

KILKENNY

G.A.A. YEARBOOK 1984 No. 13

PRICE: £1.50 (inc. tax)



★
IN-DEPTH LOOK
AT ALL INTER-COUNTY
ACTIVITIES

In Colour:

- ST. MARTIN'S
- COUNTY MINOR TEAM



- COUNTY UNDER-21 TEAM
- AND THE RECORD HOLDER

Feature Articles on:

- Managers, New Developments
- All Championships
- Schools Games

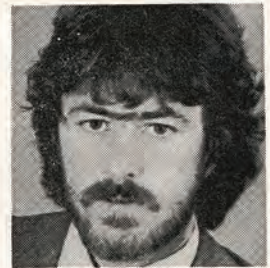
contents

Club territory must be protected	3
David Burke, Emeralds	4
Pat Walsh, Windgap	5
Meet Ted Carroll	6
Open draw — the old system is better	7
Jim would like to see a closed season	9
Ollie Walsh	11
Well, we had a good League run	13
Managers — with 12 now, the idea has taken off	15
Is the G.A.A. turning into an old men's association?	17
Oldest captain John was no ordinary G.A.A. man	18
New faces come to the fore and grab honours	19
Test your knowledge on G.A.A. affairs	20
As sure as day follows night, they will be back	21
Ald. Nowlan — not enough is known about him	23
A year when the titles rolled in	25
At least the county lost no ground	27
Yes, Paddy Grace was amazing	28
They tried hard for a consolation prize	29
"Just a little something about football"	31
Noel Skehan	32
In trying circumstances Shamrocks shine through	34
All Stars — ahead of the rest	36
Juniors had to virtually win two finals	39
What a year for a first	41
They don't care, but they won't admit it	42
The board came fifty years after	44
Cork — In one way they are out on their own	45
Good to see "Chunky" back	46
Man in the right place showed the way to victory	47
They went top of the class	49
St. Martin's — the 20th in line	50 & 51
A good show satisfied everyone	53
It could have been an ordinary event	56
Organising ability to the fore	57
School boys from Comer helped lift the gloom	58
A day seen once in 100 years	60
A good one for posterity	61
Sixth All-Ireland victory the highlight	62
Right incentive got Lactain's going	63
Trial and error trail to victory	68
Spot a familiar face	71
Fitzpatrick was top scorer	73
Camogie — a sister, but not Cinderella	74
Looking forward to a Centenary in 1987	79
Memories, from a selector and supporter	79
Mooncoin tops with four titles	86
"Non-existent" club played 28 games	88
Minor hurling champions	89
Results	92
Paddy Buggy — Centenary president	97

Picture Front Cover . . . Brendan Fennelly (Shamrocks) tries to get in a shot at the St. Martin's goal despite the close attention of Jimmy Kelly. Also in picture is Tom Walsh (St. Martin's).

editorial

Yes there was reason to be happy



JOHN KNOX
Editor

CENTENARY YEAR has come and gone. It was a significant time for the G.A.A. throughout the country. Heroes and memorable happenings of the past were rightly recalled, and the Association was brought to the attention of a lot more people than would be the case in any ordinary year.

Being thrust into the limelight in such circumstances cannot be a bad thing for any organisation hoping to sell itself to the masses. A massive advertising campaign, and all for free.

For that was what Centenary year should have been all about, selling Irish games and pastimes. It was successful up to a point. The people involved in the Association were made more aware of what they are a part of in this huge body.

That was good in itself, but you have to wonder did the Association strive hard enough to reach out to the unconverted, to new people. Was there not too much time spent saluting the past, when it might have been more profitable to concentrate more attention on building for and meeting the challenges of the future?

Each passing day the G.A.A. is in competition for members. The fact the Association represents something totally Irish is no longer security against other attractions. So at every available opportunity the Association should sell itself, at all levels.

Such a push must even be mounted in places like Kilkenny. It is no use in wallowing in the glory of yesterday, or even today, unless tomorrow is secure. Centenary year has come and gone, but can it be truly argued that things will change? The same counties will probably do well in the immediate future, and the same counties will struggle also.

Because of the Centenary year happenings, the short term future of Kilkenny would appear to be bright. In a year when the seniors faltered after two magnificent seasons, the under-21 and junior county teams, and the Shamrocks club, won All-Ireland titles on the hurling field.

