.

Football competition was hard enough in the National League, but when it came to the Championship it became a real David versus Goliath occasion. For Kilkenny to make progress on the inter-county football scene will never be easy, but at junior rather than senior level there is some hope.

TOP CONTENDERS

As usual, Kilkenny will be among the top contenders on the hurling side — the junior championship. This has been proved in the past, at whatever level the county turns out. Hurling is the top Kilkenny game, and that is that.

The Co. Board adopted the right approach when deciding to field at both under-21 and junior level, instead of one or the other. The more players who get a chance to perform at inter-county level, the more will have a chance to shine through. And no matter what anyone says, nothing breeds success like success.

Players for this junior team must be over 21-years-of-age, which still leaves the under-21 selectors with a good choice. With junior county players eligible from junior and intermediate grades locally, there is no reason why Kilkenny should not be able to field two good sides.

Sure, an additional team — there will be four now — will mean further headaches for members of the Fixtures Committee and extra financial outlay by the Co. Board, but if this can be converted into all-Ireland titles, no one will mind.

Remember, in the past the junior championship turned up such great senior players as Ollie Walsh (Thomastown), Pat Henderson (Fenians), Mossy Murphy (Mullinavat), Joe Millea (Graigue/Ballycallan), Tom and Jim 'Link' Walsh, Paddy Buggy (Slieverue), the present President of the G.A.A., Mick Brophy (Danesfort), Denis Heaslip (Knocktopher), Billy Dwyer (Foulkstown), Mark Marnell (Danesfort) and Pat Delaney (Fenians).

The list goes on and on. There is no reason why players in the junior and intermediate grades in Kilkenny cannot progress to be senior county players of tomorrow.

HAVE TRADITION

Dunnamaggin, Graignamanagh, Graigue-Ballycallan, Piltown and Carrickshock and all the rest have tradition behind them. Through the junior inter-county championship the Co. Board will go prospecting for talent.

It has been said that one of the best men to spot a 'good one' a mile off is Johnny McGovern from Bennettsbridge. Perhaps he can lead the quest to unearth talent. He was the one who plucked Millea and Mossy Murphy from the junior ranks in the past. There are plenty more Milleas and Murphys around, just waiting to get their chance.

Yes, the junior inter-county championships can be good for Kilkenny — hurling and football teams. One may fare better than the other, but progress should be made in both directions. It should be remembered though, Kilkenny will only get out of these competitions what they put into them. There is no guarantee of success.



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SCÓR

Interest grows year by year

AS WITH the under-age section, the senior Scór competitions caught the imagination of the clubs over the past couple of years. The numbers participating has grown steadily with the passage of time.

Again these competitions have been running since 1972, and the clubs who have reaped the most rewards are O'Loughlin's, James Stephens, both in the ceili dancing section and Mooncoin, both their musicians and singers.

The Rower-Inistioge had a good novelty act and here former inter-county hurler, Eddie Keher had been a driving force. Erin's Own (Castlecomer) won the ballad section in the county finals but were pipped in the Leinster competitions.

But the highlight of the senior Scór competitions is set-dancing. Down through the years the Graigue-Ballycallan set dominated the event (they won from 1972 to '81), and qualified for two all-Ireland finals. However, they did not take part last season because of the death of one of their number, Jimmy Keogh, and their crown was taken by James Stephens.

Kilkenny Scór secretary, Phil Cahill, sponsored a set of trophies for a special ladies' set, and the winners were Slieverue. This was outside the Scór competitions, but it was a massive success.

Ceili dancing: O'Loughlin's (Teresa Mullen, Margaret

Doheny, Madeline White, Mildred Butler, Ann Doheny, Mary Morrissey, Claire Butler, Philomena Curran).

Recitation: Mooncoin (Willie O'Dwyer).

Solo singing: Rower-Inistioge (Michael Kennedy).

Novelty act: Tullogher

(Brigid Healy, Mary Conway, James Murphy, Johnny Grennan).

Question time: Freshford (Martin O'Donnell, Shem O'Donnell, Ned Kennedy).

Instrumental music: O'Loughlin's (Denis Brennan, Edward O'Neill).

Ballad group: Erin's

Own (Angela Kelly, Martin O'Neill, Bernie Holohan, Margaret Moran).

Set Dancing: James Stephens (Kieran White, Jimmy Culleton, Dave Dalton, Denis Treacy, Peggy Butler, Geraldine Molloy, Martha Leahy, Ann Treacy).

Phil, a great worker

Unquestionably one of the hardest workers in Kilkenny for the Scór, competitions is joint secretary, Phil Cahill, The Graigue-Ballycallan official never misses an opportunity to promote the events, and mainly due to his enthusiasm down through

the years clubs are at last beginning to enter in greater numbers than ever before.

He has a willing and co-operative assistant in Callan's Harry Bryan, who is the popular M.C. at many of the finals. Other hard working people

behind the scenes are Rev. L. Dunphy Adm. (chairman); Rev. T. Murphy C.C., Rev. L. Cassin C.C., Eddie Keher, Tom Ryall, Miss Helen Mulhall, John Healy, Ted Carroll, Phil Cashin and Paddy Mullins (all committee members).

TALENT 'EXPORTED'

KILKENNY 'exported' some good hurling talent during the year and two counties that could benefit are Dublin and Limerick.

Former Kilkenny defender, Richard Reid (Shamrocks) took up employment in the capital and broke his ties with the Ballyhale crew. He hurled with the Faughs in the senior championship, and who knows, some day he might turn out with Dublin. Stranger things have happened.

Reid won an all-Ireland senior hurling medal with Kilkenny in 1979 and he shared in the Shamrocks three-in-a-row success. He captained Shamrocks

to their all-Ireland club victory over St. Finbarr's (Cork). No doubt, Kilkenny will put up a fight if Dublin try and persuade Reid to change colours.

Another man who moved was former Lisdowney player, Nicky Wall, He has been working in the Limerick area with Howmedica International Incorporated so he joined the Patrickswell club.

Still only 24 he has a bright future ahead of him. He was a member of the Kilkenny under-21 panel in 1980 and he formerly captained the U.C.C. hurling team. You can bet Limerick are watching developments here. Didn't present Kil-



● Richard Reid

kenny player, Matt Ruth, play with Limerick at one stage.

ASSOCIATION SCORES WITH SCÓR

IN THE preservation of national games and pastimes, the G.A.A. has played a vital role.

Apart from games, the Association has encouraged cultural development in other ways, particularly in the promotion of Irish language, music, song and dance.

This is done through the vein of Scór competitions. These competitions started in 1971, but it took over a year for them to get established properly in this county.

There are two events — Scór na nOg for people aged 17 and under, and the senior competitions. It has been the practice to hold the Scór na nOg competitions before Christmas.

Unfortunately, not

every club gets totally involved in these events, and over the years, the best supporters have been O'Loughlin's, James Stephens, John Lockes (Callan), Dicksboro, Mooncoin, Erin's Own (Castlecomer), Kells and Dunnamaggin.

The McCauley family, representing O'Loughlin's, have won the Leinster title on three occasions. This qualified them for three all-Ireland finals in 1979, '80 and 1981. They were most unfortunate in the 1981 finals and lost out by a mere one mark.

The O'Loughlin's ceili dancers also did the county proud. They just missed out on the honours in the Leinster finals in 1982. Their question-time team also went close to capturing the provincial title.

The Scór na nOg county winners for 1981-'82 were:

Ceili-dancing:

O'Loughlin's (Caroline Blanchfield, Sinead Blanchfield, Linda Butler, Margaret Butler, Karen Doyle, Karen Treacy, Rose Smyth and Majella Smyth while Anthony and Marion McCauley provided the music.

Recitation: Kells/Dunnamaggin (Brendan O'Dwyer).

Solo singing: John Lockes (Fiona Roche).

Novelty act: Kells/Dunnamaggin (Tom Mahony, Margaret O'Driscoll, Gerald Reid, Brendan O'Dwyer, Michael Hurley).

Question time: O'Loughlin's (Enda McEvoy, Dan O'Driscoll, Conor Denieffe).

Music: O'Loughlin's (Michael McCauley, Rosaleen McCauley).

Ballad group: Muckalee / Ballyfoyle (Mary Breen, Claire Comerford, Bernadette Comerford, Brian Comerford, Dermot Comerford).

Set dancing: O'Loughlin's (Brendan Tynan, Michael Flannery, Denis Treacy, Anthony McCauley, Margaret Butler, Rose Smyth, Majella Smyth, Karen Doyle).

Thankfully, the number of clubs prepared to participate has increased over the last few years. But there is still plenty of room for improvement.

Supporters attending the Scór competitions have also shown an upsurge of interest, and the numbers who turned out for the 1981-'82 finals surpassed all previous figures.

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WHAT TRADITION REALLY MEANS

By: Peter Holohan

THE QUESTION is often asked, what has tradition to do with hurling? The best answer is that of all the All-Ireland finals which have been played since 1887, Cork, Kilkenny and Tipperary have between them won 68. These are the counties where the game first became popular and where it evolved more effectively.

Those counties adapted themselves to the changing circumstances over the years – and the circumstances have changed quite considerably since the early days. For one thing, up to 1892, teams consisted of 22-a-side, reduced to 17 that year and further reduced to 15 in 1913.

One could easily imagine the kind of rough and tumble an affair a game with 22 players on each side could be. It was not an awful lot better when teams were reduced to 17. The game as we know it do-day really began in 1913.

Even since then the game has changed quite dramatically, particularly in more recent times. The introduction of the personal foul rule was a very important step in the right direction. Perhaps the next most important step might be the elimination of the hand-pass goal. This is not in any way a criticism of Christy Heffernan who quite legitimately took advantage of it quite recently.

It will be generally agreed that hurling is now more open and, consequently, more spectacular. While this is so, it is fair to say that in the old days the players showed great skill, too.

Conditions for them were more difficult. The hurleys were heavier, the ball was heavier and pitches were not anything like they are now. But they managed to serve up great stuff.

The 1904 All-Ireland final in which Kilkenny beat Cork by 1-9 to 1-8 to

win their first title was the start of a remarkable series between the two counties which opened a new chapter in the annals of the game. It peaked in 1931 when the final went to three games after the first two had been drawn.

The 1931 epoch made such a nationwide impact that a High Court Judge suggested after the second draw that there should be no replay, but that honours should lie evenly between the two counties.

Hurling is one game where the process of change came with the passage of time. That is why it is impossible – though some people might think otherwise – to draw comparisons between the hurlers of one generation with those of another. The late Dick Grace, himself an outstanding hurler, used to say that “we will never again see the likes of ‘Fox’ Maher, Sim Walton or Jack Rochford.

Fallacious though the theory might be, it is understandable that Dick Grace should have a veneration for the idols of his youth. In addition, he was a contemporary of Walton and Rochford and had his share of the spoils of the golden era when Kilkenny won seven All-Ireland titles between 1904 and 1913. He was a sub. in 1909 and was on the team in 1911, 1912 and 1913. He was also on the 1922 victorious side.

‘Fox’ Maher was a great goalie, but having played his first All-Ireland in 1893 he only collected one All-Ireland medal in 1904.

Walton and Rochford were on that team and with Dick Doyle and Dick (‘Droog’) Walsh of Mooncoin went on to collect six more medals. This quartet had a record seven medals until Christy Ring and John Doyle and now Noel Skehan passed it by one.

‘Fox’ Maher was not only a great hurler, but by all accounts he was a great organiser and a great personality and was known as ‘the father of hurling’.

Maher, Walton and Rochford may have been peerless in their day, but there is no way one could compare the team of the first decade of this century, who admittedly laid the foundation for Kilkenny’s great tradition, with the teams of the 1930s, 1960s and 1970s.

Wasn’t it thought we would never again see the likes of Lory Meagher, Paddy Phelan, Jimmy Walsh or Matty Power; or Jim Langton or Terry Leahy; or Martin Coogan, Ted Carroll, Jim Treacy or Paddy Moran; or Eddie Keher, Pat Delaney or Kieran Purcell?

Each generation brings with it its own stars and counties like Cork, Tipperary and Kilkenny have the tradition behind them. And tradition dies hard.

Test Your Knowledge on Gaelic Games

1. Who was the last man to referee both the senior hurling and football All-Ireland finals in the same Year?

2. Who captained Wexford when they won their last National Hurling League title?

3. Give the year, the finalists and the scores from the only occasion that a senior hurling All-Ireland final was won without the winners scoring a point?

4. Who was the first man to win All-Ireland hurling medals at two different grades in the one year?

5. What great Tipperary hurler of the 'Forties was known as "The Rubber Man"?

6. Name the two former G.A.A. Presidents who refereed All-Ireland senior hurling finals?

7. Who was the man who played for Leinster in the Railway Cup hurling and football games on the same day in 1950?

8. In what year, and at what Congress venue, was the Ban removed?

9. Who captained the Leinster team that defeated Munster in the 1941 Railway Cup hurling final.

10. Can you remember the Galway full-forward line from the 1975 All-Ireland senior hurling final against Kilkenny?

11. Name the three Roscrea club players who figured on the 1971 Tipperary All-Ireland senior hurling team?

12. Who was the Cork hurler who scored 10 points in the 1976 All-Ireland senior hurling final against Wexford?

13. Who was General Secretary of the G.A.A. from 1929 to 1964?

14. Name the Galway man who won All-Ireland senior hurling medals with Tipperary in 1949, 1950 and 1951?

15. Who was the player who scored 2-10 in the Munster senior hurling final in the 'Seventies and still finished on the losing team?

16. Who was the Kilkenny sub-goalkeeper in the 1972 All-Ireland senior hurling final when Cork were beaten?

17. Name the player who scored 15 points in the 1978 Oireachtas final?

18. Who played in goal for Wexford when they won the 1965 All-Ireland under-21 hurling championship?

19. This hurler scored four goals in the 1971 All-Ireland under-21 final. Who was he?

20. St. Peter's College (Wexford) won the All-Ireland colleges' senior hurling title four times in 1962, 1967, 1968 and 1973. What was unusual about all four victories?

21. Who was the man who made a come-back in goal to help Cork win the 1952, 1953 and 1954 senior hurling All-Ireland titles?

22. A Carlow man won an All-Ireland senior hurling medal. Who was he? What year did he do it?

23. Who was the Corkman who coached Antrim when they won the 1970 All-Ireland intermediate hurling championship?

24. When was the last time a Leinster senior hurling final went to a replay?

25. Who was the youngest captain of a Cork All-Ireland senior hurling winning team?

26. Who was sub-goalkeeper on the Limerick team that won the 1971 National Hurling League?

27. Name the three Kilkennymen who helped Blackrock (Cork) defeat Rathnure (Wexford) in the 1974 All-Ireland club senior hurling final?

28. Tournafulla had one player on the winning Limerick senior hurling All-Ireland team in 1973. Who was he?

29. Can you remember the Kilkenny full-forward line from the 1964 All-Ireland senior hurling final against Tipperary?

30. Who was the man who scored 1-12 for Limerick in the 1955 Munster senior hurling final against Clare?

● ANSWERS ON PAGE 96 ●

WHISKEY A TEAM STIMULANT?



whiskey at intervals during the senior hurling championship match between Dicksboro and James Stephens at St. James's Park on Sunday last.

I beg, on behalf of James Stephens H.C. to emphatically contradict these unfounded statements, as they are calculated to reflect on the moral character of our players.

No member of our team was supplied with alcoholic drinks of any kind and our committee have always discouraged the use of stimulants on the field.

In the interests of our team, collectively and individually, I should be glad if you can find space to publish this contradiction".

With the price of whiskey what it is today, there is no club that could afford to give it to their players.

CLUB officials should keep it to themselves and not let the players find out, but whiskey — the old drop itself — could be used as a stimulant for teams.

None of the pills or prods for our boys, no, give them the old mountain

dew itself. The following amusing little piece was spotted in the files of the *Kilkenny People*. Make what you like of it, but the man did refer to the use of 'stimulants'. To the editor of the *Kilkenny People* (April 17,

1926) from J. Delaney, hon. secretary, James Stephen's hurling club.

Sir,
"A rumour has been freely circulated in Gaelic circles in the city that members of our team were supplied with



Le Dea Mhéin ó Chomhairle Laighean C.L.G

M. Ó Dubhsláine
Runaí



SPOT A FAMILAR FACE



Did success deprive Shamrocks of a record ?

THERE was more talk about what might have been than anything else when the Shamrocks (Ballyhale) regained custody of the Tom Walsh Cup – the prize for the senior hurling champions – by beating until then local and all-Ireland champions, James Stephens.

By playing their refreshing brand of fast, open hurling, the Southerners collected their fourth title in all. This was an amazing feat in many ways and it was the fourth time in five years the Shamrocks won the pot. That was precisely what prompted the talk of what might have been.

The Ballyhale crew won the senior hurling championship in 1978, 1979 and 1980. In the latter year they also collected the all-Ireland club championship by sinking fancied St. Finbarr's (Cork) in a rousing final at Semple Stadium, Thurles. For three long, hard years, the

hurlers from the Southern parish were in constant action. After victory in Kilkenny they progressed to the all-Ireland championship. So a strong argument can be put forward that the Shamrocks may have missed out on a record because of their successes. Only one team in Kilkenny, Carrickshock, ever won the senior hurling championship four times in-a-row. They did it between 1940 and '43. In 1981 the Shamrocks were out to equal that fantastic achievement. But too much hurling caught up on them, and they were beaten in the semi-final of the local

championship by the fighting Fenians (Johnstown).

Now many people are of the opinion that the all-Ireland series is played at the wrong time of the year. Perhaps it is. It has been proved that it is difficult for any club to win the all-Ireland championship, and then go back and successfully defend their local championship. James Stephens did it one year. Other occasions when this happened are very, very few and far between.

GREATEST OCCASION SIDE

Shamrocks mentors made no secret of the fact in 1981 that their hurlers had too much of the game as they set out for the four-in-a-row. They were upended in the semi-final by a Fenians team that proved beyond all doubt that they are the greatest

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occasion side in this county. They got as much satisfaction from stopping the Shamrocks attempt at making history as they would from winning a championship. It was not a spiteful thing, no, just the sort of challenge they relish.

Now the point is, if Shamrocks had not been involved so much and so long in the all-Ireland series would they have matched the Carrickshock record? There is strong evidence to suggest they would. And one of the strongest arguments as put forward by the Shamrocks themselves when they beat James Stephens comfortably by 3-10 to 2-4 in the 87th. final in 1982.

This performance made one cast the mind back 12 months and ask what happened the Ballyhale men then. Here they were hammering the all-Ireland champions. They had had a rest and a long break from hurling, and they bounced back with the appetite right.

The Shamrocks looked so good in this year's final that you had to wonder did they really miss out on an actual five-in-a-row. After all, they won the '82 decider without the services of such fine hurlers as Richard Reid (now playing with Faughs, Dublin), Frank Holohan (on U.N. duty in the Lebanon) and Patrick Holden (injured).

When you consider that they looked so good against The Village with three players of that calibre missing, you have to wonder about what they missed out on. For sure they had a wonderful crop of players together at one time. And as well, they had good team handlers with former club chairman, Kevin Fennelly (senior) playing a leading rôle in all the championship victories since the club was founded in 1972.

