

KILKENNY

G.A.A.

YEARBOOK 1983

No. 12

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



In Colour:

- ALL-IRELAND TEAM
- THE SHAMROCKS
- JAMES STEPHENS
- BENNETTSBRIDGE

Feature Articles on:

- The Doyles of Mooncoin
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FRONT COVER PICTURE:

Kilkenny defenders, John Henderson (2) and Joe Hennessy cover up well as Eamonn O'Donoghue tries hard for a score.

Editorial

No, it wasn't a good year



JOHN KNOX
Editor

ON THE face of it, 1983 was a good year for Kilkenny. The defeats were few. The victories were many. There was plenty to be happy about.

The shop window of the G.A.A. in the county, the senior hurling team, was beyond compare. For the second successive year the double of National League and all-Ireland was landed. It was the first double-double for Kilkenny in 100 years of hurling.

At any time a senior all-Ireland victory is welcome. The influence it can have on the game cannot be gauged. The normal procedure is to foster games among young players. A senior all-Ireland win can take a lot of the hard work out of this.

But, nothing must ever be taken for granted. Just because the seniors are doing well, the rest cannot be left unattended. All the attention should not be directed towards one area.

As great a tradition and all as Kilkenny has in the Gaelic world, there is a danger now of an over emphasis in one field – on the senior hurling team. It is good to have this segment healthy, but the rest of the body must be cared for too.

So in the overall context people cannot claim '83 has been a good one for Kilkenny. It wasn't bad. There it stops.

In all, five Kilkenny county teams contested national championships. Three failed to get through the first round. The seniors, of course, won all before them, but the other one that made progress, the Junior team, just plodded along in a competition that wasn't really worth bothering about.

It was no minor shock when the under-18 side bowed out in the opening round of the championship. This, in a year when Kilkenny had four teams in all-Ireland schools finals, was not good enough.

The under-21 hurling team fared no better. Again they crashed out in the opening round.

And after years of whining for the return of the junior inter-county football championship, Kilkenny treated it with contempt. When the time came to open in the championship, it was the usual story of missing players. In this case some had gone to play in a junior inter-county hurling challenge.

No, the overall picture wasn't great during 1983. On the surface everything was rosy because the senior hurlers made it look that way. It would not be sporting to expect to win everything, but too many died too quickly to make this one of the best.

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RIDING HIGH.....



Just like the Kilkenny senior hurling team at the moment, Joe Hennessy is 'riding high' in this fine action shot from the Leinster final against Offaly. And in case Joe, or the team, comes crashing down, Frank Cummins is a man with his feet firmly on the ground all the time who will help out. Offaly's Joachim Kelly knows how difficult it is to get on top of this pair when they are in form.

HAPPY DAYS HAVE PADDY SMILING AGAIN



Paddy Grace – he knew times when money was very scarce

IN MORE ways than one, happy days are here again for Kilkenny. The players know it. So too do officials. And supporters share in the enjoyment as well.

But the broadest smile of welcome for the good times came from colourful Co. Board secretary Paddy Grace, the man who was converted to the G.A.A. ideology when he was a small boy taken by the way fierce-on-the-field rivals Mooncoin and Tullaroan could come together after the fray to celebrate.

That was when Paddy lived with his parents in Bonnettstown, on the outskirts of the city. Nearby in Palmerstown lived the then Town Clerk, Jimmy Hawe. His home was the focal point for Mooncoin and Tullaroan hurlers to have a bit of fun after matches.

Young Paddy Grace got the opportunity to mix among some of his idols on one occasion. Martin Murphy was there. So too was 'Drug' Walsh. And the first rendering of the *Rose of Mooncoin* that the future county secretary heard was delivered by Tommy Carroll.

"When I saw the way these men could play it hard on the field and then be the best of friends afterwards, I made up my mind this was for me", he recalled. "The G.A.A. has been my life since".

Now he has been county secretary for 36 years,

and his popularity among grassroots' members of the G.A.A. is as good as ever. And on the national scene, he is probably the best known of all the county secretaries. But during his term he has experienced good and bad times.

ENTHUSIASM WANES

"Times are good now", he enthused. "Both from a hurling point of view and financially we are doing well. These are the best times I have experienced anyway".

His enthusiasm wanes when he ponders on the not-so-jolly days. They were around the mid-'Sixties. The county team was down and Tipperary were kingpins. Morale was low, and the county was in debt to the tune of £20,000 or more.

"Money wasn't so plentiful in those days", he explained. "We were really in a bleak period. It got so bad some people opted out, but I knew things would eventually come good with the hurlers and that would see us right".

To this very day, Paddy retains that same bubbling enthusiasm about the ability of the hurlers.

"A good hurling team will always help make

ends meet in Kilkenny", he suggested. "Really, the hurlers finance everything". He knows that better than anyone. It was he who had to shoulder much of the responsibility for finances in the bad old days. Massive development work at Nowlan Park plunged the Co. Board into deep financial trouble.

"Those were worrying times", Paddy recalled with a distinct lack of enthusiasm. "I would never see the county going as low again. Whatever I do I will try to keep our finances in check.

"It was a good idea to develop Nowlan Park, but not everyone knew at the beginning how demanding a task it was going to be. It got too much for some and they just had to get out".

The back was broken in the debt with the assistance of a Leinster Council loan scheme piloted by Wexford man Martin O'Neill. This made money available without any strings attached.

"That O'Neill scheme rescued us", Paddy assured. "After the work was done there was no field in Ireland outside Croke Park to compare with ours, but then no one had the debt we had either. The help we got from the Leinster Council bailed us out".

MUST BE CAREFUL

The additional facilities at local headquarters included a new stand, with uncovered seating at both ends and around the sideline area. Work on the terraces was also completed.

"We are enjoying the good times at the moment, but we must always be careful", he warned. "The G.A.A. is big business now. Last year our turnover topped the £100,000 mark, so the day of the small dealings are gone.

"I never thought I would see the day when money matters would grow so big. But this must be a good sign for the 'Association".

Financially, Paddy has seen the bright and dark sides. But to him money is only secondary. The players and the games are all important. His wish for 1984 gives it all away.

"My wish for next year is the same as for any year, that we win the senior hurling All-Ireland", he smiled. "For me the games and their enjoyment they give are everything".

Paddy Grace is 66 and of the pension age now, but he is still a boy at heart when it comes to Gaelic games and the enjoyment of hurling. Let's mind he doesn't listen to any more singers who might try to lure him away from the G.A.A.



MICHAEL WALSH (Talbot's Inch)

Small in size but not in skill or commitment, Michael Walsh, is a world champion handballer. He is one of the greatest prospects ever to grace this ancient game, and if he follows through with the promise he has shown to date, who knows what he can go on to achieve.

Against all the odds he went to America and won the world title. For one of so tender years his repertoire is incredible. He is still perfecting his skills in the alley, and he has the potential to be one of the all-time greats.



MICHAEL WALSH (Dicksboro)

Like his famous father, Ollie, Dicksboro's Michael Walsh is special among hurling goalkeepers. This all-round sportsman has already played with the county at minor, under-21 and junior level and early this year he was called into the senior panel on one occasion.

He is one for the future, in a county where goalkeepers improve with age. Some of his club displays have been dazzling, and at county level he has often shown the class of his famous dad.

Goodbye Mick and goodbye Matt

IT WAS a case of goodbye Mick and goodbye Matt before the all-Ireland hurling champions opened the defence of their title.

Long serving county players, Mick Brennan (Erin's Own, Castlecomer) and Matt Ruth (St. Patrick's, Ballyragget) called it a day after the National League campaign.

Both had been loyal and dedicated wearers of the black and amber and had enjoyed a fair share of success.

"We had a good innings and we couldn't complain", Mick Brennan remarked. "We played with some of the best, and against some of the best hurlers of all time".

The Erin's Own corner-forward, who lost part of a finger after one hurling injury, broke into the Kilkenny team in 1971. He went on to win four all-Ireland senior medals in 1974, 1975, 1979, and 1982. He missed a fifth in 1972 when he was serving a period of suspension. Mick shot to prominence with Warwickshire. With the English side



Mick Brennan . . . he grabbed many vital scores in his time.

he won a junior all-Ireland championship in 1969. Before he finished with the Noresiders he had also collected two National League medals as well as a host of representative honours.

AN ALL-STAR

He won a couple of Railway Cup medals and was an All-Star on a few occasions. He was a sharp corner-forward and was a prolific scorer. It was his goal during the second half of the 1982 National League final that destroyed the hopes of Wexford. But perhaps his most accomplished performance was given in the 1979 Leinster final, when in partnership with Mick Crotty (full-forward) he sent the white flag flying eight times.

Mick could be controversial at times, but give him a good man to work with and he would destroy any side. He did it many times, and Kilkenny supporters loved him for it.

Matt Ruth had the unusual distinction of donning the colours of three counties. In his time he played with Tipperary, Limerick and Kilkenny, although he was born in Ballyragget.

In fact, he played with the Shanonsiders against his native county in the all-Ireland final of 1974. He tasted defeat that day and then changed sides, much to the delight of Noreside mentors and fans.

A great man to make a goal out of nothing, he bagged more than his share at times. After helping his club to junior and then intermediate county honours, he set the senior club championship alight by scoring a hatful of goals in early matches.

MAKE SPACE

St. Patrick's at that time adopted a ploy to make space in front of their opponents goal, and with plenty of room in which to work, Matt went



Matt Ruth . . . he played with three counties.

scoring mad. Goals were hammered home in every game. With the Kilkenny team Matt could knock them in too. He hit three in the 1980 Leinster final against Offaly, but they were not enough to save a disappointing Kilkenny. Still, he won all-Ireland medals in 1975 (substitute), 1979 and 1982 (sub.) In the latter year he was sprung from stand-by in the Leinster final and scored that now famous goal after Liam Fennelly retrieved a ball that looked to be going over the end line and wide. The silver haired corner-forward won an intermediate all-Ireland with Tipperary in 1972. And with U.C.D. he won a Fitzgibbon Cup award. He won Railway Cup honours as well.

Matt Ruth never sought acclaim, but his natural ability with the ash made him a headline maker. Often Kilkenny were delighted he made the news, because he was a winner of matches.

Mick has faith and hope, and the players have charity



AMONG his kind, Kilkenny Co. Board chairman Michael O'Neill is a winner. He has been at the helm for the past 15 years, and during that time he has watched the county collect seven senior hurling All-Irelands. Not many county chairmen can match that.

This month he celebrated his 58th birthday. It was a happy and sad occasion. Good hurling times in Kilkenny always make him happy. But it was sad too. After all, those glory-filled years he has decided that the next one is going to be his last as chairman of the 'Board.

"You can't keep going at anything forever", he remarked with an obvious sadness in his voice. "I have got my mind made up. Next year will be the centenary year, the end of an era, and is an ideal place to stop".

Despite all the victories he has shared in as chairman and county selector, his joy at a September success has not wanted one little bit. Mention of a possible three-in-a-row brings a sparkle to his eye.

"I came in on a winning note, I would like to go out on one", he suggested, and revived memories of when he took over the chair in 1969. "That would really clinch it, to go out on a winning note with a three-in-a-row in the centenary year. That would set the seal on everything".

The Kilmacow official has always regarded it as a "great honour to be chairman in a county like Kilkenny". In good times and bad he was always a champion of the players. He never thought anything was beyond their capabilities. He had the hurling faith – he believed!

Consequently, his views on the centenary year championship were all positive.

SPECIAL INCENTIVE

"When you win two All-Irelands together as we have, an extra effort is needed to win the third", he said. "You need some special incentive. This next one is the one to win. It's like a new beginning, if you like".

With the final definitely going ahead in Thurles, the launching site of the G.A.A., there was an added incentive.

"The fact the game will be in Thurles is another thing. Between the three – the Thurles final, centenary year and three wins together – it's a nice one to go for. It will be hard, though. There will be a special incentive for every county", he remarked.

He would even go into the swopping business if he thought it would help Kilkenny land that 24th title. What would he give to win?

He paused, ran his finger up his jaw and laughed: "How about the two National Leagues we just won?"

He expressed a wish that each county approach the centenary year with a burning desire to make it a huge success.

GAMES ARE EVERYTHING

"The G.A.A. is geared around games, so the main concentration in the centenary year should be around the games", he reckoned. "You can talk forever about other parts of the G.A.A. and what they mean, but when it's all said and done, the games are No. 1 and without them you have little, really.

"You can glamorise it and build up the side attractions, but it all boils down to the games".

In time he felt this present Kilkenny team will be rated among the all-time greats, even alongside the side of the early 'Seventies.

"When you think back to the early 'Seventies period we didn't realise how good that team was", he disclosed frankly. "We just played along and won a few games. We took it in our stride. But when you look back you realise how great those players were.

"The won three All-Irelands in five years and could have won the lot with a bit of luck", he went on.

"Certainly, they should have won four. At the time few realised they were such an outstanding team".

He was sure the same would apply to the present team, the double-double champions.

OUTSTANDING

"If they can win the next All-Ireland their names will be made", he said in a serious tone. "They will take their place with the greatest of all time. Even if they don't succeed, they must rank among the outstanding teams".

He thought the present team hadn't reached the same peak of perfection as the early 'Seventies' side. The players are not mature. But he has faith – he believes the players have the ability to win at least one more. He has hope – that he can go out a winner. And we all know there is plenty of charity among the players – and they would like to see Michael O'Neill stand down a winner.

The men of '82 and '83 will always be remembered

AS WE near the end of 1983, followers of Kilkenny hurling – and that includes many people outside the county – are very contented. During the past year, the team exceeded the expectations of their most optimistic followers by successfully defending the all-Ireland and National League titles.

To do this, the players made enormous sacrifices of energy, leisure time, family time and so on. Their successes have been most welcome in that they were achieved with several displays of hurling at its very best. For this we are grateful and all concerned, the panel of players, the manager, the Co. Board officials, may rest assured that their "double-double" team of 1982 and 1983 will always be remembered as the first Kilkenny side to scale such heights.

Naturally, people look ahead to the following year and wonder about three-in-a-row, something that has not been achieved by Kilkenny since 1911-1912-1913. It would, of course, be historic to win the senior title in Thurles in the Centenary year.

Unfortunately, such predictions put unfair pressures on amateur players. Whether they win, lose or draw, we can be certain that this team which gave of its best in 1982 and 1983 will continue to do so in 1984. For that alone we will all be proud of them.

We are also proud of the fact that a Kilkennyman, Paddy Buggy, will be President of the G.A.A. during the Centenary year. During his term of office he has worked tirelessly to raise the 'Association in every respect. He has shown in office those sterling qualities which he had as a club and county hurler; courage, competence, dedication, determination, a sense of responsibility and humility. He has the good wishes of all as he enters the final, and possibly, most taxing year of his term of office.

The Centenary year will surely be a time for collecting the records of



*By Bishop Laurence Forristal
of Ossory*

the past. The G.A.A. is encouraging all its clubs and counties to collect and publish their histories. These collections, being local, will give due recognition to the hidden people who have kept the 'Association in existence over the past hundred years. Like all organisations the G.A.A. has had its growing pains and problems.

DO NOTHING BUT GOOD

At times, it has been accused of being too parochial and too rural; at other times, of being too city-based and of being divorced from its roots. In turn the accusation has been that it was either too nationalistic or not nationalistic enough. If the histories tell the truth, they will do nothing but good because they will tell us something about ourselves and our society and about the factors that contributed somewhat to making us what we are.

Looking back, we will probably learn that the existence of the G.A.A. in a parish or in a community, apart altogether from providing games, helped the members of that parish or community learn to become involved in the management of their clubs. At a time when management of their own affairs at political level was totally denied them, this was important.

Gradually self-reliance and competence grew. Later this self-reliance and competence often showed itself in the political arena. Today it is more necessary than ever that all Irish people should get a full and true picture of the development of our country over the past 100 years.

It would be a pity, however, if the Centenary year was an occasion merely of looking back. Judging by the commonsense attitude of those in charge, it will surely be an occasion for looking to the future. In 1884, the G.A.A. looked at the prevailing conditions in Ireland and set itself on a particular course. Ireland has changed mightily since then. We still have our problems, but they are not the problems of 1884. The G.A.A. possesses today sufficient members, men and women, with the vision to look at our people, to decide on what they need and to set out to meet those needs.

The G.A.A. being concerned with games at a competitive level, must be concerned with and about youth. It knows that more is required of it in a parish than to field a team of 15 players and so many substitutes. It knows that it has a real and vested interest in ensuring that our youth can have a healthy life and can withstand the pressures placed on them by our consumer society.

In all parts of our country, not just in Dublin, young people are becoming victims of drug-pushers. Excessive teenage drinking is almost taken for granted. These are just some of our problems. As a sporting organisation, with real influence on youth, the G.A.A. will surely use all its influence to cooperate with those who work to counteract these real evils in our society.

Let us all wish the G.A.A. well in its Centenary year, and in the years ahead. And without being avaricious, is it permissible to wish that all Kilkenny people will be very happy leaving Thurles in 1984?

TIME FOR G.A.A. TO REVEAL ALL

IT IS a unique distinction for Kilkenny that one of its sons should occupy the position of President in the centenary year of the G.A.A. When I first met Paddy Buggy – and that is quite a while ago – his concentration was mainly on hurling and he hardly dared to think then that he would lead the 'Association in what is perhaps the most eventful year in its history.

Even in his hurling days he paid a good deal of attention to the administrative side and he was respected for his forthright views at Southern Board meetings. But it was for his hurling that he was best known in Kilkenny. It is fitting, too, that the President at this historic time was a hurler and holds All-Ireland honours to prove it.

Another distinction enjoyed by Kilkenny is that the longest-serving President was a Kilkennyman – Alderman Jim Nowlan, who reigned from 1901 to 1921 and was appointed honorary Life President on his retirement.

When the G.A.A. was founded in 1884, athletics in this country were controlled from outside. Hurling, in particular, was frowned on by the authorities as it always had been.

Consequently, this would surely be an appropriate time for the G.A.A. to reveal the full story of what happened in Thurles at the time. It was not plain sailing by any means; not only were there differences within the organisation itself, but attempts were made to disrupt the work of the founders.

Several meetings took place at different centres in Thurles. There was a good deal of support for the organisation to be politically orientated – political feeling at the time was tense.

'SCHISMS'

The differences that prevailed in Thurles extended throughout the land and 'schisms', as they were euphemistically called at the time, existed in almost every county.

It took the best efforts of Archbishop Croke and Michael Davin to smooth over the troubles and it was a fairly fragile organisation that ultimately emerged.



By
PETER HOLOHAN

But in quickly gathered strength and it was quite an achievement that the All-Ireland championships were able to begin in 1887.

Paddy Buggy would have performed a useful task if he could influence the G.A.A. into a full investigation into what took place at Thurles in those days and have the full story told. It is a matter of vital historical importance, not merely from the point of view of the G.A.A. itself, but from the point of view of the general history of the country.

Most of what we know about those early days is what has been handed down verbally from father to son. I can recall the late Lory Meagher telling me about what his father's (Henry J. Meagher) experiences were. He had travelled from Tullaroan with Jack Hoyne by horse and cart and was completely disillusioned by what took place.

One thing is certain, Maurice Davin left the G.A.A. at the time of the split and only rejoined when prevailed upon by priests and people from North Tipperary and other parts of the country.

This fact is revealed in letters he wrote at the time to James Shelly of Callan who was one of the original founders. Encouraged by Archbishop Croke, Davin succeeded in having a provisional committee appointed. It was from this that the G.A.A. ultimately emerged.

BANNED

Apart from its own internal problems, the G.A.A. had to con-

tend with the concentrated opposition from Dublin Castle. Football and hurling were banned, but by a show of strength the 'Association was able to convince the Castle of the futility of its opposition.

The tenuous situation that prevailed throughout the country generally was also manifest in Kilkenny.

The first G.A.A. convention in Kilkenny was held in the Workingmen's Club, then sited in Walkin Street, on December 30, 1887. Clubs represented were: Johnstown, Crosspatrick, Kilmacow, Mooncoin, Piltown, Mullinavat, Workingmen's Club, Callan, Kilkenny, Kells, Lisdowney, Threecastles and Castlecomer.

Mr. P. J. O'Keefe, Kilkenny city, a member of the Central Council, presided and another city man, Mr. S. J. Donleavy, acted as secretary. A committee of Messrs. M. P. Kenny, Castlecomer; P. O'Donnell, Piltown; P. Geary, Workingmen's Club; Tom Harrington, Urlingford, and Michael Shelly, Callan, was appointed.

Some time later two separate conventions were held in Kilkenny city hall. On December 27 a convention was attended by delegates from Ballyhale, Ballycallan, Crosspatrick, Castlepierce, Galmoy, Crutt (Castlecomer), Galmoy, Kilmacow, Graine, Castlecomer, Confederation (city), Clogh, Slieverue, Killamery, St. Canice's, James Stephens, Sart, Glashare (Johnstown), Conahy, Lisdowney, Ballyouskill, Kilmanagh, Urlingford and Threecastles.

Mr. J. J. Cantwell, Castlecomer, presided and Mr. J. O'Sullivan, Crosspatrick, and Mr. C. Foley, Slieverue, were appointed secretaries.

Mr. Tom Shelly was elected president, Mr. Tom Harrington, Treasurer, and Messrs. M. Kenny, Tom Shelly and E. Power, Piltown were elected delegates to Thurles.

A rival convention was held the following day and was attended by delegates from Piltown, Kilmoganny, Bennettsbridge, Clara, Workingmen's Club, Tullaroan,

Cont'd. on page 69 ▶

A wonder Kilkenny won the League at all!

THE wonder about the National Hurling League of 1983 was that Kilkenny won it at all. Here was a team ravaged at times by injuries, but still it thundered from one victory to another and no one could stop the quite amazing run.

Even a good Limerick team could not do so in the final. It was no secret then, and it's certainly no secret now, that the Shannonsiders were bitterly disappointed, even surprised, when they failed in the Semple Stadium final.

The Munster side were as fit and as sharp as an All-Ireland final side, but still they ended second best after an absorbing encounter. There were times during the hour when the Limerick men practically owned the ball, but as long as they had the small sphere they couldn't do enough with it to down the super-confident Noresiders.

To say now that this or that won the League for Kilkenny would be an over-simplification of the matter. There was a combination of factors.

Pure skill was involved. So too

was commitment. So too was confidence. They were a determined bunch too. And there was incentive aplenty. After all, no Kilkenny team in the 100-year history of the G.A.A. had managed to win two successive League titles.

GREATER EFFORT

On top of that, the final coincided with the Golden Jubilee celebrations of Kilkenny's first League success. And that, too, was over Limerick. So when it came to the final there was no shortage of things to say to drive the players on to a greater effort.

The Noresiders collected their first League crown in 1933 when they beat Limerick by 3-8 to 1-5. In the 50 years in between they only managed to collect four more, so going for two-in-a-row was important.

Having reached the final, the double champions were not going to be deprived. The week after the League showdown they were due to fly out to America on the All-Ireland champions' and All-Star tour, and they desperately wanted to jet out as current champions.

"It would have been a bit hollow going out as defeated National Hurling League finalists", pointed out team trainer-coach Pat Henderson afterwards. "We wanted to go to the 'States as current champions, both League and All-Ireland".

The players and mentors got their wish, and they continued with the good work across the Atlantic where they beat the Bank of Ireland All-Stars in the exhibition matches in New York and San Francisco.

But while victory was the happy lot in all but one instance, the road

Cont'd. on page 12 ▸



The Kilkenny team which won the sixth National Hurling League title for the county.

It was the first time League victories were put back-to-back. Back row (l. to r.): Dick O'Hara, Frank Cummins, Christy Heffernan, Paddy Prendergast, Sean Fennelly, Billy Fitzpatrick, John Henderson. Front row (l. to r.): Ger Fennelly, Paddy Neary, Noel Skehan, Ger Henderson, Liam Fennelly (capt.), Harry Ryan, Richard Power, Nickey Brennan.

A wonder Kilkenny won the league at all

Continued

was bumpy and the selectors – Pat Delaney (Fenians), Mick Crotty (James Stephens), Tom Ryan (Shamrocks), Brendan O'Sullivan (Thomastown) and Mick O'Neill (Co. Board chairman) – didn't know from week to week who was fit or who was injured.

THIRD OF TEAM INJURED

At one time a third of the All-Ireland winning side of the previous September was out. Injured were Brian Cody (ankle) and Richard Power (finger) while speedy wing-forward Kieran Brennan was on United Nations duty in the Lebanon. At different times Dick O'Hara, Joe Hennessy, Paddy Prendergast, Nicky Brennan and substitute Matt Ruth were ruled out by injury.

So all the time the teams that was painstakingly put together in Division II of the League the previous year – and held together successfully for the championship – was being chopped and changed. Somehow or other the team managed to keep on winning, after suffering a 4-9 to 3-11 defeat at the hands of Clare in the opening match in October.

It was never easy because of all the injuries. But the players had just got into the habit of winning, and even a sniff of defeat prompted them to raise their game and they won all the rest of their engagements.

Misfortune for some opened the door for others to 'make their name' and one player who took his chance was Harry Ryan. The one time Clara defender turned attacker started slowly and grabbed his first League score (a point) against Tipperary in the fourth match.

HURT PRIDE

He went from strength-to-strength after that and got scores in all but one of the remaining five ties. By the time the championship came round he was a real live con-



tender. He went on to play in all the championship games.

Ryan's eagerness to make the breakthrough was only matched by the team's desire to win, win, win. The Clare reverse – a late score did them after leading by six points at one stage – hurt their pride and with Dick O'Hara added to the already-injured Brian Cody and Richard Power and out-of-the-county Kieran Brennan for the second match against Offaly, it made the task of getting back much harder.

But back Kilkenny did get, and a late goal from captain Liam Fennelly earned them a dramatic draw against the impressive midlanders.

After that Wexford were downed when four second-half scores were good enough to beat the two in reply from the Slaneysiders and the champions won by 1-5 to 0-7 on a very wet day. Tipperary were no opposition in the next game, and Galway fell after that in the first of the new year matches. Paddy Prendergast was out injured that day.

Waterford were swept aside with 14 points to spare in a March match before the scene was set for an All-Ireland final repeat when Cork travelled to Nowlan Park. The Leesiders came intent on winning, but again they had no answer to Christy Heffernan who bagged 2-4 to help Kilkenny to a 3-13 to 0-11 victory.

SEMI-FINAL TIME

After that it was semi-final time again. And once again Heffernan went to town. This time he rattled home three goals as Laois were sent packing. So the scene was set for a Limerick – Kilkenny final, with the Noresiders hoping for a victory to celebrate a happy Golden Jubilee of their initial League success.

The finishing score was 2-14 to 2-12, which gives a true indication of the closeness of the affair. Ger Henderson, Ger Fennelly and Dick O'Hara turned in the proverbial 'blindens' that afternoon and Richard Power celebrated his return to the team after an absence of nearly six months.

The champions were out on their feet at the final whistle. Limerick had put more into the League and were hell bent on winning it. Attitude or approach didn't let them down. They were just beaten by a more skilful side that wouldn't accept defeat.

It was that same 'we want to win' attitude throughout that drove Kilkenny on to greater and greater effort as the players fell out, one by one, injured. As the number on the injured list mounted people waited for the winning sequence to break. But it didn't. The players just didn't want to know – about defeat – that is!

PADDY WAS AN EXEMPLARY PLAYER

TWENTY-FIVE players helped Kilkenny retain the National Hurling League crown. This was seven less than was used the previous year when the Noresiders began to build this present side.

Considering that at times up to five regulars were missing for one reason or another, this was a small number.

For instance, six players went into action just once, including Tom McCormack (James Stephens), who was used as a substitute at half-time in the League final against Limerick. He replaced the injured John Henderson (Fenians). Richard Power (Carrick-shock) only got back in for the closing stages after being sidelined for months with a hand injury.

There were six ever-presents, including Paddy Neary (James Stephens). The Village man was a first team regular during the six-month campaign. He was a corner-back.

But when the competition was over and the full squad was fit for the championship, the determined 'Village' man was the unfortunate one who had to step down. He was the only League full-timer who didn't get a run in the championship.

Paddy has been a loyal and faithful servant to club and county, but never was his commitment to the Kilkenny team tested as it was during 1983. He was always there when needed, and he never let the team, or panel, down. A place on the League final side was a just reward for patience and perseverance, for not only this season, but last season as well.

In 1982 Kilkenny had to play 11 National League games. They had to win their way through Division II, and they also had a replay in the semi-final with Waterford.



This time it took nine matches to score outright victory, the first time Kilkenny put League successes back-to-back.

The men who played were (number of games in brackets) – Noel Skehan, John Henderson, Paddy Neary, Ger Henderson, Frank Cummins, Ger Fennelly (including one substitution), Liam Fennelly, Billy Fitzpatrick, Christy Heffernan (nine each); Nickey Brennan, Sean Fennelly (eight each); Paddy Prendergast, Joe Hennessy (seven each); Dick O'Hara, Paudie Lannon, Harry Ryan (six each); Eamon Wallace, Billy Purcell (four each); Matt Ruth (three); Jim Moran, Jim Kinsella, Ned Kelly, Lester Ryan, Richard Power, Tom McCormack (one each).

Heffo. and Fitz. best

Two Kilkenny players finished the National League campaign with similar scores.

Exciting full-forward Christy Heffernan bagged 11-11 while the dazzling Billy Fitzpatrick helped himself to 4-32 – 44 points each.

The Fenians corner-forward scored in all nine outings, while Heffernan missed out in one. Of course, Fitzpatrick was the free-taker and this undoubtedly helped him to his massive total.

No forward in the country can match Heffernan as a goal-grabber. In only one of his scoring days he failed to hit the net, and that was against Offaly.

But he ran into form in the semi-final and rattled the net three times. His performance here played a major part in getting Kilkenny through against Laois, who proved a bit of a handful.

Overall, 14 players contributed to Kilkenny's total of 24 goals and 102 points.

THEY GOT THE SCORES

The men who rose the green and white flags were – Christy Heffernan (11-11, or 44 points); Billy Fitzpatrick (4-32, or 44 points); Liam Fennelly (3-9); Ger Fennelly (0-14); Harry Ryan (1-9); Joe Hennessy (1-8); Nickey Brennan (1-5); Billy Purcell (2-2); Paudie Lannon (1-3); Frank Cummins (0-3); Ger Henderson and Richard Power (0-2 each); Sean Fennelly and Paddy Prendergast (0-1 each).

WHEN AND WHERE THE SCORES CAME

October 31 at Ennis:

Clare 4-9, Kilkenny 3-11.

Scorers: B. Purcell (2-0), B. Fitzpatrick (0-5), C. Heffernan (1-1), J. Hennessy, G. Fennelly (0-2 each), L. Fennelly (0-1).

November 7 at Nowlan Park

Kilkenny 1-11, Offaly 0-14.

Scorers: B. Fitzpatrick (0-6), L. Fennelly (1-0), C. Heffernan (0-2), J. Hennessy, F. Cummins, B. Purcell (0-1 each).

November 14 at Nowlan Park

Kilkenny 1-5, Wexford 0-7

Scorers: J. Hennessy (1-1); N. Brennan, B. Fitzpatrick, G. Fennelly, L. Fennelly (0-1 each).

November 28 at Thurles

Kilkenny 3-10, Tipperary 1-9.

Scorers: B. Fitzpatrick (2-5), C. Heffernan (1-0), N. Brennan, G. Henderson, H. Ryan, L. Fennelly, B. Purcell (0-1 each).

February 27 at Loughrea

Kilkenny 4-9, Galway 0-10.

Scorers: C. Heffernan (2-1), B. Fitzpatrick (1-4), L. Fennelly (1-1), G. Fennelly (0-2), P. Lannon (0-1).

March 6 at Nowlan Park

Kilkenny 2-18, Waterford 2-4.

Scorers: L. Fennelly (1-3), C. Heffernan (1-1), J. Hennessy (0-4), H. Ryan (0-3), G. Fennelly, B. Fitzpatrick (0-2 each), P. Lannon, F. Cummins, N. Brennan (0-1 each).

March 20 at Nowlan Park

Kilkenny 3-13, Cork 0-11.

Scorers: C. Heffernan (2-4), B. Fitzpatrick (1-4), H. Ryan, G. Fennelly (0-2 each), P. Prendergast (0-1).

April 3 at Thurles (Semi-final)

Kilkenny 5-11, Laois 1-17.

Scorers: C. Heffernan (3-1), P. Lannon, N. Brennan (1-1 each), H. Ryan, G. Fennelly, B. Fitzpatrick (0-2 each), L. Fennelly, F. Cummins (0-1 each).

April 24 at Thurles (Final)

Kilkenny 2-14, Limerick 2-12.

Scorers: H. Ryan, C. Heffernan (1-1 each), G. Fennelly, B. Fitzpatrick (0-3 each); R. Power (0-2); N. Brennan, L. Fennelly, S. Fennelly, G. Henderson (0-1 each).

A bit of history to relish

AN ADDITIONAL National Hurling League win did nothing to improve Kilkenny's standing in the overall honours' list. We are still fourth behind Tipperary (14), Cork (12) and Limerick (7).

We did close the gap on the Shannonsiders, who are now just one ahead.

Of course, this was the first time a Kilkenny team won the League in successive years. That bit of history was something to relish.

Our six successes were registered in:

1933

Kilkenny 3-8, Limerick 1-5.

1962

Kilkenny 1-16, Cork 1-8.

1966

Kilkenny 0-9, Tipperary 0-7.

1976

Kilkenny 6-14, Clare 1-14 (replay).

1982

Kilkenny 2-14, Wexford 1-11.

1983

Kilkenny 2-14, Limerick 2-12.

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Adverse result helped the Shamrocks

AN ADVERSE result suffered outside the Kilkenny senior hurling championship may have provided county champions, Shamrocks (Ballyhale) with the spring-board from which they launched their determined assault to retain the Tom Walsh Cup.

It was a dreary Winter's day late last year. The Ballyhale brigade were engaged in the Leinster senior club championship in Dr. Cullen Park, Carlow. The opposition was provided by St. Rynagh's (Offaly).

The Shamrocks lost thanks to a magnificent second half by the Offaly crew. The losers had looked a team of all the talents in the opening half when they displayed uncanny accuracy and missed only one shot at goal.

The Southerners hurled with such assurance and authority in the first half, it was hard to credit what followed. But St. Rynagh's swept them off their feet and out of the provincial club championship. It was a shock at the time. But for Shamrocks it later proved to be a blessing in disguise.

Had they continued in that demanding championship and gone on, like St. Rynagh's did, and qualified for the all-Ireland they might not have won the Kilkenny championship. That is a matter open to debate, but the Shamrocks failed to pull it off in the past.

DEMISE ON HOME FRONT

The demands of the all-Ireland



Liam Long – one of the new breed on the Shamrocks team.

club championship were followed by their demise on the home front. Had they progressed last year, the strain would have been awful because they incurred an injury to Michael Fennelly in the opening match. Extra effort would have been needed from others to cover the loss of this fine player. In the end it would all have taken its toll.

No proud county champions would take an all-Ireland championship victory before one on the home front. Certainly not the Shamrocks. The honour of being best in your own county, particularly a place like Kilkenny that could end with a man captaining a county all-Ireland winning side, has no equal.

The break during the Winter did the Shamrocks players no harm. The appetite was good for the Kilkenny championship. They went for the pot, and they took it home when Kevin Fennelly became the first member of his family to captain a Shamrocks senior hurling championship winning side. And they kept their unbeaten run in senior finals together.