As well, the minor county team figured in an All-Ireland, and two colleges' teams experienced contrasting fortunes in national deciders. On top of all that, 14 handball All-Ireland titles were captured.

Naturally, everyone would have liked to have seen the senior hurlers land the McCarthy Cup. But in a way their demise helped the county. More attention was paid to the lesser teams, and this investment of time and energy was handsomely rewarded.

We long for the day when the seniors hit the glory trail again. We feel confident that will be soon, with the lesser victories of this year a contributory factor.

Yes, the overall picture was good during 1984. Kilkenny grabbed a good share of the glory.

Photos: Courtesy Tom Brett, Waterford Road, Kilkenny, Freelance and Official Photographer for the Kilkenny People newspaper.

Advertising: Peter Seaver and Donie Butler.

Layout and Design: Milo Hennessy.

The Editor also gratefully acknowledges the support of advertisers and contributors and all who helped with the production.

The Yearbook was published and printed by Kilkenny People Printing Limited.



One of the stars of the Kilkenny minor hurling team was the versatile John Power, who could turn his hand to forward or defensive play with equal effectiveness. Here the John Lockes (Callan) clubman shows admirable grace and style.

Power-ful Style

Club territory must be protected

NEW Kilkenny Co. Board Secretary, Ted Carroll, is a real hurling man. He enjoyed a glittering inter-county career during which he won three all-Ireland senior medals, and this year, at the age of 45, he helped his Lisdowney club qualify for the Northern junior championship semi-final.

He has been involved in the game a long time, and has experienced many developments, on and off the field. Most have been good, he thought. Clubs have come a long way. Indeed, as chairman of Lisdowney he spearheaded the drive which saw a near £200,000 ground development project tackled, and successfully completed.

"Every average club grounds should have dressing-rooms and showers in this day and age", the Kilkenny A.C.O.T. adviser said.

Like the man who was secretary before him, the late Paddy Grace, Kilkenny's newest Co. Board officer has great interest in club affairs.

"Clubs are all important", he said. "They are the life-blood of the G.A.A., and no one should ever forget that".

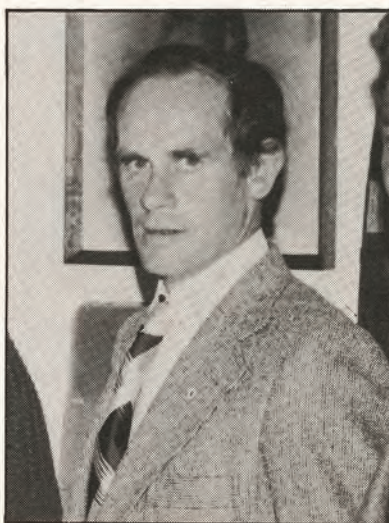
For that reason he would not like to see anything cutting across club territory. If advances are to be made that is fine, but not at the expense of clubs would be his line.

"There is probably an over emphasis on inter-county competition now", Ted thought. "The balance must be got right, because club competitions must not be crowded out by inter-county activities".

RESERVATIONS

He voiced reservations about the new and third inter-county competition which is due to start next season. It would be a continuation of the Ford Centenary open draw competition, that would be run early in the year.

"The basic idea behind this new open draw competition is fine, but if it means the start of the local championships would have to be put back into the middle of Summer I don't think it would be worthwhile", he said. "If that happened you could arrive at the stage where it could be impossible to finish



TED CARROLL, secretary of Kilkenny Co. Board.

your local championships in Summer time when they should be played". He added his voice to the growing list of people seeking a closed season. He thought this 'no games spell' should run from November to late February or early March.

And he also felt the National Leagues could be reshaped to streamline operations. He suggested that instead of the present eight team divisions that the numbers could be halved.

"The structure of the National Leagues at present is leading to certain difficulties", he said. "There are a lot of matches to be played. If there were more and smaller groups I think it would help get over the problem.

"By making the groups smaller there would be less matches. You could still have it that the concluding stages could be reached via the quarter and semi-finals. Perhaps it is something that could be given consideration".

Questioned on a possible tightening-up at local level, he wondered aloud about

the usefulness of the under-21 championships.

OLD PROBLEM

"Serious thought should be given to the under-21 championships to see do we need them at all", he remarked. "The old problem of players in this age group being involved in other divisions will always lead to difficulties.

"What people forget is that even if we did away with a local under-21 championship we could still have a Kilkenny under-21 team. The players for the county team would show up through the other championships anyway".