There are some people down the Ballyhale direction who are convinced the Shamrocks missed the first five-in-a-row. And you know, you would have to wonder.

COMPETITION HOT

Their display in the decider was as good as any they gave in the three-in-a-row years. Old hands, Johnny Walsh, Maurice Mason and Liam Dalton were as sprightly as ever while county men Ger., Liam Fennelly and Kevin Fennelly kept up their usual good form. As well, talented youngsters like Dermot Fennelly, Liam Long and Tom Phelan forced their way onto the team and this kept the competition for places white hot.

After being down, the Shamrocks appreciated victory all the more. You could see it in the eye of the hurlers that they were hungry for success after missing out the previous year. Whether that hunger is satisfied now only time will tell.

The Shamrocks winning team was – K. Fennelly, D. Connolly, L. Dalton, W. Phelan, L. Long, M. Mason, S. Fennelly, J. Walsh, G. Fennelly, T. Phelan, L. Fennelly, D. Fennelly, B. Fennelly, M. Fennelly, M. Kelly. Sub – S. Grace.

James Stephens – M. Moore, P. Neary, B. Cody, P. Larkin, J. Hennessy, M. Hennessy, J. O'Brien, D. McCormack, T. McCormack, N. Kelly, D. Collins, B. Walton, J. McCormack, A. Egan, J. J. Cullen. Subs – T. Hogan, P. Brennan, R. Walsh.

Before the eventual champions reached the final, they had to clear the considerable obstacle of St. Martin's (Coon-Muckalee-Ballyfoyle) in the semi-final. This was the Northerners first year in the championship under this name, and they made no small impression.

SADDEST SIGHT

The Shamrocks won by 1-10 (13 points) to 2-6 (12) on a dreary, wet day. St. Martin's felt the referee had been hard on them during the game and the official was man handled afterwards. That was one of the saddest sights of the whole year.

Earlier St. Martin's played the Shamrocks in the preliminary round at St. John's Park. The Northerners won that one decisively by 2-16 to 2-3 and they looked well on course to repeat the result when they led at half-time in the semi-final.

But they made the fatal mistake of giving away frees in front of their own posts, and Brendan Fennelly punished every one.

The other semi-final saw Glenmore, with county full-forward, Christy Heffernan in top form, lose out to The Village. Here lack of experience in the big time cost Glenmore dear, but they should be able to build on the lessons of this term and be better prepared in the future.

In the early stages of the competition, the Rower-Inistioge showed rare form. They looked real contenders for a while and among the teams they scared were then high flying James Stephens, whom they frightened on a cold evening in Thomastown.

Family background is good

WAS the victory of the Shamrocks (Ballyhale) in the senior hurling championship a good omen for the county team? As things stand with the Kilkenny team at the moment, it is most likely that a Fennelly will be captain next year. And no one will argue with a man carrying that name being skipper. The track record is good. Three of the brothers have captained Kilkenny all-Ireland winning teams. Ger. did it at senior level in 1979. Kevin did it at under-21 level and Sean did it at minor level.

The most likely candidate for captain would appear to be Liam Fennelly. Can the 24-year-old do as well as his brothers? On the hurling field, the Fennellys appear to have the winning touch.

And talking about captains, wasn't it a nice spontaneous reaction from the crowd to give Brian Cody a rousing ovation when he had to leave the field because of injury in the county final? The James Stephens man twisted his right knee and was carried off after 18 minutes. Obviously the crowd had not forgotten the wonderful contribution he made to Kilkenny hurling during the National League and Championship in 1982. He was a good captain, and by their reaction the crowd showed that they cared.

Captained by goalkeeper, Pat Dunphy, the Rower looked one to watch in the early stages with old hands Billy Murphy and Eddie Keher doing as well as ever. But when it came to the do-or-die quarter final stages, they blew up and were sent packing. Overall, the championship was not that great. The final itself was good and the 12,000 or so spectators were treated to a fine game. Perhaps it was just as well, because a lot of bad ones had gone before in the league section. Funnily enough, as in years gone by, a bad championship threw up a great county team.



SHAMROCKS: County Senior Hurling Champions 1982

Back row (left to right): Declan Connolly, Wattie Phelan, Johnny Walsh, Maurice Mason, Sean Fennelly, Liam Long, Liam Fennelly, Michael Fennelly.

Front row (left to right): Tom Ryan (trainer), Dermot Fennelly, Mick Kelly, Tom Phelan, Liam Dalton (captain), Ger Fennelly, Brendan Fennelly, Kevin Fennelly.



JAMES STEPHENS: County Senior Hurling Finalists 1982

*Back row (left to right): Mick Moore, Denis McCormack, Andy Egan, Donie Collins, John Joe Cullen, Tom McCormack, Jimmy O'Brien, Brian Cody, Fan Larkin.
Front row (left to right): Martin Hennessy, Paddy Neary, Billy Walton, Joe Hennessy (captain), John McCormack, Ned Kelly.*

Stephens' victory was good for club and county

BY PERFECTING the art of boxing-up opponents and then wearing them down, Kilkenny senior hurling champions James Stephens won their second All-Ireland club title when they beat Mount Sion (Waterford) in a thrilling decider in Thurles in May.

Better known as "The Village", the Larchfield club were never spectacular during the campaign. Like a long distance runner they paced themselves well, and after a scare or two along the way, they pocketed their second title in six years.

Stephens also won the honours in 1976 when they beat the famed Blackrock (Cork) by 2-10 to 2-4. So, in all, Kilkenny clubs have taken the title on three occasions, as the Shamrocks Ballyhale) outsmarted St. Finbarr's (Cork) in the decider of 1981 by 1-15 to 1-11.

The 3-13 to 3-8 win over Mount

Sion really brought out the best in The Village, although the game wasn't a classic by any means. One time in arrears of seven points, and then having clawed their way back to within a point of their opponents, the Noresiders kept their collective cool and even when they conceded another sickening goal fought back to finish five points clear of good opponents.

The way the Patrick Street club slipped it over Mount Sion, who were celebrating their Golden Jubilee this year brought to the fore a new trait in the Kilkenny champions. Along the way they had been able to wear down opponents slowly, but in the final they had to be quick and decisive with the 'kill' at the finish.

WORSE TO COME

In a nutshell, the story of the game was that Mount Sion were

practically hurled off the lush Semple Stadium turf during the opening 10 minutes. Still, by a strange turn of events, the Suirsiders retired 1-5 to 0-6 ahead at half-time.

Worse was yet to come for Stephens when their opponents rattled home 1-2 in the opening four minutes of the new half (2-7 to 0-6). Showing commendable spirit, James Stephens reduced the arrears to the minimum and seemed to be flying. Then disaster struck. They conceded another goal through John Dalton and all their hard work seemed in vain.

But The Village refused to lie down and cheeky corner-forward John McCormack gave them a second-half kiss of life when he bagged three nice goals. The first was of the lucky variety, but the other pair were the result of hard



The James Stephens' team that played against Mount Sion in the All-Ireland final. Back row (l. to r.) Mick Moore, Billy Walton, Mick Crotty, J. J. Cullen, Denis McCormack, Tom McCormack, Andy Egan, Brian Cody, Phil Larkin. Front row (l. to r.) John McCormack, Paddy Neary, Joe Hennessy, Jimmy O'Brien (capt.), Ned Kelly, Martin Hennessy, Tom Hogan (injured).

Stephens' victory was good for club and county

work which was willingly shared by inside forwards John Joe Cullen and star performer Mick Crotty.

By the time McCormack had completed his hat-trick, The Village had gone 3-11 to 3-8 ahead, and up to the final whistle it was all one-way traffic. While McCormack made the news because of the spectacular fashion of his goals, others who did magnificent work were Mick Crotty, Joe Hennessy, Martin Hennessy, J. J. Cullen and Tom McGrath, who had only returned to action the previous week after being out for months with cartilage trouble.

This win by the county champions gave hurling in Co. Kilkenny a major lift. The county side was doing well in the League after travelling rocky roads in the previous League and Championship. Then the county team came right, and just to keep in step James Stephens did their bit by land in the Club All-Ireland title.

GOOD JOB FOR COUNTY

Of course, when James Stephens became champions in Kilkenny by defeating a disappointing Fenians

(Johnstown) in the county final, they immediately set about doing Kilkenny hurling a favour. As champions, they had the right to pick the new county selectors.

Much disappointment had been expressed about the method of picking the mentors for a couple of years before. Mindful of their responsibility to do a good job for the sake of the county, Stephens did not rush into picking a Kilkenny 'backroom team' and nominated good, solid selectors. The subsequent results achieved by the Kilkenny senior team bears witness to the good job done initially by the James Stephens club.

But this was only in keeping with the way the James Stephens' mentors managed their own team, both in the All-Ireland and local championships. The Village mentors were good at picking teams to suit specific occasions and meet certain challenges.

One of their most pleasing games in the five-match All-Ireland club campaign must have been the Leinster semi-final victory over Portlaoise at Athy. That day the Noresiders were dynamite.

Everything went right for them and they made a fine Portlaoise team – coached by former Tipperary 'great' Jimmy Doyle – look only average.

Stephens suggested that day that they had the potential to win the All-Ireland. Of if they did not go that far, it would take a very, very good side to beat them.

They met such a team next time out in the delayed Leinster final at the same venue. Faythe Harriers (Wexford) were most unlucky losers on a 0-13 to 1-9 scoreline. Even today some James Stephens supporters must wonder how a sizzling shot across the face of The Village goal in the dying minutes managed to stay out of the Mick Moore-guarded net.

TURNED ON THE STYLE

Luck got James Stephens through that day. But sure every team needs a bit of luck now and again, and The Village duly held the favour of the gods and went on to collect the national crown.

In that absorbing Leinster final, two stars at opposite ends of the pitch were former Wexford dogged defender Willie Murphy and former Kilkenny defender Phil 'Fan' Larkin. These 'old boys' really turned on the style and when leaving the grounds after the game, supporters were talking as much about them as they were about the actual hurling tussle.

Mick Crotty, too, got very favourable mention.

Outright victory meant that James Stephens have been successful in two out of three starts in the All-Ireland club hurling championship. It's not a bad average. And they were the first Leinster club ever to capture the All-Ireland which, up to 1976, had been dominated by Munster clubs, with Cork taking the title on four occasions and Tipperary once.

James Stephens carried the bulk of the 1976 All-Ireland winning side into battle in the 1982 final. With the addition of rising young stars like Billy Walton, Martin Hennessy, Andy Egan, John Joe Cullen and Ned Kelly, they produced a winning formula after *Father Time* had robbed them of some great long servers like Niall Morrissey, Eamon Morrissey, Michael Taylor and Liam 'Chunky' O'Brien.

No doubt, the new and old shared equally in the new-found hurling trophy wealth of James Stephens on May 16.

The scores that won national crown

James Stephens 1-15

Brownstown (Westmeath) 1-7

Scorers: B. Walton (0-5), J. McCormack (1-1), D. McCormack, M. Crotty (0-3 each), M. Hennessy, P. Brennan, A. Egan (0-1 each).

James Stephens 2-15

Portlaoise 0-9

Scorers: B. Walton (1-7), A. Egan (1-0), J. McCormack (0-3), M. Crotty (0-2), D. Collins, D. McCormack, P. Brennan (0-1 each).

James Stephens 0-13

Faythe Harriers (Wexford) 1-9 (Leinster final)

Scorers: B. Walton (0-4), D. McCormack (0-4), A. Egan (0-2), M. Hennessy, M. Crotty, J. McCormack (0-1 each).

James Stephens 1-13

Gort (Galway) 1-8

Scorers: B. Walton (0-9), J. J. Cullen (1-0), M. Crotty (0-3), A. Egan (0-1).

James Stephens 3-13

Mount Sion (Waterford) 3-8 (All-Ireland Final)

Scorers: B. Walton (0-10), J. McCormack (3-0), N. Kelly, M. Crotty, T. McCormack (0-1 each).

WALTON PIPPED BY GREENE

EMERGING young James Stephens' forward Billy Walton was pipped by Waterford inter-county star Jim Greene (Mount Sion) for the honour of being the top scorer in the All-Ireland club senior hurling championship.

Greene scored 3-30 (39 points) in the Suirsiders' five matches, while in the same number of outings, Walton helped himself to 1-35 (38 points).

Going into the final Greene had 3-23 to his credit. He improved that with seven points against The Village. Walton had 1-25 on the scoresheet before the decider and he improved that by 10 points.

On the day of the All-Ireland final, Sunday, May 16, Billy Walton celebrated his 21st birthday. An All-Ireland winner's medal was a nice present.

It was almost 17 years to the day after he collected his first All-Ireland medal that Village goalkeeper Mick Moore won another at Thurles that same day. With St. Kieran's College in the colleges' senior hurling All-Ireland final of 1965, Moore won his first major honour. The Kilkenny school beat Limerick C.B.S. by 6-9 to 6-1

and one M. Moore played in goal for the winners.

The winners' trophy for the All-Ireland hurling competition is called the Moore Cup. It commemorates the memory of Tommy Moore, a native of Finnan, Ballyragget, who was grand-uncle of the James Stephens' goalkeeper. The handsome trophy was first won by the Faughs (Dublin) club back in the 1880's. Mr. Moore was a dynamic member of the Faughs club, so to commemorate his

memory they gave the cup for the game he loved — hurling.

RECORD FOR DONIE

With The Village, Donie Collins collected his fourth All-Ireland club senior hurling winner's medal. This is a record.

Former Cork and Blackrock star Donie won three with the 'Rockies in 1972, 1974 and 1979, when they beat the Shamrocks (Ballyhale). So he has won his awards with two clubs.

Where All The Titles Went

- 1971—Roscrea (Tipperary) 4-5; St. Rynagh's (Offaly) 2-5.
- 1972—Blackrock (Cork) 5-13; Rathnure (Wexford) 6-9.
- 1973—Glen Rovers (Cork) 2-18; St. Rynagh's (Offaly) 2-8.
- 1974—Blackrock 2-14, Rathnure 3-11 (draw);
Blackrock 3-8, Rathnure 1-9 (replay).
- 1975—St. Finbarr's (Cork) 3-8; Fenians (Kilkenny) 1-6.
- 1976—James Stephens (Kilkenny) 2-10; Blackrock 2-4.
- 1977—Glen Rovers (Cork) 2-12; Camross (Laois) 0-8.
- 1978—St. Finbarr's 2-7; Rathnure 0-9.
- 1979—Blackrock 5-7; Shamrocks (Kilkenny) 5-5.
- 1980—Castlegar (Galway) 1-11; Ballycastle (Antrim) 1-8.
- 1981—Shamrocks (Kilkenny) 1-15; St. Finbarr's 1-11.
- 1982—James Stephens 3-13; Mount Sion (Waterford) 3-8.

19 players were used

JAMES STEPHENS used 19 players during their successful five game run in the all-Ireland club senior hurling championship.

After they toppled the Fenians (Johnstown) by 2-10 to 0-8 in the Kilkenny county final, they took on Brownstown (Westmeath) without the services of county star, Joe Hennessy, who was unable to make the long trip because of business commitments.

County panelist, Tom McCormack, was sidelined with cartilage trouble for most of the campaign. He only returned to hurling after being out for months in a match against the

Rower-Inistioge the week before the all-Ireland final. Tom proved his fitness and got the nod for the decider.

Former Kilkenny selector and one time James Stephens supremo, Sean 'George' Leahy, rejoined the club for the all-Ireland final after being out-in-the-cold for several months. He was the man who, single handed, master-minded the 1976 all-Ireland club victory over Blackrock (Cork). He was the sole selector/trainer at that time.

The players who helped during the campaign were — Mick Moore, Paddy Neary, Brian Cody, Phil

Larkin, Tom Hogan, Martin Hennessy, Jimmy O'Brien (capt.), Donie Collins, Denis McCormack, Eddie Kelly, Billy Walton, Philip Brennan, Mick Crotty, Andy Egan, John McCormack, John Joe Cullen, Joe Hennessy, Dominic Bolger and Tom McCormack. The other panel members were Sean Brennan, Tom Brennan, Jimmy Byrne, Leo Hennessy and John Leahy, son of George.

Liam 'Chunky' O'Brien was part of The Village panel listed for the Kilkenny county final, but he took no part in the all-Ireland series.

WHEN IT COMES TO HURLING LEINSTER LEADS THE WAY



IT'S OFFICIAL. At long last it is now recognised that Leinster belongs to a class apart in the hurling world.

For years we were lambasted about the merits of Munster hurling. The Munster final, we were told, was something apart. The occasion, the atmosphere, the crowd and the side trappings were incomparable. And the hurling itself – well, they told us it had to be witnessed to be believed.

Like many a gullible Leinsterman, I swallowed the lot, hook, line and sinker. And for years I trekked the roads of Munster in an effort to sample the atmosphere of some 'real' hurling.

As I made my way through the streets of Limerick or Thurles en route to the game I was constantly reminded that I was in Munster territory and that I was about to witness something great.

And in anticipation of that great spectacle I occupied a prime viewing spot in the arena and waited and waited. My hopes were rising with each passing moment.

The teams arrived. The band struck up and the crowds roared. So my expectations were being realised.

The game began. The atmosphere was electric. And then I focussed my attention and waited for this great hurling game to unfold. I waited. The second half came. I waited. The final whistle came. I was still waiting.

Many years have passed since. Many Munster finals have been played. But I'm still waiting. And at



*By Diarmuid Healy,
Offaly Team Coach*

this stage. I am seriously contemplating suing the promoters of Munster finals for gross deception.

EXPLOITS GAME

The only explanation I can find for my disillusionment is the fact that I'm a Leinsterman. Kilkenny hurling is of the highest standard. It is noted for its special craft, style and artistry. It experiments with new ideas and playing patterns. It exploits the game to its full potential.

It was this positive and adventurous approach that brought Kilkenny and Leinster hurling in particular, to new heights in the 'seventies. This was epitomised in the many memorable classics

between Kilkenny and Wexford and it was this positive approach which advanced Leinster hurling even further and led to the emergence of Offaly and Laois in the 'eighties.

Kilkenny's dominance in the 'seventies could have had a devastating effect on other Leinster counties. Total frustration could have set in and Kilkenny's superiority could have prevented them from even contemplating success for themselves.

But such was the impact of Kilkenny hurling that other counties were not just satisfied to sit back in admiration. They wanted to share and imitate the style and artistry of the black and amber.

And it is a fine tribute to Kilkenny that other counties opted to imitate rather than fear the black and amber.

NEW DIMENSION

It is this imitation of greatness that has brought a new dimension to Leinster hurling. Gone are the days when the Leinster championship consisted only of one game – the inevitable pairing of Kilkenny and Wexford in the final. Now there are at least four teams with a real chance of success.

Hurling is also spreading rapidly to areas throughout the country where it was never played before.

And it all began with Kilkenny's attractive style of play, so attractive that others wanted to imitate them.

Take a bow, Kilkenny – imitation is the greatest form of flattery in this case.