It was super stuff from Shamrocks as they bamboozled James Stephens in the county final. It was the second successive year The Village bowed the knee to the Southerners, but no one could have anticipated the 2-14 to 1-8 hammering they suffered.

The winners went scoring mad approaching the break. Goals were rammed home by Michael Kelly and Michael Fennelly in the 24th. minute and that set them up for a half-time lead of 2-8 to 0-3. It was one of the best first half performances by a senior side in at least a decade.

Despite the best efforts of 'Stephens in the second half the Shamrocks couldn't be budged. They put up a capital show in

defence and such as Liam Dalton, Maurice Mason, Frank Holohan and 42-year-old goalkeeper, Ollie Harrington, never flinched in the face of ever mounting pressure.

PERSONAL BEST PERFORMANCE

Further afield, Sean Fennelly set a new personal best level of performance and his brother, Kevin, Michael Kelly and Liam Fennelly were nothing short of great as a show par excellence was turned in by the team in general.

The amazing thing about it all was that it was achieved without brothers, Ger and Brendan Fennelly, who were out injured. But to do without class men like these was nothing new to the Shamrocks.

The previous year they won the county final without Frank Holohan, who was on United Nations duty in the Lebanon, and Patrick Holden, who was injured. Perhaps the best thing to do when playing against them is pray they are at full strength?

"We love problems", conceded a proud Kevin Fennelly (senior) afterwards. "We thrive on them. Every time we have had problems going into a county final we have done well. Perhaps that is our secret".

Continued on page 17 >



Kevin Fennelly (senior) – there in the background as a selector with Shamrocks during all their senior hurling successes.

Medal haul a record?

THE Fennelly family from Castlebanny, Mullinavat, are winners, at sport at any rate. The seven brothers, Ger., Kevin, Liam, Sean, Brendan, Michael and Dermot have now amassed an amazing 51 county senior medals. This must be a record. They all played in three senior football deciders and collected 21 medals. The first six figured on the 1978, 1979 and 1980 senior hurling winning teams.

They were joined by Dermot in 1982, which brought the figure to 25, or a grand total of 46 before this year's hurling final. The Mackeys of Limerick have over 40 county senior medals, but the exact number has not been clarified. Mick and John won 15 hurling and five football medals for a total of 40. A couple more were won by two brothers. It may surprise a lot of people, but even though the Shamrocks have played some exceptional hurling in their five county championship victories in 1978, 1979, 1980, 1982, and

1983 they have never been honoured with a Bank of Ireland

All-Star. Perhaps that will change this year?

KEVIN IS A HAPPY MAN

KEVIN FENNELLY is a happy man! And why wouldn't he be. He could be the Kilkenny senior hurling team captain as they bid for the often dreamed about, but seldom realised, three in-a-row in the all-Ireland championship of 1984.

The 28-year-old Shamrocks players could have the honour of leading the county through the centenary year, and hopefully onto plenty more success.

When Shamrocks win the home championship the omen for the county is good. The track record of Fennelly captains is extraordinary.

Four of the brothers have skippered all-Ireland winning teams. They wrote a new chapter in

the G.A.A. history books in September when Liam lifted the McCarthy Cup for the county and the 22nd. time.

He was the second member of the family to lift that trophy in victory. His older brother, Ger did it in 1979. No brothers ever captained winning all-Ireland senior hurling or football teams before.

Indeed, the Fennellys have captained winning all-Ireland teams at three levels . . . senior, under-21 and minor. Kevin did it in the under-21, and Sean did it as a minor. Four of them have led Kilkenny to all-Ireland success. Wow!

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Clara have a lot to be happy about

IT WAS their first year in the senior grade and no nonsense Clara blazed their way through to the semi-finals. Indeed, but for an extra special finish from Shamrocks they might have reached the blue riband event.

Still, Clara have a lot to be happy about. They claimed some unexpected scalps during the campaign. One night they took James Stephens apart. For a side of such limited experience that was something.

The one quality that brought Clara along was a belief in their own ability. They never looked up to anyone. They took them on as they came. Like a street fighter they were prepared to slug it out toe-to-toe with the best.

The zest of such as Paddy Prendergast, Harry Ryan, Lester Ryan, Stephen Whearty and Dominic Connolly helped enrich the senior championship. Progress is the name of the game, and if this relatively young Clara outfit can learn from the '83 season, who knows what the future might hold for them.

SPIRIT BETTER THAN EVER

As the championship progressed it looked for a while as if outright victory was ahead for the fighting Fenians. They had the spirit better than ever and they trained like they never did before.

They got into the shake-up via a

play-off with Erin's Own (Castlecomer). They swept the 'Comer men aside. The semi-final draw seemed tailor made for them when they were pitted against old rivals, James Stephens.

Then the bubble burst, and when it mattered their fluency deserted them. Many thought a do-or-die effort was going to bring one last county medal for old hands Pat

Henderson, Nicky Orr, Mick Garrett and Pat Delaney.

On the day they found James Stephens in too good a mood. The Village had the satisfaction of seeing every man play well. That didn't happen for the Fenians. When it didn't they bit the dust. But they must have had some good memories of the year that promised so much at one time.

ADVERSE RESULT HELPED THE SHAMROCKS

"We were good weren't we", he said knowingly, but liking to hear it confirmed anyway. And they were.

It was all so different from the semi-finals. Here James Stephens got their act together professionally, and with Mick Crotty providing experienced leadership up front, they swept the Fenians (Johnstown) aside and won by 1-17 to 3-8 as 12,000 spectators packed Nowlan Park.

PLENTY OF GRAFT

For Shamrocks, things weren't so handy, initially. But plenty of graft got it right when it mattered, at the end. At one stage in the second half cheeky opponents, Clara led by 10 points (4-7 to 0-9). There were only 13 minutes left at that point. The Shamrocks eventually won by 4-11 to 4-6, but to this day no one could adequately explain how it happened. It just did. They made it happen, because they wanted to badly enough.

After a Houdini act like that it was hard to expect what happened in the county final. But they kept the best wine until last, and they enjoyed the sweet taste of success once again.

If another club side has reason for a small celebration after the senior championship of 1983 it must have been Fenians (Johnstown). They were the only team to lower the colours of the champions and they beat them by 0-15 to 1-7 in a preliminary round tie.

When it all mattered the Shamrocks produced the goods. They clocked up their fifth senior hurling championship victory. None that had gone before was as good as this one. It will take something for any in the future to be as good.

The Shamrocks winning team was: O. Harrington, D. Connolly, L. Dalton, W. Phelan, L. Long, M. Mason, F. Holohan, S. Fennelly, J. Walsh, S. Grace, L. Fennelly, D. Fennelly, K. Fennelly, M. Fennelly, M. Kelly. Sub - T. Phelan.

James Stephens - M. Moore, P. Neary, B. Cody, N. Cashin, J. Hennessy, T. McCormack, J. O'Brien, D. McCormack, T. Hogan, D. Collins, N. Kelly, A. Egan, J. McCormack, M. Crotty, J. J. Cullen. Subs - M. Hennessy, T. Butler, B. Walton.

JOHN LOCKES' (Callan) official Barry Henriques is Chairman of Kilkenny Football Board. He is man enough to admit he supervises the 'poor relations' section of the G.A.A. in the county.

Life for the Football Board is always an uphill struggle. There are always problems to be overcome in this hurling-mad county. Local football championships are hard to get through, simply because most of the time is devoted to hurling. The county team . . . well, yes, the county team is something else.

Barry Henriques has never been one to duck responsibility. He has never been afraid to air his views. Below he outlines his views on football at present. He is realistic, and hopeful.



Most of the time you wonder does anyone care

"SOME TIME ago on the way home from Fermagh, as our transport drove through the steel-encircled hamlets of Roslea and Butlersbridge, I looked out at the dreary, damp and deserted streets and thought – what was the point of the whole thing? We had just been beaten by a mediocre Fermagh team in the National Football League. "Who cares?" I thought.

"The banter all round was lively, especially when Jack O'Neill took on the Kieran Meally-led Railyard. The Graignamanagh, Kilmacow and Tullogher lads had the inevitable card school going at the back of the bus. The Dunnamaggin lads were chiding the Coolagh boys and the ice-cool Peter Murtagh sat staring and listening. Murty Kennedy led the Freshford contingent in a verse of a song.

"Suddenly the banter subsided. The cards and

the singing stopped. The bus came to a slow halt. The door opened and a human arsenal of Her Majesty's forces presented himself at the front of the bus.

'Wot's dis then', he barked in his Mile End Road University tone.

"We are the Kilkenny football team returning home after a National League match in Irvinstown", I answered.

'I thought you only plaid hurley dawn dare' he said.

"We compete in all our national games down there", I assured.

"His bemused coal-black eyes queried assurance of my statements. The conversation ended with a sharp "carry on".

SAME ENCOURAGEMENT

"It is doubtful whether the 'Tommies' words of "carry on" were meant as



encouragement. It's funny, but the same type of indifferent encouragement has been bandied around at Co. Board meetings as long as I have been associated with football in Kilkenny.

"This type of indifference permeates right through the whole strata of G.A.A. activities within the county. It is too easy to say that Kilkenny is not a football county. To be proud of one's G.A.A. heritage on the one hand and to say you are not a football county on the other is nothing but a

hypocritical contradiction.

"It has often been whispered, but never stated publicly, that Kilkenny is only interested in one game – some say one team – by people who are nervous of tempting the wrath of 'influential officials'. Kilkenny are masters in the art of hurling, of that there is no doubt. But should this pursuance of hurling perfection be to the exclusion of all other aspects of the G.A.A.

"Admittedly, football is an infected limb of the 'Association. But even the most infected can be helped, and if not totally, at least the infection can be curtailed. There is football talent in Kilkenny. It may not be good enough to win the Sam Maguire, but it's good enough to enable this county to stand shoulder to shoulder with some of the

Continued on page 92

Hurlers set a headline for the nation

KILKENNY'S hurling success story over the past two years has many valuable lessons for all sections of Irish society. Indeed, leaders in the industrial and political world could well adopt the Noreside strategy.

Outsiders often look with an envious eye towards the Marble City wondering if they might sneak a quick glimpse of the contents of the 'magic bag'. Some presume one exists in Kilkenny and it has something to do with the good fortune of the hurlers.

But, perhaps, they might not like what they would see in that 'magic bag'. It contains nothing miraculous – just a very simple recipe for leadership and sheer hard work.

And when one remembers from whence the present team came, that leadership and hard work are all the more admirable. The country's rise can only be compared to that of the Phoenix.

Two years ago Kilkenny were under extreme pressure as they tried to battle their way out of the lower division of the National Hurling League. They had failed in that battle the previous year – the bottom line being a draw with Kerry.

The leadership that proved so valuable was provided in the person of Pat Henderson, who directed what was then a rescue operation. And the players were willing and able for the gruelling hard work.

RESULTS VISIBLE

The results of that leadership and hard work are now plainly visible for all and sundry to admire, imitate or do whatever one does in response to such admirable feats.

But there are many more results



By
DIARMUID HEALY

that are not so plainly visible. Those victories have been a source of inspiration and confidence to all sectors of society in Kilkenny at a time when people were totally depressed with the economic recession.

In the midst of political sermons about doom and gloom, Kilkenny people were riding on the crest of a wave of unprecedented successes in the hurling world.

As street and pub talk in other counties focussed on the state of the nation's finances, Kilkenny people were more inclined to talk of success rather than failure.

What would Garret FitzGerald or Alan Dukes give to have similar happenings in all the other counties? They would then have little difficulty in inspiring confidence and leading the country to better

things. Those successes have had their effects on the commercial life of the county.

The name Kilkenny has now become synonymous with success. People presume that Kilkenny's success is not merely confined to hurling – it has also spread to the commercial and industrial areas in the county.

Kilkenny has been so much in the public eye that the first reaction of some people is to list it among the places they must visit. Hence there was a huge influx of tourists here last Summer.

Industrial leaders have also placed Kilkenny on their lists. During the past 12 months leaders in many business sectors have converged on the city for some of the country's most prestigious conferences. There brought in top Irish and international industrialists.

Meanwhile, the hurlers were unconsciously being moulded into leaders. The discipline and training they were undergoing were the key ingredients in the formation of men of strong character.

And these characters were in turn the subject of hero worship among the country's youth – who in turn were willing to fashion their lives on those of the hurlers.

One could go on and on. The good effects of Kilkenny's hurling successes are numerous. But one must surely remember it was all fashioned from leadership and hard work.

And those victories could still have a far greater effect if people were willing to listen and learn.

Why not make a national slogan out of the Kilkenny ingredients for success – **Leadership and hard work.**

ROUGH PLAY –

Time to wipe it out is now

THE CENTENARY year would surely be an appropriate time for the G.A.A. to take a serious look at the road it is going to take in the future in regard to the behaviour of players on the field. So much has happened over the past year alone that should not have happened, that unless positive action is taken the whole future of the games could be at risk.

The most serious examples of rough play in the past 12 months occurred in football at county level. The incidents that marred the all-Ireland final, in particular, did not do the game any good. To make matters worse the match was televised almost world wide.

The all-Ireland final, however was not an isolated example. A television programme shown some time ago revealed many incidents of actual assault in quite a number of games. Though hurling was not entirely free of incidents, they were not as widespread and certainly the all-Ireland final was played in a good sporting spirit, free from rancour.

Rough play is not a new or recent phenomenon; it has always been with us. It cannot be denied that players have found places on hurling and football teams because of their capacity to injure an opponent or to render him ineffective. 'Hatchet men' might be too crude a term to use, though it has been used, to describe those people. They do no good to their clubs, or to the games, or to themselves. The games would be better off without them. It is true, of course, that rough play is not confined to G.A.A. games; it might be even worse in other sports. But hurling and football are amateur games, and whatever excuse might be made for those playing on a professional basis departing from the ordinary rules of proper behaviour on the field, no

such excuse can be put forward for people playing merely for the honour of winning.

SHOULDER RESPONSIBILITY

The fact that four players were sent to the sideline in the football final highlighted the seriousness of the problem. In dealing with the incidents which marred this match the Games Administrative Council fined the Dublin and Galway County Boards £500 each, apart from imposing suspensions on players. This was a pragmatic approach, I am not too sure if it is the first time it was done, but if it is, it is to be commended.

The time has come when clubs and Co. Boards must be made to shoulder responsibility for their players behaviour. The example set by the Games Administrative Council could be usefully followed down along the line.

It often happens that some players who are normally well behaved lose their sense of proportion in tense situations on the field. While some allowance might be made for them, no excuse whatever can be made for those who deliberately and wilfully transgress.

The fact that the football incidents were highlighted on television could give rise to the assumption that football had the worse record. That may well be, but hurling was not entirely free of incident. Hurling is potentially a more dangerous game than football. Consequently it reflects credit on the hurlers that there are so few instances or injury, certainly of serious injury. This means that the vast majority of the players play the game as it should be played. The exceptions are few, and the game would be better without them. The personal foul rules was a well-intentioned effort to reduce, or

eliminate, rough play, but it lost some of its effect because a first offence was allowed to go unpunished. There should be some penalty, say a 15 minutes suspension for a first offence. Letting a player go scott free for a first offence is only placating the wrong doing.

CONFUSE REFEREES

Changes in the rules have tended to confuse referees. It is not surprisingly that there has been a lack of uniformity in their interpretation, and in their application. Referees have a big responsibility and they don't always get the support they deserve.

They could be helped by giving sideline officials the power to draw the referee's attention to off the ball incidents that are quite a frequent occurrence and go unpunished. Goal umpires could also be given similar responsibility. It is generally recognised that the whole question of rough play is a problem; it has always been, but in the past there was a tendency to resort to palliatives in the hope that it might go away. Palliatives will no longer do; action must be taken. An all-Ireland final is much more than a game; it has a great national and social importance; it is one of the great events of the year. It is a great honour for the players who take part and they should respect that honour by playing the game as it should be played.

The G.A.A. has always been sensitive about the preservation of our cultural heritage; it has been one of its avowed aims. There was nothing cultural about a lot of what happened during the year; a lot happened that we would not want to preserve. Whatever is necessary must be done to ensure it will not happen again.



JAMES STEPHENS: County Senior Hurling Finalists 1983

James Stephens, the defeated County Senior Hurling Finalists. Back Row (l. to r.): Michael Moore, Richard Walsh, Billy Walton, Jimmy O'Brien, Denis McCormack, John Joe Cullen, Tom McCormack, Donie Collins, Brian Cody, Ned Kelly. Front (l. to r.): Paddy Neary, Andy Egan, Tom Hogan, Joe Hennessy, Michael Crotty, John McCormack, Nicky Cassin.



SHAMROCKS: County Senior Hurling Champions 1983

Shamrocks (Ballyhale), the Kilkenny Senior Hurling Champions of 1983. Back row (l. to r.): Michael Dempsey, Richard Kenealy, Jimmy Dollard, Patrick Holden, Frank Holohan, Tommy Phelan, Liam Long, Liam Fennelly, Michael Fennelly, Sean Fennelly, Johnny Walsh, Wattie Phelan. Front (l. to r.): Liam Dalton, Tom Ryan (trainer), Ger Fennelly, Seamus Grace, Michael Kelly, Ollie Harrington, Kevin Fennelly (Capt.), Maurice Mason, Dermot Fennelly, Declan Connolly, Richard Walsh.

Hurling 'nice guys' are champions

THE HURLING 'nice guys' won a major championship in Kilkenny this year. They swept the intermediate title in impressive style and in the decider they dismissed the challenge of senior side of last season – O'Loughlin's.

No marks for guessing that team is Thomastown United. For years they have been the 'nice guys' of the intermediate championship. They are no softies or any easy touch for anyone, but they are one of the easiest sides in the whole county to play hurling against. Anyone will tell you that.

Thomastown have a style all of their own. They are not rugged. Neither are they dazzlers. But down through the years they have been involved in perhaps more enjoyable intermediate tussles than any one other club.

Not too many years ago they were a proud senior side. Age caught up on some of the players of that era and they were eventually forced to go back intermediate.

Now after years of nurturing young players of promise they have hit the jackpot. Progress was slow. The patience was stretched. But it

MEMORIES CAME FLOODING BACK

For team mentor and former county goalkeeping 'great' Ollie Walsh memories of happy days from years past must have come flooding back when the final whistle was blown by referee Eamon Holland (Tullaroan). Ollie was one of the diligent backroom team in Thomastown and no one deserved a club championship victory more than the former Kilkenny favourite.

Some were disappointed that the county final was not that wonderful. The 'Town were never in that much danger because O'Loughlin's failed to score in the opening half. The wind and rain proved real spoilsports, so there was an excuse all paid off in the September final when they beat O'Loughlin's by 2-8 to 1-3 to earn the right to play in the senior grade in 1984.



that could be offered to those who were not satisfied.

But during the campaign Thomastown proved they have the talent, commitment and general qualities to hold their own with the best in the county. They need not be afraid of what lies ahead. Their team is basically young and some are still learning, so they should approach the future with that in mind. Rome was not built in a day, it should be remembered.



THOMASTOWN – Intermediate Hurling Champions 1983

Back row (l. to r.): John Brennan, Martin Walsh, John Donnelly, Michael Galway, Richard Murphy, Davy Prendergast, David Hoyne, John Costelloe. **Front row** (l. to r.): Sean Kiely, Martin Farrell, Dan Breen, Dick O'Hara, John Prendergast, Paudie Lannon, Ger Walsh.



GOWRAN – Who won the Under-12 Hurling League and Championship (Roinn A) for the second successive year

Back row (l. to r.): Ciaran Phelan, James McDermott, Kieran Drea, Rory O'Donnell, Pat O'Neill (capt.), Robert Midleton, James Bryan, Tom Fenlon, Charlie Carter. **Middle row** (l. to r.): Jack Carey, Brendan Lennon, Martin Treacy, Colm Curran, Eddie Kenny, Aidan Roche, Joe Lennon. **Front row** (l. to r.): James Byrne, John Knox (selector), Eamon Concannon, Joe Walsh, David O'Neill, Denis Dunphy, Kieran Carey, Tommy Lennon, Dick O'Neill (selector), Patrick Farrell.

The background of this fine team could be traced back as far as 1973 – some might say further – when Thomastown lost a minor county final (after a replay) against Dicksboro. Players who performed that day and who have improved with the years are county men – Dick O'Hara and Paudie Lannon, Dan Breen and John Costelloe.

Add in a couple of more 'good ones' who came along afterwards and it's easy to see why Thomastown had to succeed in the end. Goalkeeper John Brennan, David Hoyne, Richard Murphy and John Prendergast are others who were guided along slowly by the future planners in the Thomastown club.

But for the club to hold those mentioned above together, and then add a few others after a county final defeat, was an achievement in itself. Others in the past have won competitions with good teams, but failed to follow through with the promise. Thomastown delivered the goods and they didn't have the benefit of a winning start.

SPIRIT WAS FIRST RATE

They had lost an intermediate final in 1980 to Graignamanagh and that was, no doubt, a spur going into this year's one. Indeed, during the campaign the 'Town showed the promise that suggested they would be there or thereabouts at the finish.

Perhaps their most noteworthy display was in Callan one bright Sunday evening against Carrickshock. This was a low-scoring affair and the 'Town won by 1-5 to 0-6, but the spirit was first rate. They may not have known it, but that night the players gave an indication they had what it takes to win a championship.

David Hoyne was supreme that evening and Dan Breen was rock solid in defence. On other days different men produced top form. O'Hara and Lannon were always men opponents had to pay special to. The final belonged to Sean Kiley. He played the game of his life

that afternoon. Wholehearted support was given by Martin Farrell, John Donnelly, Davy Prendergast and Ger Walsh.

Victory made Thomastown the 16th winners of the intermediate championship. They worked for it. They wanted that title from the day they opened against Piltown. The hurling 'nice guys' were serious about it all, and once again their neat style of play won them admiration and respect.

The winning Thomastown team was:

J. Brennan; D. Breen, M. Galway, D. Prendergast; M. Walsh, D. O'Hara (capt.), S. Kiely; D. Hoyne, J. Prendergast; P. Lannon, J. Costelloe, M. Farrell; R. Murphy, G. Walsh, J. Donnelly. *Sub.:* J. O'Hara.

O'Loughlin's: P. Cleere; E. Kennedy, J. Gibbons, L. Walsh; D. Tyrrell, M. Cleere, S. Tyrrell; M. Lanigan, G. Fitzpatrick; B. Cleere, K. Robinson, O. Bergin; E. Deegan, R. Delaney, A. Bergin. *Subs.:* C. Loughnane, J. Mulcahy, P. Dowling.

Test your knowledge on Gaelic games

1. Who captained the Limerick team defeated by Kilkenny and Galway in the all-Ireland senior hurling finals of 1974 and 1980 ?

2. In what year did Cork win their first Oireachtas senior hurling title ?

3. Who holds the record for the highest individual score in a Munster senior hurling championship match ?

4. With what club does Tipperary player, Pat Fitzelle play ?

5. Who was the last Clare man to win an all-Ireland senior hurling medal ?

6. Name the man who captained Cork in the 'Thunder and Lightning' final of 1939.

7. Name the only teams who failed to score a goal in two successive all-Ireland senior hurling finals.

8. What college has won the most Dr. Harty Cup Munster colleges senior hurling titles ?

9. Who was the first man to captain his county to three all-Ireland senior hurling victories ?

10. Name the two Kilkenny men who played in six all-Ireland senior hurling finals in four years.

11. In what position did Jimmy Doyle play in the 1954 all-Ireland minor hurling final against Dublin ?

12. Name the Waterford senior hurlers who won an all-Ireland colleges senior hurling medal with St. Kieran's in 1975.

13. He played right corner-forward with Clare in the first Wembley games in 1958. He later won a world title playing another sport. Who is he ?

14. Who was the first Offaly hurler to play on a winning Railway Cup hurling team ?

15. Jim Hogan won a National Hurling League medal as a goalkeeper in the seventies. Name the county he played with.

16. Who played full-forward for Kilkenny against Cork in the 1966 all-Ireland senior hurling final ?

17. Who played left half-back on the Cork minor hurling team beaten by Wexford in the 1966 all-Ireland final replay ? He later earned distinction as a forward.

18. Who was top scorer for Galway in the 1975 all-Ireland senior hurling final defeat at the hands of Kilkenny ?

19. Eamon Cregan's father Ned won an all-Ireland senior hurling medal with Limerick. What year was it ?

20. Name the player who went on as a substitute for Kilkenny in the all-Ireland senior hurling finals of 1969, 1971 and 1972.

21. Where is Pairc Chairman ?

22. Only four all-Ireland senior hurling finals have ended in draws. Name the years.

23. He won an all-Ireland senior hurling medal at full-forward in 1945. In 1949, 1950 and 1951 he won all-Ireland senior hurling medals at full-back. Who is he ?

24. Name the only Tipperary school to win the all-Ireland colleges senior hurling title ?

25. Who refereed the 1978 all-Ireland senior hurling final between Cork and Kilkenny ?

26. Only once did Leinster teams win the all-Ireland senior hurling title five times in-a-row. Give the years ?

27. Thurles G.A.A. park was named Semple Stadium in 1968. By what name was it known before that ?

28. Who is the only man to hold the office of General Secretary and President of the G.A.A. ?

29. Name the man who scored three goals for Cork in the 1966 all-Ireland senior hurling final against Kilkenny.

30. Where was the 1906 all-Ireland senior hurling final between Tipperary and Dublin played ?

Answers on Page 86

Double break was no help

THERE was a double break in the intermediate championship this year, but no one gained any benefit from either. The first was when the competition was broken into two groups, one of four teams and the other of five, and then the second was for the All-Ireland senior hurling final.

Eventual winners, Thomastown, participated in the smaller group along with Piltown, Barrow Rangers (Paulstown) and Carrickshock.

Defeated finalists O'Loughlin's made up the other with Dicksboro, Young Irelands (Gowran), Graignamanagh and Windgap.

With just four teams in one section this led to a short season for two unfortunate sides. For instance, Barrow Rangers, the junior champions of the previous year, were out of the running before they knew what hit them.

The idea to break up the championship was basically a good one, but it was made somewhat prematurely. To do it next year when more teams will be involved would have been better. For instance, it wasn't any benefit to hurling in Paulstown when the premier club team had nothing to play for

from early July.

A group containing four teams in a league competition defeats the purpose of the whole thing. A five-team event is only marginally better. The minimum involved should be six, if two are to make it through to a knock-out section.

GREATER INVOLVEMENT

Carrickshock cannot have been satisfied with their run either. Here we had the intermediate finalists of the previous year being restricted to a mere three games. If teams want a knock-out competition so be it. But a league system should offer greater involvement.

When the championship did get to the crucial stage it was a pity everything had to come to a halt because the county team was in the All-Ireland. Sure, Kilkenny collected their 23rd title, but the stop-start nature of the intermediate championship served no useful purpose to the general club players, and remember, they were in the majority in this case.

On August 14 Thomastown and O'Loughlin's beat Graignamanagh and Piltown respectively in the in-

termediate semi-finals. The final wasn't played until October 2, a break of seven weeks.

Only two members of the county senior panel, Dick O'Hara and Paudie Lannon, were involved. One could understand why the Kilkenny team mentors asked for a total black-out – the risk of injuries – but in this case an exception could have been made.

The momentum of the championship was shattered. Both clubs must have had an unmerciful job trying to keep players fit and interested. Fair play to them, they weathered the break well, but when they were caught up in the excitement of the whole thing they would have liked to have seen it through to an efficient end.

The break cost O'Loughlin's the services of Brian Ryan, who was on an extended holiday to Australia at the time the final was played. But had it been finalised quickly after the semi-finals, he would have been able to join Richard Delaney, Kevin Robinson, Dermot Tyrrell, Anthony Bergin, Larry Walsh, Michael Cleere and company on the big day. What a pity!

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Delegates came out for the big contest

IN KILKENNY it was hailed as the contest of the decade. Nearly 400 people turned out to see the fight to the finish.

The challenger in the red and green corner was Sean 'George' Leahy of the James Stephens club. And in the other corner was the holder, Michael O'Neill of the St. Senan's club, Kilmacow. They were battling to be chairman of the board, Kilkenny Co. Board that is.

It all happened in the packed Community Hall, Freshford, at Co. Board Convention on January 23. It was the first contest for the post of chairman in 14 years.

Before the big battle for the Number 1 job, the mood of Convention was vibrant. Excitement mounted as the votes were collected and then counted. Victory went to the sitting chairman, Michael O'Neill by 230 votes to 131.

But George Leahy was no loser. The current chairman of Bord-na-nOg delivered the most touching and straight from the heart address ever at a Kilkenny Convention.

"I went for the job because I felt it was a healthy thing for the G.A.A.", he assured the delegates. When he concluded his modest speech he sat down to thunderous applause.

Not since Michael O'Neill beat Ned Curran

(Emeralds) to take over from Nickey Purcell, present Central Council representative in 1969 was there a contest for chairman of the Co. Board. It was a good thing, not a bad thing.

SHOULD BE COMPETITION

Michael O'Neill has been a fine chairman. He is always mindful of the 'Association and works hard to improve that at every opportunity. Both inside and outside the county he is highly regarded.

The basic philosophy in sport is that there should be competition, be that between teams or individuals. Michael O'Neill and George Leahy, both closely identified with winning all-Ireland teams, knew that better than most. They both approached the contest with an attitude of 'let the best man win'.

The Thomastown club nominated George Leahy, who was chairman of the Under-16 Board since 1973 and took over the chair when Bord-na-nOg was formed. He was never opposed in an election either.

He has been a selector with the Kilkenny senior team, and was closely involved when James Stephens captured the all-Ireland club senior hurling title on two occasions. The first time in 1976 he was sole selector-trainer.



George Leahy (James Stephens).

Michael O'Neill, as chairman of the 'Board, is an automatic county selector at all levels. During his term Kilkenny have won seven senior all-Irelands and three National Leagues.

While not everyone thought the time was right for a contest in Kilkenny – after all the county had just won the all-Ireland and League double – he took it all in his stride.

"Competition is a healthy thing", he remarked. "It was always open for anyone to con-

test any position on the Co. Board."

Other officers elected at Convention were – Paddy Grace (secretary); Jim Rice, Podge Cody (trustees); Ray Anthony (auditor); Eamon Hennessy (Registrar); Tom Doherty (Youth Officer); Tom Ryall (P.R.O.); Paul Kinsella (Bord-na-lomana); Tom Waldron (Gaelic Officer); Nickey Purcell (Central Council representative); Brandan O'Sullivan and George Leahy (Leinster Council delegates).

THE most frequently heard story among fishermen is the tale about the 'one that got away'. Everyone has heard it. The biggest and best always seem to slip the hook.

It's funny really, but that same story must have been going through the minds of supporters of the Kilkenny C.B.S. after the all-Ireland colleges senior hurling final this year. The James Street boys have just lost to St. Flannan's (Ennis). It was a game they should have won, looked like winning, but didn't. The big one eluded them.

Kilkenny supporters among the 4,000 attendance that day knew full well the inner meaning of that old tale. Here was a good C.B.S. team, better on paper at least than the one that had won their only all-Ireland two years previously, but they failed to land the big fish. It was a tragedy.

St. Flannan's have won this championship more times than any other school. This, their ninth victory, was dodgy. They took the Croke Cup on a 0-16 to 2-4 scoreline, but the manner in which they fashioned the win was hard to credit.

The C.B.S., gifted as everyone knew they were, controlled the first half and were not at all flattered by a half-time lead of 2-3 to 0-5. With a

C.B.S. let the **BIG** **ONE** get away

bit of luck they might have been two goals better off. What happened? They went out and scored only one point in the second half. They lost, badly.

TEAM CLICKED

During the interval St. Flannan's made seven positional switches. They all worked, and the team clicked from the start of the new half. Some might say that was a stroke of genius by the team handlers.

Perhaps it was, but somehow along the line there had to be an element of luck involved. Practically half the players found themselves in new positions after the change of ends. All did better than they had previously. Lady Luck must have been wearing the colours.

Victory made St. Flannan's the first team since 1968 to retain the trophy. For them it was a special achievement, but C.B.S. supporters saw one slip away.

With the backs in firm control in the opening half the James Street boys played fluent, stylish hurling. Up front the star of the campaign, Eddie O'Leary, looked dangerous, and on his side Pat Cass seemed to have kept his best form for the big day. Cass and O'Leary picked off

Continued ▷



The Kilkenny C.B.S. team which just failed to win the second colleges senior hurling title for the school.

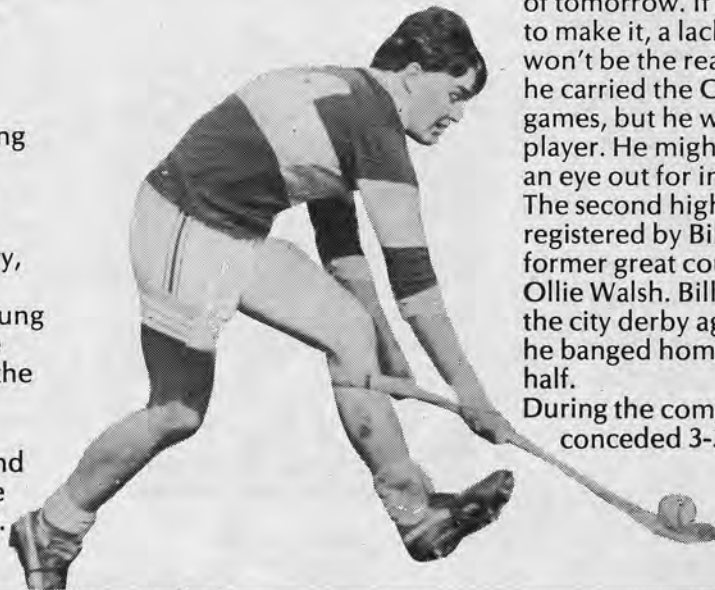
Back row (l. to r.): Derek Shelly, Paddy Fennelly, Eddie O'Leary, Billy Walsh, Jackie Lee, Frankie Morgan, Paul O'Dwyer. **Front** (l. to r.): Joe Kennedy, Simon Walton, Richard Moran, Michael Maher, Alan McCormack, Seamus Nicholson, Billy Ayres.

Keep an eye out for Eddie

NINE players shared in the scoring as the Kilkenny C.B.S. banged home 11-44 in their four championship games.

Deadly marksman, Eddie O'Leary, headed the scoring list with a magnificent tally of 4-13. The young James Stephens attacker was the outstanding player throughout the campaign.

Operating at full-forward, he grabbed a goal in each match, and against St. Kieran's college in the Leinster final he got all the C.B.S. scores in the first half.



He was brave and never allowed himself to be intimidated. Even when matters weren't going his way, he worked hard and made things happen.

Colleges hurling is a known breeding ground for senior players of tomorrow. If Eddie O'Leary fails to make it, a lack of hurling skill won't be the reason. It is fair to say he carried the C.B.S. in one or two games, but he was always a team player. He might be worth keeping an eye out for in the future.

The second highest tally was registered by Billy Walsh, son of former great county goalkeeper, Ollie Walsh. Billy hit 3-15, and in the city derby against St. Kieran's he banged home 2-3 in the second half.

During the competition the C.B.S. conceded 3-38.

C.B.S. LET THE BIG ONE GET AWAY

Continued from Page 29

opening half goals, and with a bit of luck Cass might have had a second.

The St. Flannan's defence, particularly the full-back line, was terribly uncertain and the C.B.S. had no trouble getting in behind it. The Clare boys looked there for the taking. And at the interval a Kilkenny victory seemed assured.

Nothing went right in the second half. A big number of frees were conceded, and this added to the pressure the backs were forced to absorb. In the end it all took its toll.