The Lisdowney official was loud in his praise of clubs. And on this subject, he had an interesting observation to make. "Club teams at the moment are a lot fitter than they ever were", he agreed. "There is a greater general awareness of the value of being fit. But sometimes there can be an over emphasis on physical fitness as against skills, or a concentration on the basics.

He went on: "The main problem as I would see it, without being critical, is that ground hurling is not being utilised enough. If you take the average young fellow at minor level he is not as competent at ground play as players were years ago."

A fall-off in the number of players going to the training field just for fun and for 'a few pucks' as was common place in the past has been a contributory factor.

"The development in coaching has been marvellous, but one of the snags about coaching is that you get a breed of player coming up who wants everything arranged for him", he said. "There has to be a definite training session before he will go to the field to play. That is one of the drawbacks with too much organised coaching".

He thought the skills could be developed, in harmony with coaching, by just going to the field and pucking the ball about. Impromptu training if you like, akin to the way the golfer enjoys his casual round of golf. He said a mouthful there.

DAVID BURKE

(Emeralds)



Having served his apprenticeship at minor and under-21 level, David Burke has continued his tremendous form and has gained the confidence of the Kilkenny senior selectors. He is a player of very special talent.

Some of his best work is taken for granted, simply because he can make difficult saves look easy.

Some of his club displays have been dazzling, and at county level, particularly in this year's under-21 all-Ireland, he has shown he has the right temperament for the demanding job.

PAT WALSH

(Windgap)



Less than six months ago the name of Pat Walsh was practically unheard of, in a hurling sense, in Kilkenny. But the Windgap man made people sit up and take notice with a high level of consistent performances.

From nowhere he has forced his way into the Kilkenny senior team, and on the way he won under-21 and junior all-Ireland medals.

He would appear to have the makings of a great forward. Not only is he a score getter, but he is a score maker as well, and he has perfected the use of the hand-pass.

Meet Ted Carroll

Full Name: Edmund (Ted) Gerard Carroll.

Birthplace: Lisdowney.

Birth-date: 19th February, 1939.

Occupation: A.C.O.T. Adviser.

Height: 5'11".

Weight: 12st.

Married: 1966 at St. Canice's Church, Kilkenny.

Wife's Name: Angela.

Children: Pat (17), Donal (15), Helen (13), Ted (11), David (7).

Car: Fiat Mirafiori.

Nickname: None, apart from being called Ted instead of birth-name of Edmund.

Hurling Hero of childhood: Terry Leahy (Kilkenny).

Football Hero of childhood: Paddy O'Brien.

Favourite Sport (outside Gaelic games): Squash.

Other sports people you most admire: Track athletes like John Treacy.

Most difficult opponent: Michael 'Babs' Keating (Tipperary).

Most memorable match: The 1967 All-Ireland senior hurling final when Kilkenny beat Tipperary in a final for the first time in 45 years.

Biggest sporting disappointment: The 1966 All-Ireland senior hurling final defeat by Cork. At club level, losing the senior (1962) and intermediate (1978) hurling finals.

Friendliest away fans: Cork.

Best stadium played in: Croke Park.

Favourite holiday resort: Kerry.

Favourite actor/actress: Paul Newman.

Favourite activity on day off: Gardening.

Favourite T.V. show: Hill Street Blues.

Biggest influence on hurling career: My father and Monsignor Tommy Maher.

Which person in the world would you most like to meet: Pope John Paul II.

English signature:

Ted Carroll

Irish signature:

Ramon Ó Ceirbháin

CO. BOARD SECRETARY



Honours won: Minor football championship.

Leinster colleges' junior and senior championships and All-Ireland senior championship.

Two Leinster inter-county minor hurling medals.

Six Leinster senior hurling medals; three senior All-Ireland medals and one National Hurling League.

Railway Cup medal (1), Oireachtas (3), Fitzgibbon Cup (3), Dublin senior hurling championship (1) and Kilkenny junior hurling championship (1960).

OPEN DRAW—NO, THE OLD SYSTEM IS BETTER

FOR THE past 15 years Michael O'Neill has been chairman of Kilkenny Co. Board. During that time he has experienced many changes in the G.A.A., both locally and nationally. Centenary year provided him with an insight into something new, and now, more than ever, he is convinced the Association should stick with old ideals.