KILKENNY'S 1982



Bank of Ireland ALL-STARS



Brian Cody



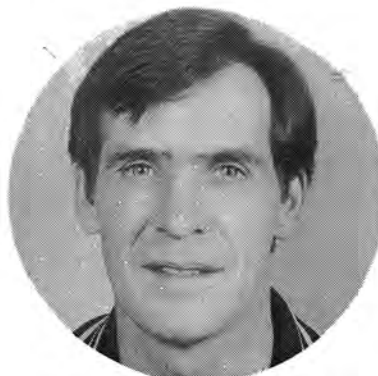
Christy Heffernan



Richie Power



Noel Skehan



Frank Cummins



Ger Henderson



Paddy Prendergast



Billy Fitzpatrick



Bank of Ireland
The bank of a lifetime

Honours well spread in under-age games

AT THE time of writing, 16 of the 18 competitions run by Bord-na-nOg have been completed. The two to be finished are the minor football championship (Roinn A) and the minor hurling league (Roinn A). Just four games remain to finish these two.

In the minor football championship, O'Loughlin/Gaels are in the final and they await the Southern winners. Here the fight is between champions of the past two years, Thomastown and Graignamanagh.

The minor hurling league sees James Stephens looking for the double, as they have already won the championship. Their opponents in the final will be Dicksboro or Mooncoin who meet in the semi-final.

Mooncoin would dearly love to win the league. They would, of course, be getting their revenge on 'Stephens as well as winning the Johnny Tobin memorial trophy which the club presented to Bord-na-nOg in memory of their great workers.

Close Call

'Stephens regained the minor hurling title after a lapse of 11 years when they beat Mooncoin in the final. The Village got a close call from Dicksboro in the first round and won by one point, 1-8 to 1-7. Their second round victory against Bennettsbridge was also hard won. The final score was 0-16 to 2-6.

In the Northern final they had an easy win over Erin's Own (Castlecomer) by 4-17 to 0-4.

Mooncoin also had an easy win in the first round, beating Rower-Inistioge by 5-9 to 0-1. In a tough encounter they knocked out last year's champions, Thomastown by 3-5 to 1-7.

The final was a disappointing affair with James Stephens leading by 1-6 to 1-1 at half-time. The Moon-

coin goal was of the soft variety and but for this score James Stephens would have been well ahead. An early goal to Mooncoin by Seamus Delehunty, to which John Kearns added a point left the score 1-10 to 2-2 and a Mooncoin rally looked on. But an Edward O'Leary goal killed the contest and 'Stephens won comfortably by 3-13 to 4-4.

The scorers in the final were Eddie O'Leary (1-2), John Scott (0-5), Eddie Brennan (1-1), Mark Kelly (1-0), Thomas Leahy (0-2), Liam Mullen (0-2), David Cowhig (0-1). **Mooncoin** - Seamus Delehunty (2-3), John Kearns (1-1), Noel Dunphy (1-0).

First Title

'Stephens contested both under-16 hurling finals where, however, defeat was their lot. Callan beat them in a great championship final by 1-7 to 1-4. It was Callan's first Roinn A title.

Best for Callan were John Power, Bosco Bryan, Liam Egan, John Holden, Aidan O'Dwyer and Jimmy Quigley.

In the league, Bennettsbridge had an easy win by 4-8 to 1-3. 'Stephens failed to score in the first half. Best for Bennettsbridge were Billy Cleere, Paul Doran, who scored 1-7, Tom Lennon, Declan Kennedy, John Barry and Frank Geoghegan.

Double

A club who brought off a double were the Shamrocks (Ballyhale) who won the Minor hurling B Championship and the minor football B championship. In the hurling, Shamrocks beat Graigue/Ballycallan by 2-7 to 2-5. Star of the win was Tommy Phelan who later helped the Shamrocks to win the senior hurling championship.

He captained the team that beat Railyard in the minor football

championship to bring the first minor football title to the parish. Others to play well in the hurling final were Sean Phelan, Tommy Murphy, Johnny Phelan, Eddie Devereaux and Paddy Voss. In the football they beat Railyard by 2-2 to 0-7. Goals in the first half by Eddie Devereaux and Paul Holden were the decisive scores.

Galmoy completed a double also by winning the minor hurling league (Roinn B) by beating Slieverue by 0-9 to 0-8 and the under-16 (Roinn B) hurling league by beating Mullinavat by 4-8 to 3-5. Outstanding in the minor hurling win were Jim Bergin, Pat McEvoy, Gerry Drennan, Nicky Grace and Pat Ryan while at under-16 level Gerry Drennan and Pat Ryan were again to the fore as well as Pat Bergin, Paul Phelan, Eamon Herke and Robert Delaney.

Dicksboro also registered a double with victory in the under-16 football (Roinn A) beating Callan by 3-7 to 1-8 while Callan were also defeated in the league final by 1-10 to 1-5, a margin of five points in each case. Best for Dicksboro in these victories were Dermot Bolger, Robert Dalton, Pat Cass, Frankie Bawle, Michael Manley and Billy Ayres.

Kilmacow won

Kilmacow won the double in under-16 hurling (Roinn C) with league and championship victories. Both finals were close affairs. Kilmacow had just one point to spare over St. Martin's in the championship, winning by 2-10 to 3-6. In the league they beat Windgap by 1-11 to 3-2.

Best for Kilmacow in these wins were Andy Ryan, a great prospect, Seamus Sutton, John Kiely, who gave a brilliant goalkeeping display in the league final, Sean Caulfield, Robert O'Neill and Robert Kennedy.

CONTINUED OVERLEAF >

Honours well spread in under-age games

◀ Cont'd. from previous page

Castlecomer took the under-16 (Roinn B) football title when a late goal by Tommy Buggy gave them victory over Bigwood by 3-2 to 1-6. Others to play well for 'Comer were Martin O'Neill, Paul O'Connor, Eamon Holland and Peter Ring.

Bigwood made amends when they beat Gowran in the under-16 football championship (Roinn B) by 5-9 to 0-2. Bigwood had outstanding players in Pat McEvoy, who scored 2-2 in the final, Daragh McDermott, Michael Knox, William Haberlin, Michael Law, Brian Power and Nigel Harney.

Thirteen of the Bigwood side had helped Mullinavat to beat Galmoy in the Roinn B under-16 hurling championship. The score was 1-12 to 3-3. Mullinavat thus reversed the

league final result between these sides.

Pat McEvoy was the hero of this win and looks like a Kilkenny minor of the future. Others to play well were Michael Knox, Michael Law, Pat Hoban, Seamus Aldridge and Daragh McDermott.

St. Pat's Best

St. Patrick's (Ballyragget) completed the minor double in Roinn C. hurling when they beat Carrickshock in the championship by 3-11 to 3-6 and near neighbours Conahy Shamrocks in the league final by 2-8 to 2-6. Outstanding player on St. Patrick's team was Anthony Dowling. He got good assistance from Michael Phelan, Dessie Foley, Seamus Morrissey, Michael Waters and Tim Phelan.

All games under Bord-na-Og

were played in a great sporting spirit, except the southern minor hurling final between Mooncoin and Thomastown and one incident in the James Stephens/Erin's Own Northern hurling final. Considering the number of games played this was tremendous.

Nevertheless, even those two games were two too many. Kilkenny has always prided itself on its clean and skilful hurling and one would like to see no incidents at all in a year. With the number of competitions played, it certainly was a hectic year between April and November except for a six week period left free for exams.

Hopefully the labours of those who run Bord-na-Og will bear fruit in the years ahead with many more victories for the Kilkenny senior hurlers.

GALMOY: COUNTY UNDER-21 ROINN B CHAMPIONS 1982



Back row (left to right): P. Bergin, P. McEvoy, J. McCormick, J. Grace, G. Fogarty, M. J. Ryan, A. Bergin, S. Bergin. Front (from left): J. Bergin, P. Laherty, T. Drennan, P. McCormick, E. Corcoran, P. Phelan, P. Ryan, E. Laherty.

Hard work was rewarded

SUCCESSFUL businessmen will tell you that you only get out of anything what you put into it, and those who don't work hard end up with nothing. That is an axiom that is true in sport too.

The most successful are the hardest workers, and the ones who are determined to get on. To be successful, which means being the best, is never easy, but half the battle is wanting to be No. 1 badly enough. The desire, the urgency to be tops can do a lot to spur one on.

Kilkenny won their 22nd senior hurling all-Ireland title this year. They beat red hot favourites, Cork, by the massive total of 11 points (3-18 O 1-13) before taking the McCarthy Cup home. They won because they wanted to badly enough, and they were determined.

The year 1982 was an amazing one for Kilkenny. In 11 months the hurlers bolted like a mad horse from third place in Division II of the National League to the premier place in the game. In every sense of the word they were entitled to shout "We Are The Champions".

Being champions in '82 meant the Noresiders took possession of the National League as well as the Championship. It was the first double since 1933, a stretch of 49 years.

Progress is being made so rapidly in sport these days that to complete the double is one heck of an achievement. It was never easy. It will get no easier and even Kilkenny Co. Board chairman, Michael O'Neill thought the feat was impossible in the modern game. He was delighted to be proved wrong by the hurlers.

WILD SCENES

When the hurlers returned in triumph on September 6 they were greeted by wild scenes of excitement. Over 20,000 followers turned out to show their appreciation for a job well done and say 'thank you' as best they could by displaying the

colours and cheering their heroes to the echo. It was no less than the players deserved.

But how great was the 22nd all-Ireland achievement? People said standards in hurling have dropped, so did Kilkenny get in at the right time?

The answers to both questions were given in the powerful 70 minute final against Cork. Every sports commentator in the county admitted after the game that Kilkenny put in a perfect performance. To most that was not easy to say because the Leinster champions had blown to pieces many a thought out and carefully worded piece written before the match that suggested Kilkenny would not win. The compliment was all the more meaningful therefore.

Because Kilkenny started so far back in the field the victory of '82 must be the best. The previous October all-Ireland finals and cup and trophies were miles away. There was a nasty feeling about the game in the county after two horrible experiences in the championship and a disaster in the League when promotion from the Second Division was missed.

Then along came Prince Charming and his merry men. Fenians (Johnstown) man, Pat Henderson was given wider powers than any person ever with a Kilkenny team. His brief was simple — get us back winning. With selectors, Pat Delaney (Fenians), Michael O'Neill, Brendan O'Sullivan (Thomas-town), Kieran Meally (Erin's Own) and Phil Larkin (James Stephens) he set to work.

PLAYERS WINED AND DINED

The first thing was to bring the players out to dinner and wine them and ask them for a commitment . . . a commitment to the Kilkenny cause. They all rallied round and the proof is there for all to see . . . they remained un-

beaten in competitive matches from that night on.

While everyone on the Noreside took great delight in the performance in the final, that was only the culmination of months and months of hard work. It just didn't happen.

During the Winter months when supporters were comfortable in the warmth of their homes the players worked in the mud of Nowlan Park getting into condition. That condition was to carry them through the hurling year. By the time it came to September and the all-Ireland, all the hard work was long since completed. It was only a matter of keeping condition.

But in those miserable Winter conditions the players grew closer. When the two main contenders in the League, Wexford and Limerick, were out of the way and promotion was guaranteed they had a day to themselves. It was the League final. Coach/trainer, Pat Henderson, admitted afterwards that the League final was for the players.

There was no pressure on them to win. If they did — which they did — well and good. If they didn't it wasn't the end of the world as the League had already served its purpose.

That purpose was to lay the foundations of a side that could be a real contender in the championship. Only one player, Tom McCormack, was added to the pool for the championship, and that is a fair indication that the team and squad was taking real shape.

But the most important test was yet to come. Perhaps it was even greater than the all-Ireland itself. That was the Leinster final against then champions, Offaly.

ONE TO BEAT

A lot of people had been of the opinion that Galway had lost the all-Ireland the previous year rather than Offaly having won it. Whatever, the Faithful County side proved that they were the one to beat when they toppled Wexford in the opening round.

Elsewhere it is written about Liam Fennelly's dash which led to Matt Ruth's winning goal. That was a narrow escape for Kilkenny. But the will that became even more evident in the all-Ireland was shown that day. That was the will to succeed and never give in. For what other reason did Liam Fennelly give chase in a seemingly hopeless situation?

Continued overleaf >
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Hard work was rewarded

1 Continued from previous page

Kilkenny wanted to win that game badly enough. They were hungry for success and it was a proud captain, Brian Cody, who lifted the Bob O'Keeffe Cup in victory salute after that dour struggle.

The semi-final against out-of-sorts Galway proved no real test. But it did mark one thing . . . the arrival of Christy Heffernan as a championship hurler. In previous years the likeable Glenmore lad had done it all in the National League.

He bagged goals and points to beat the band, but many wondered how he would fare on a firm championship sod and before large crowds. After all, he had missed the conclusion to the League because of a broken finger, so the big occasion was new to him apart from a 35 minute spell in the championship in 1980.

But Christy came through with flying colours, and in the final he was just magic. Pitted against the vastly more experienced Martin O'Doherty, he got off to a terrible start when Doherty nearly jumped out over the Stand to catch a high ball. But Christy settled afterwards and roasted his opponent as he went on to score 2-3 and 'laid on' another 1-2 for his team-mates.

The dashing full-forward was just one star among a field of stars in that all-Ireland. Goalkeeper, Noel Skehan, won the R.T.E. 'man of the match' award and midfielder, Frank

Cummins and centreforward, Ger Fennelly, also did magnificent work. Everyone did his piece as Cork were rattled.

EFFORTS REWARDED

The will was right with Kilkenny. They wanted to win badly enough and they had put in the effort. Their 11 months of work were rewarded and the fact that they had been together as a team nearly all the year helped when it came to turning all that work into goals and points on September 5.

Henderson's influence was everywhere to be seen. The players were keyed up and ready. Noel Skehan wanted his eight all-Irely are other 'young ones' who took to the big time like ducks to water, so the future must be bright. But sport is all about making progress, and that is what Kilkenny must make to stay great.

Brian Cody destroyed the myth that a city clubman could not captain a team to a senior all-Ireland success. The story must be well and truly buried now as he also captained the League winning side.

Because Kilkenny won the final so easily, many wondered about the team. People said Cork were poor — that standards had dropped — but they were only poor enough to be red hot favourites. No, Kilkenny put in a great performance and displayed all the skills. If teams could not live

with them, that was not their fault.

Like Dublin on the football front in the early seventies when they came up with a new, dynamic approach, the rest had to amend their ways to catch up. Kerry did and even bettered the Dubs system.

Kilkenny set new standards in the modern game during League and Championship 1982. Hard work was rewarded.

The all-Ireland winning team was: Noel Skehan (Bennettsbridge); John Henderson (Fenians); Brian Cody, capt. (James Stephens); Dick O'Hara (Thomastown); Nicky Brennan (Conahy Shamrocks); Ger Henderson (Fenians); Paddy Prendergast (Clara); Frank Cummins (Blackrock); Joe Hennessy (James Stephens); Richard Power (Carrickshock); Ger Fennelly (Shamrocks); Kieran Brennan (Conahy Shamrocks); Billy Fitzpatrick (Fenians); Christy Heffernan (Glenmore); Liam Fennelly (Shamrocks).

It is a known fact that you learn a lot about players in an all-Ireland final, so judging by the way the Kilkenny men performed at Croke Park, then the selectors must be happy about the future. First year senior player, Richard Power, had a truly great year while Paddy Prendergast, at 24, must have one of the brightest careers imaginable ahead of him.

Kieran Brennan and Liam Fennelly are other 'young ones' who took the big time like ducks to water, so the future must be bright. But sport is all about making progress, and that is what Kilkenny must make to stay great.

The men who guided Kilkenny to their double success of National Hurling League and all-Ireland. The selectors for 1982 were (from left): Phil Larkin (James Stephens), Michael O'Neill (Co. Board chairman), Brendan O'Sullivan (Thomastown), Kieran Meally (Erin's Own), Pat Delaney (Fenians).



Fitzpatrick fared best

THIRTEEN Kilkenny players shared in the 13-80 scored as the Nore-siders marched triumphantly to the county's 22nd all-Ireland senior hurling win.

Classy Fenians (Johnstown) attacker, Billy Fitzpatrick, hit the richest pot and helped himself to 2-24, with his best individual tally of 2-6 coming against Westmeath in the opening round.

That bettered Christy Heffernan's 2-3 in the all-Ireland itself, which was the second highest individual tally, being matched by Ger Fennelly's 1-6 against Westmeath.

Instead of keeping out scores, goalkeeper, Noel Skehan, got in on the scoring act and grabbed himself one point. This he did against Galway in the all-Ireland semi-final when he sent over a smashing free from nearly 100 yards.

The Bennettsbridge ace had his pucking-out hurley stolen from under his seat in the dressing-room after the Leinster final. But obviously his replacement stick was a good one.

The players' individual tallies were: B. Fitzpatrick (2-24); G. Fennelly (2-11); C. Heffernan (3-7); R. Power (2-9); L. Fennelly (2-6); K. Brennan (0-7); J. Hennessy (1-3); B. Purcell (0-6); M. Ruth (1-2); Cummins (0-2); T. McCormack, P. Lannon, N. Skehan (0-1 each).

When the scores were landed



June 20 at Croke Park

Kilkenny 7-31
Westmeath 0-13

Scorers: B. Fitzpatrick (2-6); G. Fennelly (1-6); L. Fennelly (1-4); B. Purcell (0-6); R. Power (1-2); C. Heffernan, J. Hennessy (1-1 each); M. Ruth (0-2); F. Cummins, T. McCormack, P. Lannon (0-1 each).

July 25 at Croke Park

Leinster final

Kilkenny 1-11
Offaly 0-12

Scorers: B. Fitzpatrick (0-5); M. Ruth (1-0); K. Brennan (0-2); J. Hennessy, F. Cummins, G. Fennelly, R. Power (0-1 each).

August 8 at Croke Park

All-Ireland semi-final

Kilkenny 2-20
Galway 2-10

Scorers: B. Fitzpatrick (0-7); R. Power (1-2); G. Fennelly, C. Heffernan (0-3 each); K. Brennan (0-4); L. Fennelly (1-0); N. Skehan (0-1).

September 5 at Croke Park

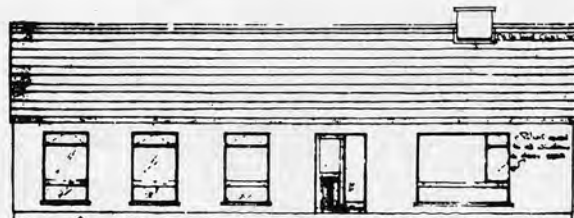
All-Ireland final

Kilkenny 3-18
Cork 1-13

Scorers: C. Heffernan (2-3); B. Fitzpatrick (0-6); G. Fennelly (1-1); R. Power (0-4); L. Fennelly (0-2); J. Hennessy, K. Brennan (0-1 each).

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FIVE SECONDS CHASE LED TO DOUBLE

IT WAS only one swift stroke that took less than five seconds to execute, but it ended with Kilkenny motoring on to collect their first senior hurling National League/Championship double in nearly 50 years.