STRUGGLED

It was a pity really, because this was no ordinary Kilkenny C.B.S. team. During the campaign the side matured immensely. In the opening round they struggled against Good Counsel (New Ross) and might not have progressed a step further but for a moment of brilliance from Eddie O'Leary. He flicked the ball into the net eight minutes from time and that winded Good Counsel, who eventually lost by 1-13 to 1-7.

It was almost as if the shock of that near thing warned the C.B.S. Certainly, they took nothing for granted afterwards and strolled through the next match against Birr Community School in Borris-in-Ossory.

Page 30



Seán Walsh . . . hard working manager of the C.B.S. team.

The Leinster final against arch rivals, St. Kieran's college was a real test of character. The 'college, it was generally believed, had one of their best sides in ages.

The James street boys knew this, and just to have their best 15 in action they splashed out £200 on goalkeeper, Alan McCormack. He was due to go on an educational trip to Europe days before the match, but he altered his plans and instead flew out to join the party after the game. The cost to parents, teachers and pupils was £200. It was money well spent.

Continued on Page 32

The teams they met

Kilkenny C.B.S. 1-13
Good Counsel 1-7

Scorers: B. Walsh (0-5); E. O'Leary (1-1); B. Ayres (0-3); S. Walton (0-2); R. Moran, D. Shelly (0-1 each).

Kilkenny C.B.S. 5-14
Birr Community School 1-2

Scorers: B. Walsh (1-6); E. O'Leary (1-3); E. Lawless (1-2); S. Walton (1-1); B. Ayres (1-0); R. Moran (0-2).

Kilkenny C.B.S. 3-13
St. Kieran's College 1-13

Scorers: E. O'Leary (1-7); B. Walsh (2-3); B. Ayres, S. Nicholson, R. Moran (0-1 each).

St. Flannan's 0-16
Kilkenny C.B.S. 2-4

Scorers: E. O'Leary (1-2); P. Cass (1-0); B. Walsh, R. Moran (0-1 each).

C.B.S. LET THE BIG ONE GET AWAY

Determined hurling by defenders, Derek Shelly and Frankie Morgan contributed enormously to the C.B.S. holding their opponents to a 0-7 to 0-3 half-time lead. Up front, O'Leary helped himself to all the scores. After the break Billy Walsh burst on the scene and drilled home two goals. The C.B.S. eventually got through by 3-13 to 1-13. That was as good a test as any team heading into an all-Ireland could have expected.

The St. Kieran's boys who put up such praiseworthy opposition were - E. Morrissey, G. Morrissey, N. McGrath, N. Brophy, W. Dwyer, P. Dwyer (capt.), T. Phelan, K. Leahy, P. Hoban, L. Egan, T. Lannon, R. Tobin, W. Purcell, N. Brophy, T. Farrell. Sub - M. O'Neill.

FAILED TO FOLLOW THROUGH

It was a long wait from there until the Thurles showdown, but the C.B.S. seemed to have weathered it all well the way they opened. However, they failed to follow through with the first half promise.

Roll of Honour

St. Flannan's (Ennis) 9 - 1944, 1945, 1946, 1947, 1958, 1976, 1979, 1982, 1983.

St. Kieran's college (Kilkenny) 7 - 1948, 1957, 1959, 1961, 1965, 1971, 1975.

St. Finbarr's (Farrenferris) 4 - 1963, 1969, 1972, 1974.

St. Peter's college (Wexford) 4 - 1962, 1967, 1968, 1973.

North Monastery (Cork) 3 - 1960, 1970, 1980.

Limerick C.B.S. 2 - 1964, 1966.

Templemore C.B.S. - 1978.

St. Coleman's (Fermoy) - 1977.

Kilkenny C.B.S. - 1981.

One thing for sure, it will take a long time before the C.B.S. get a team as good as this together again. Eddie O'Leary was a player you don't come across too often at this level. He got better with every outing and no praise was high enough for him.

Fifteen-year-old goalkeeper, Alan McCormack, was another extra special one, but at least he will be around for another while at this level of competition. Others who showed marked improvement in the best of company were the big hearted Frankie Morgan, Derek Shelly, Paddy Fennelly, Billy Walsh, Paul O'Dwyer and Michael Maher.

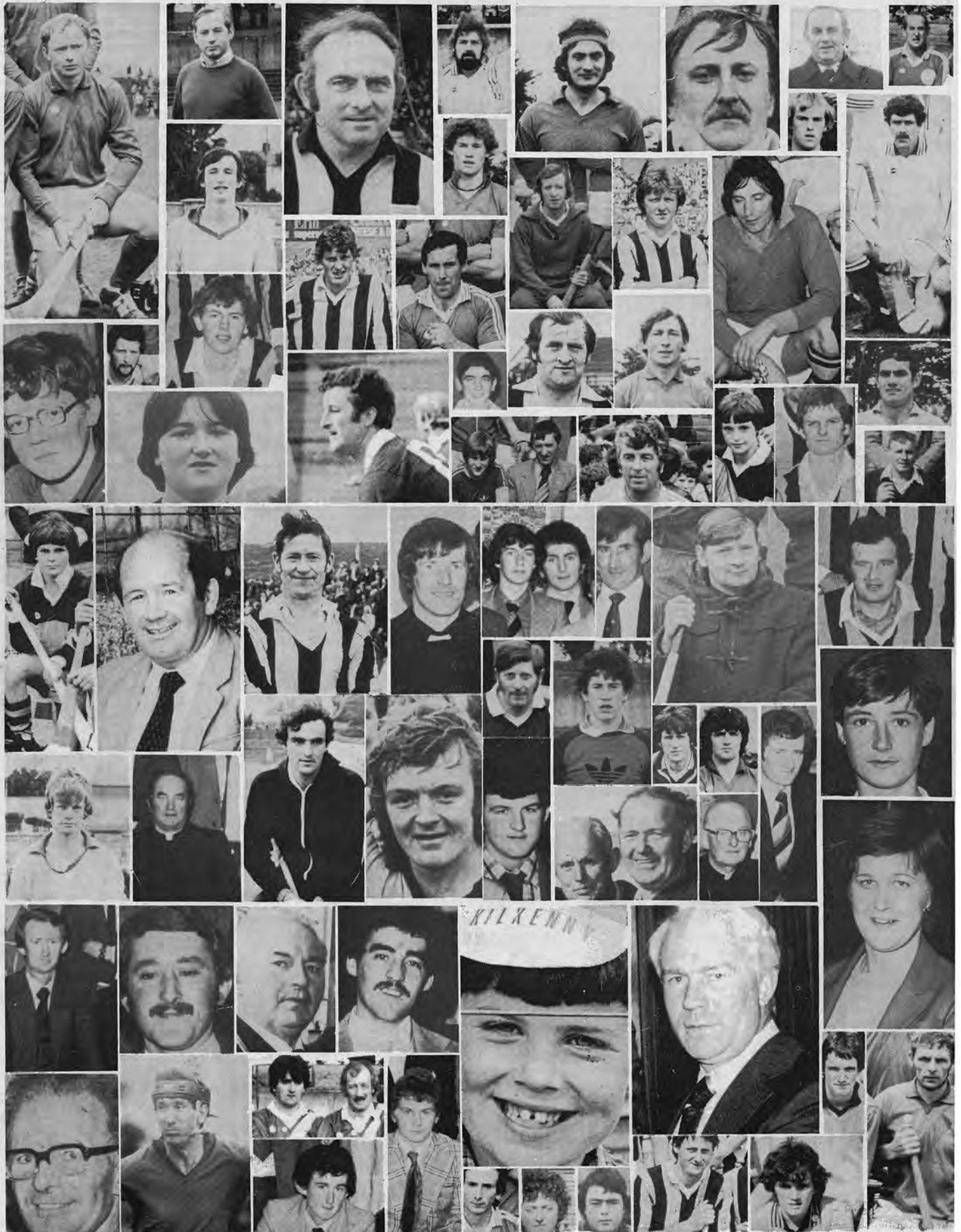
Kilkenny C.B.S. Panel: A. McCormack, D. Shelly, P. O'Dwyer, M. Marnell, M. Maher, J. Kennedy, P. Fennelly, F. Morgan, S. Nicholson, B. Ayres, R. Moran, J. Lee, B. Walsh, P. Cass, E. O'Leary, S. Walton, E. Lawless, D. O'Driscoll, E. Connery, R. Mulrooney, A. Henderson, F. Bawle, T. Maher, P. Murphy, J. Fitzgerald, K. Browne.

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The Doyles, perhaps the greatest of all time

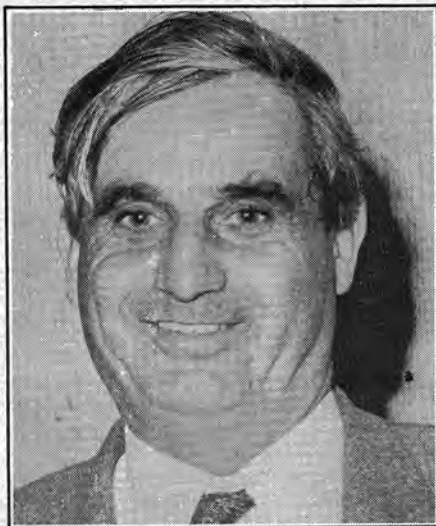
By PADDY BUGGY

President of
the G.A.A.

IT IS often claimed that the G.A.A. is a family Association. More than any other sporting organisation it seems to involve families as participants, officials and supporters.

The wonderful achievements of the Fennelly family, Ballyhale, in recent years is an example of such involvement. In particular, hurling has produced many examples of family participation with outstanding successes. The Leahys of Boherlahan, the Mackeys of Limerick, the Rackards, the Graces of Tullaroan and the Doyles of Mooncoin are just a few.

It is about the Doyle family I wish to write. Arguably, they were the greatest hurling family in G.A.A. history. Their deeds, achievements and skill are remembered to this day. Their record of 19 All-Ireland



senior hurling medals, 18 on the field of play and one as a substitute, is unlikely to be bettered.

The Doyles were born and reared in Dournane, Mooncoin, a densely populated village where hurling flourished. Mooncoin people will proudly point out that the hurling here was far more polished and skilful and not as rugged as that played in other parts of the country.

Dournane at that time could field a village team of 21 players who could match the best within the parish or county of Kilkenny. This was about 1855 to 1880, prior to the founding of the G.A.A. This is the environment the Doyles were born into. At that time there was an enthusiastic teacher named O'Neill in Mooncoin who promoted and organised hurling games. This man seems to be the principal figure

Cont'd. overleaf ▷



A family picture of the Doyles with the famous brothers wearing their all-Ireland medals. Back (l. to r.): Tom, Neddie, Dick and Mick Doyle. Front (l. to r.): Katie Doyle, Johanna McCarthy, Fr. Andy Doyle, Mrs. Doyle, Fr. Jim Doyle, Ellen Hogan.



Stars One and All Kilkenny and Smithwick's Sports Stars (from left): Michael Walsh (handball), Billy Fitzpatrick (hurling) and John Roberts (hall of fame) are congratulated by Smithwick's director, Mr. Patrick Gallagher.

The Doyles, perhaps the greatest of all time

behind the success of Mooncoin hurling in the early 20th century.

HARDENED THE BOYS

The Doyle family, six boys and three girls, played a major role in these successes. Two of the boys became priests. The other four worked on the family farm. Mick later moved to Waterford and served his apprenticeship to drapery and opened his own business on The Quay, Waterford.

Living on an average-sized farm in those times was by no means easy. To supplement the family in-

come the four boys contracted for the repair and maintenance of the county road from Dournane to Mooncoin. This heavy work involved quarrying and so on and the use of a 7 lbs sledge-hammer. This hardened the boys for many of the great games of hurling they played.

Hurling was in their blood. On their mother's side they had an uncle, Johnny Dunphy who, prior to his departure to America, was an accomplished hurler. Their uncles, the Henebrys, were champion oarsmen and monarchs of all they surveyed at the old Waterford regatta. A grand-uncle, Mick Doyle, was a prominent athlete and

won many prizes, particularly for the hop, step and jump.

Another brother, John, played hurling with the baronies of Iverk and Knocktopher. The story is told that on one occasion John, who was married in Knocktopher, returned to the family home to borrow the coulter of a plough to "sod the wheat". On this particular Sunday a game of hurling had been arranged between Iverk and Knocktopher at Milltown Templeorum. John was persuaded to play with Iverk. As he had no hurley he had to use the coulter of the plough, which would have been much heavier than any caman of that time. The game was played without goalposts. Success went to the side who drove the ball over the fence defended by the opposition.

FEARLESS ATTACKER

Dick Doyle's first game outside Mooncoin was at inter-provincial level. He was a spectator at the Railway Shield at Carrick-on-Suir. Because some of the Leinster team did not turn up Dick was called

The Doyles, perhaps the greatest of all time

upon to play. He was 17½ at the time. This game began a hurling career which spanned the next decade. He was considered a fearless attacker and a great ground hurler. Rarely did he go for his own score, but he placed his comrades.

The late Tom Mullins of Thomastown in assessing players of that period said: "It is difficult to single out any players from such a galaxy, but what I'll always remember about Dick Doyle is that when he moved to the ball the roar came from the crowd because very rarely was he beaten".

A strong man, he was seldom taken off his feet in hip to hip hurling. The late John T. Power (Goalkeeper), and known as "The Bull Power", admitted in public in later life that he himself was only once taken off his feet. The man who did it was Dick Doyle.

His combination with his brother Mick, Doherty and Jimmy Kelly,



known as the scoring machine, as well as his outgoing passes to the flying Sim Walton, proved the foundation for many great Kilkenny victories. His brother Mick was a wonderful overhead striker and could double on a ball with great accuracy. He was much lighter than Dick. He was often a target for heavy defensive play, but he seemed to revel in it and his foot balance never let him down. The

two brothers often swapped wings for intervals. Dick would move over to "soften" Mick's man.

Eddie, who played as a wing-back, may not have been quite as skilful as his brothers. Nevertheless, he was a great defender with an outstanding sideline puck, or "touches" as they were then called. He was also a good free-taker or striker of "seventies". Very few forwards succeeded in getting inside him. He used - his own expression - to "clinch" with the forward under the dropping ball. He was also very daring in snapping the ball out of the air.

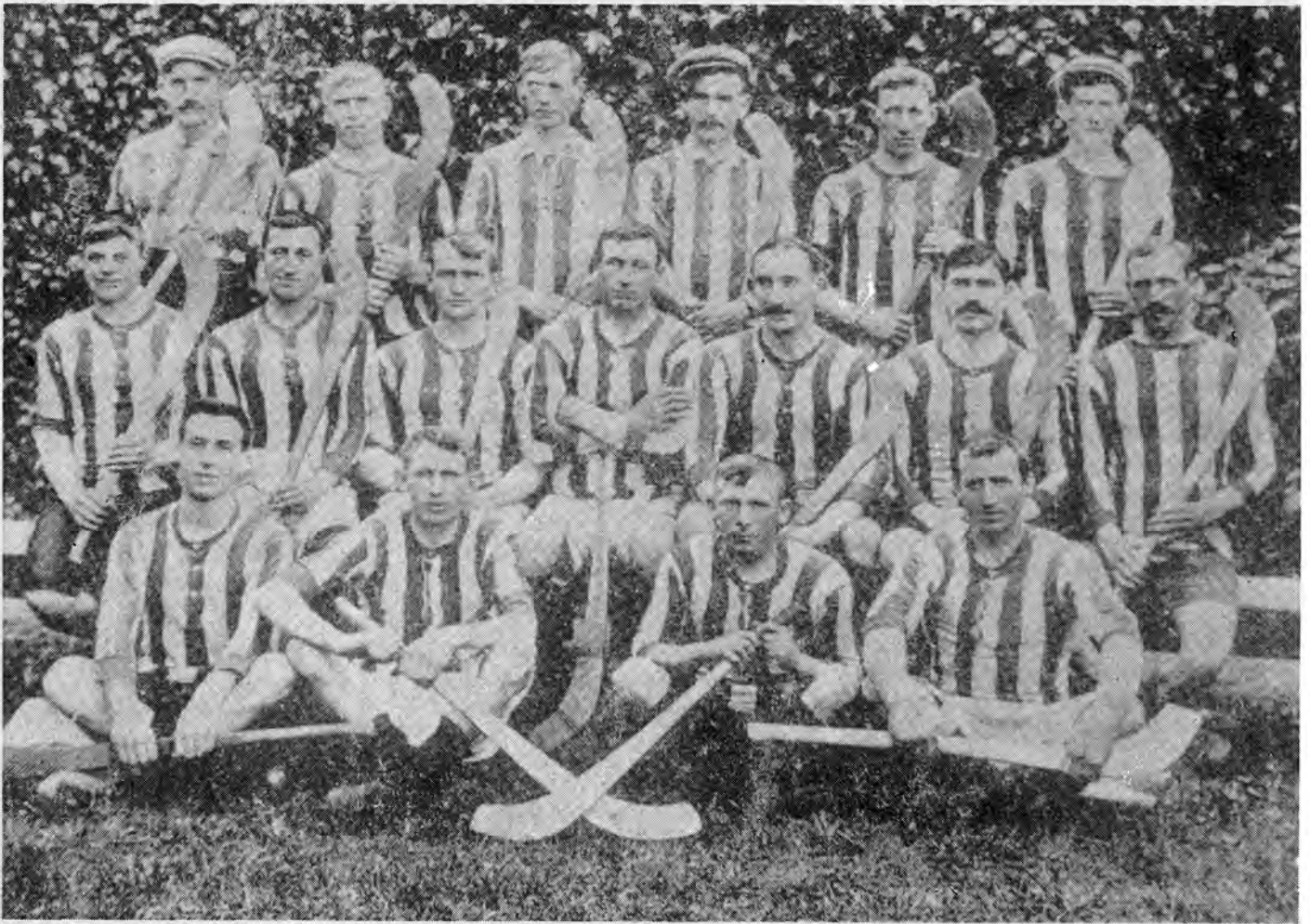
NEW DIMENSION

Kilkenny during this era won seven All-Irelands within 10 years - 1904, 1905, 1907, 1909, '11, '12 and '13. They brought a new dimension to the game with combination, skill, science and art. The longer the team remained together the more they perfected these skills. It was said up to the 'Seventies that it was the best Kilkenny combination ever. It was about this time, too, that the phrase "You need Moon-

Continued



Sportsmen help others . . . away from the excitement and glamour of all-Ireland day, Kilkenny trainer-coach, Pat Henderson, and goalkeeper, Noel Skehan, do a lot of work to help the handicapped through the S.O.S. (Special Occupation Scheme). Henderson is a director and Skehan is the honorary chairman of the appeals committee. This year they are spearheading a drive to raise £150,000 for the work of S.O.S. Here local politicians (from left): Liam Aylward (F.F.), Seamus Pattison (Labour) and Michael Lanigan (F.F.) make their personal contribution to the scheme following their 19 per cent pay increase.



The three Doyle brothers helped Kilkenny to victory in the all-Ireland of 1909. Back row (l to r): S. Walton, W. Hennebery, J. Dunphy, J. Rochford, P. Lanigan, J. Keoghan. Middle (l to r): J. Ryan, E. Doyle, J. Delahunty, R. 'Drug' Walsh (capt.), M. Gargan, D. Kennedy, M. Shortall. Front (l to r): M. Doyle, R. Doherty, J. Kelly, R. Doyle.

Ireland final and it was also the first time Kilkenny's famous colours of black and amber were registered. The jerseys were presented by one of Kilkenny's best known sportsmen, Mr. John J. Drennan, Conway Hall, Kells.

Contd.

coin for Munster" was coined. In 1913 in the Croke Cup final, Kilkenny beat Tipperary by double scores – 8-8 to 4-4.

Disputes were common at the time. Kilkenny often lost games because of these problems. One dispute concerned Waterford sportsfield around the 1910–20 period. This field was often used for Kilkenny championship games. It also catered for other sports.

This was resented by many, and particularly by Mooncoin. In an effort to make it a Gaelic sportsfield, Mooncoin refused to play any fixtures there. When the Kilkenny Co. Board fixed a championship game there in 1910, Mooncoin fielded an under-strength team, minus the Doyles and Jim Kelly. They were beaten. This affected the county team.

Wexford, in 1910, won the Leinster championship and the All-Ireland. Had Kilkenny won in 1910

they would have set up an all-time record of five-in-a-row. Waterford sportsfield eventually became a Gaelic pitch and a Mooncoin selection, played Laois, captained by Bob O'Keeffe, at Waterford prior to Laois winning their first All-Ireland in 1915. The game ended in a draw.

In 1912 Kilkenny were at their peak. At that time Tipperary were powered by the Toomevara Greyhound, because of their speed they were unbeaten in any tournament or championship game in 1912-13. They beat Kilkenny by double scores in the Croke Cup final of 1913 in Dungarvan. In the Munster championship in 1913 Tipperary swept all before them. Kilkenny did likewise in Leinster. They reached the All-Ireland with big reputations.

Kilkenny, captained by "Drug" Walsh, won by 2-4 to 1-2 in a game attended by 20,000 at Jones's Road. This was the first 15-a-side All-

On that day, at 27 years of age, Dick Doyle won his seventh All-Ireland medal. His younger brother, Mick, at 25, won his fifth. The eldest brother, Eddie, was a substitute. Kilkenny made the ball do the work and wore the 'Greyhounds down to their own speed. The verse about this final gives a good description of Kilkenny's win:

*"With Tipp bombarding and Power still guarding,
The leather travelled at lightning speed.
Their combination is a revelation,
in every station our boys excel.
Oh, what could equal the Doyles and Doherty
And Jim Kelly, Moondharrig's Gael,
Their splendid passing was Tipp's outclassing,
There's none could beat them in Innisfail.*

The Doyles, perhaps the greatest of all time

HONOURED CHAMPS

There was great excitement in Kilkenny after this victory. Bands played and tar barrels blazed. Later the Corporation honoured the champions with a banquet. Team members were presented with a scroll of honour and were made freemen of the city. A public subscription list had been opened and money flowed in. A cheque for £18 was presented to the players. This gesture proved, in hindsight, to be imprudent as far as the Doyles were concerned.

The £18 was a lot of money at that time. Whisperings and criticisms went about that the Doyles had made £54 from hurling. The Doyles, on hearing this, were very annoyed, especially Dick. He was hurt and embarrassed. It is said he never played with the same enthusiasm again.

There was a lot of disunity in Kilkenny in 1914 and a half-hearted team was beaten by Laois in the Leinster final. Mick Doyle continued on until 1916 when they played Tipperary. He did his utmost to get Dick to play, but Dick's absence, and the departure of Kelly to the U.S.A., weakened the team.

Mick Doyle played his first game with Waterford in the Munster



championship. In that game against Limerick he played on Tyler Mackey, father of John and Mick Mackey.

At the time Mooncoin trained every evening at a field at Rathkieran, opposite Fielding's house. The field was placed at their disposal by the Irish family of Aglish. Mick Doyle did much of his training in Ferrybank, at Flemings, now the site of the Ardree Hotel.

The 1907 final was started by Rev. Andy Doyle in Dungarvan. He was home from America. He went straight from Cobh to Dungarvan for the game.

SAY THE ROSARY

Mrs. Doyle always insisted on match days that the members of the family left at home would kneel down and say the "Rosary": "The lads are now doing their real sweat in Dublin", she would say.

The Doyles played their last game with Mooncoin in 1918 in a championship replay at Knocktopher against Tullaroan. They won. Their last appearance for Kilkenny was in 1923 when the "old" team played the "new one" in an exhibition game.

The three brothers – Neddie, Dick and Mick – won 18 All-Ireland medals on the field. Neddie was a substitute on the 1913 side. That made 19 senior All-Ireland medals in all.

The Graces of Tullaroan won 14 medals, three football and 11 hurling. Jack won five with Dublin.

The four Leahy brothers of Boherlahan, Tipperary, have eight medals.

Tom Doyle, a fourth brother, won a Leinster junior championship with Kilkenny. Fr. Andy Doyle won the all round athletics championship of Minnesota and was second to John Kiely in a hurdles race in the U.S. These events were staged shortly before his ordination.

Mooncoin officials during that period who helped or had influence on the Doyle family were: Mr. O'Neill, school teacher; John Fielding, former clerical student, St. Kieran's College; Dick na Dhoire Walsh, later manager Kilmacow Creamery.

I wish to acknowledge the research and help of Denis McCarthy for this article. In fact, it is written almost exactly as he gave it to me.

Paddy Buggy.

Members of Senior Hurling Panel



Gordon Ryan



Paudie Lannon



Billy Purcell



Tom McCormack.

EIGHTY YEARS ON . . .

NEXT year, the centenary year, marks the 80th anniversary of Kilkenny's first All-Ireland senior hurling final victory (1904). The honour of winning a national title in the centenary year is a powerful incentive and should help to stimulate competition at the highest level.

Kilkenny had to wait 17 years after the championships had got under way for their first success. In the meantime, both Cork and Tipperary had won six each.

Cork won in 1890 and won their first three-in-a-row in 1892, 1893 and 1894, while Tipperary won the first final of 1887, again in 1895 and won three-in-a-row in 1898, 1899 and 1900.

Cork won four together in 1941, 1942, 1943 and 1944, but an outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease precluded both Tipperary and Kilkenny taking part for a couple of years.

Kilkenny won three-in-a-row in 1911, 1912 and 1913, but have never achieved the distinction since, even though they went close on a number of occasions.

Kilkenny made their first appearance in 1893 when they were

beaten by Cork. They were beaten by Tipperary in the 1895 final; by Limerick in 1897; by Tipperary again in 1898 and by Cork (home final) in 1903.

When they did make a breakthrough they made a tremendous impact and won seven of the 10 finals played between 1904 and 1913.

Cork is the only county to have won four titles in-a-row, but Kilkenny came close to it when winning in 1932, 1933 and 1935; and in 1972, 1974 and 1975.

Next year they will be attempting to win three-in-a-row again. This will put tremendous pressure on them.

Since they are also National League champions for the past two years they are in line for a treble. There are, however, two schools of thought as to what their strategy for next year should be.

One is that they should make a determined effort to win both again, and the other is that they should adopt a more relaxed approach to the League and concentrate on the championship.

Some people take the view that

winning the second All-Ireland title is more difficult than winning three.

This has not been the case as far as Kilkenny is concerned. Those who played during the 1904 to 1913 period could not understand why Kilkenny did not win all 10. They lost the 1906 Leinster final to Dublin and lost to the same opposition again in 1908. In the 1906 game, Kilkennyman Jack Grace, who won five All-Ireland football medals with Dublin, was on the Dublin side and in the 1908 Leinster decider the Dubs had two Kilkennymen – the brothers Jack and Dr. Pierce Grace.

Other well-known Kilkennymen who won All-Ireland medals with Dublin were Pat (Dexter) Aylward of Knockmoyle and Mattie Power, both of whom were on the 1922 Kilkenny winning side. Pat Aylward was on the Dublin side of 1924 and Mattie Power in 1927, but Mattie Power came to Kilkenny to win medals in 1932, 1933 and 1935.

We are coming into an eventful year in G.A.A. history. Kilkenny will be hoping to make it a memorable one for the black and amber.

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Are some people losing their sense of direction?

IS SUCCESS in one field leading to some Kilkenny people losing their sense of direction? It's an easy thing to do, lose touch with reality, particularly when sporting times are as enjoyable as they have been in this county during the past two years.

The year is always regarded as a good one, in sporting terms, when the senior hurlers win the all-Ireland. The 22nd and 23rd titles were landed during the past 24 months, so there has been a lot to be happy about.

Wise men will tell you though, that the time to prepare for the rough days is when everything is running smoothly. It's too late to mend the leak in the roof when the rain is pouring into the house. But you would have to wonder about Kilkenny people getting carried away with all this success. The seniors are great. They cleaned-up.

Everything is going great. The people who believe that should think again: There is more to sport in Kilkenny than the senior hurling team. In fact, there is a lot more to hurling itself. And as things stand there is a danger of too much concentration being placed on the seniors, leading to a lowering of the guard in other sectors.

WENT UNNOTICED

During all the high praise and back slapping with the seniors, it practically went unnoticed that both the Kilkenny minor and under-21 teams failed to get past the first round of their respective Leinster championships during 1983. In the case of the minors this was nothing short of a disaster. The under-21 team could have done better, but their attitude on the night left a lot to be desired.

The situation at under-18 level was no minor matter. It was extremely serious. Remember, it is here that the real talent flow to the senior sides really commences. If good players can be guided intelligently through the delicate years from minor to under-21 then the senior scene of tomorrow is guaranteed.

The alarming thing about the defeat of the minors by Dublin (1-12 to 2-3) was that there should have been an abundance of talent available to the selectors. Anyone who was in Croke Park on all-Ireland day and saw Dublin lose the minor final to Galway must have wondered how they got as far as they did. How did they beat Kilkenny?

It is worth examining some facts about the under-18 hurling in the

county this year. The good players must have been there to make-up a useful outfit.

Afterall, the Kilkenny C.B.S. reached the all-Ireland colleges senior hurling final. Callan C.B.S. qualified for the Division B final. The Kilkenny vocational schools team reached the all-Ireland and Johnstown qualified for the individual schools all-Ireland. St. Kieran's college had one of their best senior sides in years and to cap it all, Kilkenny had two handy teams in the Leinster minor hurling league.

There is a fair spread there, so there must have been 15 players who would have made up a useful team from that lot. What happened? Kilkenny were dumped out of the championship in the opening round. That was a crying shame.

FRIGHTENING

The shock of the quick exit from the championship was bad enough. The defeat of the under-21 side didn't help. But what was frightening when thinking about the future was the casual way both results were accepted.

No one asked a question at a Co. Board meeting about what happened. The nearest we got to it

was a reference from a man from a junior club, Bill Wilkinson (Ye Faire Citie), who was given no hearing the night he tried to prompt a debate on the matter. It was serious enough to be granted at least 30 minutes of the time of the Co. Board delegates.

Seniors can grow old, in the sporting sense, over a short number of years when they are performing at the hectic pace they are today. Apart from the few exceptional cases, the innings at the top can be short, so it is imperative to have a steady flow pouring through from the lower grades.

Young players learn quickly, particularly on the inter-county stage. It is not the same at local level, although plenty of matches will help perfect the skills of the game. But a year's valuable experience has been taken away from the Kilkenny minors of this season.

They will hardly get another chance to make it up.

That under-21 defeat by Wexford (2-11 to 0-12) could spell the end to the inter-county careers of most of the players. Unless some go on to gain junior representative honours, they may never

CONT'D. ▷

President Mary, pleased with progress



TWENTY-ONE months served as President of the Camogie Association, and the pace is hectic.

But the energetic Mary Fennelly reckons that she will be sorry to hand over the glittering chain in March, 1985, at the end of her three year term.

For the Ennisnag lady fears that she will not have enough time as President to achieve a long list of aims.

Appropriately, one of the main priorities for the very cordial President is to promote and improve the image of camogie. So a major delight to her this year was the major sponsorship the 'Association received for their Camogie Superstars, or Gradam Tailte event.

"Sponsorship ensured that the Superstars contest was a much bigger success than last year's inaugural competition. And next year we hope to have sponsored camogie superstars contests in the 32 counties, with the winners going forward to the national finals. These should add a lot of glamour to the game", she enthuses.

This year's superstar was Claire Cronin of Cork, who narrowly pipped Angela Downey (Kilkenny) for the top spot.

Another means the Association used to promote camogie was through National Camogie Day, which this year was geared towards the older player. Although pleased with the day, Mary hopes to organise it earlier next season next year, rather than in October.

A further success was the Feilena-nGael competitions in Dublin, which featured 24 teams. This under-14 event will take place closer to home, Wexford next year.

The all-Ireland championships were of a high standard according to Mary. Cork won the junior final by one point, and the senior one by two points, in thrilling games. Buffer's Alley (Wexford) recorded a senior club championship three-in-a-row, emulating the historic first



three-in-a-row of St. Paul's (Kilkenny) in 1967, 1968 and 1969.

A source of great satisfaction to Mary is the strengthening of camogie at schools level. Forty

schools entered the Leinster colleges competition, while there were 40 competing in Munster, 53 in Ulster and 15 in Connacht. Good schools players lead to good club players, and this augurs well for the future of camogie.

Another joy to Mary is the establishment and growth of camogie in so-called "weak" counties.

"There is a tremendous amount of work and enthusiasm going into the development of camogie in such counties as Roscommon, Donegal and Westmeath. All this work will bear fruit in the future", she says.

All these events take a lot of organising, but the dynamic Mary, a secretary at Callan Wood Ltd., has a very positive outlook.

"It's great to see the game progressing", she says. "And when I see people out on the field enjoying themselves playing camogie, then it's all worthwhile.

ARE SOME LOSING THEIR SENSE OF DIRECTION

(Continued)



be seen in the county colours again unless they go straight into the senior team.

Again the experience gained by a lengthy run might have made all the difference for one or two players. In the end that could make all the difference for the senior team in a few years time.

NOT AT EXPENSE OF OTHERS

Oh, it's great to be able to talk about the wonderful exploits of the seniors. Sure, they should be well looked after and treated to the best the Co. Board can afford.

But the attention lavished on the 'big boys' should not be at the expense of the minnows... the players of the future. The losing under-21 team was - D. Burke (Emeralds), J. Dunphy (Mooncoin), J. Holden (Mooncoin), E. Kennedy (O'Loughlins), D. Hoyne (Thomastown), J. Kinsella (Kilmacow), L. Walsh (Glenmore), R. Heffernan (Glenmore), M. Byrne (Gowran), J. McDonald (Mullinavat), P. Ryan (Emeralds), D. Carroll (Black and Whites), L. McCarthy (Piltown), M. O'Connor (Glenmore), S. Whearty (Clara). Sub - A. Bergin (Galmoy).

Few wins as popular as that of Tullaroan

IT WAS SURELY brought to the fore this year that if you don't succeed at first, try, try and try again. No doubt the keen hurlers of Tullaroan know the feeling. They have been putting in wholehearted effort for years, but for one reason or another they always ended empty-handed.

Well, they changed all that in 1983. It wasn't plain sailing all the way. A willing spirit helped a lot and Tullaroan plucked the junior hurling championship from a class field.

The victory of once-great Tullaroan over Shamrocks (Ballyhale) in the final was one of the most popular championship wins in years. Here was what the real spirit of hurling was all about. A side bathed in tradition had been out of the winners' enclosure for years, but when they eventually picked up a prize, the genuine delight

spread county-wide.

Now the Northerners are heading back towards the senior grade where they won so many honours in years gone by. They will play in the intermediate championship next year by way of another term of their apprenticeship, but with the same commitment and steel that they showed this season their stay there should be short-term.

25 BARREN YEARS

Tullaroan have won a massive 19 Kilkenny senior hurling championships. In whatever part of the country you speak about hurling the names of greats from the parish will crop up. Their initial success was in 1887 and their last was in 1958, but the years in between have been barren.

Twenty-five years is a long time

to wait for more success after so much before. Former players with the club were entitled to shed a tear when the breakthrough was eventually made. It was long and tough, but Tullaroan have silverware to prove they are tops at hurling once again. Surprisingly, this was their first junior hurling win, and they have never captured intermediate honours.

Some might say they barely did it in the junior showdown against Shamrocks. The eventual scoreline was 2-10 to 2-9. It was close. But anyone who has contested a final against the Ballyhale team will tell you it couldn't have been any other way. The Southerners are nigh impossible to beat, as their 100% unbeaten record in senior finals suggests.

At one stage in the final Tullaroan were nine points up (2-8 to 1-



Tullaroan, although 100 years old, only collected their first junior hurling title this year.