More than once in recent years the call rang out to introduce an open draw system in the senior hurling and football inter-county championships. The champions of the cause looked on this as a way of bringing new faces to the fore, and breaking the monopoly of a gifted few.

"That is all very well in theory, but too much that has proved good in the past would have to be destroyed in the process", the Kilmacow official remarked.

He saw the open draw in operation in the special Centenary hurling and football tournaments, and while they were novel for the year that was in it, he would not like to see them being introduced at the expense of the now thriving provincial championships.

"I would not kill the idea dead", he added. "An open draw event has certain possibilities. It could be good for some counties, and hard on others. If you are successful in the National League and you want to do well in the championship, a third competition would add a lot of complications. But I could see it being useful to teams knocked out of the League early".

The South Kilkenny insurance official admitted he was not an advocate of the open draw system. The new faces argument he countered by suggesting the two best teams could end up meeting in the first round, and after that every game would be secondary.

BREAKTHROUGH

"Whatever people say about the Leinster and Munster finals, they are two big days in the G.A.A. calendar", he thought. "If you bring in the open draw you do away with them. There are a lot of counties who would give anything to win a provincial title, and people should



Michael O'Neill, Kilkenny Co. Board Chairman.

think long and very hard before doing away with them".

He argued that part of the reason Offaly became the big force they are today in hurling was because of their breakthrough in 1980 when they won their first Leinster championship.

"Before that Offaly won nothing big in hurling", he went on. "Since they have collected more provincial honours; they won an all-Ireland title and they were beaten in another senior final. I would think the lift in confidence following that win in Leinster in 1980 helped them".

There was another important aspect to it all, he felt. Some people were of the opinion that if the open draw championships came into being that the strong counties should concede home advantage.

"A home game would be a major advantage, particularly in the championship", he remarked. "But if home advantage was to be conceded it could only be if the weak county had facilities equal to the best. This is fine in the championship between Cork and Tipperary, because both have ideal grounds for such a swap.

"Then there is the problem that if you were beaten away by a weaker team that, ultimately, it might be no good to them. They could have to travel to a so called weaker county after that and end up being beaten. That would make a farce of the whole thing".

NOT POSSIBLE

All the same he said it was an idea worth trying during the Centenary year, but he wasn't at all sure the open draw event, even as a third competition, should be continued.

"If we were lucky to go to the final of the National League we would have to think twice about getting into a third competition", he pointed out. "There is no way you could be successful in the League, expect to be successful in the open draw competition and then expect to do well in the championship. It wouldn't be possible".

He was generally pleased with the way Centenary year went. The main purpose to honour the efforts of people of the past was adhered to.

"It was a time for reflection, and here it became sad", he remarked. "When I look back and think of the people who are no longer with us it shocks me. The changes happen so gradually you do not notice them, but when you look back you see exactly how much has changed. It can be frightening".

Kilkenny, according to the chairman, suffered a huge loss during 1984 through the death of long serving Co. Board secretary, Paddy Grace.

"What can one say about him", he asked. "Paddy's whole life was all about Gaelic games. He loved the games, and he loved the people who played and supported them. Not only in Kilkenny, but throughout the whole country, Paddy Grace was a legend. He was a man who could argue his point, but he never made enemies".

The Centenary, he thought, was a time for looking ahead and building for the future.

"Things are changing all the time", he said. "There are so many different ways of passing the time now that the G.A.A. must work, work, work at getting, and holding onto members. We must never give up trying. Our past is what we are. The future is entirely up to ourselves".

KILKENNY has produced many outstanding hurlers down through the decades. One of the all-time great stylists was Jim Langton, an all-Ireland senior medal winner in 1939 and 1947.

The flying Eire Og wing-forward could perform amazing feats with a camán, and he earned himself a special place in the hearts of Kilkenny followers.

He shot to prominence in 1938, when out of the blue he was dramatically promoted from the Kilkenny junior to the senior team in the same afternoon. And that was for a Leinster senior final, when earlier he had helped the juniors in a match.

With his club he won county senior championships in 1939, 1944, 1945 and 1947. With the county he collected eight provincial senior championships, and in 1941 and 1954 he helped Leinster to Railway Cup victories.

Today he is one of Kilkenny's most loyal and enthusiastic followers.

JIM WOULD LIKE TO SEE A CLOSED SEASON

"My love for hurling is greater than ever", the retired Kilkenny Co. Council rate collector conceded. "The older you get, the worse you get. I rarely miss a match involving Kilkenny".