The occasion was the Leinster final against Offaly. The venue was Croke Park. And the architect of that one piece of genius that led to so much hurling riches was talented corner-forward Liam Fennelly.

Nine minutes from the end of a close-marking encounter the ball ran towards the end-line to the left of the Damien Martin guarded Offaly goal at the Canal End. Fennelly gave chase in a seemingly hopeless situation and managed to divert the ball across the goalmouth where a surprised Matt Ruth almost missed the 'gift' goal. "We were robbed", chanted Offaly supporters after that match ended with Kilkenny winning by 1-11 to 0-12. At the time Fennelly gave chase to that ball the Noresiders were struggling, but that goal brought

them back level at 1-9 to 0-12. Subsequently they opened up and knocked over the two winning points, but the importance of that Fennelly chase can never be exaggerated.

The ups-and-downs of sport were highlighted in those few seconds. Here were the then All-Ireland champions Offaly, looking good to retain the provincial title for the third year running. Then Lady Luck took a hand in proceedings – she must have slowed the ball down when Damien Martin tried to shepherd it over the end-line – and they were whipped off their feet.

There were many other memorable incidents during the campaign. Who could forget Noel Skehan's 'man of the match' performance in the All-Ireland final. Or Christy Heffernan's dazzling display in the same game. Or even Brian Cody's solo run the length of the field with Ray Cummins in pursuit.

They will all stick in the memory for years and years, but Fennelly's chase did more than any to land the first double since 1933.



LIAM FENNELLY

Age: 24. Height: 5' 11". Weight: 11st. 7lbs.
Occ: Production engineer. Club: Shamrocks (Ballyhale).



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Kilkenny People

TWELVE WERE EVER PRESENT

TWELVE of the Kilkenny players were picked for each of the four championship matches against Westmeath, Offaly, Galway and Cork.

Six of the 26-strong panel were not used. That left Kilkenny working off a panel of 20 which gives a fair indication of how settled the team had become by the time the championship came round in June.

There was no substitute used in the All-Ireland final against Cork, which was the eighth time this happened to Kilkenny. It occurred previously in finals in 1907, 1912, 1913, 1922, 1932, 1974 and 1975.

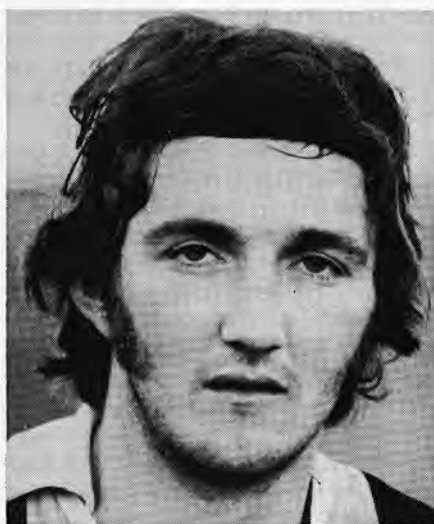
The following played four games each: Noel Skehan, John Henderson, Brian Cody, Dick O'Hara, Nicky Brennan, Ger Henderson, Paddy Prendergast, Frank Cummins, G. Fennelly, Richard Power, Billy Fitzpatrick, Liam Fennelly.

Three games each – Joe Hennessy, Christy Heffernan, Tom

McCormack, Kieran Brennan. Two games each – Billy Purcell, Matt Ruth. One game each – Paudie Lannon, Mick Brennan.

Panelists not used – Kevin Fennelly, Paddy Neary, Denis McCormack, Frank Holohan, Billy Walton, Eamon Wallace.

PANELISTS NOT USED



● Kevin Fennelly



● Eamon Wallace

Henderson was best manager

ALTHOUGH Kilkenny had only completed one part of the elusive double at the time, team manager, Pat Henderson (Fenians) was honoured as the Talbot manager of the month for July.

The sponsoring group broke new ground so Henderson's magnificent work with the hurlers could be duly recognised. This award is for 'managers', but Henderson's of-

ficial title with the Kilkenny team is 'trainer-coach'. They felt he deserved it anyway, so they gave it to him. No one knows the amount of work the Kilkenny Design Workshops director put in with the players during the dark Winter nights at Nowlan Park. It was mainly due to his urgings that the team progressed unbeaten through Division 1B of the League, then the League

proper and the all-Ireland series. Pat played for Kilkenny as a centre-back between 1964 and 1978. He won all-Ireland senior medals in 1967, 1969, 1972, 1974 and 1975. In '74 he won the Texaco award for hurling.

Henderson was an All-Star in 1973 and 1974. With the Fenians (Johnstown) he won five senior hurling championships.

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FOUR WINNING CAPTAINS

YEAR		SCORE	CAPTAIN
1904	Kilkenny Cork	1-9 1-8	Jer Doheny, Tullaroan
1905	Kilkenny Cork	7-7 2-9	Dan Stapleton, Erin's Own
1907	Kilkenny Cork	3-12 4-8	Drug Walsh, Mooncoin
1909	Kilkenny Tipperary	4-6 0-12	Drug Walsh, Mooncoin
1911	Kilkenny w.o. Limerick		Sim Walton, Tullaroan
1912	Kilkenny Cork	2-1 1-3	Sim Walton, Tullaroan
1913	Kilkenny Tipperary	2-4 1-2	Drug Walsh, Mooncoin
1922	Kilkenny Tipperary	4-2 2-6	Watty Dunphy, Mooncoin
1932	Kilkenny Clare	3-3 2-3	Jimmy Walsh, Carrickshock
1933	Kilkenny Limerick	1-7 0-6	Eddie Doyle, Mooncoin
1935	Kilkenny Limerick	2-5 2-4	Lory Meagher, Tullaroan
1939	Kilkenny Cork	2-7 3-3	Jimmy Walsh, Carrickshock
1947	Kilkenny Cork	0-14 2-7	Dan Kennedy, Thomastown
1957	Kilkenny Waterford	4-10 3-12	Mickie Kelly, Bennettsbridge
1963	Kilkenny Waterford	4-17 6-8	Seamie Cleere, Bennettsbridge
1967	Kilkenny Tipperary	3-8 2-7	Jim Treacy, Bennettsbridge
1969	Kilkenny Cork	2-15 2-9	Eddie Keher, Rower/Inistioge
1972	Kilkenny Cork	3-24 5-11	Noel Skehan, Bennettsbridge
1974	Kilkenny Limerick	3-19 1-13	Nicky Orr, Fenians
1975	Kilkenny Galway	2-22 2-10	Billy Fitzpatrick, Fenians
1979	Kilkenny Galway	2-12 1-8	Ger Fennelly, Shamrocks
1982	Kilkenny Cork	3-18 1-13	Brian Cody, James Stephens



JIM TREACY
(1967)



EDDIE KEHER
(1969)



NICKY ORR
(1974)



GER FENNELLY
(1979)

Moccasins led the way in Inter-Firm Games

THE inter-firm competitions in Kilkenny were unusual in that the champions in senior and junior hurling and senior football all won the titles for the first time after years of frustrating defeats.

Public Services collected the senior hurling and football crowns while the Army won the junior hurling.

Inter-firm competition has a long association with Gaelic games in Kilkenny. In 1943 the first Commercial League was run in the city with teams like the Woollen Mills, the Monster House, the Printers and Moccasin Shoe factory taking part. The officers of the 'Board at that time were chairman, J. Kennedy; secretary, Phelim Delaney; treasurer, R. Coogan.

The first winners were Moccasin shoe factory. For the record, the winning panel was – J. Grace, J. Walsh, M. Grace, J. Phelan, G. Dunne, P. Darcy, E. Langton, J. Kelly, K. Dowling, K. McGrath, J. Daly, N. Kavanagh, P. Maher, L. Morrissey, M. O'Grady, C. Kenny, R. Holden, P. Bowe, F. Tyrrell, P. Burke, T. Dowling and T. Grace.

First Again

The Leinster inter-firm league was set-up in 1948 and Moccasin were again the first winners. Smithwicks then came to the fore and with county players like Mark Marnell and P. J. Garvan as well as Cork's John Lyons and Wexford's Podge Kehoe in their side at various times they won a number of titles. Smithwick's contested the first all-Ireland factory final in 1954 when they lost to Clover Meats (Waterford) who boasted players like Martin Og Morrissey and John Barron (Waterford) as well as Kilkenny's John Sutton.

Clover Meats then came into the Leinster league in the late 'fifties as there was no competition in Munster. They dominated until they won their last championship in 1974. Clover took all-Ireland honours in 1954, 1969 and 1972.

Another Kilkenny side to make their name was Grannagh Paper Mills, who won all-Ireland honours in 1966 and lost the finals of 1968 and 1970. They included county

players of the time in Jim Lynch, Claus Dunne and Joe Dunphy. Their clashes with Clover Meats really brought out the crowds.

All Time Record

In the mid-seventies Avonmore Creameries took over the championship. With county players Willie Murphy, Nicky Brennan and Billy Fitzpatrick as well as Laois players, Mick Walsh, Morgan Kelly and Mick Bolger they created an all time record by winning four all-Ireland finals in-a-row. In 1981 they lost their 100% all-Ireland record when they were beaten by Golden Vale (Charleville) by one point in a great final.

Commercials (Kilkenny) came in to take the all-Ireland in 1980 and with players like Pat Henderson, Eddie Keher and Tom McCormack in the side they were a very strong outfit.

Public Services will now try to win back the Chipboard Scariff Cup when they contest the all-Ireland series. Services had a great win over Avonmore Creameries in the Kilkenny final on the score 2-9 to 1-8. Two goals by Matt Ruth in the first half were the vital scores. With Nicky Cashin, Tommy Brennan, Lester Ryan, Paddy Neary, Kevin Hennessy and Harry Ryan turning in good displays they won their first final.

They have since gone on to win the Leinster title with victories over Aer Lingue (Dublin) and Conroy/Dollard Builders (Laois).

The final score in the Leinster final was Public Services 0-15, Conroy/Dollard Builders (Laois) 2-7.

The winning team was John Guinan, Pat Hanlon, Brian Murphy, Nicky Cashin, Tommy Brennan (Capt), Paddy Neary, Martin Fogarty, Kevin Hennessy, Lester Ryan, Gordon Ryan, Harry Ryan, Colman Loughnane, Donal Mullane, Gerry Hennessy and Matt Ruth. Tony Maher and Brian Waldron played in the Kilkenny final.

Won Football

Public Services won the football title also. They beat Avonmore Creameries in the final. The score

was 3-4 to 1-8.

Best for the winners were John Bracken, John Daly, Pat Kelly, Ciaran Fitzgerald, Eugene Greham, John Guinan and Gordon Ryan. Services lost out to A.B.S. Pumps (Wexford) in the Leinster championship by 1-9 to 0-8.

The Army, after failing in the three previous finals, won the Junior title when they beat Derrinlough (Offaly) by 2-10 to 2-4. Their best players in the Kilkenny final were Shem O'Grady, Tommy Prendergast, Tom Berry, Frank Holohan, Jim Brennan, Eugene Greham and Jim Power.

Again they won in Leinster by beating Prison Officers (Portlaoise) by one point in the semi-final and a resounding 0-16 to 1-6 win over Wexford Marts in the final.

This Leinster win was all the greater as they lost two of the stars of the Kilkenny series in Frank Holohan and Tommy Berry, who had gone to the Lebanon. As well, team captain Sean Kiely missed the Leinster final through injury.

The winning Leinster final team was Ollie Cullen, Pat Ward, Shem O'Grady, Mick Nolan, Brian Ryan, Jim Cooper, Tommy Prendergast, Jim Brennan, Jim Power, Peter Prendergast, Eugene Greham, Seamus Holden, Willie O'Brien, Ritchie Hogan, John Power. **Sub:** Sean Holden – Frank Holohan. Tommy Berry and Joe Earle played in the Kilkenny final.

Bertie Remembered

The Army have a special reason for wanting to win this all-Ireland. Their chief mentor over the last number of years was Bertie Callaghan, who also acted as secretary of the Kilkenny league. Unfortunately, Bertie at the early age of 47, died a couple of weeks after they won the Kilkenny title.

It was a win that brought joy to Bertie, although he knew at the time that he would not be around by the time the all-Ireland series was played.

The team are determined to win this title as a special memory to one who worked so hard for Gaelic games in the Army and inter-firm competitions in Kilkenny.

TURN OF '57 TEAM TO BE HONoured

THIS year the Kilkenny senior hurling all Ireland winning team of 1957 was the Jubilee side honoured by the Irish Nationwide Building Society and the G.A.A.

The hurlers of 25 years ago who defeated neighbours, Waterford, in an epic final were presented with special Jubilee awards at a stage function in the Burlington hotel, Dublin, on the night before the all-Ireland senior hurling final.

"This '57 team symbolised all the commitment and contribution of players to the game in the past", said Mr. Fingleton, managing

director of Irish Nationwide. He said the main object of the game was the character formation of the young, to teach them how to win and lose and show them that participation is the most important thing. Members of the team were also featured on the special R.T.E. programme **Up For The Final** which was screened the same night.

The 1957 win was a great one for Kilkenny. Here we look back through the files of the **Kilkenny People** and re-live that memorable September day, 25 years ago.

Ten year wait led to wild scenes of excitement

Kilkenny 4-10 (22 pts.)
Waterford 3-12 (21 pts.)

"HAIL to the conquering champions! Kilkenny's star is again in the ascendant. The McCarthy Cup, hurling's chief prize, comes back again to the Noreside when, after a game that relived many of the great epics of the past, the black and ambers defeated neighbours, Waterford in the all-Ireland senior hurling final at Croke Park.

"In an atmosphere of breathless excitement that reached its climax in a pulsating finish, Kilkenny emerged the winners of a close and magnificent contest that will go down in the annals as one of the greatest games ever played".

That was the masterly way *An Caman* (Peter Holohan) opened his *Kilkenny People* report of the 1957 all-Ireland final when the Noresiders collected their 14th. crown.

"So thrilling were the duels, so close the scoring, so sustained the efforts of the 30 players, and so intense were those closing minutes, that it was long after the end before thousands of frenzied supporters recovered their composure", he added.

It was 10 years since Kilkenny had last won the all-Ireland senior final, and the pride of supporters was highlighted when 20,000 people turned out to greet the players home on the Monday night. Four bands - St. Patrick's brass band,

Graignamanagh brass band, James Stephens pipers band and St. John's boys flageolet band - led the players float in a parade through the city to a civic reception given by the Mayor, Ald. M. J. McGuinness at the Parade.

According to Peter Holohan, this was Kilkenny in the "real historic sense".

HOPELESS

"The tide of battle flowed against Kilkenny and their position looked hopeless enough about midway through the second half when a Waterford side that was playing with rare abandon and enthusiasm led by six points. It was at this stage we really saw what Kilkenny were made of.

"Fighting courageously against the odds they forced back the opposition and slowly, as it seemed to Kilkenny supporters, but surely, wiped out the deficit and went on to take the honours".

The writer felt Noresiders won because they played Kilkenny hurling as it should be played, as it had been played by the great Kilkenny teams of the past.

The story of the scoring was that Waterford opened with two points from John Kiely and Phil Grimes before Mick Kenny, with a point from a free and then a goal, got the winners off the mark. Denis Heaslip and Kenny again, with two points left the Suiriders trailing by 1-4 to 0-2. But the losers recovered and at

half-time, thanks to some brilliant hurling, led by 1-6 to 1-5.

The second half was barely four minutes old when Donal Whelan had a second goal for the losers. Within seconds Kilkenny got into deep trouble when Phil Grimes stretched the lead to 2-7 to 1-5.

Playing a real captain's part, Mick Kelly tried to rally his men with a point just after Billy Dwyer burst through for a goal. But Waterford came fighting back and Donal Whelan netted before Frankie Walsh pointed to leave them 3-8 to 2-7 ahead. When Donal Whelan and Tom Cheasty tacked on another pair of points to leave the Noresiders six points adrift, it looked bad for the black and amber.

GREAT STYLIST

Then it all happened, from a Kilkenny point of view. That bundle of mischief, Billy Dwyer rattled the net again. Phil Grimes answered with a point, but the flag was hardly back in position at one end when Mick Kenny sent a similar colour flying at the other.

Grimes and Kenny, in that order, again swapped points before that great stylist, Sean Clohosey drew the match with just over five minutes to go. Perhaps it was fitting, but the winning point came four minutes from time by that indefatigable captain Mick Kelly

KILKENNY: ALL-IRELAND SENIOR HURLING CHAMPIONS 1957



Back row (l. to r.): Syd Bluet, Jim 'Link' Walsh, Dick Rockett, John Sutton, Mick Brophy, Sean Clohosey, Mick Kenny, Ollie Walsh, Bob Aylward (chairman). Front row (l. to r.): Johnny McGovern, Billy Dwyer, Paddy Buggy, Denis Heaslip, Mick Kelly (captain), Mick Walsh, Tom Walsh, John Maher.

Ten year wait led to wild scenes of excitement

◀ Continued from previous page

(Bennettsbridge). Kilkenny carried the day after 10 long years of waiting.

But how did reporter Holohan think each one played? He words deserve to be recalled.

"In a game in which honours ran high, the Kilkenny goalie, 20-year-old Ollie Walsh carved a niche of his own by his truly amazing saves. One must go back to Pat 'Fox' Maher to find a parallel for Walsh's all-round brilliance.

"John Maher played his best hurling for a long time and one of his raking clearances culminated in the point that drew the match. Also prominent in the picture were the Walsh brothers, Jim at full-back and Tom at right half. They too contributed generously. Jim, better known as the 'Link', had the answer to the best wiles of the clever Waterford forwards.

"Mick Walsh at centre-back broke up many attacking movements, particularly at the most critical time. He was very capably flanked by two wing men in Paddy Buggy (current G.A.A. President), a real artist and a grand, lion-hearted defender and on the other by the courageous Johnny

McGovern, whose dauntless spirit almost invariably triumphed.

PAVED THE WAY

"Mick Brophy and John Sutton lorded it at midfield in the fashion of Lory Meagher and Tommy Leahy and their first half brilliance paved the way for Kilkenny's ultimate success".

Sutton received a head injury in the second half and he was replaced by Bill Walsh (Carrickshock), who, the report said, "played his part in an all-Ireland triumph that was truly his due".

Chief honours in attack went to Mick Kenny, who was the top scorer, and Denis Heaslip who played a grand first half.

Captain Mick Kelly "played the best game I have seen him play", wrote An Caman. And the Bennettsbridge man also got the winning point.

"His speed was a valuable asset and he showed some neat, deft touches which bore the imprint of a real stylist", the report continued.

"Another significant contribution was made by Billy Dwyer, whose two goals were real gems.

Dick Rockett might not have been so conspicuous, but he kept Waterford's John Barron on the go.

"What would a fully fit Sean Clohosey have accomplished in this game", An Caman asked. "He was obviously afraid of his knee injury which prevented him from turning round in his usual manner and this surely cost him a goal.

"Taken by and large the Kilkenny team, man for man, put every ounce into their task and it was that grand fighting spirit and unflinching determination that enabled them to take the title", Mr. Holohan concluded.