Back row (l. to r.): Anselm Molloy, Pat Doheny, Noel Doheny, Michael Hall, Ger Doheny, Willie Walsh, Eddie Cleere, John Hall, Tom Gaffney, Derek Holmes, Dick Walsh, Tom Hennessy, Pat Fennelly, Pat Molloy. **Front row** (l. to r.): Dick Walsh, Johnny Walton, Bobby Sweeney, Michael Walsh, Nickey Maher, Jimmy Maher, Joe Walsh (capt.), Tom Doheny, Willie Maher, John Dunne, Keith Molloy.

2). During a nail-biting last quarter they had to hang on for dear life as their opponents threw caution to the wind in a bid to pull the match out of the fire.

Tullaroan had enjoyed the start teams love. Tom Gaffney grabbed a goal after just 30 seconds and that set them on their way. Indeed, that thunderbolt beginning and the ease with which they went nine points ahead may have been partially to blame for their near miss at the finish. They may have become a little too settled and taken unnecessary risks.

They had talent in abundance to haul them through, and the defeat in the 1980 junior final against Glenmore must have been an added spur. They had a man to lead the way to the winning tape in Willie Maher. He was a tower of strength as were Joe Walsh and John Hall. The Walsh brothers, Dick and William, Tom Gaffney and the multi-talented Bobby Sweeney along with John Dunne were others who left indelible marks on the game.

NO ONE COULD HOLD THEM

The victory was no less than Tullaroan suggested they were capable of after they had beaten until then undefeated Danesfort in a tough Northern final. They won by 3-9 to 1-12 that dull evening in Nowlan Park, but showed a steel and determination that suggested they were special. They proved that subsequently.

Of course, the march to eventual



success was not uncomplicated. The champions were beaten twice during the campaign. First Emeralds (Urlingford) got the better of them and later Danesfort did likewise. But when Tullaroan got a full head of steam up no one could hold them.

That steam was building up for 25 years, and when it erupted and ended with victory, it was funny, but the whole county was pleased, perhaps even the Shamrocks.

The winning Tullaroan team was:

M. Hall; G. Doheny, J. Walsh (capt.), N. Maher; W. Maher, J. Hall, T. Hennessy; D. Walsh, W. Walsh; T. Doheny, D. Holmes, B. Sweeney; E. Cleere, J. Dunne, G. Gaffney. Subs.: D. Walsh, P. Fennelly.

Shamrocks: P. Harhen; M. Kearney, B. Aylward (capt.), J. Kennedy; P. Phelan, P. Holden, G. Dempsey; T. Murphy, D. Walsh; M. Dempsey, S. Reid, P. O'Keeffe; J. Dollard, S. Phelan, N. Long. Sub.: J. Fitzpatrick.

WHAT ABOUT THE OTHER JUNIOR TEAMS?

PRESTIGE-WISE, the senior hurling championship is the one to win in Kilkenny. But the junior competition must be among the hardest in the whole county to capture.

Each year some unexpected side can make a break, not necessarily a winning one, but one to shake up proceedings. Then the old faithfuls are there also.

In the North this year Danesfort, the biggest parish in the county, looked as if the trophy was theirs. They beat all before them until . . . well . . . until the Northern final when they found Tullaroan too tough.

Still, they made their mark and if they can keep the spirit going, who

knows what the future might hold. Players like Des Dunne, Gerry Doyle, Pat Kiely, Paddy Fennelly, Pat Davis, John Davis and Anthony Dunne have their best days in front of them. With the right guidance those could be glory-filled days.

Graigie - Ballycallan with the Hennessys - Milo, Ger and Kevin; Johnny and Willie Ronan and John Caldbeck are always worthy of respect. Things didn't always run their way this season, but while they have dedicated men like Co. Board P.R.O. Tom Ryall working behind the scenes they can't go too far wrong. Emeralds are another team who could make the decisive break if all goes well.

In the South, Tullogher - Rosber-

con showed great promise. They looked booked for the county final at one stage in the Southern decider. They came from way back to put together nine points in a row to draw level with Shamrocks at 2-10 to 0-16 that day. Unfortunately, they were unable to deliver the killer blow.

Strangely, they had beaten the Ballyhale boys earlier in the championship. When the chips were down they just couldn't muster enough strength to deliver the one last blow. But men like impressive forward Jimmy Mullally, the lively Luke Bird, Jim Cody, Jimmy Hefferman and Podge Gaule should form the basis for another attempt to get to the summit next season.

No one could match St. Pat's fighting spirit

UNMATCHED fighting qualities in the history of Feile-na-nGael fired St. Patrick's De La Salle (Kilkenny) to victory in the top flight of the hurling competitions held in Dublin this year.

The youngsters showed discipline and courage beyond their years when twice they fought back from big arrears before going on to beat the famed St. Finbarr's (Cork) in the final and collecting the beautiful Christy Ring memorial trophy, which is valued at £3,500.

Teams have put in storming finishes in Feile games in the past, but few matched the rally that wiped out a six points deficit in 10 minutes when St. Patrick's got through

the quarter-final. The next time they went even better when they trailed by 10 points with as many minutes remaining, but they still got through.

All of which must have been a source of great joy to manager, Paul Kinsella (St. Martin's), who looked after all the team affairs himself.

This was the second time St. Patrick's won Division I in Feile. They also proved best in 1981 and remain the only Kilkenny and Leinster side to collect this much sought after title.

SENIOR BUSINESS OF HURLING

The champions were hosted by the St. Vincent's

club. They travelled to Dublin on Thursday and participated in all the fringe event leading up to the more serious business of hurling.

On the Saturday they opened against their hosts and got through without much bother on a 4-1 to 1-0 scoreline. But there was a bit of bad news. Free scoring forward, Pádraig Larkin, son of the well-known Phil 'Fan' Larkin, was injured and was unable to resume until the final.

When he was forced to quit the scoring honours were taken by A. Connick (2-1) and S. Prendergast (2-0).

The game St. Patrick's boys almost came a cropper in was the quarter final against Toomevara (Tipperary). They fell six points down with time running out, but they never panicked and got through by 5-0 to 2-3.

The score grabbers here were A. Connick (4-0) and F. Whelan (1-0).

In the semi-final St. Patrick's had an even better trick up their sleeve. Na Piarsaigh (Limerick) looked winners all the way when they went 10 points in front with the same number of

minutes left. But the Noresiders got stuck in and thanks to a magnificent fightback got through by 5-3 to 4-1.

The magical scoring honours here went to A. Connick (2-1), A. Smith (2-0), J. Shaughnessy (1-0) and K. Conroy (0-2). Of all the wins this was the most gratifying and both teams were lauded as they left the field.

The big final was against St. Finbarr's, and it produced another titanic struggle. Both sets of supporters were on their toes from start to finish and at the finish J. Shaughnessy had drilled home the only goal that separated these two fine sides.

This victory march could not be praised enough. The boys worked hard and did everything manager Paul Kinsella asked of them, and a little more at times.

The talented young hurlers were - J. Conroy, B. Delahunty, D. Forristal, B. Cody, R. Conway, D. Bradley, S. Prendergast, K. Conroy, N. Morrissey, A. Dempsey, A. Smith (capt), A. Kenny, A. Connick, F. Whelan, P. Larkin, P. Brennan, N. Mullen, J. Coyne, S. Holland, N. Lanigan, J. Shaughnessy.



St. Patrick's De La Salle who won the Division I section at the Feile-na-nGael hurling finals.

Back row (l. to r.): Frank Whelan, Declan Forristal, Adrian Connick, Adrian Dempsey, Anthony Smith, Dominic Bradley, Anthony Canny, Brendan Delahunty, Ronan Conway. **Front** (l. to r.): Shane Prendergast, Shane Holland, Pádraig Larkin, Nicky Morrissey, Jimmy Conroy, Kevin Conroy, Paul Brennan, Robert Cody.



There It Is . . . James Stephens' full-back, Brian Cody (on ground), gets into a spot of bother as Michael Fennelly (13), Dermot Fennelly (yellow helmet) and Mick Kelly forage for a Shamrocks' score. Joe Hennessy (left), Paddy Neary and Michael Moore are the other Village players.

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(6372)

Football scandal

-heads should have rolled

FOOTBALL was kicked about in Kilkenny again this year. The foul play behind the football happenings in the county was revealed, but no one wanted to know. Hurling is the only thing most players, mentors and supporters want, and only a handful give a damn about the bigger ball game.

That is not just a sentiment thrown out in a few words, but the sum total of the way football was treated. The Co. Board, the ruling body that gave a commitment to help in every way during 1983 and which a few years ago investigated all the goings-on within the game, reneged on all promises dating back over a countless number of years.

The beans were spilled at a stormy Co. Board meeting one evening in July when Football Board chairman Barry Henriques, highlighted the scandal behind the county junior football team's involvement in the Leinster championship.

Players were banned from playing with this side. The Co. Board was told about it. Nothing was done. In fact, nobody wanted to know and a debate that should have had far-reaching effects was more or less confined to a war of words between Mr. Henriques and Co. Board chairman, Michael O'Beill.

For those who may have forgotten, the All-Ireland junior hurling and football championships were revived this year. Kilkenny, one of the counties who had fought for years to have the junior football competition revived, participated in both.



Brendan Fennelly - Junior Selector.
Page 48

SCRAPED TOGETHER TEAM

The football team was drawn away to Offaly. After the selectors had made personal contact and received a genuine commitment from a panel of 27 players, a side had to be scraped together to fulfil the fixture which Offaly won by 2-16 to 0-5.

This time the football people had got it all right. They did their groundwork properly. Their house was in order. But on the big night they were kicked in the teeth.

At the same time the Kilkenny junior hurling team was being whipped into shape. The selectors here arranged a challenge against Tipperary that clashed with the football tie. Both went ahead. At least two footballers were coaxed away to the hurling challenge. If that was not a disgrace, then Richard Nixon was innocent of all the happenings in Watergate.

Just in case anyone has missed the point, it's simple - a ban was in operation. It was conceded at the Co. Board meeting that the senior hurlers were requested not to play. All others were expected to play football. They didn't. The Co. Board found out why, but no one bothered to get the guilty party(ies) to answer for their crime(s).

Barry Henriques disclosed that the ban was in operation. And fellow selector Jack O'Neill (Paullstown) went even further and said two members of his club were lured away from the football team. The game against Offaly was played on a Wednesday evening in Tullamore. Only two days earlier, Monday, the same two players had trained with the rest of the football squad.



Mick Neary - Junior Selector.

It said some member of the junior hurling selection committee put the gun to the players' heads and told them if they didn't go to the hurling challenge they would lose their places. One hurling selector, Ted Carroll (Lisdowney), who was at the Co. Board meeting, made it clear he had nothing to do with any such action. He didn't shed any light on whether or not anyone else might have. A denial of interference was issued to the 'Board on behalf of another selector, Dixie Burke (Carrickshock).

VENIAL SIN

This matter should have been investigated fully by the Co. Board. County selectors are appointed to act in the best interest of the county, not for any one club or for any one individual. If they transgress the general rules they should be answerable to the Co. Board.

Obviously, there was some wrong done to the junior football team this year. The individual, or people, responsible should have been hauled before the Co. Board and made answer for their wrongdoing. Heads should have rolled.

Just because it was football the sin was regarded as venial. Imagine the uproar that would have been created if one of the senior hurlers was told not to go to a championship match because he was needed to play in a football challenge. Sounds crazy, doesn't it? While some people might not be prepared to admit it, the football folk work hard as well and their efforts should be considered too.

Beginners' luck worked against Johnstown

PORTUMNA enjoyed more than their fair share of beginners' luck when they toppled holders Johnstown in the individual vocational schools' All-Ireland senior hurling final.

With just three minutes remaining, the North Kilkenny side seemed sure to win when they led by seven points – 2-9 to 0-8. But in those incredible closing minutes the Connacht champions turned the match on its head and collected their first All-Ireland title with a 2-10 to 2-9 win.

The finish was remarkable, for more than one reason. Johnstown had suggested for 57 minutes that they were the better team. Also, in earlier games, it was their strong finish that made people sit up and take note, but that stamina seemed to have deserted them on the day they needed it most.

The losers had 11 of the championship winning side of the previous year available. Perhaps it was the hang-over of the previous week when the Kilkenny team was beaten in the All-Ireland by Galway that led to the poor finish? Whatever it was, Johnstown failed to maintain the effort they were capable of and that would have won them a second All-Ireland.

No one could readily accept the outcome and at the finish referee Gerry Kirwan was surrounded by anxious players and supporters from both sides who wanted confirmation of the result. For the Noresiders it was bad news. But a

lot of Portumna supporters missed all the exciting happenings because they had left before those unbelievable concluding minutes.

DESERVED BETTER

What a pity for Johnstown. After putting in so much work the likes of goalkeeper Tom Phelan, Joe Cody, indeed, all the backs; Martin McEvoy, Milo Phelan, James Farrell, Jimmy Queally, Gerry Phelan, Nicholas Grace and Brian Burke deserved much better reward.

Trainer Jim Ryan had the team prepared well and there was never a hint of over-confidence or anything like that. The players were always willing to work. Even in their 2-9 to 1-3 Leinster final victory over Banagher they showed that when extra effort was needed they would roll up their sleeves and get stuck in.

Johnstown may have lost this final, but they succeeded in another way. They grabbed a lot more attention for this championship, from a Kilkenny point of view. Indeed, vocational schools teams in general improved their image overall and in future years should be more readily identified with county sides.

Johnstown V.S. panel – T. Phelan, W. O'Gorman, J. Cody, W. Stanley, J. Delaney, M. Phelan, M. McEvoy, J. Farrell, J. Queally, N. Grace, B. Burke, J. Brennan, J. Phelan, M. O'Gorman, S. Laffan, J. Connolly, R. Delaney, K. Bartley, T. Delaney, M. Wall, M. Henderson, A. Byrne.

FOOTBALL SCANDAL

"We don't want football at any price in this county", Barry Henriques raged that sad evening. "But because of our public image we are afraid to stand up and say get rid of it".

Football is an important part of the G.A.A. in Kilkenny, indeed, in Ireland. It's easy to understand why Kilkenny place greater emphasis on hurling. After all, the chances of hurling honours are inestimably greater.

But that doesn't mean the Football Board and its people should be kicked about, treated like dirt. Junior selectors – Brendan Fennelly (Shamrocks), Jack O'Neill (Paulstown), Barry Henriques, John Lanigan (Thomastown) and Michael Neary (James Stephens) – tried to restore a bit of football pride. They worked hard towards that end.

FAMILIAR THEME

After all, for years prominent Kilkenny officials had been shouting for the return of the junior football championship. "If only we had the junior . . ." and so on and so on was a familiar theme.

They got their chance during 1983 and they got selectors who were interested in putting in a wholehearted effort. What happened? Someone with a bit of misguided authority threw a spanner in the works. Perhaps worst of all, they got away with it.

Before ending it is worth highlighting a small behind the scenes happening from the Offaly match. One of the Kilkenny players, M. J. Ryan (Galmoy) had given a commitment. He was desperately sick travelling to the match. He struggled through the hour. When he was brought home he was no better – worse, in fact. In the middle of the night he was rushed to hospital in Kilkenny and had his appendix removed immediately. Was he interested? Did he and his football companions deserve better co-operation? Most certainly they did.

The team against Offaly was: S. Brennan, B. O'Hara, M. Hogan, G. Power, M. J. Ryan, M. Galway, N. Kelly, D. Hoyne, N. Boyd, L. Bird, P. Connolly, M. Kelly, J. O'Donnell, A. Hoyne, D. Fennelly. Sub.: P. Lawlor.



KILKENNY – All-Ireland Senior Hurling Champions 1983

Back row (l. to r.): Dick O'Hara, Paddy Prendergast, Richard Power, Billy Fitzpatrick, Christy Heffernan, Frank Cummins, Brian Cody, John Henderson.

Front row (l. to r.): Joe Hennessy, Harry Ryan, Noel Skehan, Liam Fennelly (capt.), Ger Fennelly, Kieran Brennan, Ger Henderson. Mascot: Alan Cummins (8½).

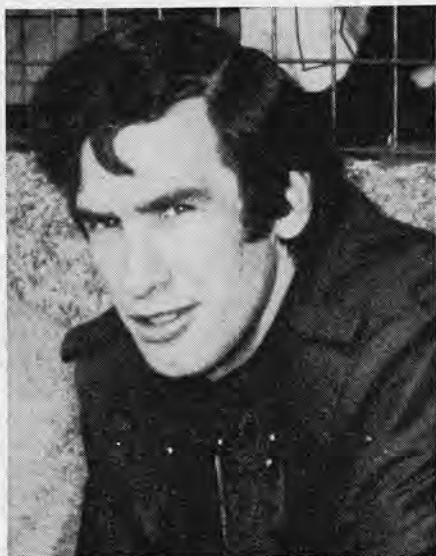
Supporters are watching another 'great' now

TO WIN anything worthwhile is hard, but to retain it is even harder! We have all heard that saying before. No doubt, the members of the Kilkenny senior hurling team did. If they didn't, they know now exactly what it means, because it touched each and every one of their lives during the past two years.

They experienced it in large measure when they put victories in the National Hurling League and all-Ireland championship back-to-back. During 1983 the all-conquering Noresiders completed the first hurling double-double since 1964 and 1965, when the then super power of the game, Tipperary, achieved the magic feat.

But in G.A.A. circles the past two years have belonged to Kilkenny. No team in the land, either hurling or football, could compare with the black and amber wearers who were only beaten once in 27 inter-county matches. That is some accomplishment.

That incredible run landed the two Leagues and the McCarthy Cup twice, the latter for the 23rd. time, which is just one behind the all-time best of 24 recorded by Cork. And with the 100 year celebrations of the G.A.A. coming up next year, there is a powerful incentive for Kilkenny to make it three-in-a-row and go to the head of the winners list.



Mick Crotty — selector

In 1982 Kilkenny came from nowhere — they were a Division II League side — to land the fantastic double. At the start of the next season no one believed it would be done again.

EXTRAORDINARY ACHIEVEMENT

But at about 5 p.m. on September 4, the champions had retained



Pat Delaney — selector

both, the all-Ireland for the second year at the expense of Cork. The winning margin was considerably smaller than the 11 points of '82, but just to do it over the same side in successive years was an extraordinary achievement in itself. The scoreline this time was 2-12 to 2-14 after an absorbing encounter that was decided in a gale force wind.

Croke Park has seldom, if ever, housed a hurling final in windy conditions such as prevailed this year. The boats were hardly allowed sail in Dun Laoghaire that day so wild were conditions. But Cork and Kilkenny faced up to each other in much the same fashion as Scott



Brendan O'Sullivan — selector

tackled Everest, and while the final was never going to be a classic, because of the weather, it was memorable.

At least 25,000 Kilkenny people thought it was because that number of supporters turned out to welcome the team home in triumph the following night. It was the greatest 'welcome home' a team ever received in the Marble City.

It was no less than the players and mentors deserved because, after all, no Kilkenny side in history had done it before.

Going into the final the main worry in the Noreside county was how the team would react to being favourites. The pressure was off Cork this time. The previous year they had been the bookies choice. This time their footballers received all the attention, and the hurlers more or less sneaked into the decider almost unnoticed. But the players knew only too well what was ahead and captain, Jimmy Barry-Murphy and his men were as determined as any team could be to make up for the shattering defeat of the previous year.

GREATEST PERFORMANCE

The Leesiders laid their plans well, and when they won the toss

When Nickey went out he couldn't get back

KILKENNY are a great team, there can be no denying that. Their results over the past two years are proof of their prowess.

The players have weathered through thick and thin together. The basis of this fine side was laid in Division II of the National Hurling League when times weren't good. It has grown to maturity now.

But it's not an easy team to get on to. The competition is keen enough for places. This is what keeps the men in possession of the first 15 jerseys on their toes.

It must be unusual, but the Noresiders used only 17 players in the championship. The side has become settled. That can be a good and a bad thing. If the competition from the substitutes is strong enough, then it is good. If it's not, well it can be the reverse.

In the championship just ended the only two reserves thrown into action were Harry Ryan in the first match, and Paudie Lannon in the all-Ireland. Ryan replaced Sean Fennelly in the Wexford game and held his place to the conclusion and scored it each match.

The rest were ever present.



NICKEY BRENNAN
... first he
injured his hand
and then he
pulled a hamstring.

Indeed, competition reached such a pitch during the championship that it was dangerous to get injured. That is what happened Nickey Brennan, who was a regular during the League.

He got injured before the knock-out competition and this lingered through the whole campaign. So he had to sit on the bench for the all-Ireland when he failed a late fitness test the week before the big show-down. When the League started up again he was still fighting to get back in. No better man to stick with it though.

The following played three games each – Noel Skehan (38), John Henderson (26); Brian Cody (29); Dick O'Hara (26); Joe Hennessy (27), Ger Fennelly (29); Richard Power (26), Kieran Brennan (26), Liam Fennelly (25) Billy Fitzpatrick (29), Christy Heffernan (25) and Harry Ryan (26), Paudie Lannon (26) played in one match as did Sean Fennelly.

Panelists not used were – Nickey Brennan (29), Kevin Fennelly (28), Paddy Neary (29), Tom McCormack (30), Gordan Ryan (24), Willie Purcell (21), Michael Kelly (24), Eamon Wallace (23).

SUPPORTERS ARE WATCHING ANOTHER GREAT

they gave first use of the gale to their opponents, who are notorious slow starters. The first half hurling was best. The second half was tougher and dour.

But it was in the first period that the man to lead Kilkenny into the land of plenty emerged. Corner-forward, Billy Fitzpatrick, turned in the greatest performance of his life and his tally of 10 points, and general play, made him a worthy winner of the 'man of the match' award.

By half-time the champions were 1-10 to 0-7 ahead. The goal by captain, Liam Fennelly in the 27th. minute was badly needed because the challengers were, until then, giving as good as they got. Still, at half time Cork had every reason to



TOM RYAN – Selector.

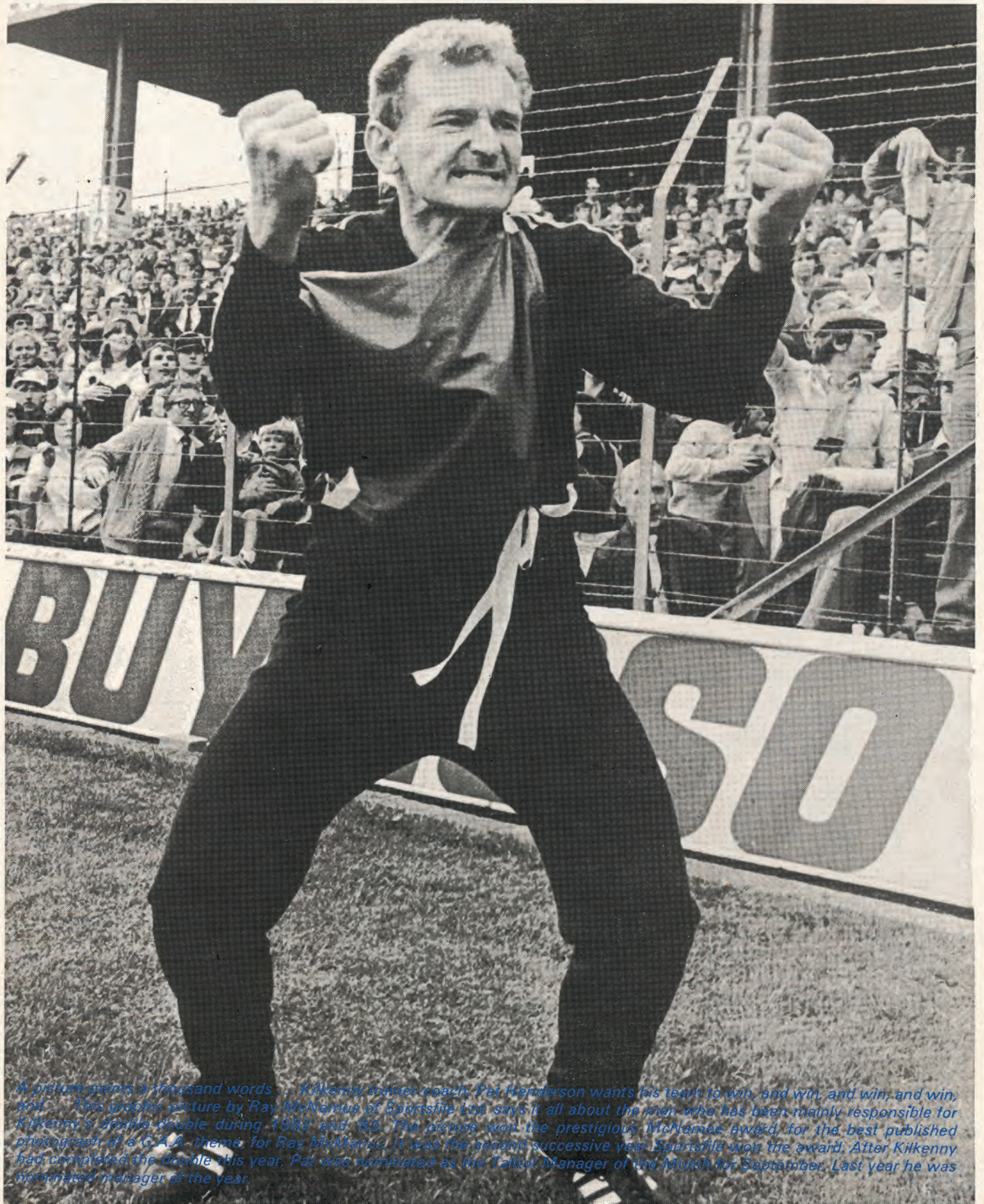
be happy because a six points lead on such a day was very little.

Kilkenny knew that and they came out for the second half ready for the fight of their lives. They got it. Sure, they were helped towards the winning post with a goal within 17 seconds of the re-start by

Richard Power, but after that the challengers mounted pressure greater than even they themselves could ever have imagined. And Kilkenny weathered it all, thanks to a magnificent rearguard action.

Every man in defence was a hero, but special mention must be made of inspiring centre-back, Ger. Henderson and his right hand man, Joe Hennessy. They were unbeatable. At midfield, Frank Cummins, turned in another super performance to which Cork had no answer. Three different men tried to curb the powerful Blackrock man, but all had to concede defeat. It was terrific stuff, particularly against the wind when it was needed most.

M **the great** MOTIVATOR R



A picture paints a thousand words . . . Kilkenny trainer coach, Pat Henderson wants his team to win, and win, and win, and win, and win. . . This graphic picture by Ray McNamara of Sportsfile Ltd. says it all about the man who has been mainly responsible for Kilkenny's double-double during 1982 and '83. The picture won the prestigious McNamara award for the best published photograph of a G.A.A. theme, for Ray McNamara. It was the second successive year Sportsfile won the award. After Kilkenny had completed the double this year, Pat was nominated as the Tally Manager of the Month for September. Last year he was nominated manager of the year.

SUPPORTERS ARE WATCHING ANOTHER 'GREAT'

CONTINUED

The Leesiders were shattered after this game. They fully expected to win. They had studied Kilkenny's style and had prepared well. But even they couldn't have bargained for the resistance they came up against. The commitment of each and every one of the winners players was hard to credit. Even coach-trainer, Pat Henderson, conceded afterwards that he was surprised.

"We all knew the players had hurling skills", he remarked then. "But the character displayed was tremendous. There was a chance that this character might have been eroded after all the success of the past two years, but it was better than ever in this match".

The champions arrived in the final via the short route – they had no semi-final. They opened against hardy rivals, Wexford, who, as usual, mounted an unpredictable challenge. The Slaneysiders play a type of impromptu hurling. You never know what to plan against. You never know what to expect. It's always a case of going out and beating them at their own game.

The champions found Wexford as hard to beat this year as any other year, and at the same time they didn't. They fell nine points behind at one stage in the second half, but then when at last they decided to turn on the style they had the issue wrapped up after a glorious seven minutes burst.

They made the mistake in the

first half of taking the Slaneysiders for granted. But the way they were able to turn the match around was an indication that this was no ordinary Kilkenny team. Not by a long stretch.

CONFIRM RESULT

The Leinster final against Offaly was totally different. The previous year the midlanders had the carpet pulled from under their feet when Damien Martin mis-judged a ball going wide and Liam Fennelly turned nothing into a goal for Matt Ruth. Offaly remembered that. So too did Kilkenny. The midlanders wanted to prove that the result of the previous year was a freak. Kilkenny wanted to confirm it.

And so they met in Croke Park on a bright July day. The action was hectic. It was neck-and-neck most of the way. Then entering the final stages Liam Fennelly and Christy Heffernan, who had been sent off against Wexford but received the minimum suspension, combined in one magic moment and Offaly were tripped up again.

The Shamrocks man won a ball on the 21 yard line in front of the Canal end goal. He drew the cover and sent an inch perfect pass to Heffernan. The Glenmore giant didn't bother to catch the ball. He doubled on it in mid-air and nearly ripped the net from its rigging. After that the champions were always going to win.

The next match was the all-

Ireland itself – an eight week break. Plenty of local championship action kept the players tuned up. But somehow the all-Ireland ahead over-shadowed everything. It was almost as if people were impatient to get things out of the way to get to Croke Park.

It was worth all the wait, however. From Harry Ryan, who had the most rewarding of afternoons and had a hand in the two goals (he won his first senior medal) to Noel Skehan, who collected a record 9th. medal, the players did a lot to make people proud of them.

ONE OF THE GREATEST

Fitzpatrick gave a performance par excellence that proved beyond a shadow of a doubt he is one of the greatest stylists ever to pull on a county shirt. Frank Cummins, who collected an 8th winners medal, confirmed he has not lost his appetite for the game and Ger Henderson and Joe Hennessy got through the work of four men between them.

But it was no one, two or three man show. The overall strength of Kilkenny gained them the laurels in 1983. The forwards did one day. The backs another. Their combined power and adaptability was better than any side in the whole county.

People talk about great Kilkenny teams of the past. Supporters on the Noreside know their hurlers. And they know they are looking at another 'great' right now.



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BILLY THE SCORING KING

FOR THE second year running, dazzling Fenians (Johnstown) forward, Billy Fitzpatrick, headed the championship scorers list.

The 29-year-old Avonmore Creameries employee scored over twice as much as his nearest rival, which was Liam Fennelly. The team captain from the Shamrocks (Ballyhale) club grabbed 3-2 (11 points) while Fitzpatrick landed 1-24 (27 points) over the three match series.

Of course, it must help that Fitzpatrick is the free taker for the team. But his 1-9 in the opening match against tough tackling Wex-

ford was some achievement.

Still, that was not as striking as his 10 points in the all-Ireland against Cork. Taking the awful conditions that prevailed into consideration, getting into double figures was some achievement.

The Fenians man carried off the handsome 'man of the match' trophy put up by R.T.E. He faced stiff opposition from driving midfielder Frank Cummins and dashing wing-back, Joe Hennessy. But in the end the magical scoring exploits of the former St. Kieran's college star won him the coveted award.

The all-Ireland was Billy Fitzpatrick's greatest hour for Kilkenny. In six all-Irelands he never reached his true potential, he knew that himself. But this time it all came right.

He tore the right flank of the Cork defence to shreds in the opening half. His quickness at getting the ball from the ground into his hand, his deceptive body swerve and sweet striking make him special. One of the greatest Kilkenny stylists of all time, a king at his chosen sport.

Billy is quiet, unassuming, but when he takes a caman in his hand he cannot help creating a fuss. Of course, it's all with his hurley. And Kilkenny supporters love it.

Like all his team mates in Croke Park for that all-Ireland, Billy served his apprenticeship on the county under-age teams. Look after the young ones they say, and the rest will look after itself. Billy Fitzpatrick is living proof of that.

The players' individual tallies were - Billy Fitzpatrick (1-24); Liam Fennelly (3-2); Christy Heffernan (2-3); Kieran Brennan and Richard Power (1-3 each); Harry Ryan (0-5); Ger Henderson (0-3); Ger Fennelly (0-1).

WHEN THEY CAME

June 19 at Croke Park

Kilkenny 5-13
Wexford 3-15

Scorers: B. Fitzpatrick (1-9); L. Fennelly (2-1); K. Brennan (1-2); C. Heffernan (1-0); H. Ryan (0-1).

July 10 at Croke Park

Leinster Final
Kilkenny 1-17
Offaly 0-13
Scorers: B. Fitzpatrick (0-5); C.

Heffernan (1-2); R. Power (0-3); H. Ryan (0-3); G. Henderson (0-1); G. Fennelly (0-1); K. Brennan (0-1); L. Fennelly (0-1).

September 4 at Croke Park

All-Ireland Final
Kilkenny 2-14
Cork 2-12

Scorers: B. Fitzpatrick (0-1); L. Fennelly (1-0); R. Power (1-0); G. Henderson (0-2); C. Heffernan (0-1); H. Ryan (0-1).



Le Dea Mhéin

ó

Chomhairle Laighean

C.L.G

M. Ó Dubhsláine
Runaí





O'LOUGHLIN'S — the beaten Intermediate Hurling Finalists.

Back row (l. to r.): Sean Tyrrell, Larry Murphy, Peter Dowling, John Mulcahy, Dermot Tyrrell, Ger Fitzpatrick, Anthony Driscoll, Michael Cleere, Larry Walsh, Michael Lanigan, Jim Gibbons, Kevin Robinson, Michael Dooley. **Front row** (l. to r.): Coleman Loughnane, Richard Delaney, Eugene Deegan, Benny Cleere, Paul Cleere, Anthony Bergin, Ollie Bergin, Eddie Kennedy, Luke Roche.



SHAMROCKS (Ballyhale) — the losing Junior Hurling Finalists.

Back row (l. to r.): Paul Phelan, Ger Dempsey, Sean Reid, Noel Long, Richard Walsh, Patrick Holden, Pat Phelan, John Kenealy, Bobby Aylward, Johnny Phelan, Larry Murphy. **Front row** (l. to r.): Tony Treacy, Jimmy Dollard, Tommy Murphy, Michael Kearney, Sean Phelan, Pat O'Keeffe, Pat Harnen, Jimmy Fitzpatrick, Michael Dempsey, Paschal Connolly, Peadar Laherty.

GER AND FRANK PUT

COUNTY ON TOP



Ger Henderson



Frank Cummins

KILKENNY clocked up a magical 10th win in the prestigious B+I awards scheme this year and went to the head of the overall winners table.

For his outstanding contribution to Kilkenny's Leinster final victory over Offaly, Ger Henderson carried off the personality of the month award for July.

Then following his display of power and determination in the all-Ireland win over Cork, Frank Cummins won the award for September.

These wins brought the Noresiders in line with Kerry, Cork and Dublin, who have all won 10 B+I awards.

Overall, Kilkenny provided seven winners – Noel Skehan, a record three; Ger Henderson got two in September 1979 and July 1983; Liam

O'Brien in September 1975; Eddie Keher in February 1976; Mick Brennan in June 1976; Joe Hennessy in August 1978 and then Frank Cummins.

Ger Henderson is the first of the three brothers – Pat, the Kilkenny trainer-coach and John are the others – to win this vaunted award. He won four all-Ireland senior medals in 1979, 1982 and this year. And then he got another in 1975 as a substitute.

IN ONE POSITION

Frank Cummins (35) has been around a bit longer than the Fenians (Johnstown) defender. The Blackrock clubman won his first

senior all-Ireland way back in 1967 (sub), and then he went on to collect seven more in the one mid-field position.