Indeed, at venues up and down the country, Jim and his travelling companions, Liam Brett and Tommy O'Connell, are practically part of the Kilkenny entourage.

"We go and watch, and like all supporters, we have our little chat afterwards", he disclosed. "Oh, we criticise too, but it is all part of the day's enjoyment. It is marvellous to be able to do it, and enjoy it".

Jim Langton is a man with a deep attachment to hurling.

"It gives me a great feeling to see a good match", he said with a refreshing brightness in his eyes. "I don't mind what level it is at if it is good".

Of the game today, the former Eire Og attacker had some interesting views to offer.

GOOD THING

"Because of the change in rules and so on, a direct comparison between the game in my day and today cannot be made", he thought. "Overall the games

have probably changed for the better. A little bit of the roughness has gone out of them, which is a good thing. The fact that referees have a bit more power helps.

"In the early days hurling was pretty rough. Scores were often low because of this, but we had our great men too".

Measuring one against the other, he was of the opinion that the present standard of hurling is as good as it was at any time.

"However, there is one development I would like to see. I think there should be a closed season between December and January. This is no time of the year to be hurling. The skills of the game are so intricate they cannot be properly utilised in the heavy weather around that time of year.

And he went on: "Players are getting enough of matches at club and inter-county level, so there should be some definite closed season when they can get a rest. Even as a supporter you would find it hard to keep going all year, so imagine what it must be like being a player. I don't like to make a comparison between a man and a beast, but even a

horse or a dog has to be rested sometime".

Jim said that, bearing in mind the amount of preparatory work players at inter-county level put into the game nowadays.

"In my day I often found the National League a drag, particularly if half a team was going out and there wasn't much interest in it," he revealed. "The same heart was not there as was in it for the championship. We had no coaching and we never trained for the League."

"It is different now, and it has to be", he continued. "In my day we wouldn't start training until the Leinster final. We would not even train for that if we were meeting a team from a weaker county. Generally we only trained for a Leinster final, and all-Ireland semi-final and final".

He said they would be the three big training sessions of the year. However, he also pointed out that the fabric of life was very different at that time and people did a lot more natural training simply by walking, cycling or doing physical work. Then there was the "few pucks" every night, and twice on Sundays.



Jim Langton

Continued on page 91 ►

HURLING goalkeepers are a breed apart! They are the last line of defence in one of the fastest field games in the world, and the margin for error is minimal. The hurling 'keepers do a very specialised job. One renowned hurling coach reckons three positions on a team demand exceptional choices – full-back, full-forward, but above all, the goalkeeper. Maturity, experience, confidence, sometimes to the point of arrogance, are some of the requisites.

Out-field players can make mistakes and get away with them. The man with the No. 1 jersey on his back does not enjoy that comfort. He gets it right or he gets it wrong, and everyone will know instantly.

This county has a tradition of producing glorious goalkeepers. Still, only a very modest 10 have helped Kilkenny to All-Ireland senior success. And there were 23 McCarthy Cup victories. That is a remarkably small turnover. But when it is considered that one man, Ollie Walsh, served for 15 years, then that cold statistic is put in better perspective.



OLLIE WALSH-

He turned his back on a full-time career for hurling

THOMASTOWN'S most renowned son, Ollie Walsh, was really a boy wonder. For fifteen years, from 1956 to '71, he thrilled supporters with his amazing feats in the black and amber of his beloved Kilkenny. And, strangely enough, he might never have ended up a hurling goalkeeper had he taken a sporting chance of a lifetime when he was only a youngster.

That was when he was living in the cosy Mill Street, Thomastown, home with his parents. He was a bubbling 16-year-old with the high expectations of any talented young lad. This was 1953 and he had already established himself as the Kilkenny minor hurling 'keeper. Indeed, in 1954 and '55 he also held down the position at under-18 level.

But it was in '53 that the big chance came. He turned his back on it, because of his love for hurling. He had just starred in a Leinster championship game against Dublin. Some days later representatives of Waterford soccer club, including Scottish international Andy Windgate, arrived at his front door

and offered him a full-time career in soccer.

A SURPRISE

The unexpected visitors with the totally unexpected offer brought young Ollie to a nearby field and put him through a gruelling test of soccer skills. They threw the shots at him. They sent over the crosses. He dealt capably with them all.