THE TEAMS

Kilkenny: O. Walsh, T. Walsh, J. Walsh, J. Maher, P. Buggy, M. Walsh, J. McGovern, M. Brophy, J. Sutton, D. Heaslip, M. Kenny, M. Kelly (capt.), R. Rockett, W. Dwyer, S. Clohosey. Sub - Bill Walsh for J. Sutton.

Waterford: R. Roche, T. Cunningham, A. Flynn, J. Barron, M. O'Connor, M. Og Morrissey, S. Power, J. O'Connor, P. Grimes (capt.), M. Flannelly, T. Cheasty, L. Guinan, F. Walsh, J. Kiely, D. Walsh.

Referee - Stephen Gleeson (Limerick).

CLARA – FINAL FORM NO POINTER TO FUTURE

THE NEW addition to the crop in the Kilkenny senior hurling championship next season will be Clara, a small club which has the knack of turning out a tough breed of hurler. Clara may not be the most glamorous side in the top flight during 1983, but you can be sure they will give any of the rest a good run for their money.

This year the maroon

departing into the new life. Overall, the climax disappointed when measured against what had gone before in the intermediate grade.

The story of the decider was that this was Clara's seventh county final, and it was their sixth win. In the opening nine minutes the exchanges were pretty even and after that time the teams were level at 0-3 each. Then Clara went

direction.

Really, this was Clara's finest hour. Some will argue it couldn't be because the match was nothing to write home about. But when you consider they won without ever extending themselves beyond the three-quarter mark, then it must be measured in a different light.

CAN'T BE BEATEN

Besides Harry Ryan who

beaten. If this match proved anything, it was that if you don't give away scores you can't be beaten.

The outcome was a personal triumph for Harry Ryan who, many felt, should have been part of the Kilkenny panel all year. But if Harry got tremendous satisfaction out of his part in the game, another man who would have derived



Clara, who won the Intermediate hurling championship and will play senior next year.

wearers won out the intermediate hurling championship by beating Carrickshock by 0-13 to 0-9 in the final. The decider was a moderate affair and gave little insight into the prospects of the new champions in the senior section.

Carrickshock were out of sorts on the day and, while not doing themselves justice, they failed to give Clara a positive test before

ahead and never looked back.

At half-time Carrickshock trailed by 0-4 to 0-9, and apart from the closing five minutes when they hit an upright twice, the Southerners never looked like winning. It just wasn't their day, and with Harry Ryan in brilliant form for the winners at centre-forward, it became obvious from an early stage that the title was going in only one

punched holes in the Carrickshock defence as if it was made of tissue paper, others who starred for the winners were: Johnny Ryan, Domo Connolly, Paddy Prendergast, Lester Ryan and Stephen Whearty. The defence was rock solid, and if Pat Henderson could get the Kilkenny rearguard to perform with the same authority on every occasion, the county would rarely be

immense joy from the outcome would have been the late Mr. Liam Ryan.

Liam died during the year, and it was a curious twist of fate that Clara should go on to attain senior status. No man would have taken more delight from seeing a Clara side sharing the same pitch with such as the Fenians, James Stephens, Shamrocks or

Continued

CLARA – FINAL FORM NO POINTER TO FUTURE

◀ Continued from
previous page

Mooncoin in the senior grade. He was a character who gave his life to promoting Gaelic games in Clara. In many ways, this was a victory for Liam Ryan.

The Ryan family have always been prominent on Clara teams. One-third of the final side bore the name Ryan, and there were one or two mentors on the side line for good measure. Teams from the area play a brand of hurling that is tough, while not by any means being over-robust, and they always appear to be driven by a peculiar determination.

Their six wins in seven finals prove they have what it takes for the big occasion. And this commendable quality is shown on the county team by Paddy Prendergast, who always turns on his best hurling when the occasion is greatest.

The intermediate final was a poor reflection of the standard of the game in the grade. Those who take the decider as a pointer to Clara's form in the future will be proved guilty of a grave error in judgement in the long run.

YOUNG AND HUNGRY

Their team is basically young and hungry for success, so now their appetite has been whet, they can be more dangerous than ever before.

Time caught up on one or two of the Carrickshock players, and the team seemed to be struck by ill-luck from the

moment the ball was thrown in. Bank of Ireland All-Star Richard Power received a broken wrist during the game and bravely hurled on despite severe pain. Handy defender Pat Power also picked up an injury as did cornerback P. J. Roughan. So, all in all, little went right for them.

All credit to Carrickshock, they took their defeat in a sporting manner. Still, at the end, they were there with a shout although had they sneaked a draw or a win it would have been an injustice.

Carrickshock's best performers were Pat Power, Joe Brennan, Wally Broderick and Dixie Burke.

Clara – Liam Ryan, T. Byrne, T. Lennon, T. O'Shea, D. Connolly, J. Ryan, P. Prendergast, E. Byrne (capt.), Lester Ryan, J. Prendergast, H. Ryan, P. Campion, S. Whearty, G.

Nolan, T. Ryan. Sub.: J. Connolly.

Carrickshock: P. Dwyer, P. Power, W. Broderick, P. J. Roughan, M. Dwyer, M. Phelan, J. Power, J. Sheehan, B. Raggett, P. Duggan, R. Power (capt.), M. Raggett, M. Power, N. Maher, D. Burke. Subs.: J. Brennan, G. Power.

HOW DID THE YEAR GO?

Overall, it took 32 matches to decide the intermediate championship. By and large, the games were good. But one club which could well be telling the story about 'the one that got away' is Thomastown.

To win the championship, Clara had to beat Thomastown in the semi-final. It was no mean achievement against fierce rivals. But even the most loyal Clara supporter would agree, they got a little help from their neighbours that day.

Thomastown were looking good for a win with 10 minutes to go. Then they decided to try and put the push on for a win, and switched Dick O'Hara from full-back to the forward line. The move backfired and, while O'Hara was out of defence, the Clara forwards slipped in for

goals and their side won by 2-12 to 0-12. It was a switch the Thomastown mentors will think twice, maybe even three times, about making again.

The second semi-final between Carrickshock and Piltown, the junior champions, was also a cracker. The first match was drawn 0-15 to 2-9 (P)p, but the 'Shock proved best in the delayed replay and won by 1-16 to 1-8. The level of commitment from both sides in that replay was hard to credit. One thing for sure, Piltown can be proud of their first year in the intermediate section. They showed wonderful promise for the future, after an uneasy start.

Graignamanagh took a while to find their feet. They were troubled by injuries for most of the year, and at one point had nearly a third of a team sidelined. But what about their 4-11 to 1-7 win over eventual champions, Clara? That was followed by their only other win which was over Young Irelands (Gowran). The question remains, what can a full strength Graignamanagh team achieve? Perhaps a championship victory? Time will tell.

SHAMROCKS: SPECIAL JUNIOR HURLING CHAMPIONS



Back Row (L to R): Sean Reid, Richard Kenneally, Pat Harhen, Liam Long, Dick Walsh, Paschal Connolly, Ger Holden, Bobby Aylward. Front Row (L to R): Jimmy Fitzpatrick, Tommy Phelan, Michael Keanny, Michael Hoynes (Capt.), Sean Phelan, Michael Dempsey, Ger Dempsey, Pat Keefe.

EIGHT OF THE BEST.. EIGHT OF THE BEST .. EIGHT OF THE BEST

TO THE victors go the spoils of battle, so Kilkenny got their just rewards when the all-Star hurling honours were forked out. The Noresiders won the two major hurling battles this season – National League and Championship – and their terrific efforts were recognised when eight of the all-Ireland team were selected as Bank of Ireland stars.

Those 'eight of the best' equalled the highest representation of hurling All-Stars in any one year. The previous best was set by Cork in 1977, the year before they completed their praiseworthy three-in-a-row. On the football scene, Dublin had nine players (1977) and Kerry (1981), but that is a different story.

Kilkenny's first hurling double since 1933 earned them eight stars, and you know, it might have been more. Two brothers in attack, Ger, and Liam, might have been added to the list.

In case anyone has forgotten, the men honoured were Noel Skehan (6th. award); Brian Cody (2nd award); Ger Henderson (3rd. award); Paddy Prendergast (1st. award); Frank Cummins (3rd. award); Richard Power (2nd. award); Billy Fitzpatrick (1st award) and Christy Heffernan (1st award).

"It was no more than we deserved", was the fair comment from county secretary, Paddy Grace, who was nonetheless pleased when he heard the news.

When all the on-the-field 'talking' had finished at about 5 p.m. on September 5, Kilkenny were in possession of both the McCarthy Cup and the National League trophy. Immediately people began to look around for the other honours available.

Goalkeeper, Noel Skehan, went on to win the B & I. Cuchulainn trophy as the *Personality of the Month* for September. Then came the news of the All-Star team.

EXPECTED SEVEN

The tally-men on the Noreside had estimated that seven would be picked. There was a body of opinion that suggest it might be 15, but that was mainly in the quarters of the pub parliamentarians, and they called for more and more as the nights wore on.

No, all things considered, eight

was as much as could have been expected. After all, there are 31 other counties who do business with the Bank of Ireland people and who turn out hurlers whose efforts must be recognised.

But human nature being what it is, if you have so much it often happens that you feel you deserve

more. And that was the feeling on the Noreside when the All-Star team was announced.

While no one said this man or that man did not deserve an award, everyone spoke about the ones they felt were left out. The name of Ger. Fennelly was mentioned



● GER HENDERSON



● BILLY FITZPATRICK



● PADDY PRENDERGAST



● NOEL SKEHAN



● BRIAN CODY



● RICHIE POWER



● CHRISTY HEFFERNAN



● FRANK CUMMINS

WE LEAD THE FIELD

THE All-Star scheme has been operating for 12 years now, and as things stand, Kilkenny has had more hurlers honoured than any other county.

In all, 48 All-Star awards have been won by Noreside hurlers. Cork are the nearest, and they trail by 10. Way back in third

place are Limerick on 22 with Galway back further on 19.

The rest of the list reads – Wexford (14); Clare (13); Tipperary (11); Offaly (10); Waterford (4) and Dublin (1).

Think of how far ahead we would have been if the previous two seasons weren't as bad as they were?

often that week, and his brother Liam had charitable things said about him also.

For my money, Ger. Fennelly is one of the most under-rated hurlers in the game today. Of course, that has been true of yesterday too, and I dare say it will be true of tomorrow as well. His trouble is that he is as casual and gentle on the field as he is off. If he was robust or flashy I feel he would have been honoured this season. It was an injustice to leave him out.

All-Star teams are, for the most part, made up by the all-Ireland finalists, with the odd exception here and there. Eleven of this year's side figured in Croke Park on the first Sunday of September. So, do good in Croke Park and you have a great chance.

Could anyone say Ger Fennelly was not good in the all-Ireland final or semi-final? What about his brother in the League semi-final and final? One could go on and on, but it would make no difference. They were left out, but Ger. was the one who should have got among the elite.

CHOSEN SIX TIMES

For 'old hands' Noel Skehan and Frank Cummins the selection crowned a year to be remembered. The Bennettsbridge guardian became the third player in the history of the scheme to be chosen on six occasions. He was first chosen way back in 1972 and was later honoured in 1973, 1974, 1975 and 1976.

You had to cast the mind back to 1971 to get Cummins' first award, and he also took one the next year. There was a lot of space in between, but the Blackrock man roared back this season after many thought he would give-in after an indifferent campaign in 1981. His was probably the most popular choice on the Noreside.

Not far behind was that of Christy Heffernan, but everyone felt pride too that Brian Cody, Paddy Prendergast, Ger Henderson, Richard Power and Billy Fitzpatrick were included too.

The previous year Kilkenny failed to get promotion from the National League and flopped in the championship. There were no all-Stars then. There are eight now. What a long way we have come.

DOES FOOTBALL HIGHLIGHT THE NEED FOR REGIONAL COACHES

THE past 12 months were no different than any as far as football in Kilkenny was concerned. It was the usual hard slog against almighty odds.

With all attention being focussed on the hurlers who came to life after two dormant years, the footballers were practically ignored. That is, of course, except by those loyal few who see football as the No. 1 game in the county. Each year the football scene is the hardest to wrap-up. Little happens, so there is little to forget. There is little to write about. You see the difficulty. It's nearly as demanding as writing about hurling in Russia. On the local scene, only one of the three major championships — senior, junior and minor — was completed before November. That was the junior competition which was won by Paulstown who scored a victory over St. Patrick's (Kilmacow) in a decider that was a credit to both clubs.

Heading into the dark nights and dreary days of November the senior and minor competitions were still unfinished. What a pity, particularly as the junior event had proved so successful and to cap it all had ended on a high note. It would have been nice to have carried the momentum through to the end.

Because the senior competition was not completed on time, Thomastown, last year's champions, were nominated to take part in the Leinster championship. In football that was acceptable. But think of the uproar that would be created if a Kilkenny hurling team had to be nominated for the equivalent competition? There would be holy war.

NO ONE CARES

The simple truth about the whole thing is that no one really cares about football in Kilkenny. If all the men who work to further the game

locally were to pack it in in the morning, no one would care. The Co. Board might ask a question or two. That would be all. Croke Park might notice.

The story on the inter-county scene is bad, but this might improve with the introduction of the junior championship. The championships at the very most might last two games for any of the Kilkenny teams. The seniors make their annual exit after 70 minutes, but there is always a chance the minors or under-21 side will do better. Unfortunately, the yardstick by which Kilkenny football is measured is the form of the seniors.

Their record in the National League reads defeat after defeat. Outside the boundaries of this county people regard the game as a bit of a joke, and the men who play it, well

But let us not for one moment



The Kilkenny senior football team that was beaten by Kildare in the first round of the Leinster championship. Back row (left to right): Seamus Delaney (Football Board secretary), John Brennan, Gerry Walsh, Michael O'Dowd, David Hoyne, Ger Fitzpatrick, Alan Hoyne, Christy Heffernan, John Murtagh. Front row (L to R): Patty Murphy, Luke Bird (Broke his leg that day, back in action since), Bill O'Hara, Nicky Brennan, Joe O'Donnell, Michael Fitzgerald and Dick O'Hara. This could be the last Kilkenny senior championship side as the junior championship has been revived, and the Noresiders have decided to step down from the top grade.

DOES FOOTBALL HIGHLIGHT NEED FOR REGIONAL COACHES

think the problem highlighted by the sad plight of football in Kilkenny is peculiar to this county. It is not. Apart from Cork, Offaly, Galway and to a lesser degree Laois, Kildare and Dublin, the rest are all one game counties.

Whether this should be a source of consolation or encouragement is hard to know. The G.A.A. is supposed to be an organisation which reaches out to the 32 counties and fosters our national games, handball, hurling and football. Still, the trend is for the majority to concentrate on one, a few do well at both and the rest struggle.

It would make you wonder about the overall policy of the 'Association. It is inevitable that one county will be stronger than another, but the difference between the top and the bottom is so great, and it is getting greater all the time, that some-

thing will surely have to be done to get a better balance.

LOSING GROUND

The same applies to hurling. It is laughable to make the comparison between Kilkenny and Roscommon in hurling and Kerry and Kilkenny in football. The story is the same — one is a 100 miles ahead of the other. And, unfortunately, the one at the wrong end is losing ground all the time.

What to do is the problem. The 'Association is so big now that Croke Park can no longer be the controlling centre. Yes, administration can be looked after from there. But while people are sitting down working in their offices in Dublin, the games are losing out in certain rural areas.

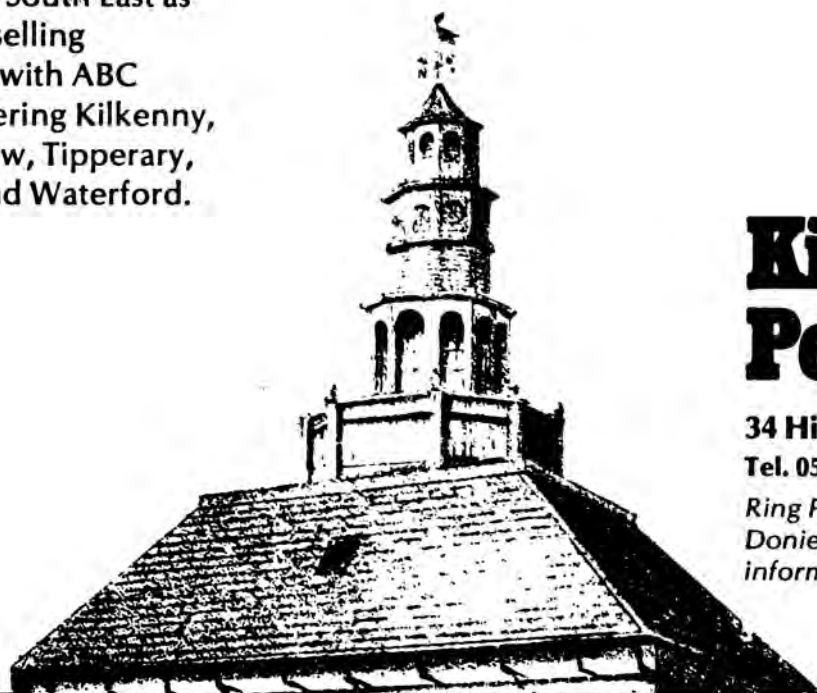
It might be an idea to introduce regional hurling and football clinics, or even coaches. Surely there are enough former players who would be able to pass on their knowledge of hurling and football. They could be used in the weaker counties and could be employed on a full-time basis.

This is the norm in other sports, why not with Gaelic games. There is no difference between paying a field officer and an office worker. And as has been proved in

Missionary work, the man in the field is twice as valuable as the man behind the desk. The G.A.A. is now big and powerful enough to start diversifying.

Take Kilkenny as a case in point. If someone like former great Dublin footballer, Jimmy Keaveney or Galway's Cyril Dunne was to attend Nowlan Park and coach the players, they could not get any worse. They would look up to such people and respect their views. Gradually they would improve. It has been proven that the right man in the right place can perform all sorts of wonderful things. Didn't our own Pat Henderson do it this year. What about Mick O'Dwyer? To that list you can also add Kevin Heffernan, Diarmuid Healy, Joe McGrath, and Eugene McGee. They are all good coaches who have improved their respective games, its players and its image. Football in Kilkenny may be heading nowhere fast. All hope is not lost though. Other counties have the same problem. A regional full-time coach for each of the four provinces might be a step in the right direction. It certainly wouldn't do any harm to football on the Noreside.

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JAMES STEPHENS: County Minor Hurling Champions 1982



MOONCOIN: County Minor Hurling Finalists 1982

EIRE OG – LIKE A SHOOTING STAR IT CAME AND WENT

FROM the early days of the G.A.A. to the present day, Kilkenny produced brilliant club teams such as Tullaroan, Mooncoin, Bennettsbridge, The Fenians, James Stephens, Carrickshock and the Shamrocks. But I wish to recall one of the brilliant clubs and teams to grace Kilkenny hurling fields, Eire Og.

This city club burst on the hurling world in the late 1930's, but like a shooting star, burned itself out and faded from the scene in the sixties. Those of us who can well remember the brilliance of the Eire Og teams of the 1939 to 1950 period find it difficult to explain why such a great club faded completely.