He was a member of the Leinster team that registered a record five-in-a-row Railway Cup victories between 1971 and '75. He now holds a total of seven Railway Cup medals.

During his distinguished career he won 11 Leinster senior championships; three Oireachtas Cup medals and three National Leagues. He has been an All-Star in 1971, 1972 and 10 years later in '82.

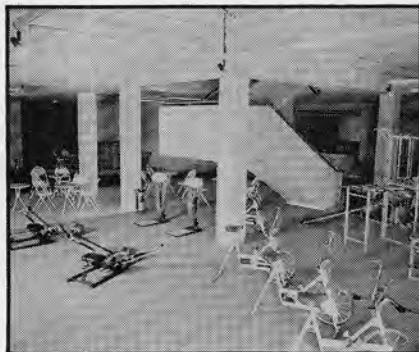
With eight medals he shares second place in the G.A.A.'s all times list of winners with Christy Ring (Cork) and John Doyle (Tipperary). That list is headed by our own Noel Skehan, who has nine medals.

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Super show by talented youngsters

WHATEVER the senior hurlers can do, the lesser lights can do better. Or so it would appear after what can only be described as a super show by the Kilkenny under-14 team in the Leinster championship.

The men of tomorrow swept through Leinster like a train out of control and they dished out unmerciful hammerings to their opponents.

The black and amber wearers recorded a never before achieved four-in-a-row of provincial championship victories. It was a bit of history, but it was a piece of cake to these multi-talented young hurlers.

At the beginning they set about building on the three-in-a-row they had clocked up the previous year. That had never been done before either.

They opened in the championship against Wexford. They were so superior no one bothered to keep the score at the finish. An official scoreline was registered, but it was several goals short of the actual Kilkenny tally.

In the Leinster final, Dublin managed by Kilkenny captain of 1964 Sean Buckley (St. Lactain's, Freshford), were expected to offer stiff resistance. After all, they were in front of their own supporters in Croke Park and their minor hurlers were in action as well.

But the diligent Noresiders cared not one bit. They swept the Dubs off their feet and won by an impressive 11-8 to 1-9. There was no real contest. The losers were totally out

of their depth against a team of all the talents.

Kilkenny were good, there is no denying that. They had stars galore, but to single out anyone after such an easy season would serve no purpose. All were great.

Kilkenny panel: J. Lawlor (Ballyhale); M. Lannon, J. Cullen, E. O'Neill (Thomastown); D. Carroll (C.B.S.); D. Forristal, D. Bradley, A. Smith, K. Conroy (St. Patrick's De La Salle); O. Byrne (Callan); J. Crosby (Freshford); J. Shiels (Ballyragget); E. Bolger, M. Farrell (Graignamanagh); L. Byrne (Clara); J. Walton (Tullaroan); T. Murphy (Mooncoin); J. Teehan (Kilmanagh); G. Brennan (Castlecomer); J. Middleton (Gowran); R. Blackmore (Piltown); G. Brennan (Johnstown).



Anyone for a crest?

TWICE winners of the all-Ireland club senior hurling championship, James Stephens, gave a lead to others during the year.

The Village decided approaching the centenary of the G.A.A. it was about time they had their own club crest. Club follower, Eamon Hogan, came up with the design.

The crest depicted that area from the Arch to the Pump – the old Village – and also incorporated the G.A.A. insignia.

This idea of crests is popular among rugby clubs. Perhaps during the 100th anniversary of the G.A.A. more clubs will follow the example set by James Stephens?



The Kilkenny under-14 hurling team who collected their fourth Leinster title on trot.

Back row (l. to r.): Robert Blackmore, Pat Carroll, Liam Byrne, Oliver Byrne, Martin Farrell, John Teehan, Jimmy Walton, Tom Murphy, Anthony Smith, Declan Forristal, Dominic Bradley, John Shiels, James Brennan. **Front row (l. to r.):** Michael Lannon, James Brennan, Enda Bolger, Owen O'Neill, John Cullen, Michael Lawlor, Sean Crosby, Kevin Conroy, John Middleton.

The once great junior inter-county hurling and football championships were re-introduced this year after a long absence. These used to be very attractive competitions for spectators and talent finders for senior selectors, but somehow this year they never captured the imagination and ran their dreary way without people taking much notice.

Were one to ask who won the respective championships in the end, precious few would know. For the record it was Cork (hurling) and Kerry (football). But the number of Gaelic games followers who wouldn't have a clue is perhaps the best way by which the impact of these championships can be measured. Truth to tell they made no impact at all.

In Kilkenny, the junior hurling team failed to rouse the interest of supporters. The team got as far as the all-Ireland semi-final before being beaten by Cork in Pairc Ui Chaoimh, but the fortunes of the side never generated much enthusiasm.

It was understandable in the case of the footballers, because they were sent packing in the first round. But with the hurlers, at a time when interest in the game was at an all time high in the county because of the truly magnificent feats of the seniors, it was hard to fathom.

By necessity, supporters are more discerning these times. Before they fork out their hard earned money they want to have a fair indication they will get value. Obviously they didn't view the junior championships as such this year and they decided to give the games a miss.

BROAD SPREAD OF PLAYERS

Perhaps in a better economic climate supporters might be lured out to watch. On the evidence of the 1983 junior championships, the competitions are going to have to earn respect, and consequently support, from the general follower.

In the end the Kilkenny team was made up by players from all but the senior championship. That was a broad spread. It made no difference. Even for the Leinster final against Wexford which was played just down the road in Carlow, only a handful of followers travelled.

Perhaps it was the reported poor form of the team in the opening

JUNIOR EVENTS WILL HAVE TO EARN RESPECT

round against Louth in Drogheda? The Noresiders scored what looked a handsome 3-15 to 1-4 win that day, but the opposition was so bad it was hard to credit. The winners looked little better really and the tie was brimful of picking, poking, bunching and downright bad striking. The colour of the jerseys was the only distinguishing feature between the teams.

For the next match Dicksboro's John Marnell, who had been injured the first day, was introduced at centre-back. He helped strengthen the side, as did Jim Kinsella (Kilmacow). Significantly, these were the only players who subsequently got a 'run' with the seniors.



John Lawlor (Paulstown) . . . one of the big guns on the junior team.

For this match too, the selectors were able to pick under-21 players. The Co. Board had ruled earlier in the year that no under-21 players were to be selected. But when the under-21 side was beaten in the first round of the championship

that decision was reversed. That meant there were contenders from three local championships – Intermediate, Junior and Under-21.

It was one of these under-age players, Liam McCarthy who proved the inspiring character as Offaly were downed. Then the Noresiders became the first holders of the Devoy Cup when they dismissed Wexford on a 3-13 to 1-7 scoreline in the Leinster final.

BETTER AT TAKING CHANCES

This earned an all-Ireland semi-final place against the Leesiders on the day of the all-Ireland senior football semi-final replay between Dublin and Cork. It was also the week before the senior hurling final between Kilkenny and Cork.

Thomastown's David Hoynes was introduced for his first match here, but it made no difference as the home side got through with four points to spare. The real difference between the teams was that the Leesiders were slightly better at taking their chance. There wasn't much else.

Usually a team that gets so far would have gathered around it some sort of support. Not so Kilkenny. Perhaps it was the fact that the selectors appeared indecisive. For they were.

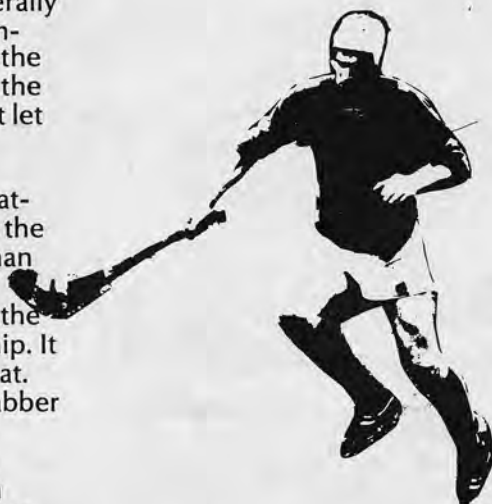
After a good series of trial games they picked a team for the Louth match. The next day there were five changes, one-third of the players. Sure, John Marnell had been injured, but after trials and practice matches the mentors should have been more settled with their

Opposition wasn't that good at all

KILKENNY found scoring generally easy in the junior hurling championship, but when it came to the crunch in the semi-final it was the lack of fire power up front that let them down.

They looked a poor sight in attack in the semi-final defeat at the hands of Cork, which, more than any of the other matches, highlighted the real quality of the opposition in this championship. It must be admitted it wasn't great. The Noresiders chief score grabber was John O'Dwyer. The John Lockes (Callan) towering full-forward ended the four match campaign with a splendid 4-17 to his credit.

That included a handsome 2-7 scored in the Leinster final against Wexford.



Next in the scoring honours, but a long way behind, was Maurice Power, who drove over 10 points. Kilkenny scored 7-56 overall and conceded only 3-29.

Kilkenny 3-15

Louth 1-4

Scorers: J. O'Dwyer (2-1); P. Purcell (1-1); M. Doyle, G. Kenny (0-4 each); B. McEvoy (0-3); M. Power (0-2).

Kilkenny 1-18

Offaly 0-7

Scorers: L. McCarthy (1-2); M. Power (0-4); J. O'Dwyer (0-3); J. Lawlor, M. Murphy, S. Hennessy (0-2 each); M. Doyle, J. Kinsella, D. Connolly (0-1 each).

Kilkenny 3-13

Wexford 1-7

Scorers: J. O'Dwyer (2-7); M. Power (0-3); S. Hennessy (1-0); D. Connolly (0-2); J. Lawlor (0-1).

Cork 1-11

Kilkenny 0-10

Scorers: J. O'Dwyer (0-6); J. Kinsella, D. Connolly, J. Lawlor, M. Power (0-1 each).

Junior events will have to earn respect

Continued

players. In each subsequent match, changes were made, and in all 25 players were used.

It was unusual, but the team for the Louth match told you a lot about the selectors. The make-up of the team was too closely knit. Only four players from junior clubs made it through. The spread wasn't fair enough.

Tullaroan, who eventually went on to win the junior championship, didn't have anyone there. Neither did Shamrocks (Ballyhale), the team they beat in the county final. Intermediate champions, Thomastown, eventually got one in, and that was for the last match. Their opponents, O'Loughlin's, had no one.

It's hard to know what selectors look for in a player when they see him on trial. But trial form can be misleading. Perhaps that was the explanation for the closely knit team at the beginning?



SLY HENNESSY (Paulstown) ... had a couple of good outings.

Players who distinguished themselves during the championship were goalkeeper, Michael Walsh (son of the legendary Ollie), John Ryan, John Marnell, Pat Power, John O'Dwyer, Michael Meagher, Dominic Connolly and David Hoyne showed up well in his one and only outing.

Players used: M. Walsh (Dicksboro); P. Holden (Mullinavat); T. Lennon (Clara); T.

O'Shea (Clara); J. Ryan (Clara); S. Walsh (Slieverue); P. Power (Carrickshock); G. Kenny (Windgap); S. Hennessy (Barrow Rangers); M. Doyle (Barrow Rangers); J. Lawlor (Barrow Rangers); M. Power (Carrickshock); P. Purcell (Barrow Rangers); J. O'Dwyer (John Lockes); B. McEvoy (Lisdowney); J. Brennan (Carrickshock); M. Meagher (John Lockes); J. J. Aylward (Mullinavat); J. Marnell (Dicksboro); J. Kinsella (Kilmacow); D. Connolly (Clara); L. McCarthy (Piltown); M. Murphy (Mullinavat); D. Hoyne (Thomastown); J. Dunne (Dunnamaggin).

Team selectors were: Ted Carroll (Lisdowney); Phil Walsh (Barrow Rangers); P. Lannon (Clara); Dixie Bourke (Carrickshock) and Michael O'Neill (Chairman, Co. Board). Trainer was Fr. Tom Murphy (O'Loughlin's).

Avonmore

The cream of the county

AFTER a lapse of four years, the All-Ireland inter-firm senior hurling title was brought back to Avonmore Creameries, Ballyragget. They won their fifth title in facile manner when they outscored Limerick Co. Council in the final at Cashel. The score was 2-14 to 2-3.

Apart from their first round clash with Public Services, and the All-Ireland semi-final against Western Health Board (Galway), the winners were never really troubled.

Avonmore beat Public Services in their first game by 2-12 to 1-12. It was a Public Services' side short Harry Ryan. The winners were without Nicky Brennan. It was expected these two sides would meet again in the county final. It was not to be. Public Services, surprisingly, lost to Clover Meats and were knocked out of the competition.

When the Ballyragget men and Clover clashed in the league both were already through to the final. Clover were short their hero, Christy Heffernan, while the milk men were without Billy Fitzpatrick. The final score read: Avonmore Creameries 3-16; Clover Meats 2-7.

Due to the proximity of the All-Ireland final, the inter-firm county final was not played until after the national decider. Christy Heffernan was on the Waterford side, but the North Kilkenny men won by 12 points. They scored three points more than in the initial clash, while the losers recorded a goal extra. The final score was: 3-19 (A.C.) to 3-7.

Billy Fitzpatrick was in top form

and notched 2-6. The other scorers were Mick Walsh (0-7), John Mulcahy (1-2), Nicky Brennan, Mick Fgarty, John Bourke, Jim Ring (0-1 each).

Scorers for the losers were: Christy Heffernan (1-4), Tommy Hearne, Tom Hennebry (1-0 each), Liam McCarthy (0-2), Martin Geary (0-1).

ONE-WAY TRAFFIC

It was one-way traffic in Leinster. Short half a dozen regulars, Avonmore proved too strong for Aer Lingus (Dublin) early on. The latter included Pat Walsh (Barrow Rangers) and Pat Tierney (Rower-Inistioge). The final score was 3-16 to 0-6.

Nicky Brennan, free of injury, came into his own in this game. John Mulcahy and Mick Walsh were also prominent.

Scorers for the winners were: John Mulcahy (2-6), Mick Walsh (1-6), John Hall, Johnny Brennan, Michael Lanigan, Jim Ring (0-1 each).

The Leinster final was against local rivals, St. Peter's (Portlaoise). It was one-sided. The Kilkenny team won by 1-17 to 1-7. They led by 1-8 to 1-3 at the interval after playing against the strong breeze.

Scorers for the winners were: Billy Fitzpatrick (1-5), Mick Walsh, John Mulcahy (0-4 each), John Bourke (0-2), Johnny Brennan, Dick Walsh (0-1 each).

The All-Ireland semi-final at Mountrath produced the best game of the year. Avonmore

played well in the first quarter and led by 1-4 to 0-2. Suddenly the Western Health Board, powered by Galway seniors Ollie Kilkenny and Pierce Piggott, came to life and by half-time had reduced the lead to 1-4 to 0-5. An early goal gave the Connacht men great heart. Another point put them two points clear.

Mick Walsh left a point between the sides. Then the losers had a chance to wrap-up the game when awarded a penalty. Peter Murphy's well-strick shot was deflected over the bar by Avonmore captain Mick Bolger. The most important goal of the whole campaign as far as the Ballyragget men were concerned was then scored. John Hall gained possession about 50 metres out. He worked his way through and shot a great goal from 30 metres to give his side a point lead. Further points by Mick Walsh (2), Dick Walshe and John Bourke in an inspired spill put the winners 2-10 to 1-8 ahead.

The losers shot two points before Mick Walsh scored the insurance point from the free. The importance of this point was seen when Western Health Board pulled back a goal. The final score was 2-11 (A.C.) to 2-10. Scorers for the winners were Mick Walsh (0-5), John Mulcahy (0-3), John Hall, Billy Fitzpatrick (1-0 each), Dick Walshe, John Bourke, Jimmy O'Brien (0-1 each).

Having beaten the champions of the previous two years on the way to the final, Limerick Co. Council looked good. The last minute



Under-12 hurling league (Roinn D) champions, Galmoy, who defeated Conahy by 2-5 to 1-3 in the final.

Avonmore

defection of their captain, John Callanan, was a blow from which they never recovered. Avonmore swept to an easy 2-14 to 2-3 win.

Powered by a brilliant half back line of Jimmy Ruth, Nickey Brennan and 'man of the match', Jimmy O'Brien, the winners were always in control. Other who starred were Mick Bolger, Johnny Brennan, John Mulcahy, John Bourke and Mick Walsh. Scorers for the winners were John Bourke, Mick Walsh (1-2 each); Billy Fitzpatrick (0-5), John Mulcahy, Jim Ring (0-2 each), Johnny Brennan (0-1).

The team was: Morgan Kelly, Mick Bolger (capt.), Martin Fitzpatrick, Jim Fogarty, Jimmy Ruth, Nickey Brennan, Jimmy O'Brien, John Hall, Johnny Brennan, Michael Lanigan, Dick Walshe, John Mulcahy, Billy Fitzpatrick, John Bourke, Mick Walsh. Subs: Jim Ring, Syulvie Lyster, Joe Tierney.

Others who figured at various stages of the competition were Liam O'Shaughnessy, Willie Murphy, Mick Fogarty, Donal Dunne, Mick Mulcahy, John Phelan, Joe Casey, John Kenny and Brendan Cleere.

JUNIOR GAMES

The junior hurling title at county level was won by Mahon and



Avonmore captain, Mick Bolger.

McPhillips. In the early rounds of the league they beat St. Canice's Hospital by one point, and Runtalrad by three points. In the semi-final they had a big win over Tallis Bros., 5-9 to 2-4. Runtalrad were beaten again in the county final. The game played in Bennettsbridge was contested in terrible conditions. Mahon and McPhillips again came through by 1-8 to 1-5.

The Kilkenny team started the Leinster campaign with a win over Bord na Mona (Laois) by 1-11 to 0-8. In the final they scored a runaway win over Roadstone/Donoghoe (Enniscorthy), 2-18 to 0-7. Great for the winners was John Kinsella, who scored 0-11. Mahon and McPhillips lost the all-Ireland semi-final to Roadstone (Galway) by 2-6 to 1-7. The winners led at half-time by 2-3 to 0-3.

The Kilkenny men could not get the goal they needed in the second half. When they did score it, from a Martin McGrath penalty, it was too late. So for the second successive year, the Leinster champions bowed out at thge semi-final stage.

The Mahon and McPhillips side that won the Leinster title was Tom Brennan, Liam Byrne, Larry Gittens, Tom Lennon, Michael Maher, Noel Callanan, Martin McGrath, Des Staunton, Eamon Delaney, Tom Maher, Pat Maher, John Kinsella, John Dunne, Ned Mulhall, John O'Keeffe.

FOOTBALL

The Army and Avonmore Creameries qualified for the inter-firm football final. Both scored victories over Public Services, Clover Meats and Runtalrad. The Army had a point win ove the Ballyragget men in the league.

The final was also a close game. It was played at St. James's Park. The Army were slightly the better side, but they had a constant slog against a tight losers defence. The Army hit a number of wides and they could have paid the price had a late effort by Mick Walsh for Avonmore been a couple of inches lower.

Outstanding for the winners were Frank Walsh, Eugene Grehan, Eddie Sheehan, Tommy Prendergast, Tom Sheehy, Joe Kelly, Tom Berry and Mark Wilson. The final score was 1-6 to 1-4.

The winning team was Tom Hickey, O. McGrath, Eugene Grehan, Eddie Sheehan, Tommy Prendergast, Frank Walsh, Sean Holden, Tom Sheehy, M. Kelly, E. Doyle, Tom Berry, Mark Wilson, John Power, Joe Kelly, J. Goulding. Sub: Peter Prendergast.

In the Leinster championship, The Army put up a great display before going down to Braun (Carlow). The score was 2-11 to 2-7.

Sad moment when the 'Bridge fell down

ONE OF the saddest hurling moments of the year was when that much respected club, Bennettsbridge, were relegated from the senior championship. The famed 'Bridge, who won 12 senior titles in their time, for the second year-running fought a battle against relegation. But this time they failed to avoid the drop back to the intermediate grade. They lost the deciding match against St. Patrick's (Ballyragget) by 1-3 to 0-14

intermediate were St. Lactain's (Freshford) and Conahy Shamrocks. Earlier in the year the Co. Board decided to cut back the number of teams in the senior grade because there were too many worthless matches which were leading to a delay in the competition. So it was decided to make sweeping changes at the top and enlarge the intermediate championship. During their time the 'Bridge won the senior crown in 1890, 1952, '53,

1948. A driving force in the club then was the late Canon Patrick Nugent, who was an inspiring character to all 'Bridge teams. He was sent to minister in Bennettsbridge in 1946 after serving in Clara. Up to then, this once great outfit had won only one senior championship. He realised the potential in the area and set about reaping the rewards. Together with Ned Lyng and Mick Kelly the late Canon coached the team

won the title in 1951. The following year they won the senior, and along with Thomastown became the only side to follow a junior success with one in the senior grade. Thomastown did it in 1945 and 1946. This was the real beginning for the 'Bridge. With the dynamic Canon Nugent they went from strength-to-strength. Then in 1960 he was moved to Cullohill, but by that time his hurling work had been done.



Better days for the 'Bridge . . . it was 1966 and they won the Kilkeny senior hurling championship.

Back row (l. to r.): Tony Kelly, Larry Cleere, Paddy Kealy, Noel Ryan, Seamus Cleere, Tony Bennett, Michael McCarthy, Liam Cleere. **Front row** (l. to r.): Paddy Treacy, John McGovern, Martin Treacy, Paddy Moran, Noel Skehan, Sam Carroll, John Kinsella, Jim Treacy.

and thus cut their association with the senior championship that stretched back as far as 1952, the longest spell of any club in the top flight.

"It was something we had feared for the past few years", a club official conceded. "No one likes to take a step back in any walk of life, but hopefully this will provide the inspiration needed to put the 'Bridge back where they should be, in the senior grade".

Also demoted back in-

1955, '56, 1959, '60, 1962, '64, 1966, '67 and 1971. They were always regarded as one of the top sides in the country and could hold their own against the best from anywhere including Glen Rovers (Cork), Thurles Sarsfields, Mount Sion (Waterford) and St. Vincent's (Dublin). Strangely they never won a three-in-a-row

CANON NUGENT - A DRIVING FORCE

Bennettsbridge won the junior championship in

that won the minor championship in 1947. The following year the junior was landed, then the 'Bridge were on their way. In 1949 the gamed green and amber colours were seen in senior grade. Among the wearers was the late, great Dan Kennedy. But defeat against Carrickshock was their lot and at the next annual meeting Canon Nugent persuaded everyone the best course to take was to go back junior. They did, and they

The will to win and enthusiasm of Canon Nugent was an example to all. His memory lives on. If he was around today he would lead the 'Bridge out of the hurling wilderness. But one feels they have of the same calibre who will not rest until senior status is regained.

It was ironic that the team should be relegated this year when the club won the minor championship and reached the under-21 final.

IN A game which spans the entire year, and which embraces three very different and separate codes of handball, writing a resumé of the year's activities poses a major, well-nigh insurmountable problem.

In attempting to give an insight into the year's activities in handball in Kilkenny, I am listing my 10 best displays and 10 best contests and hope that this will in some measure, cover all our activities.



THE 10 BEST DISPLAYS

1. OLLIE HAROLD v. Tony Ryan (Tipperary)

This year's all-Ireland senior singles final brought together two of the youngest players ever to contest a game of this importance. Kilkenny hopes were high that Harold would retain his crown, that Kilkenny would win all three all-Irelands on the eve of the hurling final and that a hurling victory would make it a week-end to remember.

The minor and junior titles had already been won when Harold entered the packed stadium. Early play indicated that he had the beating of Ryan, but the Ballypatrick player began to show marvellous touches and soon had built up a 20-13 lead. The first game at least seemed lost, but Harold was not going to surrender easily.

Slowly and painfully, the long drawn out rallies began to go his way. He edged closer and closer to Ryan. On a number of occasions, Ryan got in to finish the game but each time Harold scored a brilliant kill to dismiss him. Then a brilliant kill brought the scores to 20-all and the mainly Kilkenny crowd roared approval.

Ryan got another chance to finish it, but Harold dismissed him and ended a great rally with a stupendous kill in the right to win 21-20. The crowd rose to its feet and gave spontaneous round of applause to Harold's great comeback.

2. MICHAEL 'DUCKSIE' WALSH v.

John Duggan

The setting for this minor all-Ireland final in the small court was no less dramatic than the senior match. The court was packed and Duggan was smarting from his defeat in the U.S. under-17 final by Walsh. Duggan had carried an injury into that tie and was confident he would reverse that result and retain his title.

The details of that game are given in greater length under 'BEST CONTESTS', but such was the consistency of play by Michael Walsh with superb serves, dogged defense, and clever kills the order of the day that a largely neutral audience found that they had a new hero in handball – the diminutive, but highly efficient Michael Walsh.

By
TOMMY O'BRIEN

*President-Elect of the
Handball Association*

3. PADDY REILLY v Tom and John Quish

Of course, Paddy did not have to face two Quishes on his own. He had his talented partner, Ollie Harold in tow. This was a most important game to Paddy as, having lost the singles first round to little-known Kerry player, Tommy O'Brien, he was determined to succeed against the odds in doubles.

Tom and John Quish overcame Reilly and Harold that night in Garryhill, but not before Paddy Reilly had given one of the best displays of his glittering career. With Harold somewhat off-form, and with the Quishes giving much of the play to Reilly, he was really tested and dispelled any ideas people may have had that his career was at an end.

Indeed, had the referee not called halt to an ace that Reilly finished brilliantly, the Kilkenny duo could well be the all-Ireland senior doubles champions.

4. JOHNNY BRENNAN v. Cork.

Johnny Brennan, possibly Kilkenny's best all-round sportsman, won Mothel's third all-Ireland when he defeated Cork in a sparkling novice singles final at Fethard.

Brennan was understandably nervous before the biggest game of his career. His club had presented him with an entire new outfit and were down in force to support one of the game's most popular players.

Johnny did not let them down and put on a display of grit, determination and outstanding kills. When the going got tough, Johnny really got going and the final aces, fought out by two exhausted players, showed him to be a player of character as well as talent.

5. BRIAN ALDRIDGE v Tipperary

Mullinavat player Brian Aldridge rivals 'Ducksie' Walsh for the title 'diminutive'. He also rivals him in terms of skill and fighting spirit. Never did he display this more than in his under-12 singles final against Tipperary at Croke Park.

This game was the first in a long programme and had all the others been as well-contested, the programme would have been gigantic.

This pair of talented players ended the first two games level. The third was to prove a classic. Each player got runs of good play, but at all times, Aldridge was showing class. Even when he fell behind late in the game, it was felt that his brilliant style was bound to see him through. And it did. He came from behind with a great combination of place shots and accurate kills to pip his Tipperary rival with one of the best under-12 displays ever.

6. OLLIE HAROLD v.

Tom Quish

Many handball fans hold that this was the game of the year. Certainly the packed gallery at Clonmel went home ecstatic after Ollie Harold and Tom Quish had given the display of a lifetime.

There were early fears from the Kilkenny camp when Quish showed that he had eliminated many of his failings of the previous year. His new ability to get in well for kills was a big improvement.

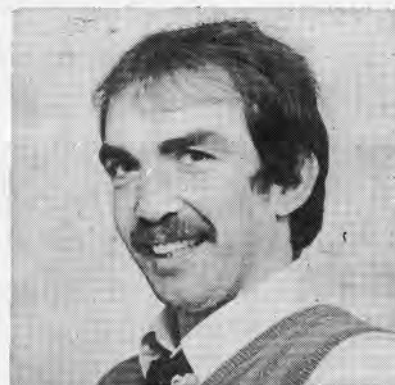
When he went way ahead of Harold in the first game, Kilkenny hearts sank. But Harold staged an astonishing recovery to win. He built up a great lead through perfect play in the second game, but lost out when Quish showed that comebacks are not the sole property of Ollie.

Then Harold was forced to make an even greater comeback in the third game drawing on all his powers of play to win the game 21-20.

Continued on page 67



... and then the 10 best games



Johnny Brennan

1. MICHAEL 'DUCKSIE' WALSH v John Duggan. When this all-Ireland minor final was finally played, John Duggan was hot favourite. He had won the corresponding doubles easily; reports of his injury-stricken performances in the U.S. had been lauded; and it was felt that he would repeat his devastation of Ducksie shown in the previous year's semi-final.

The packed gallery expected a good contest. But even the most optimistic was surprised when these players showed talents beyond what many seniors in the smaller court show.

Both first games were extremely well contested and were shared. Kilkenny took the first and Clare the second. Instructions at the interval were frantic as ways and means of winning a tough third game was devised.

The third was no less hard fought than the second and first. Each player looked to have the game in hand, but a late rally by Michael Walsh brought him those final, elusive aces and a title he dearly wanted.

2. OLLIE HAROLD v Tom Quish. This game has been described elsewhere under 'displays', but when players stage dramatic comebacks, when an audience is split almost 50-50 in their support, thereby creating a heady atmosphere and when two sporting players give their all in an effort to win, the result must rank highly in terms of 'best games' of the year.

Ollie Harold won the first and third games. Quish won the second. Neutral supporters were adamant and unanimous that Quish had the first and third wrapped up that Harold should have won the second. However, such was the commitment of both that no game was won until that final ace was won. Great stuff!

3. JOHNNY BRENNAN v Cork. If one had any doubts that both players had given every last ounce of effort in this novice singles all-Ireland final, one had only to look at their sweat-covered gear after the game.

Johnny Brennan is a star hurler with St.

Martin's, is a noted soccer player also and is always in peak condition. Yet, such were the exertions that he was dead beat in the third game.

The first two had been shared in fine style with both players showing a great range of skills. In the third and hardest, Johnny Brennan just edged ahead in the skills count, and was well in front in terms of heart and fighting spirit to win for Mothel one of its rare, but deeply appreciated titles.

4. BILLY BOURKE v Ollie Harold. This was something of a David v Goliath. Billy Bourke was in his first year as a senior. Ollie Harold was the outgoing senior champion. They clashed, unfortunately, in the first round of the Coca Cola senior singles championship and a well-attended Talbot's Inch expected a good game. And they got it.

CUMANN LUITH-CHLEAS GAEL

Kilkenny County Board

The Board would like to express its sincere thanks to the many firms and individuals who contributed large and small amounts and to their loyal followers for their kind patronage during 1983

Their kind support is deeply appreciated.

P. de Grás, Runai

The first two games were shared, but not in any really dramatic way, although Bourke did lose a big first game lead. The third was a humdinger and could have gone either way. The scores stood at 20-all, and both players got opportunities of finishing it off.

Possibly it was greater experience, possibly it was the confidence of a champion, whatever, it was Ollie Harold who got the final ace.

Billy learned one thing for sure — he had the ability to mix it with the best.

5. BRIAN ALDRIDGE v Tipperary. This was the under-12 singles final already recounted under 'Best Games'.

However, when a game goes to the full three-sets; when the final set is contested all the way and when the final aces are as dramatically decided as were those in this game, it has to rank highly in the list of 'best games'.

Handball's highest-ranked administrator, Joe Lynch, afterwards hailed the game as one of the best juvenile finals he had seen.

6. MARK HAYES v Mayo. Many people thought O'Loughlin's star juvenile had only to line out in the under-14 all-Ireland semi-final to beat Pádraig Kilgannon of Mayo. This turned out to be very wrong. The Killala player turned in his best display ever to beat the Kilkenny star 2-1.

The manner of the game, a real thriller with a winner in doubt all through, was such as to make the result a plus for Mark as well as for the winner, Kilgannon. Two-handed play with kills abounding were the order of the day, and both players showed that the game is in very safe hands indeed.

7. REILLY, HAROLD v Quish brothers. Tom and John Quish were the feared pair in the all-Ireland championship before a ball was struck. When they met Paddy Reilly and Ollie Harold in the final stages, both pairs reckoned that this was the crunch game.

The game went all the way with the Quish brothers winning 21-17 in the third game. Tribute has been paid elsewhere to Paddy Reilly's display. Of course, this does not mean that Ollie Harold shouldered any blame for the defeat, just Reilly's display was a highlight of the year.



Billy Bourke

8. MICHAEL READE, BILLY BOURKE v A. Greene, P. Hughes. Billy Bourke had no senior partner for his Coca Cola senior doubles tie against 1981 champions, Anthony Greene and Peadar Hughes. He chose the highly dependable Michael Reade. What a game they gave the former champions

For much of the time, it looked as if Reade and Bourke would end on top, but at the finish they had to settle for a 21-20 defeat in the third game.

This was especially galling for Bourke who had now lost his first two senior games by a single ace in the third segment.

9. O'LOUGHLIN'S v. Newport. Surprise packet to many in the inter-club championship was the four-man team from relative newcomers, O'Loughlin's which won the Leinster championship. Phil Parsons, Billy Walsh, Michael Bourke and John Atkinson with reserve Con Moore, fought their way into the all-Ireland semi-final.

In the semi-final, they had to play Newport in the Mayo side's court. This was the only game they lost in the year. O'Loughlin's can look back on it with no little pride. It was one of changing fortunes and, with the game keenly balanced, the court got wet.

Much to the disappointment of the Kilkenny team, play continued and they lost. Still, it was a game to remember — keen play, close scores and a controversial ending!



10. DUCKSIE, EUGENE v Wexford. Michael Walsh and Eugene Downey had their toughest game against Wexford before their great junior doubles win. This is a traditionally tough game. This year was no exception.

Wexford were short the American bound John Fleming. They replaced him with Seamus McLoughlin. Kilkenny won the first game. They looked to have the second won when Eugene Downey sent a great shot dying on the backwall, but McLoughlin got it back and Wexford won.

The third game saw Michael Walsh looking really good. Kilkenny came out on top in this their first game. It was virtually the all-Ireland final.

The 10 best displays

◁ Continued from page 65

7. EUGENE DOWNEY v Billy Bourke

In the hugely successful Utility Services Leinster open, Eugene Downey — as a newly crowned senior player — fought out a second round tie with Billy Bourke — crowned senior on the previous year.

It was expected to be a titanic struggle, but Downey played the best handball of his career to devastate Bourke. He hammered home kill after kill after kill. There was just no answer and, although well beaten by Tom O'Rourke in the next round, Eugene Downey's display in this test showed that he definitely has the potential to go to the top of the senior ladder.

8. OLLIE HAROLD v. Ryan and Morrissey

Ollie Harold travelled to the popular Coolgreaney invitational with two haunting memories to erase — his all-Ireland defeat by Tony Ryan and his Top Ace loss to Tom Morrissey.

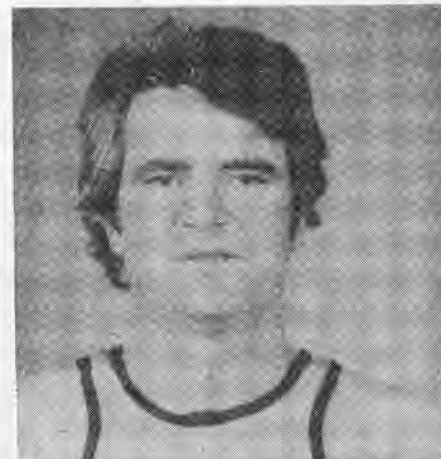
Showing a return to top form, Ollie took both players apart on successive days. He played all-Ireland champion, Tony Ryan, in the semi-final and won 21-8, 21-8. He played Top Ace champion, Tom Morrissey in the final and won 21-11, 21-5.

On both days he showed Ollie Harold at his best, serving accurately, forcing opponents to play the ball high on the frontwall, and taking those forced returns in the air and 'planting' the ball at the butt of the wall.

9. WILLIE PRATT v Meath

Kilkenny's National Handball League record this year left a lot to be desired. The brightest spot was the first night against Meath.