"It was a big surprise when they arrived at the door", the hurling great recalled. "I had never played the game, and never even thought about it. Suddenly here I was being offered terms by Waterford. They felt I had the ability to make it to the top level in the game.

"I never really gave the offer any great consideration because hurling was the game I wanted", he explained.

One can only speculate about what might have been had he signed on the dotted line. Perhaps he might have made it. His oldest son, Michael, was a star Kilkenny minor and under-21 hurler. Subsequently he was picked at junior soccer level for Ireland, and another son, Billy, successfully toured

Germany this Summer with a Leinster soccer selection. So soccer talent would appear to be in the blood.

"I have no regret", Ollie assured. "I enjoyed great times in hurling".

Those times saw him win All-Ireland senior medals in 1957, '63, '67 and 1969; National League honours in 1962 and 1966 and Oireachtas awards in 1959, '66 and 1969. In the process he became a household name – a living legend who dazzled with his super stops, his quick darts from the line and his mighty clearances. And he was, and still is, the longest-serving Kilkenny net-minder.

He hurled through a tough era, when goalkeepers were fair game – should that be unfair game? – for forwards blazing in.

"The job is completely different today", he assured. "In my time the forwards crashed in on top of you, but we were all brought up in that style of game, so it didn't really register with us that there was anything wrong about it. It was when the rule change came and

Continued overleaf ►

◀ *Continued from previous page*

goalkeepers got more protection that we realised what we had been putting up with".

It also changed the style of goalkeeping. In his day the guardian had to move quickly to the ball, but today they can stick to their line and do the job expected of them without men tumbling in on top of them. In his time, too, the goalkeeper had no distinctive jersey, so referees didn't know who was being tossed about in the melees.

A SUB. ONCE

As already stated, he commenced his inter-county career as a minor in 1953, '54 and 1955. The following year he gained recognition at junior level. In May of the same year he was picked for the senior team in an Old I.R.A. tournament game against Waterford. That day there were three goalkeepers travelling in the squad. The others were Dick Dunphy (Mooncoin) and Liam Cleere (Bennettsbridge).

"That was the start of my senior career", Ollie recalled. "Apart from the year I retired, which was 1972, I was never a sub. on the senior panel".

In his early inter-county days he was only a junior club player with Thomastown, and it wasn't until 1962 that they attained senior status. And at that time the championships were run on a knock-out basis, so there wasn't constant competition to help up-and-coming players develop the skills of the game. He improvised and played a lot of handball and worked with his hurley and sliothar in the local handball alley.

"Anyone who wants success has to work for it", Ollie said. "Some can get through and make it once, but to stay there is the real test. Any team on top must be prepared to work".

He was of the opinion that some supporters do not realise the amount of work that goes into being successful. It always disappointed him to hear people knocking a player having a bad match.

People of his era had to accept a lot of hurling disappointments at inter-county level. He recalled the barren 10-year stretch between the All-Ireland wins of 1947 and '57, and it wasn't nice.

"If that happened in Kilkenny today there would be uproar", he thought. "Some people talk of catastrophies after defeats now, but some of us recall much worse times than being down for a year or two".

That 1957 success was Ollie's first at senior level, and for that reason it remained dearest to his heart.

"Apart from that first win I have no outstanding memories about my career",

he explained. "But I do remember the bad times – being beaten in All-Irelands, because after every one you wonder was it your last.

"There are no losers in an All-Ireland senior final", he went on. "There is first and nothing else".

And he meant it, because he couldn't even recall where his medals for the losing years were. But he had the winners medals proudly displayed.



Ollie Walsh shows the acrobatic style that had soccer scouts chasing him when he was a youngster. Pat Henderson (left), the present Kilkenny trainer-coach, is working hard in defence.

The chosen few

SINCE Kilkenny won their first senior hurling All-Ireland in 1904 they have taken more titles this century than any other county.

Now they have 23 victories to their credit. Ten goalkeepers helped win those honours. The chosen few were:

Pat 'Fox' Maher, Tullaroan (1904).

Ned Teehan, Tullaroan (1905).

John T. Power, Piltown (1907, '11, 1912 and '13).

Jim Dunphy, Mooncoin (1909).

Mark McDonald, Mooncoin (1922).

Jim Dermody, Tullaroan (1932 and 1933).

Jimmy O'Connell, Dicksboro (1935 and 1939).