There is a warning here for every

club that drew most of its members from former pupils of Kilkenny C.B.S. Bro. McNamara was supported by Bro. Kealy, Mick Loughman, and Rev. Fr. Brennan, then C.C. at St. Mary's Cathedral. They named the club Young Irelands, and decided on a combination of blue and white with a star for a crest as the club colours. In 1933 it was decided to

**By Paddy Buggy,
President of the G.A.A.**

Rovers are vividly recalled by those of us privileged to see them, and can compare favourably with some of the greatest club games of all time. Backboned by Kilkenny C.B.S. players Eire Og completed a hat-trick of Kilkenny minor championships in 1933. They fielded such outstanding players as Jim Langton, Seanie O'Brien, Paddy Doyle, Bobby Brannigan, Tom



Photograph of an Eire Og team of the mid-forties: Back row (l. to r.): Syd Bluett, Jack Mulcahy, Mick Brett, Billy Holohan, Paddy O'Brien, Paddy Brett, Kevin Shortall, Tommy Murphy, Jack Gargan, Johnny Power, John Meagher, Martin Madigan, Jim Langton, Dollsy Saunders, Paudie Lennon, Mick Neary, Liam Reidy, Joe Gargan, Peter Blanchfield, Larry Langton, Kevin Gaffney and Jimmy Walsh.

club. One cannot rest on one's laurels. We have at all times to work for our success, promote the game at under-age and schools level, improve facilities and involve the greatest possible number of the youth in the playing of games. As many as possible of the adult population of our district should be involved in the provision of the back-up services required by every successful club, if they wish to survive.

In 1930 the Eire Og club was founded by a great supporter of Gaelic games, Bro. McNamara. It

change the club colours to green and white and the name to Eire Og.

Eire Og became wonderful standard bearers of marble city hurling. They advanced from minor through junior and intermediate to senior ranks in a short period. The team became one of the great hurling sides of their time. They won four senior county championships in 1939, 1944, 1945 and 1947, and contributed in an outstanding way to Kilkenny county minor and senior teams.

Some of their duels with the great Cork club of that time, Glen

Delaney, Eddie Tallent, Marty McEvoy and present county secretary, Paddy Grace.

HELPED KILKENNY

Out of contention in 1934, the club came back to win its fourth minor championship in 1935. Twelve of the side helped to win a minor hurling title for Kilkenny that year — Tom Delaney, Paddy Grace, Paddy Boyle, Marty McEvoy, Eamon Tallent, Jack Mulcahy, Jim Langton, Terry Leahy, Seanie O'Brien, Billy Holohan, M. Grace

Continued overleaf >

EIRE OG – LIKE A SHOOTING STAR IT CAME AND WENT

Continued from previous page

and Tom Waldron, now President of the I.N.T.O.

After such success at minor level, it is small wonder the club decided to field junior hurling and football teams in 1936. They completed an outstanding double and won both titles. In addition, they successfully defended their minor hurling title, a truly remarkable achievement for such a young club.

In that year also, they gave no fewer than 13 members to the Kilkenny minor hurling team which won the all-Ireland for the second year running. Six of the Eire Og players gaining the distinction of winning two all-Ireland minor hurling medals — Jim Langton, Eamon Tallent, Seanie O'Brien, Bobbie Brannigan, Jack Mulcahy and Tom Delaney.

In 1937 they completed a double, winning the minor hurling championship for the sixth time, and also the Kilkenny intermediate hurling championship. The club fielded a senior hurling team for the first

time in 1938 to reach the county final only to be beaten by Carrickshock. However, in 1939, strengthened by the experience of such players as Jack Duggan, Paddy Larkin and Larry Carroll, Eire Og won its first senior hurling title. A number of their players won their first senior all-Ireland medal when Kilkenny beat Cork by one point in the thunder and lightning final. The score was 2-7 to 3-3.

REFUSED TO PLAY

In 1940, because of a dispute over the venue, Eire Og withdrew from the semi-final of the senior hurling championship. When the game was fixed for Thomastown instead of Kilkenny, Eire Og claimed a by-law had been breached and refused to play. In 1941, Eire Og included 11 Railway Cup players in their senior championship side, but went under to Carrickshock who were becoming a bogey side for the city club.

Captained by Peter Blanchfield, Eire Og won their second senior title in 1944. This team was possibly

the greatest ever fielded by the club. It included such stars as Jack and Joe Gargan, Jack Mulcahy, Liam Reidy, Tommy Murphy, Billy Holohan, Jim Langton, Mick and Paddy Brett, Paddy O'Brien, Mick Neary and Johnny Power. They successfully defended the title in 1945 after a draw with Carrickshock, who seemed to have the first game won. Then Jimmy Walsh was sent off by Comdt. Kelly the referee, and Eire Og came from behind to snatch a draw and won the replay well on a score of 4-8 to 1-7. This game was refereed by Ned Long of Carlow.

That year nine of the Eire Og side figured on the Kilkenny panel defeated by Tipperary in the all-Ireland final by two goals, 5-6 to 3-6. In 1947 aided by Paddy (Diamond) Hayden and Nick O'Donnell, who later won three all-Irelands with Wexford, Eire Og again won the Kilkenny senior hurling title, the final being played the Sunday before the all-Ireland final.

In the all-Ireland, rated by many



A throwback to the 1947 county senior hurling county final between Eire Og and Tullaroan. Eire Og goalkeeper, and present day hurley maker, Ramie Dowling (Patrick street) keeps his eye on the ball as defenders, Nick O'Donnell, Ches Phelan, Diamond Hayden (cap) and Michael Neary close in. The Hennessy brothers and John Walton are the Tullaroan players.

as the greatest hurling match of all time (Kilkenny won by a point, 0-14 to 2-7) eight of the Eire Og side figured on the Kilkenny selection — Nick O'Donnell, Tommy Murphy, Jack Mulcahy, Jim Langton, Liam Reidy, Paddy Hayden, Paddy Lennon and Paddy O'Brien.

WENT UNDER

In 1950 Eire Og met another city club in the Kilkenny county final, but went under after a replay to Dicksboro by 4-6 to 1-5. The draw was a very high scoring affair, 3-17 (D) to 6-8 (E. O.) Tommy (Spud) Murphy of the Metropole and Eddie Carew who won an all-Ireland in 1948 with Waterford also played with distinction for Eire Og in the fifties. While the club produced

some other outstanding minor hurlers such as Paddy Johnston of 1950, it had reached its peak in 1947.

With the advent of the three parish rule, and later the parish rule, and without a playing ground, the club began to decline and quickly faded from the scene. The club had some able administrators, such as Christy Murray, club trainer in the early days, Mick Loughman of the Kilkenny Co. Board, who had great success with county minor hurling teams, and Paddy Johnston, who in addition to winning minor and junior all-Irelands, became an all-Ireland hurling referee. Club secretaries included Tom Neary, Billy Holohan, who contested the position of Kilkenny county secretary, Paddy Johnston, Jimmy Walsh and Tom Walsh. Jimmy

Walsh, one time secretary, was also chairman for a number of years.

CHARACTERS

Like every club, Eire Og also had its share of characters. Among them were Mick (Chew) Leahy and Dollsy Saunders. Dollsy was associated with the club in the halcyon days, being one of the type of backroom boys well able to relieve the tension prior to important games.

Mick Leahy became known all over Ireland as one of the great characters of Kilkenny hurling as a bottle man. He was a man who could never see Kilkenny being beaten and even after the most shattering of defeats, he could almost convince one that the team had not been favoured by lady luck, and could well have won had the ball run kindly.



Another of the great Eire Og teams. Back row (l. to r.): Billy Holohan (secretary), Larry Phelan, Jack Mulcahy, Pat 'Diamond' Hayden, Johnny Rice, Nick O'Donnell, Kevin Shortall, Michael 'Chew' Leahy, Tommy Murphy, Mick Brett, Jim Langton. Front (l. to r.): Syd Bluett, Ches Phelan, Paddy Lennon, Liam Reidy, Joe Gargan, Ramie Dowling, Paddy O'Brien, Michael Neary.

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THE ALL-IRELAND! What blood-tingling excitement the word evokes. For weeks beforehand all other topics take second place. It is the only topic of conversation at mart and market, pub and factory. The hay, the silage, the elections take second place.

The first Sunday in September is sacred to Kilkennymen. If they are not in the final that Sunday it's not an All-Ireland at all.

The excitement mounts as the big day approaches. I heard of a rather simple but terribly dedicated follower who was not so good at counting. Anyway, he put a number of pebbles in his pocket and took out one every day. As the number of pebbles diminished his blood pressure went up. He ended up in hospital and wasn't able to attend the final.

For many, the final is their only holiday. They put by a few pounds to be spent in Dublin. Sure, it's a poor heart that never rejoices. From early dawn the fans invade Dublin. Afterwards, they are seen everywhere. They band together in groups. They own Dublin for the day. When rival groups meet there is good-natured banter. "Ye think ye are going to win. Ye'll win the toss, but that's about all".

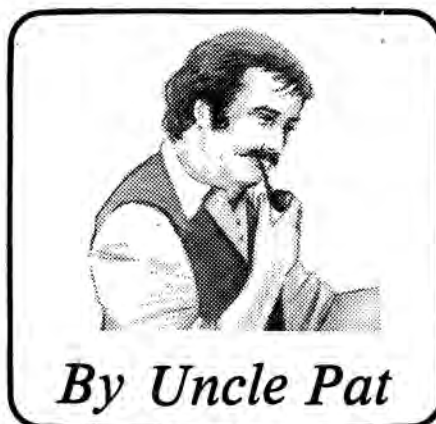
FORMALITY

Flag sellers do a roaring trade in banners and caps. "Get your colours for the match". The colours are yours already and the passing of money is just a formality.

The "ating houses" and pubs are full to overflowing. Some bring their pints outside where there is more fresh air and elbow room. They need to fortify themselves for the rigors of the afternoon.

Cars bedecked with flags and bunting come from all quarters and survey the surroundings of Croke Park seeking parking. Then they take from the boot armfuls of sandwiches and flasks and have an alfresco meal on the sidewalk.

This done, all roads lead to the arena. Men bronzed from the hay and cornfields rub shoulders with



the city shop boys. Priests and lawyers and doctors mingle with the tradesman and the artisan. All intent and at the same time good humoured.

TROUBLES FORGOTTEN

There is something about Croke Park on All-Ireland day that baffles description. Here is the magical, carefree atmosphere of people out to enjoy themselves. If they spend freely it is because for one day at least their troubles are forgotten. They join with and applaud the loose-limbed, well-trained athletes who endeavour with might and main to bring the McCarthy Cup to their native county.

What a wonderful sight is Croke Park on All-Ireland day. The emerald-green sward crossed by neat white lines belies the fact that this arena is almost in the middle of Dublin. The Artane band in colourful array. To me, I know no thrill that stirs me like the sight of the Black and Amber walking behind the Artane Band as it plays martial airs. Then the National Anthem swells from 70,000 throats and the big game is on. What a pulsating struggle! The roar of the crowd as they cheer their favourites and the final whistle with a point or two to spare is a never-to-be-forgotten thrill.

After the conflict the defeated drown their sorrows while the victors are drunk with more than victory and all lubricate their throats that are sore and parched after the vocal support.

I heard of some Kilkenny supporters on the evening of a final and they were so happy that they said it was not worth their while to go home as it would be no time until Kilkenny would be in the next final.

FIRST ALL-IRELAND

My first recollection of an All-Ireland was the 1922 final between Kilkenny and Tipperary. Actually it was played in 1923. I was not at the match as at that time if a chap was let down as far as the road it was as far as he was let stray.

It was a sensational match and had a sensational ending. Tipp were firm favourites. The team was led by the famous Johnny Leahy and his brother from Boherlahan. Martin Kennedy was a quicksilver forward, "Skinny" O'Meara in goal and several others who had proved themselves on many a hard-fought field.

Some minutes from the end it looked as if the Tipp men were "home and dry" with a lead of three points. The crowd was leaving the field. A bad puck-out by Tipp was pounced upon by Matty Power, then only a boy. Matty found the net. Level pegging. Kilkenny, inspired by Dick Grace, then a veteran, stormed the Tipp posts and a golden goal was the reward.

Tipp staged an all-out offensive on the Kilkenny goal but the defence held firm. Martin Kennedy's parting shot for the equaliser was turned over the crossbar by Mark McDonald from famed Mooncoin and at the final whistle Kilkenny were two points up.

FIRST TIME ON A TRAIN

I remember an excursion left our parish on the train. It was the first time for many of them to be on a train. The first information we had of victory was the shouting of those returning at midnight. I heard afterwards that the news of the victory was flashed on the screen of the local cinema. There was no radio or T.V. in those days.

Yes, that was 60 years ago and I am sure most of those heroes have passed the Great Divide. Their names and achievements have provided inspiration to succeeding generations. That final was Kilkenny's eighth. We have annexed 14 since.

All honour to our warriors of old and to the present-day heroes who have inherited a proud tradition.

Painful memories of August 8 and 15

THEY say a week is a long time in politics, and it can change an awful lot of things. It is the same in sport, although one would make few friends for mentioning healthy recreation in the same breath as the game of politics in Ireland at the moment. Still, there are similarities.

The quick change factor is but one area. How to score on your opponent is another, but we won't go into that, the political end anyway.

Here in Kilkenny this year, people saw just how dramatically things can change in the short space of seven days. August 8 and 15 bring back painful memories.

Early on August 8, people by the Nore were rubbing their hands together and shrugging their shoulders in anticipation of a treble victory on the hurling front. The

seniors, minors and under-21s were all in the hunt for honours. By 5 p.m. on the 15th., the dream was shattered. All that was left were the seniors. No small prize it must be added, but think of what was missed.

In between, the minor and under-21 teams were unceremoniously dumped out of their respective championships by Galway. And in both cases a puck of the ball was the deficit – a point in the case of the minors and a goal with the others. Both were in all-Ireland semi-finals.

As it turned out, Galway lost the all-Ireland finals to Cork (under-21) and Tipperary (minor), so it cannot be argued with real conviction and honesty that two national titles were thrown away. But it would

have been nice to have held onto that treble dream a bit longer.

WERE SERIOUS

The defeat of the minors was hard to explain. They deserved to be beaten, and still they might not have lost. The deciding scoreline was 2-6 (12 pts) to 1-8 (11 pts). In the dying seconds chances of a goal and a point fell to Pat Nolan and Paul Cleere. They were unlucky. But good fortune at that time was no less than the Connacht champions deserved.

If only for their attitude to the game, Galway deserved to get through. They took the match seriously. Unfortunately, for the opening 20 minutes or so, some of their opponents just didn't want to know. Some gave the impression that because they were from Kilkenny they would win anyway. How to keep the mental attitude right has always been a problem for minor team selectors.

Galway could have won this match by 10 points, and no Kilkenny people could have grumbled. Why they didn't bears looking into. Here they were in an all-Ireland semi-final, and it was their first match. It was neither fair to

Continued overleaf >



The Kilkenny minor hurling team pictured after they had won the Leinster final.

EYE OF A TIGER

If eyes could only speak . . . Billy Fitzpatrick (Fenians) has his eyes focussed on the one thing only, the goalposts. The Cork player in his way is Cork's John Blake.



Painful memories of August 8 & 15

◀ Continued from page 81

them – as their lack of match practice proved – or their opponents.

They had the ability to win, but because they lacked the necessary preparations, they struggled. It was the same with their under-21 team later. They were the better side on the day, but because it was their first serious test, they had to hang on at the end.

The Kilkenny minors never showed the same class as the team of the previous year which gave a gala performance when lifting the Irish Press Cup. In the opening round against Laois in Athy there was a goal rush and it was the team with the worst defence that lost out in the end. So Laois had their interest ended.

LAST HOPEFUL MEMORY

A poor Offaly team provided the Leinster final opposition. In fairness, the Noresiders showed a bit of improvement in defence and they won by 3-16 to 3-4 after leading at half-time by 1-8 to 1-1.

Three times the sides were level in the all-Ireland semi-final. The last time was eight minutes from the end when the losers pulled back a deficit to level the scores at 2-5 (G) to 1-8. That remains Kilkenny's last hopeful memory of this championship.

The all-Ireland semi-final minor team was: J. Bergin, E. O'Neill, G. O'Neill, B. Doyle (capt), T. Leahy, L. Cleere, J. Walsh, T. Bawle, P. Nolan, T. Lennon, S. Delahunty, P. Cleere, M. Rafter, B. Young, J. Whelan. Subs – P. Barron, K. Maher.

The under-21 string had five outings in the championship and beat Wexford, after a replay, Laois and Offaly before their number was called. One consolation here was the form shown by ever improving Galmoy player, M. J. Ryan, who surely cast himself in line for a call-up, at some later stage, to the senior panel.

The team was sluggish in the opening tie against Wexford in Enniscorthy. Here a good half-time substitution saved the day. Glenmore's Johnny Murphy was sprung from the sideline, and from an unaccustomed full forward role, he scored 2-2 which helped Kilkenny considerably towards a 2-12 to 0-18 (W) draw.

The replay at Nowlan Park was no contest. Wexford were beaten by 3-20 to 1-9. So the next outing was against Laois, and that was no better as Kilkenny won by 3-20 to 1-6. The hat-trick of Leinster finals was completed when Offaly could only manage 2-6 against their opponent's 5-20.

GAVE HOPE

In their last match the Noresiders never got going. They were beaten by 1-13 to 1-10 and the Connacht champions clocked up 15 wides. The losers only managed one point in the opening quarter and at half-time were down by 1-2 to 1-7. They gave hope when they had the arrears back to 1-9 to 1-11 with 10 minutes remaining, but they fell away again.

Along with Ryan, best during the campaign were Eddie Aylward, both Pat Ryans (Emeralds and Gowran), Ray Heffernan, Billy Purcell and the late arrival on the scene, Jim Kiscella.

The losing team was: D. Burke, J. Dunphy, E. Aylward, P. Ryan (Gowran), S. Tyrrell, J. Kinsella, D. Hoyne, P. Ryan (Emeralds), M. Byrne, B. Walton, M. J. Ryan, R. Heffernan, L. McCarthy, J. Murphy, B. Purcell. Subs – J. Holden, M. Collins, T. Moylan.

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ONE FOOT IN THE GRAVE – THE OTHER ON A BANANA SKIN!

SOCCKER in England has one foot in the grave and the other on the proverbial banana skin. And the game's legislators can blame no one but themselves.

Falling attendances, poor fare and thuggery have all contributed to the disease which has been nibbling at the game for many years.

But, the real cancer has been the fact that the game's administrators chose to ignore those very vital people – the customers who paid through the turnstiles.

Football's losses could be the G.A.A.'s gain. Poor facilities have helped drive the football fans to television, pubs, discos, work, anywhere except into grounds.

The G.A.A. has a touch of the same sickness. Now is the time to look for the cure. Otherwise our games could also be knocking on death's door.

The signs are already there that the public is not prepared to put up with poor or, worse still, no facilities at all. Sure, at times they turn out in great numbers, but only when there is something special on offer.