Late defections in the team forced Willie Pratt to upgrade to senior with Peadar Hughes as his partner. By the time they were on court against John Molloy and Francis Carroll, Kilkenny were well behind. But a



Willie Pratt

fantastic display of skill by Willie Pratt almost brought them back into the game.

A feature of this great display was his left-hand killing — despite being a right handed player — and he drew rounds of applause repeatedly from the audience.

10. TALBOT'S INCH v. Belfast

Anthony Greene, Michael Reade, Thomas Reade and Michael Walsh won to Belfast and took on the home side.

A packed and enthusiastic gallery saw no chance of their Belfast side losing, but Michael Reade and Anthony Greene were in particularly fine form as Talbot's Inch went on to record a very fine win.

OTHER VICTORIES OF NOTE

Paddy Walsh and Doc Hennessy (Leinster novice doubles)

Sean Kelly and Jim Delaney (all-Ireland under-12)

Jim Delaney and James Bryan (Leinster under-12)

THE VILLAGE BOYS



SET NEW STANDARDS

THE UNDER-16 hurlers of James Stephens grabbed more than a fair share of the honours in the Bórd na nÓg competitions. All hurling competitions were finished, as well as the under-16 football championships.

But it was a great year in the under-16 section for James Stephens. They created a record and won four titles. In 1981 Thomastown set an until now best of three championship successes, but the bold Village boys went one better.

The only worrying point about the four title wins was the ease with which they were accomplished. Hopefully some team will come

along to challenge more strongly for minor honours in two years time.

Certainly such one-sided wins would not do any good, even to the city boys. The final scores read: Under-16 hurling championship, James Stephens 8-14, Mooncoin 1-4; under-16 football championship: 'Stephens 6-5, O'Loughlin Gaels 0-3; under-16 hurling league: 'Stephens 5-7, O'Loughlin's 0-4; under-16 football league, 'Stephens 3-13, Thomastown 0-0.

The winning James Stephens hurling team was: Eddie Connery, John Larkin, Frank Morgan, Seamus Maguire, Paul O'Sullivan, Declan Mullen, Iim Smith, Niall Brophy,

Jody O'Dwyer, Tony Coyne, Paul Thornton, Jimmy Walton, John Millea, Alan McCormack, Pat Heffernan. Scorers were: P. Heffernan (4-0), P. Thorton (1-5), A. McCormack (2-2), J. Walton (0-4), N. Brophy (1-0), J. O'Dwyer (0-2), D. Mullen (0-1).

HURLING DOUBLE

The same team completed the hurling double by winning the League.

The victorious championship team in football was: Chris Rafter, Tony Coyne, Seamus Maguire, Richard Mingoue, Declan Mullen, Frank Morgan, Paul O'Sullivan, Eddie Connery, Paul Thornton, Jim



The James Stephens super team who achieved an all time best when they captured four under-16 titles.

Back row (l. to r.): Keith McCormack, Jim Smith, Alan McCormack, Pat Heffernan, Paul O'Sullivan, Anthony Smith, Frankie Morgan, Declan Mullen, Jimmy Walton, Joe Dalton, Paul Thornton. **Front row** (l. to r.) Noel Morrissey, Richard Minogue, Eddie Connery, M. O'Dwyer, N. Morrissey, Tony Coyne, Niall Brophy, Kevin Conroy, John Larkin, John Millea, Paul Thornton, Jody O'Dwyer.

The Village boys set new standards

Smith, Jody O'Dwyer, Jimmy Walton, Pat Heffernan, Alan McCormack, John Larum.

Scorers were: P. Thornton (3-1), P. Heffernan (1-2), J. Larum, J. Walton (1-0 each), J. Smith, Paul O'Sullivan (0-1 each).

Conahy completed a double at under-16 level. They won the hurling league and football championship. They also contested the other two finals – the hurling championships and the football league. Both the hurling and football finals brought the same pairings together. After Dunnamaggin won the under-16 hurling championships by 4-0 to 1-5, Conahy bounced back to reverse the result in the league final. The score here was 2-7 to 1-3.

Scorers for Conahy were: J. Feehan (1-4), S. O'Mahony (1-1), S. Cahill, S. Cuddihy (0-1 each).

The team was Paul Brennan, Martin Rice, Declan Downey, Kevin Harding, Billy Hennessy, Denis Carroll, Timmy O'Mahoney, Sean Cahill, Seamus Dooley, John Gunnar, Seanie O'Mahony, Seamus Cuddihy, Brendan Melody, John Feehan, Lar Deevy.

Their football win against St. Patrick's (Kilmacow) produced the finest standard of play in the code seen for a long time and the result was in doubt until the closing stages. The final score was: Conahy 3-8, St. Patrick's (Kilmacow) 3-4.

Scorers for the winners were: D. Downey (1-2), J. Feehan (1-2), L. Deevy (1-0), S. O'Mahoney (0-2).

The team was: Timmy O'Mahoney, Martin Rice, Seamus Dooley, Kevin Harding, Declan Downey, Denis Carroll, Brendan Melody, Paul Brennan, Billy Hennessy, Sean Cahill, John Feehan, Seamus Cuddihy, John Gunnar, Seanie O'Mahoney, Larry Deevy. It was the same team which won the hurling team.

ANOTHER TITLE

Dunnamaggin won their first under-16 title since 1975 when they captured the championship. They had star players in John Whelan, Bob Doherty, Pat Moylan – who

had a great game – Paul O'Dwyer, Lorcan O'Neill, Richard O'Neill and John Hayes.

The winning team was: John Whelan, John Joe Kennedy, Bob Doherty, Richard Gorey, P. Kennedy, Pat Moylan, Paul O'Dwyer, Lorcan O'Neill, T. Brennan, Pat Kearney, Richard O'Neill, J. Sheridan, P. Murray, John Hayes, S. Treacy.

St. Patrick's (Kilmacow) gained revenge for their football championship defeat when they reversed the result in the football league. The final score was St. Patrick's 3-5, Conahy 0-4.

This was St. Patrick's first under-16 football victory. They had good players in the final in Paul Grace (who was the man of the match), Seamus Ryan, Stephen O'Shea, John Skerritt (captain), Garry Murphy, Terry Kennedy.

Scorers were: T. Kennedy (1-2), T. Quinlan, B. Morrissey (1-0 each), B. Kennedy, G. Murphy, S. Rockett (0-1 each).

The team was: Trevor Allen, Stephen O'Shea, John Skerritt, Neil Atkins, Seamus Ryan, Paul Grace, David Smith, Garry Murphy, Sean Rockett, M. Raggett, Bobby Kennedy, Terry Kennedy, Brian Morrissey, Sean Ryan, Thomas Quinlan.

GAME OF THE YEAR

The under-16 hurling (Roinn B) decider saw a reversal of the league and championship results again. Tullaroan won the championship and Glenmore the league.

The championship clash at Callan was the best under-age game of the year. Tullaroan won by 4-4 to 2-2.

Eamon Holland in the winners goal had a wonderful game. It was his brilliant display that defied Glenmore. Others who starred were: Jimmy Walton, who scored 3-2; Derek Gaffney, Liam Keoghan, Diarmuid Purcell, Richard Walsh, Seamus Dunne and Bill Hennessy. Other scorers were Derek Gaffney (1-1), Diarmuid Purcell (0-1).

The team was Eamon Holland, Brendan Dooley, Aidan Clohosey, James Norton, John O'Dea, Liam Keoghan, Bill Hennessy, Richard Walsh, Diarmuid Purcell, Michael O'Neill, Seamus Dunne, Derek Gaffney, Joe Norton, James Dillon, Jimmy Walton. Sub.: Danny Crosby.

The league clash between these sides was also a fine game. Glenmore won by 5-3 to 1-10. Tullaroan held a good lead at half-time, but changes on the Glenmore team brought about a vast improvement. Particularly important was the switching of Vincent O'Connor to full-forward from centre-back. He proceeded to score a couple of vital goals. David Power also scored a good goal in the second half. Best for the winners were Noel Mullally, Willie O'Connor, Vincent O'Connor, Michael Phelan, David Power and Paschal Hennessy.

The team was: Noel Mullally, John Boyle, Willie O'Connor, Michael Aylward, Denis Mullally, Vincent O'Connor, Declan Cass, Nicholas Garvey, Michael Phelan, Seamus Dunphy, Paschal Phelan, Paschal Hennessy, Willie Long, David Power, Peter Fitzgerald.

All in all, a great year again at under-16 level.

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TIME FOR G.A.A. TO REVEAL ALL

James Stephens, Thomastown, O'Leary's, Knocktopher, Kells, Kilkenny city and Gazebo.

This convention appointed Messrs. J. Shirley, Garnaman, Kells; P. Murphy, J. Grace and J. Walsh, Knocktopher; M. Carroll and J. Millea, Kilmoganny, and Peter O'Donnell, Piltown, as Thurles delegates.

Both conventions claimed the right to send delegates to Thurles.

Mr. P. J. O'Keefe said he was sorry that the harmony which had existed among the Gaels of Kilkenny city and county had been marred. He did not know to whom the blame should be attached, but it was not to Mr. Harrington or Mr. Shelley.

Soon after this, however, unity was restored and the 'Association worked smoothly from there on. But now the time has come for all to be revealed – the real story.

RAW courage was not enough to make up for a slight deficit in skill when the plucky hurlers from the Kilkenny vocational schools team went chasing all-Ireland honours.

The hard-trying players from six schools throughout the county came within an inch of capturing their first all-Ireland since 1977.

Only after a replay did they surrender to a talented Galway team that won the title for the fourth year on-the-trot. But really, it should all have been decided the first day. The never say die attitude of the losers kept their hopes alive, and they almost stole the honours the second day out.

Galway won the crown by 2-19 (16 points) to 3-5 (14 pts), but they had to endure a battling last quarter from the determined Kilkenny boys before they got their hands on the trophy.

At the break the winners trailed by 0-6 to 2-3. In the third quarter they hit a purple patch and blasted their way into a 2-9 to 2-3 lead. That was the kind of challenge the Noresiders relished.

They stormed at their opponents in driving wind and rain at Cloughjordan. In the end they were deprived by goalkeeper, Michael Finnerty, who brought off a powerful save for an attempt for goal by John Coleman. Another chance fell to Jimmy Queally, but he was crowded out and the Connacht champions carried the day.

EDGE IN EXPERIENCE

No one who had seen the drawn match, or the replay, could argue but Galway were the better team. They were more balanced and had a big edge in experience. Still, they never had things their own way against the game Noresiders.

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RAW COURAGE WAS NOT ENOUGH

The first tie was played as a curtain-raiser to the National Hurling League final between Kilkenny and Limerick in Thurles. The standard in the vocational schools match was very poor. Galway looked booked for victory when they led by a goal with only 90 seconds remaining. Then a free from all of 50 yards by Pat Ryan was allowed go all the way to the net and the struggling Noresiders earned a second chance they hardly deserved. The score was 2-8 each.

In fairness, Kilkenny

made the best of it and there were times in the replay when they got their opponents into all sorts of trouble. With a little bit more luck they might have sneaked a win, but they shouldn't grumble because they were bested by keen opponents.

Perhaps behind this 'near thing' there was a message for the G.A.A. in general. The Kilkenny mentors spared no effort in getting this team together. In all, 250 boys got trials. Seven-a-side competitions were



organised within the county, and these helped unearth talent that would otherwise have remained buried, perhaps lost forever.

It just goes to prove that if enough searching is done, the players can be found. They may not always be world beaters. But in this case they had character and they did the county proud.

One of the drawbacks for the teams was the lack of testing opposition before the final. They started out on the road with a 6-9 to 1-2 win over Wexford at Nowlan Park. The next tussle provided the stiffest test. Offaly earned a 2-5 to 1-8 (K) draw. The Noresiders won the replay by 2-6 to 0-8 and then qualified for the all-Ireland at the expense of one time kingpins of this championship, North Tipperary (2-8 to 0-8).

SLIM BUDGET

No one could have had any crib about the way this team was managed. On a slim budget enormous things were achieved, thanks to a lot of voluntary help from teachers in the various schools, Castlecomer, Thomastown, Johnstown, Slieverue, Graignamanagh and Kilkenny.

Kilkenny county senior selector, Michael Crotty, was a shrewd team manager, and he was forced to work doubly hard on all-Ireland day because he was also on duty with the League champions. But it was a labour of love for the no nonsense James Stephens clubman.

In each of the matches Kilkenny had stars. But the ones who showed the most improvement throughout the year were Pat Ryan, Jimmy Queally, Milo Phelan, Larry Walsh, Nicky Grace, John Coleman, Tom Phelan, Joe Cody and Declan Mullan.

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An Ghaeilge i gCill Chainnigh

Le Tomás de Bháldraithe, Oifigeach na Gaeilge sa Chontae

Is mó duine a shilfeadh as stair na tíre a léamh gur cheanntar mór Béarla Cill Chainnigh leis na céadta blian anuas. Bhí taltáí méithe Osraí i seilb docht daingean na nGall, bhí an comhacht rialaithe acu gan stad agus i gcursaí Eaglaise ba bheag Easbag ar Osraíbh ó shoin i leigh a raibh sloinne Bhealach air.

Ní raibh árd ná bearna thabhachtach gan chaisleán, agus clann bhunaidh an duiche, Mac Giolla Padraig, dibeartha thar teorainn go h-Uachtar Osraí, áit ar thréigeadar on tsloinne ársa uasal bhí acu gur thugadar Fitzpatrick orthu féin, ag iarraidh bheith níos Normannaí na na Normannaigh féin. Ná tuigtear gurbh ins na caisleáin amháin a bhí conaí ar na Gaill. Ní raibh ceanntar lasmuigh de'n Pháil a raibh comhacht ríoga Shasana níos treise ann. Níor ghéar ariamh an dúiche a phlanndáil toisc go mbíodh sruth inimirceoirí ag teacht anall ó chéad go céad gan stad. Níl contae in Eirinn a bhfuil sloinne iasachta chomh flúireach ann agus atá i gCill Chainnigh.

Ina ainneoin sin 's uile, d'fan teanga agus cultúr na hEireann go beo bríomhar ann agus ba Cill Chainnigh an contae ba shia a choinnigh an teanga beo in oirthear na hEireann. Do réir mar a tháinig na saighdiurí agus na hoibrithe agus na feirmeoirí anall, slogadh iad sa tuile Bhealachais. San áit ar rithreadh Reachta Chill Chailligh, theip glan orthu.

Thart faoi thosach an 19ú cead, bhí an contae ar fad ina Fhíor - Ghaeltacht. I bhfíorthus na h-aoise sin, deir an tSuirbhéireacht Staitistiúil gurbh annamh a labhraí ach an Ghaeilge sa chontae, go dtugaí seanmóinti na sagart as Gaeilge agus go raibh líonra mór daoine ann nach raibh focal Béarla acu. Sa bhliain 1806 dhearbhaigh Whitley Stokes go raibh an Ghaeilge in uachtar go mór sa chontae. **Sa bhliain 1822 deir taisteal gur Gaeilge is mó a bhí le cloisint i gCathair Chill Chainnigh agus in 1835 b'éigin do Bhárdas na**



Obair Oifigigh na Gaeilge i gClub

C.L.G. agus an Ghaeilge

Céimeanna chun tosaigh sa chlub:

1. Tuiscint ar thábhacht na Gaeilge.
2. Plean a chur le chéile.
3. An Ghaeilge ag cruinnithe.
4. Comhfhreagras trí Ghaeilge.
5. Fóirne agus Gaeilge - liostaí
6. Fógraí agus fógraíocht Gaeilge - cláracha cluichí
7. An Ghaeilge i ngnéithe cultúrtha eile sa chlub m.sh. Scór.
8. Ranganna Gaeilge.
9. An club agus an preas.
10. An club agus Cumainn Gaelacha eile.

Cathrach fear teangan a fhostú chun plé leis an bpobal.

Ba threise an Ghaeilge i gcónaí, áfach, sa leath theas de'n chontae ná sa leath thuaidh de agus nuair a tháinig lagú, ba ar thaobh Cheatharlocha de agus ar thaobh

Laoise de a thosnaigh an meath. I nDaonáireamh 1851, ba léir go raibh titim tagtha ar líon na nGaeilgeoirí. Sa leath theas de'n chontae, bhí idir 35% agus 23% ag labhairt na teangan, í ag dul i laige i dtreo na Cathrach áit nach raibh ach 3% a labhairt.

I bhfíorthuaisceart an chontae, sa chuid de atá ag teimheal le Laois, ní raibh ach 2% a labhairt. Leanann figiúirí Daonáirimh 1891 an casán céanna: claraíodh 10.6% sa deisceart agus 0.8% sa bhfíorthuaisceart ina gcainteoirí. Mar sin féin, nach iontach an scéal é go raibh 1.4% de mhuintir na Carhrach a raibh an teanga o'n gliabhán acu; Is cuimhin liomsa agus mé im' gharún sa Chathair ins na fichidí go raibh cuid mhaith focal Gaeilge ag na seandaoine agus mo sheanmháthair ag casadh suantraí a thosnaíodh mar seo:

"Johnny Gabha, chuaigh sé a' treabhadh,

Chuaigh sé a' treabhadh Dé Domhnaigh".

Pé barra thuisle a bhain dó indiaidh an pheaca sin, ní cuimhin liom. Tá cnuasach mór des na focail agus na sean-abairtí fágtha fós sa chontae bailithe ag Séamas O Maoláin, as Baile Mhic Anndáin, atá ina léachtóir in Iolscoil na Gaillimhe, ach nár foillsíodh fós iad.

Ce'n saghas canúna a bhí ag na h/Osraigh? Bhainfeadh se ro' fhada dhíom dul go mion isteach sa scéal anso: an té ar mhaith leis é dhéanamh tá taighde déanta cheana féin ag R. A. Breathnach, T. F. O Rathallaigh, O Cuiv agus daoine eile. Bhí cosúlacht idif agus canúint na nDéise go mór mhór i nDeisceart an chontae, ní nach ionadh. Usáití "nín" in áit "níl" agus "thá" in áit "tá" agus "daothain" in áit "dothain". Ach Bhí sainghnéithe ag baint léi (1) "r" caol bheith ina "s" caol e.g. Máise in aith Máire, "bóithsín" in aith "boithrín" rl. (s) claonadh chun an Tabharthach iolra a úsáid in ngach tauseal iolra e.g. "Mnáibh's



Johnstown, who lost to Mooncoin in the under-12 hurling league (Roinn B) county final.

STARS OF THE FUTURE



Piltown who drew with Ballyragget in the Roinn C schools hurling league final.



Conahy who were under-12 hurling league (Roinn D) county finalists.



Muckalee-Coon who won the Roinn C under-12 hurling league final.



Mooncoin who defeated Johnstown by 4-6 to 2-4 in the under-12 hurling league (Roinn B) county final.



Paulstown/Goresbridge – runners-up in the Roinn C under-12 hurling league.



All is well on home front

WHILE Kilkenny made little impact in inter-county camogie competitions this year, there was great progress within the county at club and juvenile level.

That was the consensus of opinion from camogie officials on a year which saw Dublin oust the Kilkenny senior team from the League, Leinster championship and most importantly, the all-Ireland championship.

This was a major blow for the classy side which collected the county's fourth all-Ireland title in 1981, and was only narrowly beaten last year by Cork in extra-time in a thrilling replay.

So, why did they flop this year?

Lack of commitment in training, and lack of competition for places, were the reasons pinpointed by experienced senior player, Liz Neary.

"It was a very bad year for Kilkenny", she said. "No new player joined the panel because there were very few players of the required standard available in the county. This meant that there was no competition for positions on the team. Really no-one had to fight for their places".

TIME GAP

The under-14 and under-16 competitions were the most successful, she reckoned. But again she felt there was an unwillingness on the part of many juveniles to play for the county.



By BREDA WALL

"There are many talented young club players in the county who are not being heard of at county level", she added.

Co. Board P.R.O., **Mr. Phil Cashin** blamed this year's poor performance on a time gap.

"Many experienced players retired simultaneously and this meant that the county team contained several new faces, who lacked experience. Only time and plenty of games can rectify this problem", he said.

While the county junior team's performance was also very disappointing, he noted that the standard at club level, especially in juvenile competitions, had improved immensely.

Ann Downey, staunch county defender, blamed lack of match practice for Kilkenny's downfall.

"We had our last League Match in March, and we didn't have another game until a championship tie in July. We only got together for training three weeks before the July

game. This long gap meant the league was no good to us as a championship warm-up".

On the other hand the Ballyragget girl was very enthusiastic about the senior county championship which this year had seven teams participating, and proved very competitive. For many years city team, St. Paul's dominated this division and made the championship a non-event.

Co. Board chairman, **Mr. Billy Malone** was less anxious about the senior team's poor record this year in national competitions.

"I'm not really disappointed with their showing. Kilkenny is still one of the three top teams in the country. They were unlucky to be beaten in the Leinster final early in November, despite fielding a depleted squad", he pointed out.

And he went on: "We're as good as the best of them. All we lacked this year was a lucky break. There's certainly no reason to be down in the dumps".

Within the county, camogie was never as good, he said. The five grades of competition produced some marvellous games, and the senior championship was of a very high standard.

So with camogie alive and well in the county, the growing pains at inter-county level should with careful management, be sorted out. A bright prospect for the New Year.



Freshford – runners-up in one of the under-12 hurling leagues, who enjoyed a good season.

The score on Scór



Leinster champions – the James Stephens team who won the Leinster Scór na nOg set-dancing competitions. Seated (from left): Majella Smyth, Karen Doyle, V. Rev. Lar Dunphy, Adm., St. John's (committee), Rose Smyth, Karen Treacy. Behind (from left) – Phil Cahill (Scór secretary), Michael Boyle, Denis Treacy, Brendan Tynan, Michael Flannery, Ann Treacy (treasurer).

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

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

This is done through the vein of Scór competitions. There are events for competitors under-17, Scór na nOg, and then the Scór competitions proper for older participants.

In Kilkenny the interest in Scór has been slow to take off. For years most clubs just didn't bother, but 1982 proved a turning point. The number of clubs involved soared and the level of competition was excellent.

To boost interest in the Scór na nOg events the local committee decided to give prizes for the runners-up as well as winners. There is no ruling on this in the Official Guide, but the instincts of the committee proved right and the idea was a total success.

The Scór na nOg competitions started in November and were run off quickly so that the county finals could be staged in December.

The jump in interest in the senior competitions has been on a par with that in the junior section. This is a great tribute to the hard-working committee members – Rev. L. Dunphy, Adm (chairman);

Rev. T. Murphy, C.C.; Rev. L. Cassin, C.C.; Eddie Keher, Tom Ryall, Helen Mulhall, John Healy, Ted Carroll, Phil Cashin and Ned Buggy.

The joint secretaries, Phil Cahill and Harry Bryan, are among the hardest workers for the competitions in the whole country. They are known as the dynamic duo of Scór competitions and their level of interest never wanes. With such people involved, the future is secure. After winning out in Kilkenny, the James Stephens set-dancers won the Leinster final. They were only narrowly beaten in the All-Ireland finals in Galway.

Solo singer Fiona Roche won out the Leinster semi-finals but failed by a narrow margin in the provincial tests.

Winners in the Scór na nOg events were:

Céilí dancing – Dicksboro (Brenda Murphy, Fiona Kelly, Gillian Dunne, Karen Kelly, Sharon Blanchfield, Caroline Young, Lorraine Kavanagh, Ann Kilsey). Runners-up were James Stephens.

Solo singing – John Lockes, Callan (Fiona Roche); 2 Erin's Own, Castlecomer (Cathriona O'Kelly).

Novelty act – Piltown (Noel Walsh, Valerie Lynch, Ann-Marie Walsh); 2 Kells.

Instrumental music – Cuffesgrange-Danesfort (Louise Lawlor, Roisin Lawlor, Joan Corcoran); 2 Mooncoin.

Question time – John Lockes (John Holden, Philip Comerford, Kieran O'Dwyer); 2 Ballycallan camogie club.

Ballad group – Graigue-Ballycallan camogie club (Helena Teehan, Brigid Teehan, Nicola Teehan, Aine Cullinane); 2 Muckalee-Ballyfoyle.

Set dancing – James Stephens (Rose Smyth, Majella Smyth, Karen Doyle, Karen Treacy, Michael Flannery, Brendan Tynan, Michael Boyle, Denis Treacy); 2 O'Loughlin's.

The winners of the senior Scór competitions were:

Céilí dancing – Dicksboro (Seamus Lane, John McEvoy, Sean Walsh, Stephen Quigley, Eileen Hogan, Mary Maguire, Paula Rogers, Teresa Butler).

Solo singing – Slieverue (Brian O'Donoghue).

Instrumental music – Piltown (Bernard Power, Michael Power).

Question time – Mooncoin (Frank Hogan, Ned O'Keeffe, Denis Hall).

Novelty act – Piltown (Theresa Flynn, Maura Brennan, John Meagher, Jim Kearns).

Ballad group – Kilmacow (Maria Walsh, Ann Vereker, Eamon Vereker, Davy Walsh).

Set dancing – O'Loughlin's (Kieran White, Jim Culleton, Davie Dalton, Denis Treacy, Peggy Butler, Martha Leahy, Geraldine Hefferman, Ann Treacy); musician: D. Brennan.



BENNETTSBRIDGE: County Minor Hurling Champions 1983.

Back Row (l. to r.): Liam O'Neill, Sean O'Connell, Laurence Walsh, Tim Drea, Liam Simpson, Owen Lawlor, Tom Lannon, Seamus Cleere, Richard Moran (capt.), Pakie Lannon, Sean Ryan, Sean Cullen. Front Row (l. to r.): Frank Mahon, John Phelan, Francis Geoghegan, John Brennan (capt. for the final), Paul Doran, Francis Egan, Michael Condon, Billy Cleere, Terence Cassin.

Tommy knows

all about

accidental

happenings



SPORT throws up some unusual stories at times. There are the rags to riches tales. There are funny stories, and not so funny ones. Then there are the accidental happenings.

President-elect of the Irish Handball Association is Kilkenny man, Tommy O'Brien. He knows all about accidental happenings in sport because his whole involvement in handball came about by sheer chance.

The clock has to be thrown back as far as 1965 when the then enthusiastic footballer was waiting for a Kilkenny county final to be arranged. To pass the sporting

time and maintain his level of fitness Tommy decided to take up handball. He never looked back, and 18 years further on, he was appointed the first President-elect of the Handball Association.

He will lead Irish handball through the Centenary year of the G.A.A. and at every opportunity he will push his two fold wish for the game – to gain its greater recognition, and to get more people playing it just for fun.

"Slowly but surely the game is receiving more recognition", he was proud to relate. "In the past, handball was never mentioned in the G.A.A. President's address. Now it is never left out".



Tommy O'Brien

WONDERFUL WORK

Not all, but part, of this change in attitude can be attributed to the wonderful work of the dedicated Michael street official. He is one of the most committed people involved in sport in the county, and slowly the tide is turning the way he wants it to.

Of course, the rise and rise of Tommy O'Brien as a handball official wasn't all nice and smooth. Once he resigned as Leinster secretary because he wasn't satisfied with the co-operation that was forthcoming from the top.

Subsequently Carlow man, **Tony Heffernan** was elected chairman of the national body and he persuaded Tommy to give it a second go. Handball has been all the richer since.

His first appointment in the game was as secretary of the Talbot's Inch club. Later he was promoted county secretary. In 1968 he was made Leinster secretary, but became disillusioned and opted out. When he returned his resolve to get things done was stronger than ever.

What many people may not realise is that handball is now mushrooming. During the past 10 years the Irish Handball Council has invested £4,500,000 in the development of the game all over the country. When Tommy took over the 'Council was £60,000 in the red, but that has been reduced substantially.

"There was a tendency some years ago for G.A.A. clubs to build clubrooms and incorporate squash courts", he remarked. "Today the trend is to include a handball court. We hope to encourage this".

SPORTS CENTRES

Tommy would like to see Local Authorities building sports centres and incorporating a handball court or two. He maintained the reason Kilkenny produced so many good players in the past was because of the open courts scattered all over the city and county.

In recent times the handball boom has hit such areas as Glenmore and Goresbridge, and the inclusion of courts in the O'Loughlin Gaels complex at their St. John's Park grounds has boosted the game in that parish. Since, a new club, Don Bosco has been formed in St. Canice's parish.

"In the past, players gave up the game when they reached the 30 mark", the 39-year-old explained. "Now the biggest growth area is in the over-50 (golden masters) age group. Not all of those people are playing with the idea of making the county team. They are having fun".

And that same invitation to 'have fun' in the handball courts of the country has been issued to everyone by the new President, Tommy O'Brien.

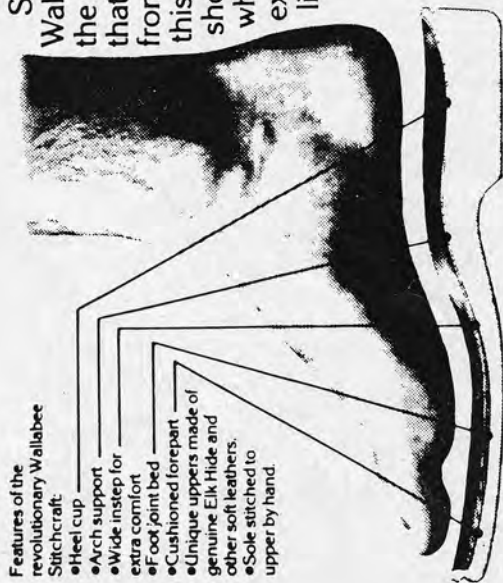


Down to business . . . Brian Cody and Dick O'Hara have matters under control as they go to collect this ball.

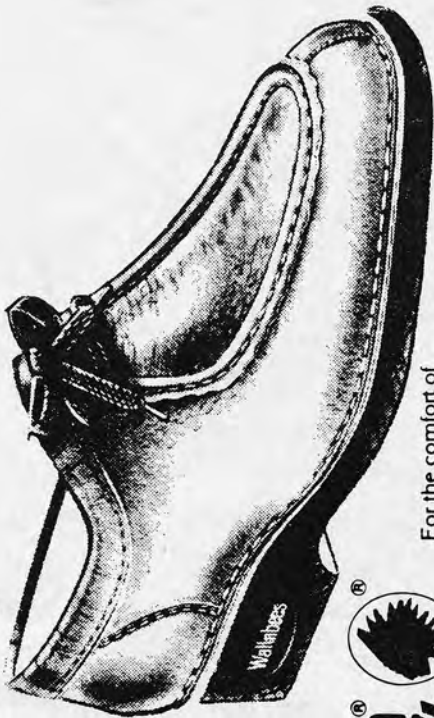
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One to watch . . . Paul Cleere (O'Loughlin's) who should have a long and successful career ahead of him.



Down Glenmore way . . . Paddy Murphy (Glenmore), one of the most improved players for his club this season

THE six minor hurling competitions, have all been decided. A feature has been the success of new teams.

Tullaroan and Windgap, who enjoyed success in Roinn C, had never previously won anything at minor level.

St. Patrick's (Ballyragget) followed-up their success of last year at Roinn C level and carried off the Roinn B championship.

Slieverue, who won the Roinn B league, were another club to make it a first in minor competition.

The Roinn A titles were also divided. Bennettsbridge regained the championship after a lapse of 36 years while Dicksboro took their first league.

No team won a double.

The minor football championship at the time of writing, has also reached the final stage. In Roinn A, James Stephens will play Coolagh. In Roinn B, the teams in the final are Bennettsbridge and Slieverue.

The Roinn A championship brought Bennettsbridge and John Lockes (Callan) into the final. The 'Bridge qualified with victories over Dicksboro, O'Loughlins and Galmoy. John Lockes beat Mullinavat and Mooncoin.

SECOND TITLE

Bennettsbridge had set themselves up for their second title. At half-time they led by 3-9 to 0-3. The third quarter belonged to John Lockes, but they could not get the goal they needed. John Brennan deprived them with a superlative display in the winners goal. The John Lockes goal did not come until three minutes from the end. By that time the result was a foregone conclusion. The final score was Bennettsbridge 4-11; John Lockes 1-9.

In addition to Brennan, others who did well for the winners were Tommy Lennon, who was the best player on view. Laurence Walsh, Liam Simpson, John Ryan, Owen Lawlor, Paul Doran and Billy Cleere. Best for the losers were Jimmy Quigley, John Power, Liam Egan, Jimmy Corcoran and Tomás Comerford.

Scorers for the winners were Owen Lawlor (1-3); Paul Doran (1-3); Franny Geoghegan, Tim Drea (1-0 each); Billy Cleere (0-2); Tom Lennon, Liam Simpson, Michael Conlon (0-1 each). For the losers Liam Egan (0-5); John Power (1-0), Tomás Comerford (0-2); Phil Comerford, John Holden (0-1 each).

Emergence

of new teams

a good sign

Bennettsbridge — John Brennan (captain), Pakie Lannon. Seamus Cleere, Laurence Walsh, Seán Cullen, Tom Lennon, Liam Simpson, John Ryan, Michael Conlon, Tim Drea, Owen Lawlor, Paul Doran, Franny Geoghegan, Billy Cleere, John Phelan. *Subs:* Terence Cassin, Sean O'Connell.

John Lockes: Jimmy Quigley, Pat Comerford, Sean Hogan, Michael O'Driscoll (captain), Benny O'Shea, John Power, Jimmy Corcoran, Phil Comerford, Aidan O'Dwyer, Liam Egan, Bosco Bryan, Tomás Comerford, Declan Wall, John Holden, Kieran O'Dwyer. *Sub:* Michael Barry, Michael Holden.

Referee: Podge Butler.

St. Patrick's (Ballyragget) had an easy win over Graignamanagh in the Roinn B championship. The score was 2-9 to 1-4.

Playing with the strong breeze, the winners led by 2-8 to 0-3 at the interval. St. Patrick's qualified for the final by beating Young Ireland's (Gowran). Fenians (Johnstown) and St. Lactain's (Freshford). Graignamanagh scored wins over Slieverue, Piltown and Glenmore. Best for the winners were Tim Phelan, Pat Brennan, Kevin Butler, John Holohan, Gerry Doyle, Michael Waters and Anthony Dowling (captain). Graignamanagh had good displays from Richard Dunne, D. Gahan, Tim McDonald, Jim O'Driscoll and John Byrne.

Scorers for St. Patrick's — Michael Waters (1-3); Anthony Dowling (0-5); Michael Phelan (1-0); John Holohan (0-1). **Graignamanagh:** M. Dunne (1-0); John Byrne (0-3); Tim McDonald (0-1).

St. Patrick's (Ballyragget) Tommy Roberts, Martin Devlin, Martin Healy, Martin Gannon, Des Foley, Tim Phelan, Pat Brennan, Kevin Butler, John Holohan, Gerry Doyle, George Kenny, Declan Butler, Michael Waters, Michael Phelan, Anthony Dowling (captain). *Subs:* John Sheil, James Phelan, Niall Bolger.

Graignamanagh: Richard Dunne, M. J. Doherty, Dan Gahan, A. Foley, J. Lennon, Tim McDonald, J. Maher, M. Foley, M. Walsh, W. Blanchfield, Jim O'Driscoll, E. O'Shea, M. Boland, M. Dunne, John Byrne,

Referee: Dick Holden (Mooncoin).

GREAT TREBLE

Tullaroan won the minor Roinn C championship and started what was to prove the first leg of a great treble by beating St. Senan's (Kilmacow) in a great final. The score was 5-7 to 3-8. It was all Tullaroan in the first half. By the 24th minute they led by 4-4 to 0-1. Before half time the losers came back and reduced the lead to eight points, 4-4 to 2-2.