Jim Donegan, Eoghan Ruadh, Dublin (1947).

Ollie Walsh, Thomastown (1957, '63, '67, 1969).

Noel Skehan, Bennettsbridge (1963, '67, '69 as a sub. and 1972, '74, '75, 1979, '82 and 1983 as a player).

THE National Hurling League of 1983-84 was a bit of an eye-opener for Kilkenny followers. After two years full of victories and trophies, suddenly it was brought home to local supporters that this present-day wonder team could actually be beaten in a major competition.

'Well, we had a good run in the League'



Frank Cummins ... a powerful player who plays a vital part for Kilkenny.

During the previous two years Noreside supporters had been loyal to a team that had often suggested it was invincible when the chips were down. When the final curtain actually fell after the concluding act in the League on a

dreary March day at Croke Park, it took a while for people to realise what had actually happened.

For 24 months the team had scored win-after-win. There was an odd hiccup in between, but each time the players

had shown an amazing ability to bounce back. In the League just finished it looked as if another trophy was within grasp when one moment of genius by the great-hearted P. J. Cuddy (Laois) finished a magical dream of a possible treble-up in the Centenary year.

I remember walking out of Croke Park that day and wondering was it really true that one glittering prize was actually out of the county's reach. One had to think twice. Suddenly the realisation dawned – the League was over, as far as Kilkenny were concerned.

During two long Winters, the hurlers had warmed the cockles of the hearts of supporters who, in ever-increasing numbers had followed the team up and down the country. When it was over for the county the harsh reality took a while to sink in. Acceptance was painful after the joys that had gone before. But by and large the mood was: "Well, we had a good run".

Plans out of line

Things never really 'clicked' with the team in the League. There was a losing start against Limerick. That was nothing new, because the previous year the campaign commenced with a defeat by Clare. But before Christmas a loss to Galway at Nowlan Park threw all plans out of line. It left a lot of ground to be made up with away matches against Waterford and Cork to follow Yuletide.

With varying degrees of misfortune and luck, Kilkenny qualified for a relegation cum play-off situation. The earlier defeat by Galway was avenged in impressive fashion at the Gaelic Grounds, Limerick. Relegation was no longer a prospect after that. Now a win over Laois as another leg in the play-off would put the "lads" into the quarter-finals.

Suddenly thoughts flashed back to past battles when Kilkenny had, like Bond in an 007 movie, slipped through in the nick of time. Laois, always hardy battlers, had been beaten in an earlier round, and few felt them capable of reversing that result.

But reverse it they did, and their Kilkenny trainer-coach, Sean 'George' Leahy (James Stephens) guided them into the quarter-finals at the expense of his own county.

"I didn't know whether to feel happy or sad about the result", George commented afterwards, "It was nice for

Fourth in honours list

AT THE end of 100 years of Gaelic games, Kilkenny stand fourth in the overall National Hurling League honours list.

Great rivals Tipperary are top of the bill with 14 wins. Indeed, Munster teams have fared best in the Winter competition. The top three are all from the South West province.

Cork, with 12 victories, are second to Tipperary, and the winners in 1983-84, Limerick, are third with 8 successes.

Kilkenny have a bit of ground to make up on the rest. To date they have won

the League six times. Those victories were scored 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.



The Kilkeny team that opened the campaign in the current National Hurling League. Back row (l to r): Ned Aylward, John Henderson, Michael Galway, John Marnell, John Lawlor, David Hoyne, Ger Henderson, Kieran Brennan. Front (l to r): Kevin Fennelly, Liam McCarthy, Harry Ryan, Frank Cummins, Nickey Brennan, Pat Walsh, Michael O'Connor.

◀ *Continued from previous page*

Laois to be through, but you never like to see your own county going down”.

More losers' headlines

The winning margin was two points (2-14 to 2-12) and it was one of those 'so near and yet so far' stories for Kilkeny. Laois had started like an out-of-control steam engine and zoomed 1-6 to 0-1 ahead after just 13 minutes. But by playing cool, calculated hurling, the Noresiders crept back and actually showed 2-5 to 1-7 in front at the interval.

The O'Moore County men were always within striking distance in the second period. Even into the last seconds they were still there and it looked as if they were going to be claiming more headlines as gallant losers. Then a hopeful ball was shot goalwards with time almost up. Centre-forward P. J. Cuddy put in a strong run and got his hurley to the ball. He diverted the sliothar past Noel Skehan, it was enough to destroy Kilkeny's dream of three-in-a-row.