NOT ACCEPTABLE

The day of dressing in the ditch and standing watching in the mud is gone. It is alright to read about, such days and to hear stories from father, or grandfather, but no longer are frugal conditions acceptable.

Granted, the players are the most important people in any game, but a very good second are spectators whose cash helps to keep the

clubs', and counties', heads above water.

Cast your mind back to the Kilkenny hurling semi-finals and you will know what I mean. It was a dismal day. The rain poured down incessantly and to make matters worse it was cold, too.

Over 8,000 spectators huddled together at Nowlan Park. The stand was full in record time. The remainder, the bulk of the crowd, stood soaked, miserable and surely disgruntled.

The majority of them stayed the full afternoon. But, if the same conditions prevailed on the following Sunday would they have returned? The hardy ones would, but there would have been a big fall-off. I have no doubt that the crowds would dwindle slowly if the weather proved a constant spoilsport.

TROUSERS STUCK TO LEGS

And who could blame them? You go to any game to be entertained, not to suffer hardship. There is not much fun cheering on your hero if the trousers is stuck to your legs with the rain and your hand is numb from trying to keep up the umbrella.

Supporters of the 'Eighties are a discerning lot and they will soon let a sports organisation know. They won't write or 'phone. They will just stay at home.

And the G.A.A. would do well to remember that. Like other sports groups, they have no divine right to the spectator.

The idea, then, should be to provide as much shelter as is

possible for spectators. Preferably to provide covered seating areas suitable for comfortable family viewing, even in the worst of weather.

Needless to say, there should be proper toilet and maybe even wash-up facilities. Here many grounds fall down badly. The hygienic conscious of today won't return again and again to smelly or dirty lavatories.

In cold weather it would be nice to have a cup of tea or bovril at half-time. As well as adding to the comfort of spectators, these services could bring in badly needed finance. And it wouldn't cost the earth to provide these nice little extras.

After all, the small things mean a lot in the end.

WELL SPENT

Granted, the greater part of the hurling and football season enjoys fine weather, but as we have seen in recent times, the final stages when interest is at fever-pitch tends to bring the bad weather.

It may cost a considerable amount of money now to provide proper facilities at grounds, but it would be money well spent.

It would be little use to think about closing the stable door after the horse had bolted. The spectators are still there, maybe not in as big a number as before, but they are there, and now is the time to pamper them a little.

There is nothing more miserable than an empty terrace – for players or administrators.

HOW BROTHERS KEPT SUCCESS IN FAMILY

THE G.A.A. is just two years off celebrating its 100th birthday. A lot of people have contributed to the continued growth of the 'Association so this might be a good time to glance back at some of the families who achieved fame on Gaelic sportsfields.

Names like the Coughlans of Cork spring to mind. The Mackeys of Limerick. The Rackards and O'Connors from Wexford. The O'Connors were the first family of which three brothers won All-Ireland medals. They did it way back in 1890.

Then you have the Landers of Kerry; the Mulderrigs of Mayo and the Spillanes of Kerry. And sure you couldn't forget the hurling Connolly brothers from Galway and the Maguires of Cavan. Tipperary had the Leahys from Boherlahan. They hold a special place in history as they are the only family of four brothers to have won All-Ireland senior medals.

The Delaneys of Laois also created a record when an uncle and five nephews (all brothers) lined out with the O'Moore County in the 1936 All-Ireland football final against Mayo.

There are several great Kilkenny families, too. They have created their own bit of history. And it is these families we will have a look at.

THE DOYLES

The Doyles of Mooncoin hold the record for the number of All-Ireland medals won by the same family. They have a fantastic 18 which were won between 1904 and 1913.

Dick won seven hurling medals. Eddie collected six and Mick five. Hailing from Dournane, they figured together on the winning sides of 1907, 1909, 1911 and 1912. Dick and Eddie played together in 1904 and 1905 while Dick and Mick figured in 1913. This is a record that is likely to stand the test of time.

THE GRACES

Another Noreside family of special note is the Graces of Tullaroan. They are in second place with the number of All-Ireland medals won. They hold 15. Unlike the Doyles who won them all for hurling, the Graces won All-Ireland football medals as well.

Pierce Grace is one of the 15 dual stars who has medals for both codes. He is one of two Kilkenny men – the other is Paddy Mackey – to have achieved this distinction.

Pierce won football medals with Dublin, 1906 and 1907, while a student at U.C.D. He collected three hurling medals in successive years between 1911 and '13.

Jack Grace also won five All-Ireland medals, all of them for football and with Dublin. His victorious years were 1901, 1902, 1906, 1907 and 1908. In 1906 he captained the team and thus became the only Kilkennyman to skipper an All-Ireland winning football side.

Jack also played in the hurling finals of 1906 and 1908, which Dublin lost. So he narrowly missed out on being a dual All-Ireland medal winner.

Dick Grace won his five All-Irelands with Kilkenny. He came on as a substitute in 1909 and then won three-in-a-row – 1911 to 1913. He starred when Tipperary were beaten in 1922.

Dick captained Kilkenny when Cork beat them in 1926. After retiring from the game, Dick Grace remained prominent in Kilkenny G.A.A. He was a Leinster Council delegate and a Trustee of the Co. Board, and he served as a selector for many years.

THE DUNPHYS

Another trio of brothers to wear the black and amber were the Dunphys of Mooncoin. Watty was the first man to bring the McCarthy Cup to the county when he lifted it in 1922. In 1927 he led Leinster to win the Railway Cup and so became the first man to captain All-Ireland and Railway Cup winning teams.

His brother Eddie figured on the winning team with him in 1922. Both also played in 1926 when Cork won the All-Ireland.

The third brother, Joe, was a surprise choice on the team in 1929 when Kilkenny won the Leinster final by beating Dublin. This match was later declared null and void because both teams took the field late.

Joe was only 18 at the time. He had helped St. Kieran's College win the Leinster senior hurling championships for a record fifth year in succession. After that '29 tie, Joe did not play for Kilkenny anymore as he joined the priesthood. In those days clergymen were not allowed play hurling.

THE HENDERSONS

Of the present-day stock, the Hendersons from Johnstown led the way. Here three brothers have 11 All-Ireland senior hurling medals between them, as well as three minor and three under-21 awards.

Pat, the present coach-trainer to the senior team, won five senior awards in 1967, 1969, 1972, 1974 and 1975. He also collected a minor one in 1961.

Ger, after winning two senior medals as a sub. in 1974 and 1975, also won honours in 1979 and 1982. He was on the winning minor side of 1972, again as a sub. And in 1974 and 1975, he collected under-21 medals.

Brother, John, then made the

Continued overleaf >

breakthrough with the minors in 1975. He followed that up by getting the honours with the under-21 side in 1977 and he figured on the senior team in 1979 and 1982.

So the Hendersons have the honour of three brothers holding All-Ireland medals at senior, under-21 and minor level. As well, Pat, when he retired, was mentor with All-Ireland senior winning sides in 1979 and 1982.

THE MEAGHERS

The Meaghers of Tullaroan are another famous family. Four brothers played senior for the county. Frank, Willie, Henry and Lory all played Leinster championship hurling. Lory, Willie and Henry played together in the All-Ireland final of 1926. They then equalled the record set by the Doyles of Mooncoin.

Lory Meagher was the only one of the brothers to win an All-Ireland. He was on successful teams in 1932, 1933 and 1935, when he was captain.

The name of Lory Meagher – he was once the idol of Kilkenny followers – looms large whenever great hurlers are spoken about.

Henry Meagher emigrated to America and got his place on the U.S. team which played Ireland in the Tailteann games in 1928 and 1932. He died a few weeks ago in New York.

THE LEAHYS

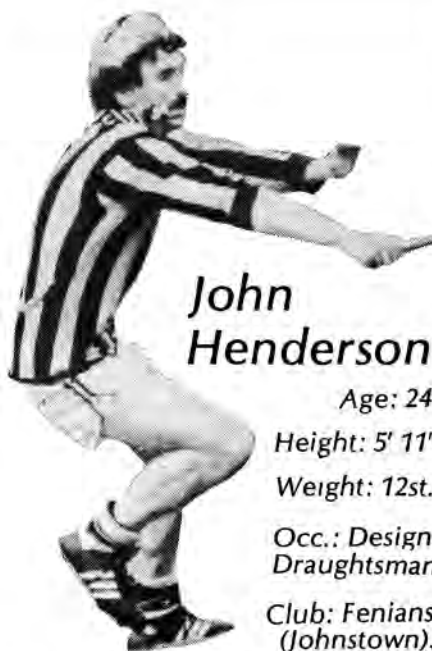
The Leahys of Urlingford are another clan of special note. Again, three brothers played for Kilkenny. They were Tommy, Jerry and Terry.

Jerry played the third day of that historic 1931 final. Tommy also rose to prominence in those matches. He came on as a sub. the second day, and also played the third day. He won All-Ireland medals in 1932, 1933 and 1935. His display in '35 is still regarded as the winning of that epic tie.

Terry was the most famous of the brothers because he scored the winning point in the final of 1947. He also won a medal in 1939 as well as minor medals in 1935 and 1936. He won a junior award with Dublin in 1937 and played with the Dubs. in the 1944 decider.

Terry went to New York in 1949 and still lives there. He comes home each year for the All-Ireland final. He gave many years' service to the New York hurling team and won two New York championships with Kilkenny in 1950 and 1957.

HOW BROTHERS KEPT SUCCESS IN FAMILY



THE BRENNANS

The Brennans from Conahy also came to the fore in recent years. Nicky, Kieran and Paudie won All-Ireland honours at various grades.

Nicky took an under-21 award in 1974 and subsequently he collected four at senior grade, two as a sub. in 1974 and 1975. Kieran holds All-Ireland honours in all three grades – minor (1975), under-21 (1977) and senior (1982). Paudie, meanwhile, won a minor medal in 1975.

THE FENNELLYS

But, perhaps, the most remarkable family is the Fennellys from Castlebanny, Mullinavat, who turn out with the Shamrocks (Ballyhale). This year seven brothers figured on the winning senior hurling championship team. They were: Kevin, Ger, Liam, Brendan, Michael, Sean and Dermot.

All seven won All-Ireland club championship medals in 1980. This re-wrote the records and bettered the feat of the Connollys from Galway, six of whom helped Castlegar to victory in 1979. The Fennellys must hold the all-time record of senior county medals won.

In senior hurling they have now amassed 25 medals, while at football they have 14, for a total of 39, all as players. As well, they have supplied three All-Ireland winning captains.

Ger Fennelly holds the record with Gerard McCarthy (Cork) of having captained senior and under-21 All-Ireland winning teams. Kevin captained a winning under-21 side and Sean did it at minor level.

With Liam the new Kilkenny captain now, perhaps the Fennelly luck will hold out?

The Fennellys joined the Doyles (Mooncoin) with three brothers winning All-Ireland senior medals – Ger (1974 and '75 as sub., 1979 as captain and 1982); Kevin (1979 as a playing reserve and 1982 as sub.) and Liam won his one and only medal this season. Should Sean keep his place on the county side and Kilkenny go on to another All-Ireland victory, the Fennellys would equal the 'take' of the Leahys of Boherlahan.

But the South Kilkenny brothers have a record all to themselves. Five brothers have All-Ireland medals at either senior, under-21 or minor grade.

Ger has minor (1), under-21 (1) and senior (4); Kevin has minor (2), under-21 (2) and senior (2). Liam has senior (1). Brendan has under-21 (1) and Sean has minor (1). Truly a magnificent achievement.

They are only following in the illustrious footsteps of their father, Kevin (senior). With his five brothers he helped Stoneyford win the junior county hurling championship in 1943.

THE HENNESSYS

Another exceptional family, but one that did not figure prominently on the inter-county scene, are the Hennessys of Tullaroan. Here five brothers – Jim, Paddy, Joe, Bill and Tommy – helped Tullaroan to win the senior championship in 1958. Jim played at full-back for Kilkenny in the 1961 championship



The Fennelly brothers with the county hurling and football trophies which they won in 1980. They are (from left): Michael, Kevin, Liam, Brendan, Ger, Sean and the youngest brother Dermot is sitting in front.

after serving as a sub. for the replay of the 1959 All-Ireland.

THE DUGGANS

The Duggans of Tory Hill are another great hurling family. Jack, Larry and Denis played with Kilkenny. Jack appeared in the first game of 1931 when he came on as a sub. and played in the second and third games. He won All-Ireland medals in 1932 (sub.), 1933 (used as sub) and 1935. He captained the losing 1937 team in Killarney.

Larry came on as a sub. in the 1935 final and played in 1937, while Denis won an All-Ireland junior honour in 1928.

THE O'HARAS

Back down south you have the O'Haras from Thomastown. Three brothers won All-Ireland medals at some grade in recent years.

The best known is Dick, who has two senior medals won in 1979 (used as sub.) and 1982 to go with two under-21 (1975 and 1977) and two

minor (1973 and 1975). Bill won a minor medal (1977) and so did Joe (1981).

THE LALORS

Another well-known family are the Lalors of Threecastles. Three brothers played in All-Ireland senior finals. Jim and Martin won in 1904 and 1905 and Jim was still on the panel in 1907. John played in the All-Ireland final of 1898 when Kilkenny lost to Tipperary by 7-13 to 3-10.

John later went into the administrative side of the G.A.A. and was county secretary from 1914 until he retired in July 1917. He was also county registrar.

These are but some of the families who have contributed to the Kilkenny Gaelic games records. These are only the ones who had three or more brothers playing for the county. One could go on and on, but there must be an end somewhere.



● NICKY BRENNAN

KILKENNY may have surrendered the major schools' hurling award on offer during 1982 – that is the colleges' senior hurling title – but county sides managed to pick up an All-Ireland, three provincial crowns as well as losing an All-Ireland final. All in all, not a bad year.

Kilkenny C.B.S. entered the colleges' senior hurling championship having won their first title the previous year. They went as far as the Leinster final before losing out in a terrific game to St. Peter's College (Wexford) who were only beaten in the All-Ireland after a replay.

Pride of place in Kilkenny this year must go to the spirited hurlers from Johnstown vocational school who captured the individual schools' senior All-Ireland by beating St. Brogan's (Bandon) in the decider.

Next in line must be St. Kieran's College, who won both the Leinster

juvenile and junior hurling championships, in both cases at the expense of arch city rivals – Kilkenny C.B.S.

Callan C.B.S. staged a good revival this season after being down for a number of years. They qualified for the All-Ireland colleges' senior 'B'

individual schools' championship. This time they were not prepared to settle for second best, and after beating Banagher (Offaly) by 3-7 to 0-5 in an early round, they went all out for the All-Ireland.

WON WELL

In the decider they clashed with the fancied

the early stages and did very well against the breeze.

Johnstown never missed a chance and a fine goal by Jimmy Queally helped them on their way to a 4-1 to 1-2 half-time lead, that in the conditions did not look too healthy. St. Brogan's raced at their opponents in the closing half but they found it almost impossible to beat deadly Johnstown goalkeeper and captain, David Burke.

Along with Burke, other outstanding performers on the Johnstown team were Martin Bartley, Milo Phelan, Martin McEvoy, Jimmy Queally and Larry Maher until he had to retire injured.

The Johnstown team that day was: D. Burke (capt.), M. Bartley, J. Coady, W. Stanley, G. Kavanagh, M. Phelan, M. McEvoy, L. Maher, P. McEvoy, N. Grace, T. Drennan, J. Queally, G. Phelan, M. O'Gorman, P. Phelan. Subs.: J. Farrell, S. Whyte, M. Sweeney.

Johnstown and 'Kieran's took the honours

final. Unfortunately, they came up against a vastly more experienced Cashel C.B.S. and missed out on collecting their first crown. But they did win a Leinster title.

Over the past couple of years Johnstown V.S. have made a name for themselves in the

St. Brogan's at Emly. In the end the North Kilkenny boys won well by 3-7 to 2-3 and collected their first trophy.

Tradition, craft, skill and determination were the ingredients which helped Johnstown down hardy opponents. St. Brogan's grabbed the initiative in



Group pictured at the presentation of medals to the Johnstown Vocational School team who won the All-Ireland Vocational Schools senior hurling championship. Seated (from left) – Mr. John Cahill (vice-principle) Very Rev. F. Greene P.P., Mr. Brendan Conway (CEO, Kilkenny VEC) David Burke (captain), Nicky McGrath (President, VEC, LCG), Mr. John Walsh (Headmaster) Mr. Jim Ryan (trainer), Rt. Rev. Monsignor Thomas Maher (VEC committee), Mr. Paddy Broderick (teaching staff). Centre: Martin Bartley, Tom Drennan, Larry Maher, Martin McEvoy, James Queally, Billy Molloy, Thomas Phelan, Ger Phelan, Sean White, Martin Fahy (teacher). Behind: Pat McEvoy, Kevin Bartley, Michael Gorman, Nicky Grace, Joe Cody, Milo Phelan, James Farrell, William Stanley, Ger Kavanagh.



The Callan C.B.S. team who will be competing in the All-Ireland senior colleges final at Thurles

CALLAN WON While Callan C.B.S. missed out on the top honour, they had the good fortune to win a Leinster final. In this game they beat St. Vincent's (Dublin) by 4-9 to 1-5. A minute of magic which yielded goals by Mick Comerford (2) and Pat Cullen sealed victory

in the closing stages.

The Callan All-Ireland team was: T. Fennelly, P. Comerford, J. Holden, M. O'Driscoll, J. Corcoran, J. Power, S. Hogan, K. Butler (capt.), B. Bryan, D. Wall, A. O'Dwyer, L. Egan, V. Scrivan, M. Comerford, W. Fennelly. Subs.: P. Comerford, N. Ryan.

Mention must be made of the absorbing battle the Kilkenny C.B.S. put up before surrendering their provincial and All-Ireland crowns against St. Peter's at Bagenalstown. The C.B.S. were smaller and lighter, but their fighting spirit meant they were always there with a

chance. In the end they were beaten by 1-8 to 0-8.

This was a proud performance by the C.B.S. and while they surrendered their crown, they had the satisfaction of doing so in the true style of champions.

Continued overleaf >

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The St. Kieran's College team who defeated Kilkenny C.B.S. in the Leinster junior hurling championship final. The score was 5-10 to 2-5.

◁ Continued from previous page

C.B.S. HAD CHANCE

St. Kieran's College beat St. Peter's College by 2-6 to 1-0 before they took on the C.B.S. in an all-city Leinster juvenile final at Nowlan Park. This was a cracking game and the James's Street boys got a real chance to take the honours.

At one point, the C.B.S. led by 1-2 to 0-1, but early in the second half their opponents got level at 1-2 each. The first match was drawn 1-4 each. In the replay, St. Kieran's were not in the mood for messing.

St. Kieran's won the replay by 3-3 to 0-2 in a typical dogfight between these great opponents. In the closing quarters two goals from Michael Kehoe and points from Pat Heffernan and Cathal Fitzgerald won the day.

The winners had to produce some great hurling, and to the fore were towering Shane O'Neill, James Langton, Cathal Fitzgerald, Nicholas Comerford and Michael Kehoe. The C.B.S. were not without their top players, best of whom were Anthony Cleere, Michael Kennedy, Keith McCormack, John Devlin and Donal Kennedy.