The first 20 minutes of the second half belonged to St. Senan's. They tied the scores and went ahead by a point, 3-8 to 4-4. Tullaroan then finished the stronger. Points by Diarmuid Purcell, Simon Walton, Jimmy Walton and a goal by the latter gave them a five points winning margin. On their way to the final, Tullaroan beat Goresbridge - Paulstown and Conahy Shamrocks. St. Senan's had wins over Dunnamaggin and Windgap.

EMERGENCE OF NEW TEAMS

Tullaroan's best players were Eamon Holland, John Dowling, Liam Keoghan, Brendan Dooley, Simon Walton, Ritchie Walsh and Jimmy Walton. Best for St. Senan's were Liam Kinsella, Bob Kennedy, Martin Forristal, Seán Caulfield, John Kiely, and Seán Ryan.

Scorers: Tullaroan — Jimmy Walton (2-2); Brendan Dooley, Tommy Hogan, Seamus Dunne (1-0 each); Diarmuid Purcell, Simon Walton (0-2 each); Ritchie Walsh (0-1). **St. Senans:** John Kiely (2-1); Martin Forristal (0-3); Thomas Quinlan (1-1); Liam Kinsella, T. Vereker, Sean Caulfield (0-1 each).

Tullaroan: Eamon Holland, John Purcell, John Dowling, Jimmy Moore, Brendan Dooley, Liam Keoghan, Phil Cuddihy, Simon Walton, Diarmuid Purcell, Ritchie Walsh, Tommy Hogan, Derek Gaffney, Brendan Dooley, Keith Clohosey, Jimmy Walton. *Subs:* Seamus Dunne, Bill Hennessy.

St. Senan's: P. Walsh, Barry Grogan, Bob Kennedy, J. Smith, P. Grace, Liam Kinsella, F. Walsh, Martin Forristal, Andy Ryan, T. Vereker, Sean Caulfield, S. Sutton, John Kiely, Thomas Quinlan, Seán Ryan. *Subs:* Paul Grogan, P. Purcell, and R. O'Neill.

Referee: Denis Cody (Graignamanagh)

SECOND REVERSE

John Lockes suffered their second reverse when they lost the Roinn A league to Dicksboro, who took the John Tobin memorial trophy. The score was 3-8 to 2-4. John Lockes were favourites after beating the championship winners, Bennettsbridge in the semi-final. The 'Boro beat Thomastown in the other semi-final.

The losers forwards were rendered completely ineffective. Dicksboro, thanks to a Frank Bawle goal led by 1-3 to 0-2 at half time. Another goal by Bawle put Dicksboro 2-5 to 0-3 ahead. John Lockes made a great effort near the finish and goals by Phil and Tomás Comerford left three points between the sides, 2-7 (D) to 2-4. To show their superiority, the city boys came back in the last minutes for a goal by Billy Ayres and a point by Richard Mulrooney for a well deserved victory.

Best for Dicksboro were Robbie Dalton in goal, Tom Maher, Michael Maher, Johnny O'Toole, Pat Carroll, Enda Morrissey, Liam Morrissey, Frank Bawle and Pat Cass. The only players who showed up for the losers were John Power, who was the best player on view. Seán Hogan, John Holden and Jimmy Corcoran.

Dicksboro: Robbie Dalton, Michael Dunne, Martin Marnell, Pat Carroll, Tom Maher, Michael Maher (0-1), Johnny O'Toole, Simon Walton (captain) (0-4), Billy Ayres (1-0), Richard Mulrooney (0-1), Billy Walsh, Enda Morrissey, Frank Bawle (2-0), Pat Cass (0-1), Liam Morrissey (0-1). *Subs:* Terence Walsh, Seamus Leahy, Seamus Nicholson.

John Lockes: Jimmy Quigley, Barry O'Shea, John Holden, Mick O'Driscoll (captain), Bosco Bryan, Seán Hogan, Jimmy Corcoran, John Power (0-3), Aidan O'Dwyer (0-1), Tomás Comerford (1-0), Phil Comerford (1-0), Liam Egan, Kieran O'Dwyer, Pat Comerford, Declan Wall. *Subs:* Michael Barry.

Referee: Podge Butler.

Slieverue won their first title at minor level when they took the Roinn B league. After qualifying from their group, they beat Erin's Own (Castlecomer) in the semi-final in Bennettsbridge. In the final at Mullinavat, they beat another Southern team, Piltown. The final score was 3-5 to 1-5.

Slieverue lost to Galmoy by one point in the previous year's league decider. Their only appearance in a minor championship final was in 1953 when they lost to Dicksboro. The Slieverue team contained two boys whose fathers starred with Kilkenny and Wexford. They were Michael Sutton, son of John of 1957 fame, and Larry O'Brien, son of Jimmy of the 1968 Wexford all-Ireland winning team.

Piltown built-up a half-time lead of five points. They were still ahead midway through the second half when Michael Sutton scored a goal for the winners. Slieverue scored a goal for the winners. Slieverue then took over and ran out deserving winners. Good performances were turned in by Richard Walsh, Willie

Fleming, Larry O'Brien, Michael Sutton and Michael Walsh.

The Slieverue team which created history was — Ray Murphy, Michael Frisby, Richard Walsh, Donal Dowling, Kevin Haberlin, Willie Fleming, Larry O'Brien, Michael Sutton, Eamon Lyons, Michael Walsh, Andy Irish, Laurence Walsh, Ray Power, Eoin Griffin, Gerard Dowling. *Sub:* Paul Murphy.

Referee: Ritchie Carroll (Mullinavat).

CREATED HISTORY

The minor hurlers of Windgap created history by winning their first minor title when they captured the Roinn C league. In the final they beat Conahy Shamrocks by 0-11 to 1-5. While it was a win for Windgap, it proved a personal success for Seán Hegarty, who landed 10 of the winners points, all from frees. Dermot Holohan got Windgap's only score from play.

A Billy Hennessy goal helped Conahy into a half-time lead of 1-2 to 0-3. The sides were level on three occasions during the second half in the 42nd, 47th and 49th minutes. Nine minutes from time Seán Hegarty put Windgap into the lead. Two more points gave them their three point winning margin. Others who played well for the winners were Noel Ryan, who except for one lapse, gave a five star performance in goal, Brian Hickey, whose switch from full forward had a vital bearing on the result. Noel Brophy, Mick O'Shea, Val Og Murray, Pat Foley and Peter O'Brien.

The losers best players were Paul Brennan, who made one superb save, Cyril Dunne, Denis Carroll, Billy Hennessy, Martin Dunne and John Feehan.

Windgap: Noel Ryan, Tom Kelly, Val og Murray, Henry Culleton, Brendan Grace, Noel Brophy, Mick O'Shea (captain), Seán Hegarty (0-10), Watt Purcell, George Culleton, Pat Foley, Dermot Holohan (0-1), Peter O'Brien, Brian Hickey, Pat Holohan.

Conahy Shamrocks: Paul Brennan, Martin Feehan, Declan Downey, Cyril Dunne, John Brennan, Denis Carroll (0-1), Frank Loughlin, Seamus Dooley, Billy Hennessy (1-0), Seanie O'Mahoney, Martin Dunne (captain), John Feehan (0-3), Robbie O'Mahoney, Finbarr Phelan, Terry Gunner. *Sub:* Seán Cahill (0-1).

Referee: Eamonn Holland (Tullaroan).

IT WAS regarded as a 'B' competition, but there was nothing inferior about the fare produced when the success starved boys from Callan C.B.S. endured the bitter disappointment of an all-Ireland final defeat for the second successive year in Thurles.

The hard-trying Callan boys contested the all-Ireland colleges senior hurling B championship final, and for the second year they bent the knee to Tipperary opposition. In this case their conquerors were Nenagh C.B.S. The year before it was Cashel C.B.S.

The losers must have been bitterly disappointed this time. Never more than two points in arrears, they failed by 1-11 to 1-9 in the end and had every reason to feel unlucky.

Enthusiastic Callan selector, Tim Kennedy, had warned before the match that one or two 'special' players on the Nenagh team could make all the difference. He was right. Tipperary minors, Michael Cleary and James Seymour were the stars of the afternoon and combined to make the little difference that mattered at the final whistle.

The losers led the way at the half-way mark and in a bid to press home their advantage they switched dogged central defender, John Power, into the attack after the change about. While he did add substance up front, his ability to read situations and clean-up untidy play in defence was missed.

SPRIGHTLY FORM

Power was one who suggested Callan should have talent to work on in the future, and the sprightly form of such as goalkeeper, Noel Ryan, a class player, Barry O'Shea, Bosco Bryan, Phil Comerford and Aidan O'Dwyer proved they benefitted from a long campaign that stretched to nine matches.

Defeat may have been Callan's lot, but their eagerness to make-up for the defeat the previous year shone through their every effort. They were doing very well until Lady Luck decided to take a hand in proceedings.

A shot from out the field was safely gathered from the air by goalkeeper Ryan, but he stepped back over the line after making the catch. The referee, after speaking with his umpires, awarded a goal. That put the Tipperary boys 1-6 to 1-5 in front, and although Callan got back level at 1-7 each in the 41st. minute, they never really got over the jolt of that setback.

No second rate fare from Callan


Goalkeeper Ryan must be considered very unlucky. When he made the catch he tried desperately hard to keep the ball out of the net. His legs and lower body may have crossed the line, but it's hard to know if his out-stretched left arm and hand did. The memories of that one moment must haunt the unfortunate guardian.

Callan had improved with every outing, and there were plenty of those. Among the scalps they collected were those of the Patrician college, Ballyfin (twice by 4-1 to 1-4 and later by 2-8 to 1-4); Cistercian college, Roscrea (4-11 to

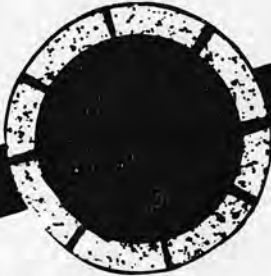
1-4); Carlow C.B.S. (5-12 to 1-5); St. Joseph's college, Freshford (2-11 to 0-5); St. Vincent's, Glasnevin (4-4 to 0-2) in the Leinster final and Armagh C.B.S. (4-8 to 2-5) in the all-Ireland semi-final.

If the Callan boys ever doubted the dividing line between victory and defeat was minute, then they must have had their minds changed on a sad May afternoon in Semple Stadium.

Callan: N. Ryan, P. Comerford, J. Holden, M. O'Driscoll, B. O'Shea, J. Power, J. Corcoran, B. Bryan, T. Comerford, S. Casey, P. Comerford, A. O'Dwyer, D. Wall, J. Brett, B. Hickey, K. O'Dwyer.



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Stars in Uniform . . . Gaelic stars pictured after the annual Achievements Day ceremony at Stephens Barracks, Kilkenny.

From left: Paddy O'Reilly, who won the all-Army senior singles handball championship; Còmdt. Frank Colclough, second in command Stephens Barracks; Corpl. Tom Prendergast, captain of Curragh Command hurling team that won the all-Army inter-command championship; Capt. Frank Holohan, Lieut. Col. Bernard O'Donovan, O.C. Stephens Barracks, Pte. Mick Kelly, captain football team.



St. Paul's who won their 19th Kilkenny senior camogie title this year.

Back row (l. to r.): Carmel Savage, Liz Neary, Marie Fitzpatrick, Catherine Neary, Agnes Reddy, Breda Ryan, Breda Rigin, Marie Lawlor. **Front** (l. to r.): Hanora Fogarty, Mary Canavan, Nelly Coakley, Angela Downey, Ann Downey (capt.), Judy Fry, Kathleen Holohan, Catherine Rafter.

Well, were you right ?

1. Sean Foley.
2. 1973.
3. Jimmy Smyth with 64 against Limerick in 1954.
4. Cashel King Cormacks.
5. Niall McNerney of Sixmilebridge. He won it with Galway in 1980.
6. Former Taoiseach, Jack Lynch.
7. Tipperary in the 1960 game against Wexford and in 1961 against Dublin.
8. North Monastery, Cork.
9. Michael Maher of Tuberadora. He led Tipperary to victory in 1895, 1896, and 1898.
10. Matty Power and Eddie Byrne in 1930 with Dublin. Then in 1931 with Kilkenny (three games) and also in 1932 and 1933 with the Noresiders.
11. In goal.
12. Declan Fitzpatrick.
13. Pat Kirby.
14. Paddy Molloy in 1965. He played at right half-back.
15. Limerick in 1971.
16. Pa Dillon (St. Lactain's, Freshford).
17. Ray Cummins, better known in recent years as a full-forward.
18. Gerry Coone.
19. In 1934.
20. Paddy Moran of Bennettsbridge.
21. Wexford Town.
22. They were 1908, 1931, 1934 and 1959.
23. Tony Brennan of Tipperary.
24. Templemore C.B.S. in 1978.
25. Jimmy Rankins of Laois.
26. Kilkenny in 1909, 1911, 1912 and 1913 and Wexford in 1910.
27. Thurles Sportsfield.
28. Frank B. Dineen.
29. Colm Sheehan.
30. At St. James' Park, Kilkenny.

*An electrifying display
by all Kilkenny
Teams during the
1983 season*

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WITH the G.A.A. Centenary Year just around the corner, this is a time for planning and reflection. In this article, County Board P.R.O. Tom Ryall, who in 1984 will publish a book on the history of the G.A.A. in Kilkenny, takes a 'gander' through the 99 years just concluded and highlights some of the names and events that made the headlines.

A trip down Memory Lane



1884

THE G.A.A. was founded in Hayes' Hotel, Thurles, on November 1. The only person present with Kilkenny connections was P. J. O'Ryan, a solicitor, who had practices in Callan and Thurles.

1885

The Castlecomer G.A.A. club was founded with the following officers: Chairman, J. J. Cantwell; secretary, J. H. Curren; treasurer, Gerald McEnery. Committee was John Quinn, Martin P. Kenny, Tom Pierce, James Fogarty, Martin J. Kenna.

Present were: J. J. Cantwell, John Quinn, Tobias Butler, Martin Kenna, Gerald McEnery, James Kennedy, Henry Archer, P. O'Gorman, James Fogarty, Thomas Collins, James Phelan, J. B. Heath, Martin P. Kenny, James Mulhall (jnr.), John Fogarty, J. H. Curren, E. J. Nolan, John Mulhall, James Butler, William O'Toole, John Meagher,

Michael O'Dwyer, John Coogan, Geoffrey Brennan, George Walker, P. O'Hanlon, Michael Doyle, John Dunphy, C. Brennan, Thomas Pierce, M. Conway, Danny O'Brien.

1886

Three hundred people turned up in Matt Murphy's field on the Freshford Road Gaelic grounds for practise. They were members of the Workingmen's Club.

1887

The first Co. Board was formed on January 30. The following officers were elected: Chairman, P. O'Keeffe (Workingmen's Club); secretary, Stephen Donleavy (Workingmen's Club); treasurer Tom Harrington (Johnstown). Committee: Martin P. Kenny (Castlecomer), Peter O'Donnell (Piltown), James Shelly Callan), Pat Geary (Kilkenny Football Club).

1888

Mooncoin won the first Leinster hurling final by beating Kickhams (Dublin) by 0-7 to 0-3. Kilmacow won the first Leinster football final. They beat Blues and Whites (Wexford) in the final by 1-4 to 0-2.

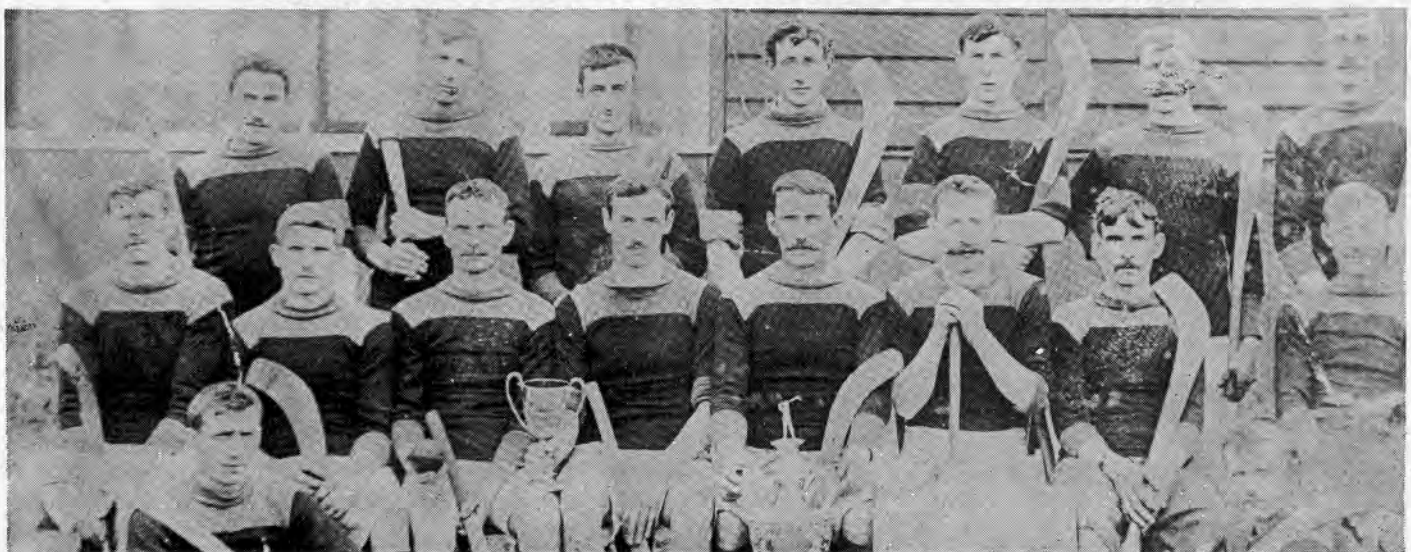
1889

Mark Downey (Conahy) won the long kick championship of Ireland by beating the legendary J. P. O'Sullivan (Kerry).

1890

Bennettsbridge, known at the time as St. Kieran's, won their first senior hurling championship. They beat Callan in the final by 1-4 to 0-1. The winning team was: John Cody, Pierce Cody, James Dunne, Michael Dollard, Michael Brady, John Kennedy, Michael Cranny, John Foley, Denis Foley, Tom Nolan, Michael Holohan, M. Shortall, Michael Grace, Tom Greene, Tom Power, W. Doyle, Paul Doyle, P. Reidy, M. Jackman, P. Finnegan, J. Brady, J. Dunne.

KILKENNY - ALL-IRELAND SENIOR HURLING CHAMPIONS 1904



Back row (l. to r.): Dick Brennan, Drug Walsh, Eddie Doyle, Paddy Lanigan, John James Brennan, Martin Lawlor, Jack Hoyne. Seated (l. to r.): Jim 'Sailor' Dunne, Sim Walton, Pat Fielding, Dan Stapleton, Ger Doheny, Jim Lalor, Jack Rochford, 'Fox' Maher. Front (l. to r.): Dick Doyle, Pat Saunders, J. J. Brennan and Jim Dunne did not play in the final. They stood in the photograph for Rev. Dan Grace and Jack Anthony.

Down Memory Lane

1891-92

No G.A.A. activities whatsoever in Kilkenny.

1893

Kilkenny contested an All-Ireland for the first time. It was not played until June 24, 1894. Kilkenny had no match on the way to the decider. Blackrock (Cork) beat them by 6-8 to 0-2. The Kilkenny captain was Dan Phelan (Confederation).

1894

County Board reformed after a lapse of three years. Officers elected: Chairman, Joe Purcell; secretary, Tim Quinn; treasurer, Dick De Loughrey. They were all from the Confederation club. A provisional committee was formed: James Grace, Henry J. Meagher (Tullaroan); James Dowlan, Pierce Wall (Confederation), Dick Shelly, Tom White (Callan), George Walsh (Kilmacow), James Dalton (Ballycallan), Tom Shirley (Kells), Dick Kealy (Commercials), John Quinn (St. Patrick's).

1895

Kilkenny scored their first goal in an All-Ireland final when beaten by Tipperary by 6-8 to 1-0. Mick Coogan (Tullaroan) is reported to be the scorer.

1896

Dick Kealy (Commercials) was on the Leinster football team which played Munster in Stamford Bridge (London).

1897

Kilkenny made valiant efforts to win the All-Ireland. Leading by six points at half-time (2-4 to 1-1), they failed to score in the second half and lost by 3-4 to 2-4 to Limerick.

1898

Jack McCarthy (Kilkenny) refereed the All-Ireland senior football final between Dublin and Waterford.

1899

Two Tullaroan teams contested the county senior hurling final. The old team beat the young team, called Young Ireland's, by 3-6 to 1-5.

1900

James Nowlan was elected the first chairman of the newly-formed Leinster Council on November 4.

1901

Jack McCarthy became one of the select band of referees who officiated at the hurling and football finals in the same year.

James Nowlan was elected President of the G.A.A. at the annual Congress in Thurles on September 22. He had been Acting President since the death of Michael Deering on March 25.

1902

The All-Ireland football "home" final of 1902 between Cork and Dublin was played in what is now the James Stephens pitch at Larchfield. The game was not played until July 24, 1904.



By golly, look at that . . . goalkeeping greats, Ollie Walsh (left) and Noel Skehan examine a modern day 'keeper's camán. "The bas has certainly grown a bit since your day", Noel Skehan would appear to be saying to his first cousin.

1903

Threecastles won the Kilkenny senior hurling final by beating Kilmanagh. The first game was unfinished. Threecastles were leading by 0-3 to 0-2 at the time. They won the re-fixture by 2-10 to 0-5.

1904

Kilkenny won the All-Ireland for the first time. The game was not played until June 24, 1906. The score was: Kilkenny 1-9; Cork 1-8. The Kilkenny captain was Jer Doheny.

1905

Kilkenny retained the All-Ireland hurling final by beating Cork by 7-7 to 2-9. They lost the first game by 5-10 to 3-13. A replay was ordered following an objection.

1906

Mooncoin won the senior hurling final in disputed circumstances. The referee gave the score as Mooncoin 3-6; Tullaroan 1-12. Mooncoin were awarded the game by the Co. Board on a 7-5 vote. Mooncoin claimed they scored a point which was not credited to them.

1907

It was decided that special medals be presented to the All-Ireland hurlers by the citizens of Kilkenny after winning the All-Ireland finals of 1904, 1905 and 1907. The presentation was made in 1908.

1908

Kilkenny won the Railway Shield when, aided by two outsiders, Bob O'Keeffe (Laois) and Mick Cummins (Wexford), they beat Munster (Tipperary) by 0-14 to 2-5 at St. James's Park on July 19.

1909

Dick Grace won the first of five All-Ireland medals when he went on as a substitute in the final against Tipperary.

1910

Tullaroan won another senior hurling championship when they beat Piltown in the final by 7-1 to 3-0.

1911

Kilkenny got a walk-over from Limerick in the All-Ireland final. The game was fixed for Cork but the pitch was unplayable. The Central Council refixed the game for Thurles. Limerick refused to play. Kilkenny were awarded the title.

1912

Kilkenny retained the All-Ireland in a low-scoring game. They beat Cork by 2-1 to 1-3. The winning goal by Matt Gargan was one of the biggest freaks ever. He hit the ball from midfield. There was no one near the Cork goalkeeper, Andy Fitzgerald, as he prepared to clear. The ball hit a rut, eluded the goalkeeper and went over the line for the winning score.

Down Memory Lane

1913

Kilkenny recorded their only three-in-a-row by beating Tipperary by 2-4 to 1-2. Four players – Jack Rochford, Sim Walton, "Drug" Walsh and Dick Doyle – won their 7th medal. Frank Cummins equalled that record this year when he won a seventh medal as a player.

1914

John Lalor (Threecastles) refereed the All-Ireland senior hurling final between Clare and Laois.

1915

Dicksboro reached a senior hurling final for the first time, but lost to Tullaroan by 7-2 to 2-2.

1916

Mick Kennedy (Tullaroan) scored 6-1 in the Leinster final against Wexford. This is the highest recorded score by anyone in a Leinster final.

1917

Kilkenny were beaten by Dublin in the Leinster championship by 5-1 to 4-0. This was the first of a series of five successive defeats by Dublin in the championship.

1918

Dublin beat Kilkenny again in the Leinster championship. The score was 5-5 to 4-4. The game was played at St. James's Park. Dublin travelled to Kilkenny on Saturday night.

1919

The Kilkenny senior hurling final was declared null and void when Tullaroan and Mooncoin could not agree on a venue.

1920

Mooncoin and Tullaroan took four games to decide the junior county final. Tullaroan won the first game by 5-1 to 1-1. A replay was ordered following an objection. This finished level at 2-5 (T) to 3-2 (M.). Mooncoin won the third game by 2-4 to 1-3. Again an objection and another game. Mooncoin finally won by 5-8 to 2-4.

1921

Michael Collins addressed the Kilkenny and Dublin teams before the start of the Leinster final. Dublin won by 4-4 to 1-5.

1922

The McCarthy Cup came to Kilkenny for the first time when Tipperary were beaten in the final by 4-2 to 2-6. Captain was Wattie Dunphy (Mooncoin).

1923

Kilkenny were beaten for the first time in an All-Ireland semi-final. They lost to Galmoy by 5-4 to 2-0.

1924

A Kilkenny man, Frank Wall (Freshford), became the one and only man to be presented with the McCarthy Cup without playing in the final. He was the non-playing captain of the Dublin team.

1925

Kilkenny lost the Leinster final to Dublin by 6-4 to 4-7. They were awarded the title, however, on an objection. They lost the semi-final to Galway by 9-4 to 6-0. They recalled John T. Power to play in goal. He had not figured since 1920 and was 43 years of age at the time.

1926

Kilkenny were heavily beaten by Cork in the All-Ireland final by 4-6 to 2-0. They were captained by Dick Grace.

1927

Nowlan Park was purchased from Pat Corcoran for £700.

1928

Kilkenny won their first All-Ireland junior final by beating Tipperary in the final by 4-6 to 4-4. The captain was Tom Mullins (Thomastown).

1929

Kilkenny beat Dublin in the Leinster final by 3-5 to 2-6. The final was declared null and void when both teams were disqualified for arriving late on the field.

1930

Laois beat Kilkenny in the Leinster championship by 2-4 to 1-5. It was the first time Laois had beaten Kilkenny since 1915.

Raw courage not enough

◁ Continued from page 70

The Kilkenny county panel was – T. Phelan (Johnstown); B. Lennon (Thomastown); J. Cody (Johnstown); M. Cornally (Kilkenny); D. Mullan (Kilkenny); M. Phelan (Johnstown); P. Ryan (Castlecomer); M. Conlon (Thomastown); J. Farrell (Johnstown); N. Grace (Johnstown); J. Queally (Johnstown); J. Coleman (Thomastown); J. Prendergast (Graignamanagh); M. O'Gorman (Johnstown); B. Burke (Johnstown); D. Lanigan (Thomastown); J. Driscoll (Graignamanagh); P. McEvoy (Johnstown); M. Dowling (Castlecomer); P. Browne (Castlecomer); L. Walsh (Thomastown); T. Lannon (Thomastown); L. Walsh (Slieverue); G. Cass (Slieverue); F. Geoghegan (Thomastown).

They played their part

THE county vocational schools senior team can be proud of its contribution to Kilkenny hurling down through the years.

Twelve members of the Kilkenny panel involved in last year's National League campaign wore the vocational schools colours at one time or another.

Former vocational schools hurlers were Noel Skehan, John Henderson, Dick O'Hara, Paddy Neary, Ger Henderson, Sean Fennelly, Ger. Fennelly, Paudie Lannon, Liam Fennelly, Kevin Fennelly, Nickey Brennan and Richard Power.

Down Memory Lane

1931

Hurling was given a tremendous boost when it took three games between Kilkenny and Cork to decide the All-Ireland championship.

The sides drew 1-6 each the first day. They finished level again the second day at 2-5 each. Cork won the third match by 5-8 to 3-4. Kilkenny fielded without Lory Meagher (captain), Paddy Larkin and Dick Morrissey.

1932

Kilkenny regained the All-Ireland after a lapse of 10 years. They beat Clare in the final by 3-3 to 2-3. The game saw Podge Byrne deprive Clare of a vital goal near the finish.

1933

"Lovely" Johnny Dunne scored the all-important goal when Kilkenny beat Limerick by 1-7 to 0-6 in the All-Ireland final.

1934

The Kilkenny hurlers toured America for the first time. They won the Hearne Cup, which is now in City Hall. A motion to have the All-Ireland played in Thurles was defeated. Limerick won the jubilee All-Ireland.

1935

Lory Meagher captained Kilkenny to win the senior All-Ireland. Later stars like Jim Langton, Terry Leahy, Bobby Hinks, Jack Mulcahy, Seanie O'Brien and Bobby Branigan won All-Ireland minor medals.

1936

Kilkenny, fielding the same team which won the All-Ireland the previous year, lost to Limerick by 5-6 to 1-5.

1937

With Croke Park not available, the All-Ireland hurling final was played in Killarney. Tipperary beat Kilkenny by 3-11 to 0-3. Lory Meagher went on as a substitute. This was his last appearance for the county.

1938

Jim Langton made his first appearance on the senior hurling team when he went on as a substitute in the replayed Leinster final against Dublin at Tullamore. He was not on the original panel, but after playing well in the previous junior game against Laois he was added to the squad and played well when introduced.

1939

Jimmy Walsh became the only man to take the McCarthy Cup twice when he captained the team to victory. He had also been captain in 1932.

1940

Carrickshock won the senior hurling title and started on a record-breaking four-in-a-row. This record still stands. Carrickshock beat Mullinavat in the final by 1-4 to 1-2.

1941

Due to the foot-and-mouth disease, Kilkenny were unable to play the Leinster final

until after the All-Ireland final. Dublin were nominated to represent the province in the All-Ireland series.

1942

Paddy Phelan played his last championship game when he figured in goal on the side beaten by Dublin by 4-8 to 1-4 in the Leinster final at Nowlan Park.

1943

Antrim created one of the greatest sensations in hurling history when they beat Kilkenny in the All-Ireland semi-final at Belfast by 3-3 to 1-6. Antrim were only competing in the senior championship because junior competitions were suspended.

1944

Wexford beat Kilkenny in the championship for the first time since 1908. The score was 6-4 to 4-6.

1945

Monsignor Tommy Maher came onto the Kilkenny team for the All-Ireland final. He played instead of Liam Reidy, who was injured.

1946

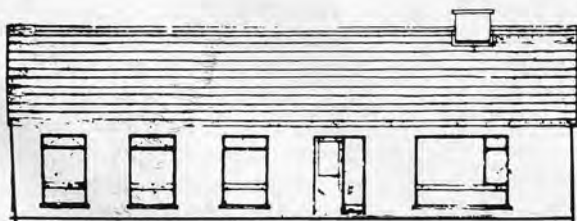
Mick Butler, who now lives in Freshford, played at full-back in the All-Ireland final. He had previously played in the 1938, 1942 and 1944 finals with Dublin. He missed the 1941 final through injury.

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Down Memory Lane

1947

Four members of the successful 1946 junior team – Peter Prendergast, Mark Marnell, Pat Hayden and Bill Cahill played on the senior side which won a thrilling All-Ireland against Cork.

1948

Laois created a surprise by beating Kilkenny in the Leinster championship. The score was 4-5 to 2-7.

1949

Graigue won the senior hurling championship for the first and only time. A last-minute point by Mick Kenny from a free gave them a 3-12 to 2-14 victory.

1950

Two city teams contested the county final. Dicksboro won their last title by beating Eire Og on a replay by 4-6 to 1-5.

The Dicksboro team was: Matty Quinlan, Kieran Crotty, Paddy Grace, Joe Hennessy, Willie Hogan, Frank Costelloe, Joe Walsh, Dan Kennedy, P. J. Garvan, Tom Dowling, Mick Ryan, Dick Carroll, Tommy Dowling, Willie Maher, Pat Grace.

1951

Thomastown won the first ever Under-16 hurling final. They beat St. Patrick's by 11-3 to 5-6. Ollie Walsh figured in goal.

1952

Bennettsbridge, captained by Johnny McGovern, regained the senior hurling championship after a lapse of 62 years.

The winning team was: Mick Phelan, Derek Galway, Liam Hackett, Jack Galway, Jimmy Nolan, Jim Dobbyn, Johnny McGovern, Dan Kennedy, Tom Walsh "Sam" Carroll, Dick Carroll, Mickey Kelly, Jimmy Marnell, Paddy Ryan, Jim Dowling. Sub.: Mick Galway.

1953

Railyard won the senior football championship for the third year in succession. They beat Cotterstown by 1-4 to 0-3.

The winning team was: Tom Byrne, J. Brennan (Roe), Tom Brennan, Jim Buggy, Mick Bealon, J. O'Connor, Dan Shaw, Paddy Brennan, Martin Meally, F. Brennan, Murt Brennan, Luke O'Shea, M. McGrath, J. Walsh, J. Power.

1954

Paddy Buggy, President of the G.A.A., helped Leinster to win the Railway Cup. He later won a county senior hurling medal. Jim Hogan kept the great Christy Ring scoreless in the Railway Cup final.

1955

Eddie Keher won his first medal when Inistioge beat Lisdowney in the Under-14 (Roinn B) final. The score was 2-12 to 3-1.

Inistioge: J. White, P. J. Brett, Ollie Ryan, J. Sutton, P. Lanigan, Donal Kavanagh, B. Hackett, E. Murray, P. Murphy, Pierce Freaney, Eddie Keher, R. Lyng, J. Gorman, Martin Walsh, Tommy Murphy. Sub.: J. Meany.

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1956

Ollie Walsh won a senior county football medal when he helped Graignamanagh beat Glenmore. The first game was drawn 1-6 each. Graignamanagh won the replay by 1-3 to 1-1.

1957

Micky Kelly captained Kilkenny to victory in the All-Ireland final. He also scored the winning point.

1958

Martin Coogan won his only county medal. He helped Erin's Own (Castlecomer) win the junior hurling championship. They beat Knocktopher by 3-10 to 2-4.

The team was: Mick Rowe, Larry O'Keefe, Pat McEvoy, Mick Bealon, Dick Brennan (Roe), Edward Holland, Tom Shalloe, Martin Meally, Martin Coogan, Kieran Meally, Phil O'Meara, Tom O'Neill, Mick Dormer, Seamus Farrell, Mick Byrne.

1959

Disgraceful scenes marred the finish of the county minor hurling final. The game was unfinished. Thomastown, who were leading Lisdowney at the time by 9-6 to 5-0, were awarded the title.

1960

Ted Carroll brought off a great double. First he helped U.C.D. win the Dublin senior hurling championship and then Lisdowney win the Kilkenny junior hurling title.

1961

Mercy Convent (Callan) won the Leinster Colleges' camogie final by beating Maryfield College (Dublin) by 0-1 to 0-0.

The winning team was: Breda Vennard, Breda Barry, Mary Gardiner, Philomena Dunne, Terry O'Sullivan, Ann Carroll (capt.), Olive O'Neill, Margaret Mackey, Bee Roche, Ann Gardiner, Pauline Molloy, Kitty O'Shea. Subs.: Patricia Hoyne, Bridget Cantwell, Marie Comerford.

From Page 18.

Most of the time you wonder

minnows in the 32-county game of football.

BE SEEN, NOT HEARD

"The 'influential officials' of our Co. Board should be seen, not heard, to lend encouragement. Our Leinster Council delegates, Central Council delegate, and even our Kilkenny President should make an honest, constructive and telling attempt to rectify the abysmal plight of present-day football in Kilkenny.