St. Kieran's College

team - P. Bergin, J. Crosbie, N. Comerford, A. Smith, D. Phelan, P. Murphy, J. Langton, S. O'Neill, C. Fitzgerald, S. Cahill, J. Holohan, K. Conroy, P. Heffernan, M. Kehoe, C. Dwyer.

KIERAN'S SETTLED SCORE

Before they had a chance to go for provincial honours, St. Kieran's had to settle an old score with St. Peter's College in the junior championship. Two years before, the same teams clashed in the juvenile competition, and the Slaneysiders won. The college boys reversed that result (0-9 to 0-6) and also saw off Birr Community School (7-9 to 0-0) before meeting the C.B.S.

In the other half of the draw, Kilkenny C.B.S. had a bit of luck on their side when they beat Good Counsel by 4-5 to 4-4. So it was all set for another city derby.

Thanks to a marked degree in the area of score grabbing, St. Kieran's won the final by 5-10 to 2-5. The winners were a better balanced side and they scored 3-8 without reply in the opening half.

While the C.B.S. dominated the exchanges for the most part after the break and had the arrears back to 1-5 to 3-10 five minutes from the end, they were sunk without

trace with two late goals from Tommy Lennon and Walter Purcell, son of former county 'great' Kieran.

St. Kieran's players from whom more should be heard in the future are: Seamus Power, Tony Byrne, Tommy Lennon, John Feehan and Pat Hoban. The best for the C.B.S. were Billy Ayres and Paddy Kennedy,

Frankie Morgan and Pat Cass.

St. Kieran's College Juniors: E. Morrissey, T. Byrne, M. Healy, W. Dwyer, T. McCluskey, J. Moore, T. Phelan, P. Hoban, S. Power, E. Keher, T. Lennon, W. Purcell, J. Feehan, N. Brophy, T. Farrell. Subs.: P. Ryan, M. O'Neill, P. Foley, P. Carroll, J. Quigley.

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ROUND 7

Carrickshock 2-9; Piltown 1-9.
Thomastown 8-8; Windgap 5-6.
Clara 1-16; Dicksboro 0-7.
Graiguanamanagh 3-9; Young Ireland's (Gowran) 0-17.

SEMI-FINALS

Clara 2-12; Thomastown 0-12.
Carrickshock 0-15; Piltown 2-9.
Carrickshock 1-16; Piltown 1-8.

FINAL

Clara 0-13; Carrickshock 0-9.
Number of games played 32.

Junior Hurling Championship

NORTH (Group I)

ROUND 1

Tullaroan 9-14; Ye Faire Citie 1-4.
Emerald's 5-9; Fenian's 0-3.
Graigue-Ballycallan 0-15; Blacks and Whites 0-6.

ROUND 2

Black and Whites 3-7; Fenian's 2-8.
Graigue-Ballycallan 5-18; Ye Faire Citie 1-3.
Tullaroan 3-8; Emeralds 2-10.

ROUND 3

Graigue-Ballycallan 1-13; Fenian's 3-6.
Emerald's 2-12; Ye Faire Citie 1-4.
Tullaroan 2-15; Blacks and Whites 1-8.

ROUND 4

Graigue-Ballycallan 1-12; Emeralds 3-5.
Blacks and Whites 2-9; Ye Faire Citie 2-2.

ROUND 5

Tullaroan 3-6; Graigue-Ballycallan 0-11.
Emerald's 3-15; Blacks and Whites 2-10.

GROUP II

ROUND 1

Barrow Rangers 8-14; O'Loughlin's 3-5.

ROUND 2

Barrow Rangers 2-16; Danesfort 2-6.
Lisdowney 3-14; St. Martin's 2-9.

ROUND 3

Barrow Rangers 1-16; St. Martin's 2-7.
Lisdowney 3-7; O'Loughlin's 1-6.

ROUND 4

O'Loughlin's 5-7; St. Martin's 1-10.
Lisdowney 2-12; Danesfort 1-11.

ROUND 5

Barrow Rangers 5-13; Lisdowney 4-9.
O'Loughlin's bt. Danesfort by 5 pts.

SEMI-FINALS

Barrow Rangers 4-14; Graigue-Ballycallan 2-7.
Lisdowney 8-8; Tullaroan 2-10.

FINAL

Barrow Rangers 1-13; Lisdowney 0-8.

SOUTH

ROUND 1

Dunnamaggin 1-13; Mullinavat 1-8.
John Lockes (Callan) 4-11; Mooncoin 4-7.
Tullogher-Rosbercon 2-10; Carrigeen 2-6.
St. Senan's severu(Kilmacow) bt. Slieverue.

ROUND 2

Dunnamaggin 2-8; John Locke's (Callan) 0-6.
Mooncoin 1-13; Carrigeen 2-4.
Tullogher-Rosbercon bt. Slieverue.
St. Senan's (Kilmacow) 1-5; Mullinavat 0-5.

ROUND 3

John Lock's (Callan) 1-9; Mullinavat 0-7.
Dunnamaggin 1-14; Mooncoin 1-9.
Carrigeen bt. Slieverue.
St. Senan's (Kilmacow) 3-10; Tullogher-Rosbercon 2-8.

ROUND 4

John Locke's (Callan) 1-14; Carrigeen 3-3.
Tullogher-Rosbercon 3-10; Mooncoin 3-3.
Mullinavat 3-11; Slieverue 3-1.
Dunnamaggin 0-11; St. Senan's (Kilmacow) 1-6.

ROUND 5

Mullinavat 2-8; Carrigeen 1-6.
Dunnamaggin 2-14; Slieverue 1-7.
Tullogher - Rosbercon 4-11; John Lockes (Callan) 2-8.
Mooncoin 2-7; St. Senan's (Kilmacow) 2-7.

ROUND 6

Mullinavat 2-6; Mooncoin 1-6.
Tullogher-Rosbercon 2-14; Dunnamaggin 2-5.
John Locke's (Callan) 4-12; Slieverue 2-7.
St. Senan's (Kilmacow) 3-8; Carrigeen 1-6.

ROUND 7

Tullogher-Rosbercon 2-17; Mullinavat 2-7.
John Locke's (Callan) 3-12; St. Senan's (Kilmacow) 3-6.
Dunnamaggin bt. Carrigeen.
Mooncoin v Slieverue not played.

SEMI-FINALS

John Locke's (Callan) 3-11; Tullogher-Rosbercon 2-11.
Dunnamaggin 2-13; St. Senan's (Kilmacow) 1-13.

FINAL

John Locke's (Callan) 3-13; Dunnamaggin 4-10.

COUNTY FINAL

Barrow Rangers 0-12; John Locke's (Callan) 0-6.
Total number of games played 5-6.

Junior Football Championship

NORTH

ROUND 1

Danesfort 3-13; Graigue-Ballycallan 1-5.
Bennettsbridge 6-13; Young Ireland's (Gowran) 3-1.
Muckalee 1-7; Ye Faire Citie 2-3.
Castlecomer 4-5; Lisdowney 1-4.
Freshford 3-6; Dicksboro 1-7.
Paulstown 2-6; Clara 2-6.
Paulstown 2-9; Clara 1-4 (re-play).

ROUND 2

Bennettsbridge 2-8; Danesfort 2-4.
Muckalee 1-5; Railyard 0-5.
Freshford 2-6; Castlecomer 1-2.
Paulstown 2-8; Blacks and Whites 0-1.

ROUND 3

Paulstown 0-6; Freshford 0-6.
Paulstown bt. Freshford by 2 pts. (replay).
Bennettsbridge 3-9; Muckalee 2-4.

FINAL

Paulstown 2-8; Bennettsbridge 0-7.

SOUTH

ROUND 1

Bigwood 4-7; Graignamanagh 0-7.
Mooncoin bt. Shamrock's.
Rower-Inistioge 0-5; Carrickshock 0-1.
Dunnamaggin bt. Thomastown.
Tullogher-Rosbercon bt. Slieverue.
St. Patrick's (Kilmacow) 0-11; Carrigeen 0-1.

ROUND 2

Mooncoin 3-4; Rower-Inistioge 1-3.
Tullogher-Rosbercon 4-10; Dunnamaggin 2-3.
St. Patrick's (Kilmacow) 1-12; Lamogue 2-2.

ROUND 3

Mooncoin 9-7; Bigwood 0-1.
St. Patrick's (Kilmacow) 2-7; Tullogher-Rosbercon 1-9.

FINAL

St. Patrick's (Kilmacow) 2-11; Mooncoin 1-8.

COUNTY FINAL

Paulstown 1-7; St. Patrick's (Kilmacow) 1-5.
Number of games played 28.

SOUTH

ROUND 1

Graignamanagh 4-10; Shamrock's 1-5.
Mullinavat 2-13; Rower-Inistioige 3-6.
Glenmore 2-11; Thomastown 1-4.

ROUND 2

Mullinavat 1-13; Graignamanagh 1-9.
Glenmore 2-12; Mooncoin 0-7.

SOUTH FINAL

Glenmore 2-7; Mullinavat 1-8.

COUNTY FINAL

Glenmore 1-12; Dicksboro 1-9.

Number of games played 23.

Under-21 Hurling Roinn B

NORTH - GROUP I

ROUND 1

St. Lactain's 10-10; Ye Faire Citie 1-0.

ROUND 2

Barrow Rangers 1-14; Conahy Shamrock's 2-6.

ROUND 3

Barrow Rangers 7-16; Ye Faire Citie 0-4.
St. Lactain's 5-6; Conahy Shamrock's 1-7.

ROUND 4

Barrow Rangers 2-8; St. Lactain's 2-6.

GROUP II

ROUND 1

Galmoy 2-5; Clara 3-2.
Graigue-Ballycallan 1-5; Danesfort 1-1.

ROUND 2

Graigue-Ballycallan 4-3; Clara 2-8.
St. Martin's 3-9; Danesfort 2-3.

ROUND 3

Clara 0-9; Danesfort 1-4.
Galmoy 3-9; St. Martin's 2-6.

ROUND 4

Graigue-Ballycallan 5-10; St. Martin's 1-4.
Galmoy 5-17; Danesfort 1-7.

ROUND 5

Galmoy 2-12; Graigue-Ballycallan 1-8.

GROUP III

ROUND 1

Tullaroan 0-13; Blacks and Whites 2-3.
Lisdowney 8-13; Moneenroe 1-3.

ROUND 2

Tullaroan 2-13; Moneenroe 1-3.
Lisdowney 4-8; Blacks and Whites 1-12.

ROUND 3

Lisdowney 3-13; Tullaroan 1-6.

SEMI-FINAL

Barrow Ranger's 3-8; Lisdowney 2-6.

NORTHERN FINAL

Galmoy 3-11; Barrow Ranger's 2-3.

SOUTH - GROUP I

ROUND 1

John Locke's 8-4; Dunnamaggin 1-2.

ROUND 2

Windgap 6-16; Dunnamaggin 2-2.

GROUP II

ROUND 1

Carrickshock bt. Tullogher-Rosbercon.

ROUND 2

Slieverue 2-3; Tullogher-Rosbercon 0-9.

ROUND 3

Slieverue 11-15; Carrickshock 3-3

SEMI-FINALS

Windgap 9-11; Carrickshock 0-2.
John Locke's 6-12; Slieverue 1-6.

SOUTH FINAL

John Locke's 5-10; Windgap 2-8.

COUNTY FINAL

Galmoy 2-11; John Locke's 3-6.

Number of games played 30.

Minor Hurling Roinn A

NORTH

ROUND 1

James Stephen's 1-8; Dicksboro 1-7.

ROUND 1

Bennettsbridge 4-8; O'Loughlin's 2-7.
Erin's Own 3-12; Emerald's 1-5.

ROUND 2

James Stephens 0-16; Bennettsbridge 2-6.

NORTH FINAL

James Stephens 4-17; Erin's Own 0-4.

SOUTH

ROUND 1

Thomastown 1-15; Graignamanagh 2-4.
Mooncoin 5-9; Rower-Inistioige 0-1.

ROUND 2

Thomastown 2-10; Mullinavat 2-6.

SOUTH FINAL

Mooncoin 3-5; Thomastown 1-7.

COUNTY FINAL

James Stephens 3-13; Mooncoin 4-4.

Number of games played 10.

Minor Hurling Roinn B

NORTH

ROUND 1

Graigue-Ballycallan 3-10; Clara 1-3.
Galmoy 2-9; Young Ireland's (Gowran) 0-7.
Fenian's 5-3; St. Lactain's 1-8.

ROUND 2

Galmoy 1-4; Fenian's 0-3.

NORTHERN FINAL

Graigue-Ballycallan 4-14; Galmoy 4-11.

SOUTH

ROUND 1

John Locke's (Callan) 3-7; Slieverue 1-5.

ROUND 2

John Locke's (Callan) 5-6; Piltown 2-3.

SOUTH FINAL

Shamrock's 2-6; John Locke's (Callan) 1-6.

COUNTY FINAL

Shamrock's 2-7; Graigue/Ballycallan 2-5.

Total number of games played 9.

Minor Hurling Championship Roinn C

NORTH

ROUND 1

Danesfort 4-8; St. Martin's 3-7.
St. Patrick's (Ballyragget) 3-8; Goresbridge/Paulstown 2-8.
Conahy Shamrock's bt. Lisdowney by 6 points.

ROUND 2

Danesfort 13-7; Moneenroe 1-2.

ROUND 3

St. Patrick's (Ballyragget) 3-3; Conahy Shamrock's 1-8.
Danesfort 8-5; Tullaroan 0-0.

NORTH FINAL

St. Patrick's (Ballyragget) 2-4; Danesfort 1-3.

SOUTH

ROUND 1

Windgap 5-10; St. Senan's (Kilmacow) 2-4.
Carrickshock bt. Dunnamaggin.

ROUND 2

Carrickshock bt. Tullogher/Rosbercon

SOUTH FINAL

Carrickshock 2-7; Windgap 1-6.

COUNTY FINAL

St. Patrick's (Ballyragget) 3-11; Carrickshock 3-6.

Number of games played 12.

SCORESHEET

Minor Football Championships Roinn A

NORTH

ROUND 1

Castlecomer 3-4; Bennettsbridge 1-3.
O'Loughlin/Gael's 2-8; James Stephens' 1-2.

ROUND 2

Dicksboro 1-11; Castlecomer 1-6.

NORTH FINAL

O'Loughlin/Gaels 1-11; Dicksboro 2-3.

SOUTH

ROUND 1

Thomastown bt. Slieverue.
Graignamanagh 3-14; Bigwood 0-1.

ROUND 2

To be played.

SOUTH FINAL COUNTY FINAL

Number of games played so far 6.

Minor Football Championship Roinn B

NORTH

ROUND 1

Lisdowney 3-6; Danesfort 1-1.
St. Patrick's (Ballyragget) 3-8;
Sarsfields (Conahy) 0-4.

ROUND 2

St. Patrick's (Ballyragget) 4-6;
Graigue/Ballycallan 2-6.
Railyard 2-9; Lisdowney 0-7.

NORTH FINAL

Railyard 1-10; St. Patrick's (Ballyragget) 1-4.

SOUTH

ROUND 1

St. Patrick's (Kilmacow) 0-9; Carrickshock 0-2.
Piltown 4-6; Tullogher-Rosbercon 0-1.

ROUND 2

Piltown 4-4; Glenmore 0-3.
Shamrock's 1-5; St. Patrick's (Kilmacow) 1-2.

SOUTH FINAL

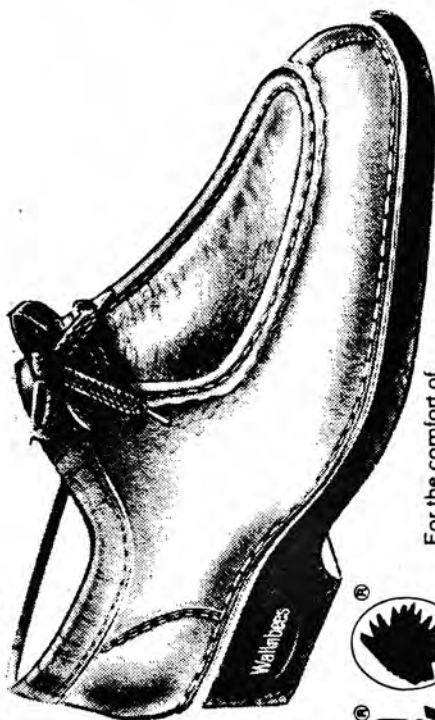
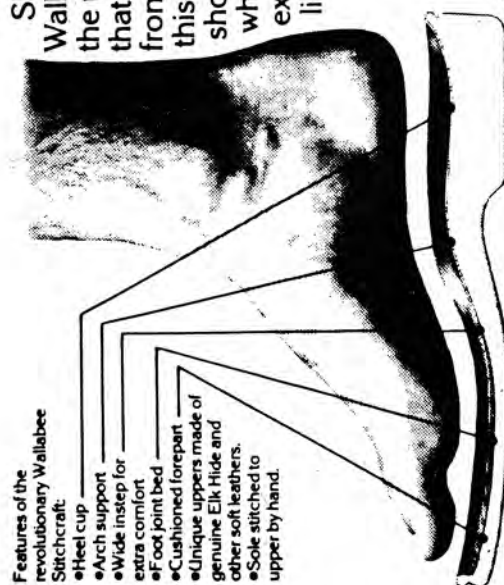
COUNTY FINAL

Number of games played so far 9.

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QUIZ ANSWERS

(Questions on page 43)

1. Jimmy Hatton of Wicklow. The year was 1966.
2. John Quigley (Rathnure). The year was 1973.
3. The year was 1910: Wexford 7-0, Limerick 6-2.
4. Ned Wade with Tipperary at minor and junior level in 1930.
5. Tommy Doyle.
6. J. J. Stuart in 1943 and Con Murphy in 1948 and '50.
7. Nicky Rackard from Wexford.
8. In 1971 at Queens University, Belfast.
9. Bob Hinks of Kilkenny.
10. Marty Barrett, P. J. Qualter and Pádraig Fahy.
11. Tadgh O'Connor, Francis Loughnane and Roger Ryan.
12. Pat Moylan (Blackrock).
13. Pádraig S. O Caoimh (Cork).
14. Tony Reddan.
15. Francis Loughnane (Tipperary) in 1973 against Limerick.
16. Ollie Walsh (Thomastown).
17. Ned Buggy (Wexford) against Galway.
18. Mick Jacob (Oulart-the-Ballagh).
19. John Rothwell (Blackrock) for Cork against Wexford.
20. All four were won in replays.
21. Dave Creedon.
22. Mick Morrissey with Wexford in 1955.
23. Justin McCarthy.
24. In 1972 – Kilkenny 6-13, Wexford 6-13 (draw); Kilkenny won the replay by 3-16 to 1-14.
25. Mick Kennefick. He was aged 19. It happened in 1943.
26. Present full-back, Leonard Enright.
27. Frank Cummins, Conor O'Brien and Dave Prendergast.
28. Seamus Horgan.
29. Tom Walsh, Tom Forristal and Fr. Tom Murphy.
30. Dermot Kelly.

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