"The words I pick are not ambiguous, but meaningful. One word from any, or all, of the above would be worth an epistle from men.

"One final point, not mine, but from some of the players. It is a poor reflection on some members of the paying public that they tend to sneer and laugh at Kilkenny boys on a playing field when things are going wrong.

"Maybe that mentality can be attributed to ignorance, bad manners or whatever. But it's a fair bet that the jokers never had any ability to wield a camán or kick a ball in their lives. It's also a fair bet that if, and when, the Kilkenny hurlers bit the dust – that it may not happen until the next century – that these same jokers will be there to laugh and sneer.

"Let nobody underestimate the work that is put into keeping the infected limb afloat by a small number of very dedicated people. The problems are many. Let's do something constructive for football! Let it not be a cosmetic job.

"Nearing the end of that journey from Fermanagh, the question still was 'Who Cares?' As long as we have Meallys, Delaneys, Hogans, Murtaghs, Powers, Boyds, Fennellys and so on then someone cares. Maybe you do. I hope so".

Down Memory Lane

1962

Kilkenny won their second National Hurling League when they beat Cork by 1-16 to 1-8. The team was captained by Alfie Hickey (St. Lactain's).

1963

Eddie Keher scored 14 points in the All-Ireland senior hurling final. He got 10 from frees, and four from play.

Noel Skehan won his first All-Ireland senior medal as a substitute.

1964

Donie Murphy, who won an All-Ireland senior football medal with Kerry in 1953, won a Kilkenny senior football championship with Clann na nGael. He played at full-forward.

1965

Joe Delaney won the Gael Linn handball cup for the second time. He had previously taken the title in 1963.

1970

Christy Delaney and Tim Ryan (Kilkenny) won the masters doubles softball handball title. In the final they beat N. O'Toole and Robert McGrath (Cork). The scores were 21-5 and 21-16.

1971

Kilkenny junior footballers qualified for the Leinster final but lost to Dublin by 2-9 to 0-5.

The Kilkenny team was: Paddy Dempsey, Tom Brennan, Nicky Morrissey, Kieran Mealy, Niall Morrissey, Mick Kelly, Eamon Morrissey, Mick Brennan, Martin Mealy, Mick Daly, Kieran Purcell, Vincent O'Shea, Phil Larkin, Tim Wilson, Billy Harte. Subs: Frank Cummins, Joe Doherty, Ted Dollard.

1972

Noel Skehan captained Kilkenny to All-Ireland victory when he won his first All-Ireland medal as a player.

1977

St. Kieran's College contested an All-Ireland Colleges final for the last time. They lost a great final to St. Colman's (Fermoy). The final score was 2-13 to 1-9.

1978

Shamrocks (Ballyhale) won their first senior hurling championship when they beat Fenians (Johnstown) by 0-15 to 0-10. By a strange co-incidence, Fenians beat Shamrocks in the 1983 championship by the same score.

1979

Kilkenny won their "coming of age" All-Ireland hurling title by taking their 21st championship. The side was captained by Ger Fennelly. He equalled the record of Gerald McCarthy (Cork). Both captained senior and under-21 All-Ireland winning teams.



KILKENNY — The All-Ireland winning team of 1969.

Back row (l. to r.): Pa Dillon, Martin Coogan, Ted Carroll, Willie Murphy, Frank Cummins, Pat Henderson, Ollie Walsh. **Front row (l. to r.):** Joe Millea, Martin Brennan, Jim Treacy, Eddie Keher, Claus Dunne, Pat Delaney, Mick Lawlor.

1966

Ballyhale, with players like Richie Reid, Michael Fennelly, Sean Reid and Ger Fennelly, won the under-14 (Roinn B) county final. They beat Coon by 2-8 to 3-0. On the Coon side were latter-day seniors: Danny Coonan, Jack Morrissey, Jimmy Kinsella and Tom Moran.

1967

Kilkenny broke a 45-year-old hoodoo when they beat Tipperary in the championship.

1968

Kilkenny beat Dublin in the camogie championship. It was Dublin's first defeat in Leinster since 1936.

The team was Jo Golden, Mary Holohan, N. Nolan, Carmel O'Shea, Breda Fennelly, Liz Neary, Ann Carroll, Mary Fennelly, Teesie Brennan (captain), Breda Kinsella, Helena O'Neill, Rose Vennard.

1969

Eddie Keher captained Kilkenny to win the All-Ireland. The Noresiders beat Cork in the final by 2-15 to 2-9.

1973

A Kilkenny team, short Eddie Keher, Kieran Purcell, Eamon Morrissey and Jim Treacy, lost the All-Ireland final to Limerick. The score was 1-21 to 1-14.

1974

Kilkenny won the All-Ireland camogie final for the first time. They beat Cork in a replay by 3-3 to 1-5. The scorers for Kilkenny were: Helena O'Neill (1-1), Angela Downey (1-1), Ursula Grace (1-0), Carmel Doyle (0-1).

1975

Frank Cummins, Eddie Keher and Pat Delaney figured on the Leinster team that won a fifth on the trot Railway Cup. The first two, along with Tony Doran (Wexford), figured in all the victorious.

1976

Kilkenny won the National Hurling League when they beat Clare by 6-15 to 1-15. This was a replay. Scorers for the winners were: Pat Delaney (3-0), Eddie Keher (1-7), Mick Brennan (1-5), Billy Fitzpatrick (1-1), Matt Ruth (0-1).

1980

Kilkenny became the last of the strong hurling counties to go down to Division 1B of the National Hurling League.

1981

Shamrocks won the All-Ireland club senior hurling final in Thurles. They beat St. Finbarr's (Cork) by 1-15 to 1-11.

The winning team was Kevin Fennelly, Wattie Phelan, Liam Dalton, Richie Reid (captain), Frank Holohan, Maurice Mason, Declan Connolly, John Walsh, Sean Fennelly, Michael Fennelly, Patrick Holden, Ger Fennelly, Brendan Fennelly, Liam Fennelly, Mick Kelly. Sub.: Dermot Fennelly.

1982

Pat Henderson won the overall *Manager of the year* award sponsored by Talbot Cars. This was in recognition of his feat of guiding Kilkenny from Division 1B to the double of League and All-Ireland championship.

1983

Kilkenny completed the "double double" and captured the League and championship again. This gave Noel Skehan a record 9th All-Ireland medal. Frank Cummins won his 8th.



RESULTS 1983



Senior Hurling Championship

FIRST ROUND

Mooncoin 2-11; Rower-Inistioge 1-9
Clara 3-11; Conahy Shamrocks 0-6
Glenmore 4-9; St. Patrick's (Ballyragget) 2-5
Bennettsbridge 1-11; Galmoy 1-6
Fenians 6-15; St. Lactain's (Freshford) 1-5
Erin's Own 4-13; St. Martin's 3-7.

SECOND ROUND

James Stephens 3-13; Rower-Inistioge 2-8
Mooncoin 3-18; Conahy Shamrocks 0-6
Clara 1-7; St. Patrick's (Ballyragget) 1-7
Shamrocks 2-14; Galmoy 2-9
Fenians 4-13; Bennettsbridge 4-8
Erin's Own 4-12; St. Lactain's 2-5.

THIRD ROUND

James Stephens 0-14; Mooncoin 1-6
Rower-Inistioge 1-16; Conahy Shamrocks 2-10
Glenmore 1-15; Clara 1-12
Shamrocks 7-11; Bennettsbridge 1-6
Galmoy 2-7; Fenians 2-6
St. Lactain's 3-10; St. Martin's 2-12

FOURTH ROUND

Bennettsbridge 4-8; St. Lactain's 1-11
Fenians 3-8; Erin's Own 2-11
Shamrocks 3-13; St. Martin's 3-8
Clara 2-14; Mooncoin 2-11
St. Patrick's (Ballyragget) 1-9; Conahy Shamrocks 1-6
James Stephens 2-15; Glenmore 0-10.

FIFTH ROUND

Clara 3-10; James Stephens 0-8
Rower-Inistioge 3-13; Glenmore 1-15
Mooncoin 1-13; St. Patrick's (Ballyragget) 0-10
Shamrocks 4-13; St. Lactain's 1-11
St. Martin's 3-12; Galmoy 1-4
Erin's Own 1-10; Bennettsbridge 1-9.

SIXTH ROUND

James Stephens 3-14; Conahy Shamrocks 1-7
Rower-Inistioge 3-9; St. Patrick's 1-13
Mooncoin 3-7; Glenmore 2-6
Fenians 0-15; Shamrocks 1-7
Erin's Own 4-13; Galmoy 3-5
St. Martin's 2-10; Bennettsbridge 1-8.

SEVENTH ROUND

James Stephens 2-21; St. Patrick's 1-9
Clara 1-10; Rower-Inistioge 0-12
Glenmore 3-17; Conahy Shamrocks 3-11
Shamrocks 2-12; Erin's Own 2-10
Galmoy 2-15; St. Lactain's 3-10
Fenians 3-15; St. Martin's 4-7.

Play-off: Fenians 3-11; Erin's Own 0-9.

Semi-finals: Shamrocks 4-11; Clara 4-6;

James Stephens 1-17; Fenians 3-8

Final:

Shamrocks 2-14; James Stephens 1-8.

Relegation Play-off:

St. Martin's 3-14; Galmoy 4-5
Galmoy 2-12; Bennettsbridge 2-8
Bennettsbridge 3-6; Conahy Shamrocks 0-8
St. Patrick's (Ballyragget) 4-16; St. Lactain's 3-6
St. Patrick's (Ballyragget) 0-14; Bennettsbridge 1-3

Intermediate Hurling Championship

FIRST ROUND

Carrickshock 4-12; Barrow Rangers 4-7
Thomastown 1-10; Piltown 0-8
Young Irelands 1-12; Dicksboro 1-8
O'Loughlin's 5-10; Graignamanagh 2-6

SECOND ROUND

Piltown 2-10; Barrow Rangers 2-4
Thomastown 1-5; Carrickshock 0-6
Graignamanagh 2-9; Dicksboro 0-9
Young Irelands 1-13; Windgap 1-8.

THIRD ROUND

Thomastown 2-13; Barrow Rangers 3-9
Piltown 3-9; Carrickshock 2-10
Dicksboro 1-10; Windgap 0-6
O'Loughlin's 3-7; Young Irelands 0-7.

FOURTH ROUND

Graignamanagh 2-12; Young Irelands 1-8
O'Loughlin's 2-19; Windgap 2-7

SEMI-FINALS

Thomastown 3-8; Graignamanagh 3-6
O'Loughlin's 3-9; Piltown 1-14

Final

Thomastown 2-8; O'Loughlin's 1-3.

Total number of games 17.

Junior Hurling Championship

NORTH

FIRST ROUND

Danesfort 2-16; Ye Faire Citie 1-1
Graigue/Ballycallan 5-9; Black and Whites 1-6
Tullaroan 1-11; O'Loughlin's 2-6
Lisdowney 5-9; Emeralds 2-9

SECOND ROUND

Danesfort 6-8; Black and Whites 4-5
Graigue-Ballycallan 2-11; O'Loughlin's 2-3
Emeralds 2-5; Tullaroan 1-6
Lisdowney 1-15; Ye Faire Citie 1-5

THIRD ROUND

Danesfort 1-9; Graigue/Ballycallan 0-6
Emeralds 1-6; O'Loughlin's 2-2
Tullaroan 3-10; Lisdowney 1-12
Ye Faire Citie v Black and Whites not played

FOURTH ROUND

O'Loughlin's 2-6; Black and Whites 1-6
Tullaroan 2-8; Graigue/Ballycallan 1-5
Emeralds bt. Ye Faire Citie
Danesfort 3-5; Lisdowney 1-10

FIFTH ROUND

O'Loughlin's 3-10; Ye Faire Citie 2-2
Danesfort 2-9; Emeralds 2-6
Tullaroan 3-11; Black and Whites 1-7
Lisdowney 0-11; Graigue/Ballycallan 0-7

SIXTH ROUND

Graigue/Ballycallan 2-21; Ye Faire Citie 3-8
Danesfort 1-11; Tullaroan 0-10
Emeralds 2-13; Black and Whites 0-9
Lisdowney 3-13; O'Loughlin's 3-6



RESULTS 1983

JUNIOR – Cont'd.

SEVENTH ROUND

Tullaroan 2-16; Ye Faire Citie 2-2
Danesfort 3-13; O'Loughlin's 1-8
Emerald's 2-6; Graigue/Ballycallan 0-11
Lisdowney 6-10; Black and Whites 1-7

SEMI-FINALS

Tullaroan 3-7; Lisdowney 1-8
Danesfort 1-7; Emeralds 0-5

Northern Final

Tullaroan 3-9; Danesfort 1-12

South

FIRST ROUND

St. Senan's (Kilmacow) bt. Carrigeen
Mullinavat 6-9; Thomastown 0-6
John Lockes 3-8; Mooncoin 0-8
Dunnamaggin bt. Slieverue
Tullagher-Rosbercon 3-13; Shamrocks 1-9.

SECOND ROUND

Thomastown 1-11; Carrigeen 0-3
John Lockes 5-9; Slieverue 2-6
Shamrocks 4-10; Dunnamaggin 2-8
Mooncoin 4-6; Tullagher-Rosbercon 3-8
Mullinavat 1-15; St. Senan's 3-8

THIRD ROUND

Thomastown 4-12; Slieverue 2-11
Dunnamaggin 3-9; Mooncoin 0-9
Tullagher-Rosbercon 1-9; St. Senan's 2-5
Shamrocks 1-7; Mullinavat 1-5
John Lockes 2-16; Carrigeen 0-4.

FOURTH ROUND

Mooncoin bt. Thomastown
St. Senan's 1-16; Slieverue 3-1
Mullinavat 1-11; John Lockes 0-9
Tullagher-Rosbercon 2-14; Dunnamaggin 3-9
Shamrocks 2-14; Carrigeen 2-10.

FIFTH ROUND

St. Senan's 7-12; Mooncoin 1-5
Tullagher-Rosbercon 2-8; John Lockes 1-7
Dunnamaggin bt. Thomastown
Shamrocks 2-15; Slieverue 1-7
Mullinavat 3-19; Carrigeen 1-10

SIXTH ROUND

Slieverue bt. Carrigeen
St. Senan's bt. Dunnamaggin by one point.
John Lockes 1-10; Thomastown 2-7
Mullinavat 2-13; Tullagher-Rosbercon 2-6
Mooncoin and Shamrocks played a draw.

SEVENTH ROUND

Dunnamaggin bt. Carrigeen
Slieverue 4-9; Tullagher-Rosbercon 2-11
Mullinavat 1-14; Mooncoin 3-4
John Lockes (Callan) 3-10; Shamrocks 1-7
St. Senan's bt. Thomastown.

EIGHT ROUND

Mullinavat 4-10; Slieverue 4-8
Mooncoin 0-13; Carrigeen 0-5
Dunnamaggin 2-10; John Lockes 0-8
Shamrocks 3-7; St. Senan's 1-8
Tullagher-Rosbercon 1-10; Thomastown 1-2.

NINTH ROUND

Tullagher-Rosbercon 1-26; Carrigeen 1-1
John Lockes 1-11; St. Senan's 2-4
Shamrocks bt. Thomastown
Dunnamaggin 3-9; Mullinavat 1-7
Mooncoin v Slieverue not played.

SEMI-FINAL

Shamrocks 1-6; Dunnamaggin 1-5
Tullagher-Rosbercon 2-9; Mullinavat 1-8

SOUTH FINAL

Shamrocks 3-11; Tullagher-Rosbercon 0-18

COUNTY FINAL

Tullaroan 2-10; Shamrocks 2-9
Number of games played 78.



Minor Hurling Roinn A

NORTH

Bennettsbridge 3-10; Dicksboro 1-8
Galmoy 2-9; Emeralds 1-0.

SECOND ROUND

Bennettsbridge 4-9; O'Loughlin's 0-5
Galmoy 3-5; James Stephens 1-7

NORTH FINAL

Bennettsbridge 2-9; Galmoy 2-5

SOUTH

John Lackes 9-13; Mullinavat 1-3

SEMI FINAL

Mooncoin 3-7; Thomastown 1-11
Mooncoin 5-9; Shamrocks 3-3

SOUTH FINAL

John Lockes 2-8; Mooncoin

COUNTY FINAL

Bennettsbridge 4-11; John Lockes 1-9

Number of games played 10.

Minor Hurling Championship Roinn B

FIRST ROUND

St. Lactain's 3-5; Erin's Own 2-5
St. Patrick's 2-10; Young Ireland's 0-4
Graigue/Ballycallan 1-6; Clara 1-2

SECOND ROUND

St. Lactain's 3-10; Graigue/Ballycallan 3-3
St. Patrick's 3-14; Fenians 1-4

NORTH FINAL

St. Patrick's (Ballyragget) 1-7; St. Lactain's (Freshford) 1-5

SOUTH

FIRST ROUND

Glenmore 4-3; Rower-Inistioge 3-3
Graignamanagh 3-8; Slieverue 2-7

SECOND ROUND

Graignamanagh 4-8; Piltown 3-7

SOUTH FINAL

Graignamanagh 5-8; Glenmore 2-9

COUNTY FINAL

St. Patrick's (Ballyragget) 2-9; Graignamanagh 1-4

Number of games played 11.

Minor Hurling Championship Roinn C

FIRST ROUND

Tullaroan 3-17; Goresbridge/Paulstown 3-3

SECOND ROUND

Conahy Shamrocks 3-5; Danesfort 3-5
Conahy Shamrocks 7-7; Danesfort 2-1 (replay)

NORTH FINAL

Tullaroan 2-8; Conahy Shamrocks 2-3



RESULTS 1983

MINOR H.C. ROINN C – Cont'd.

SOUTH

FIRST ROUND

Windgap 3-10; Tullagher-Rosbercon 0-6
St. Senan's (Kilmacow) bt. Carrickshock by 2 points.

SECOND ROUND

St. Senan's (Kilmacow) bt. Dunnamaggin by 2 points.

SOUTH FINAL

St. Senan's (Kilmacow) 3-6; Windgap 2-8

COUNTY FINAL

Tullaroan 5-7; St. Senan's (Kilmacow) 3-8

Number of games played 9.

Under-21 Hurling Championship Roinn A

SOUTH

Glenmore 1-10; Rower-Inistioge 0-12
Thomastown 3-7; Mullinavat 3-5.
Graignamanagh 6-9; John Lockes 1-2
Mooncoin 6-8; Shamrocks 1-3

SEMI-FINAL

Glenmore 3-7; Thomastown 3-6
Mooncoin 2-12; Graignamanagh 2-9

SOUTH FINAL

Mooncoin 5-14; Glenmore 3-6

NORTH

James Stephens 3-10; Dicksboro 0-6
O'Loughlin's 3-2; Galmoy 0-2
Bennettsbridge 4-11; Emeralds 2-4

SEMI-FINALS

James Stephens 0-9; Erin's Own 1-5
Bennettsbridge 1-7; O'Loughlin's 0-7

NORTH FINAL

Bennettsbridge 2-6; James Stephens 0-11

COUNTY FINAL

Mooncoin 0-11; Bennettsbridge 1-5
Number of games played 14.

Under-21 Hurling Roinn B

NORTH

FIRST ROUND

Conahy Shamrocks 4-3; Lisdowney 1-8
St. Martin's 6-8; Barrow Rangers 2-2
St. Patrick's 7-6; Ye Faire Citie 0-1
Graigue/Ballycallan 0-8; Tullaroan 0-7
Clara 4-7; St. Lactain's 1-4

SECOND ROUND

Clara 4-6; Young Ireland's 2-12
Clara 0-14; Young Irelands 1-4 (replay)
Graigue-Ballycallan 2-13; St. Patrick's 0-2
Fenians 2-8; Danesfort 0-11
St. Martin's 4-5; Conahy Shamrocks 1-11.

UNDER-21 H.C. ROINN B – Cont'd.

SEMI-FINAL

Clara 4-16; Graigue-Ballycallan 3-4
St. Martin's 1-13; Fenians 1-4

NORTH FINAL

Clara 1-11; St. Martin's 1-4

SOUTH

FIRST ROUND

Slieverue 4-14; Piltown 2-12

SECOND ROUND

Windgap bt. Carrickshock

SOUTH FINAL

Slieverue 2-5; Windgap 1-4

COUNTY FINAL

Clara 4-6; Slieverue 1-7

Number of games played 17.



Special Junior Hurling Roinn A

GROUP 1

FIRST ROUND

St. Martin's 2-15; Lisdowney 0-6
Clara 4-5; Graigue/Ballycallan 1-1

SECOND ROUND

St. Martin's 2-6; Clara 1-6
Bennettsbridge 2-7; Lisdowney 1-8

THIRD ROUND

St. Martin's 2-18; Bennettsbridge 1-6
Clara 2-8; Bennettsbridge 1-11

PLAY-OFF

Clara 2-11; Bennettsbridge 1-5

GROUP II

FIRST ROUND

St. Lactain's 1-18; Dicksboro 2-7
Erin's Own 3-5; James Stephens 3-4

SECOND ROUND

Erin's Own 6-10; St. Lactain's 0-6
Fenians bt. Dicksboro.

THIRD ROUND

Erin's Own 1-13; Fenians 2-9

FOURTH ROUND

Fenians 6-13; St. Lactain's 0-7

FIFTH ROUND

Fenians 4-7; James Stephens 3-7

SEMI-FINALS

St. Martin's 4-8; Fenians 4-5
Clara 1-11; Erin's Own 1-9

NORTH FINAL

St. Martin's 1-11; Clara 1-6



RESULTS 1983

SPECIAL J.H.C. ROINN B – *Cont'd.*

GROUP II

FIRST ROUND

Young Irelands 3-12; Tullaroan 3-8
Conahy Shamrocks 2-13; St. Patrick's 1-8

SECOND ROUND

St. Patrick's (Ballyragget) 2-6; Tullaroan 2-5
Galmoy 4-6; Conahy Shamrocks 3-9

THIRD ROUND

Young Irelands 2-11; St. Patrick's 3-6
Galmoy 1-5; Tullaroan 0-7

FOURTH ROUND

Young Ireland's 3-9; Galmoy 3-3
Conahy Shamrocks 3-9; Tullaroan 2-3

FIFTH ROUND

Conahy Shamrocks 1-15; Young Irelands 2-7

SEMI-FINALS

Emeralds 2-12; Young Ireland's 3-7
Conahy Shamrocks 3-8; James Stephens 1-9

NORTH FINAL

Emeralds 1-8; Conahy Shamrocks 0-6

SOUTH

FIRST ROUND

Mooncoin bt. Windgap
Carrickshock bt. St. Senan's.

SECOND ROUND

Windgap and St. Senans played a draw
Carrickshock 0-6; Dunnamaggin 0-2

THIRD ROUND

Carrickshock bt. Mooncoin

FOURTH ROUND

Mooncoin bt. Dunnamaggin

FIFTH ROUND

Dunnamaggin 3-17; Windgap 1-2
Mooncoin bt. St. Senan's (Kilmacow)

SOUTH FINAL

Mooncoin 2-5; Carrickshock 1-3

COUNTY FINAL

Emeralds 2-8; Mooncoin 1-4

Number of games played 36.

FOURTH ROUND

Thomastown bt. Paulstown.

FIFTH ROUND

Thomastown 3-5; Graignamanagh 0-4
Slieverue 1-4; Paulstown 0-5

GROUP II

FIRST ROUND

Shamrocks 3-7; O'Loughlin/Gaels 0-8
Railyard 1-4; Muckalee 0-6
James Stephens 1-6; Sarsfields 0-4.

SECOND ROUND

Shamrocks 1-8; Muckalee 0-9
James Stephens 4-7; O'Loughlin's 1-7
Railyard 2-8; Sarsfields 0-4

THIRD ROUND

James Stephens 2-12; Shamrocks 0-6
Railyard 6-11; O'Loughlin/Gaels 1-3

FOURTH ROUND

Railyard 1-9; Shamrocks 1-5
James Stephens 0-7; Muckalee 1-2

FIFTH ROUND

Railyard 3-7; James Stephens 0-3

SEMI-FINALS

Railyard 1-6; Slieverue 0-4
Thomastown 2-5; James Stephens 0-5

FINAL

Railyard Thomastown

Total number of games 23.

Senior Football Championship

GROUP I

Graignamanagh 2-6; Glenmore 0-11
Thomastown and Slieverue played a draw.
Paulstown 1-14; Bigwood 3-1.

SECOND ROUND

Thomastown 1-9; Glenmore 1-3
Paulstown 1-6; Graignamanagh 2-1

THIRD ROUND

Graignamanagh bt. Slieverue.

Junior Football Championship

SOUTH

FIRST ROUND

Lamogue 1-5; Carrickshock 0-2
Mooncoin bt. Rower-Inistioge
St. Patrick's (Kilmacow) 3-9; Dunnamaggin 1-8
Shamrocks 0-9; Carrigeen 0-0.

SECOND ROUND

Lamogue bt. Mooncoin
Tullogher-Rosbercon 1-9; Shamrocks 0-3



RESULTS 1983

JUNIOR F.C. – Cont'd.

SEMI-FINALS

Coolagh 4-4; Lamogue 0-6
Tullagher-Rosbercon 0-11; St. Patricks (Kilmacow) 2-5.
St. Patrick's (Kilmacow) bt. Tullagher-Rosbercon.

SOUTH FINAL

Coolagh 1-6; St. Patrick's (Kilmacow) 1-4.

NORTH

PRELIMINARY ROUND

Clara 1-4; Galmoy 1-1

FIRST ROUND

Bennettsbridge 0-6; Clara 0-6
Bennettsbridge and Clara (replay)
Bennettsbridge 2-6; Clara 1-5 (2nd replay)
Dicksboro 4-8; Muckalee 0-3
Johnstown bt Ye Faire Citie (disputed game)
Johnstown 1-7; Ye Faire Citie 0-5 (replay)
Danesfort 7-5; Young Irelands (Gowran) 2-3

SECOND ROUND

Bennettsbridge 3-6; Railyard 0-3
Freshford 2-12; Johnstown 1-7
Castlecomer w.o. Dicksboro scr.
Danesfort 3-7; Black and Whites 0-5

SEMI-FINAL

Bennettsbridge bt. Castlecomer
Freshford 1-11; Danesfort 2-4

NORTH FINAL

Freshford 4-3; Bennettsbridge 0-4

COUNTY FINAL

Freshford 0-9; Coolagh 1-4

Number of games played 26.

Under-21 Football Championship

SOUTH

FIRST ROUND

Thomastown 0-7; Slieverue 0-4

SECOND ROUND

Glenmore 1-4; Mooncoin 1-2
Thomastown 2-15; Shamrocks 0-1

SEMI-FINALS

Thomastown bt. Lamogue
Glenmore 6-3; Bigwood 2-2

SOUTH FINAL

NORTH

FIRST ROUND

Clara 1-1; Young Irelands (Gowran) 1-1
Young Irelands 0-8; Clara 1-2 (replay)
Railyard 1-6; Castlecomer 1-5

SECOND ROUND

O'Loughlin/Gaels 1-8; Young Irelands 1-2
Railyard 5-5; Sarsfields 2-7

SEMI-FINALS

Lisdowney 2-4; James Stephens 2-3
Railyard bt. O'Loughlin/Gaels.

NORTH FINAL

Railyard 3-5; Lisdowney 2-4

COUNTY FINAL

Railyard ; Thomastown or Glenmore

Number of games played.

Special Junior Football Championship

NORTH

Black and Whites 3-2; Galmoy 1-8
Black and Whites bt. Galmoy (replay)
Black and Whites 3-7; Ye Faire Citie 0-2
Black and Whites 2-8; Young Irelands (Gowran) 1-5

SOUTH

Dunnamaggin 0-6; Carrickshock 1-3
Dunnamaggin bt. Carrickshock (replay)
Dunnamaggin 4-9; Mooncoin 0-6

COUNTY FINAL

Dunnamaggin 2-2; Black and Whites 1-2

Number of games played 8.

Minor Football Championship Roinn A

NORTH

O'Loughlin/Gaels 4-4; Dicksboro 0-7

NORTH FINAL

James Stephens 4-11; O'Loughlin/Gaels 2-3

South

SOUTH FINAL

Thomastown ; Coolagh

COUNTY FINAL

James Stephens ; Thomastown or Coolagh

Number of games played 4.

RESULTS

1983



Minor Football Championship Roinn B

NORTH

SAt. Patrick's (Ballyragget) 1-3; Galmoy 0-2
Young Ireland's (Gowran) 0-7; Sarsfields 1-4
Sarsfields 1-10; Young Irelands 0-7 (replay) after extra time.
Bennettsbridge 5-4; Clara 3-0.

SEMI-FINALS

Railyard 1-4; Bennettsbridge 2-3
St. Patrick's (Ballyragget) 1-6; Sarsfields 2-5.

NORTH FINAL

Bennettsbridge ; Sarsfields

South

FIRST ROUND

Slieverue 1-10; Carrickshock 1-2
Graignamanagh 2-8; Shamrocks 4-2
Graignamanagh 6-9; Shamrocks 1-2 (replay)
St. Patrick's (Kilmacow) 0-7; Mooncoin 0-4.



SEMI-FINALS

Slieverue 3-12; Piltown 0-0
St. Patrick's (Kilmacow) 2-2; Graignamanagh 5-6

SOUTH FINAL

Slieverue ; Graignamanagh

COUNTY FINAL

Number of games played 15.

◁ Cont'd. from page 72

An Ghaeilge i gCill Chainnigh

fraraibh", "fuil na bhfearaibh", "a crannaibh gan ceol na n-éan", "i mbarr géagaibh". Tá léargas bídeach le fáil againn ar an gcanúint i gCinnlae Amhlaoibh Uí Shúileabháin, máistir scoile as Calainn timpeall na bliana 1830. Foillsíodh leabhar anuraidh fur seod cheart é "Duanaire Osraíoch", cnuasach d'fhilíocht agus d'amhráin na ndaoine a chuir Daithí O'h-Ogain, léachtóir le Bealoideas i gColáiste na hIolscoile, Baile Atha Cliath, ar fáil. Is é seo an chéad chnuasach d'amhráin na ndaoine ó'n leath theas de Chúige Laighean a foillsíodh riamh. I mbun coimhlinte, caointe, suirí agus dí, tá muintir Chill Chainnigh le cloisint i ngach bhéarsa anso.

Cé'n bhail atá ar an scéal i láthair na h-uaire? Tá an teanga bheo im-

ithe, faraoir, ach mar sin féin tá suim ag an bpobal san airh-bheochaint. Bíonn ranganna ar siúl faoi réir Chonradh na Gaeilge agus an C.L.G. agus an Choiste Gairmoids. Bhí daoine le fáil ariamh sa chathair a choinnigh an Conradh beo bríomhar. Seachas gnath-ranganna, bíonn ceol 's scoraíocht ar siúl in Arus an Chonradh ag Stua an Rútaigh. Gach aon bhliain tionóltar Eigse a dtagann cuairteoirí chúici ó ghach áird. Cúpla bliain óshin bhí beirt chainteoir chumasacha i mbun leach-toireachta – Dáithí O h-Ogain agus Dónal Mac Amhlaigh an scríobhnóir cumasach a chónaigh i gCill Chainnigh agus a thagann anall ó Shasana ar saoire chugainn gach Samhradh.

Amhrán as "Duanaire Osraíoch"

le Dáithí O h-Ogain (Recruiting Song)

Amhrán earcaíochta é seo a bhíodh ag na h-Eireannaigh Aontaithe i gCo. Chill Chainnigh sa bhli. 1797. Seanduine a bhí ina chónaí gairid do'n charhair a chum é, ach ní fios cerb' é Do réir fabhailscéil, préachan feasa ba ea an t-ean so a chuaigh thar lear go Paris ag lorg a coda agus ar theacht ar ais di, shíl sí gurbh é an áit ba shábhálta di chun a nead a chéanamh ná i mbarr Caisleáin Chill Chainnigh, ó b'fheasach di go raibh cogadh ag teacht. I bhfad roimhe sin, bhíodh sé i mbéal seanchaithe an chontae gur tuar cogaidh é teacht ar ais an phréacháin. "Beidh nead ar an phréachán i mbarr chaisleáin mhóir Chill Chainnigh – ansan is geárr uainn an cogadh" aderidís. Tháinig na sluaite á féachaint do réir an tseanscéil. Thíos anso tá trí bhéarsa de'n amhrán a bhí i mbéalaibh an phobail an uair úd.

SPECIAL J.H.C. ROINN A – Cont'd.

SOUTH

FIRST ROUND

Rower-Inistioge bt. Glenmore
Graignamanagh bt. Piltown

SECOND ROUND

Glenmore 2-2; Graignamanagh 1-5
Rower-Inistioge bt. John Lockes

THIRD ROUND

Glenmore 4-7; John Lockes 2-7

FOURTH ROUND

Graignamanagh bt. John Lockes

FIFTH ROUND

Rower-Inistioge bt. Graignamanagh

PLAY-OFF

Graignamanagh 4-6; Glenmore 2-3

SOUTH FINAL

Rower-Inistioge 3-9; Graignamanagh 2-4

COUNTY FINAL

Rower-Inistioge 2-14; St. Martin's 0-11
Number of games played 27.

**Special Junior
Hurling Roinn B**

GROUP I

FIRST ROUND

Emeralds bt. Danesfort
Barrow Rangers 7-6; St. Martin's 2-5
James Stephens 3-11; Ye Faire Citie 3-1

SECOND ROUND

Emeralds 2-8; Barrow Rangers 2-8
James Stephens 3-7; Danesfort 4-2
St. Martin's bt. Ye Faire Citie.

THIRD ROUND

Emeralds 1-10; James Stephens 1-9
Danesfort 2-11; St. Martin's 2-9
Barrow Rangers 4-13; Ye Faire Citie 1-6

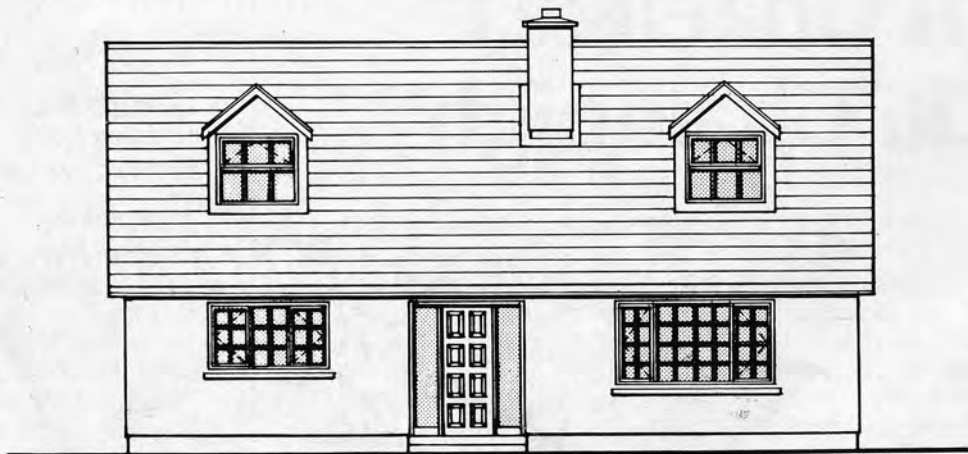
FOURTH ROUND

Emeralds 6-14; St. Martin's 3-12
James Stephens 1-12; Barrow Rangers 1-8
Danesfort 5-6; Ye Faire Citie 1-3

FIFTH ROUND

James Stephens 4-11; St. Martin's 3-4
Emeralds bt. Ye Faire Citie.

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