In the Ashling Hotel where they had their meal afterwards, the Kilkeny players were shocked. They didn't know how they felt – whether they were happy to be out of do-or-die competition so they could rest for the Leinster championship or whether they were sad over it all. Only days earlier they had made up their minds once and for all to have a go at the title, because no other team was showing up as a probable winning one.

A blind, passionate belief in the ability of the players had left everyone with

nothing but positive thoughts. The team had not been producing the magic all season, but still supporters felt they could do it. Still, when it was over, everyone was magnanimous about it all. There was little or no criticism. That was something new in the county that has some of the most knowledgeable hurling followers in the country, who could be insensitively critical at times.

It was as if everyone was agreed they had nothing to complain about. And sure wasn't it true. They got a good run for their money.

Impressive win

The players had given it all they had. Shamrocks (Ballyhale) man Ger Fennelly was sidelined until Christmas with a hand injury, but when he returned his brother, Liam, was knocked out with a broken ankle. And all the time former All-Star full-back Brian Cody had to watch proceedings from the terraces because of knee and ankle trouble. So under demanding circumstances the team had done well.

There was a defeat in the first match against Limerick, who had made an early exit from the Munster championship. The Shannonsiders went on to score a highly impressive win in the final over Wexford, yet when the championship came round again they were sent packing early. They were unable to put wins in the big competitions together, whereas Kilkeny had done it for the previous two years. Not bad!

The second League match was at home to an under-strength Clare side. The Banner County were the only side to beat the Noresiders the previous year, but they were no match this time as they

were hammered to the tune of nine points.

After that it was down to Wexford, who caused no small surprise when they won by 2-12 to 0-12, with Tom Harrington snatching 2-6. Only the previous week Kilkeny had beaten the Slaneysiders rather easily in the Oireachtas, so this result was totally unexpected.

Before Christmas there was mixed luck against Laois (beaten) and Galway (who won) at Nowlan Park. The latter brought to an end an unbeaten home run stretching over three years. The previous defeat at Nowlan Park was in October 1980 when Laois pulled off a big surprise.

Then in the New Year a bruising win was scored over Waterford at Walsh Park. Three men were sent off, two from the home side. Kilkeny goalkeeper Noel Skehan was carried off unconscious. Later the man who clashed with him received an envelope containing £20 congratulating him for what happened. The player was, naturally, disgusted.

Boosted no end

The preliminary round matches ended with a visit to Cork, where 10,000 supporters – two-thirds from Kilkeny – enjoyed a keen battle which the home side won by 0-13 to 0-11. This was a great game in demanding conditions, and boosted Cork no end after two successive All-Ireland defeats at the hands and sticks of the Noresiders.

The way the points tally went, Kilkeny were still there with a chance of getting into the shake-up, and also with a chance of being relegated. When they

Continued on page 72 ▷

MANAGERS- with 12 now the idea has taken off

THE year 1984 was a milestone in the history of the G.A.A. and it was duly marked with a plethora of games at all levels, social events, special presentations and happenings and what have you. It was also the year when the 'Big Two' consolidated their respective positions at the head of the honours list.

Both Cork and Kerry captured the all-Ireland senior hurling and football championships respectively. The Leesiders recorded their 25th. win, while the stars from the Kingdom went a bit better and collected their 28th. title. In sport in Ireland, those are the two richest prizes that can be won.

Over the last 100 years they have set the pace. Now as we head into the new century the rest should be prepared to double their efforts to catch this pair. Kerry have seven more titles to their credit than their nearest rivals Dublin, so they will take a bit of catching. But the hurling gap is not that wide.

And in Kilkenny, hurling is the game the majority are interested in. Presently we stand second to Cork, with 23 titles, five of which were landed during the past decade. This county won more senior hurling all-Irelands this century than any other, so there is every reason for confidence that in the not too distant future Kilkenny could be leading the field.

Of course any bid for the top will not be accomplished casually. It will take a lot of hard work and good planning. In other words, it will have to be made to happen.

Kilkenny have won all their titles in the 20th century. Skill has always been the county's forte. Mentors have never sat back and taken things for granted. They were innovative, like when Monsignor Tom Maher revolutionised the use of the hand-pass. A small thing perhaps, but it bettered the Kilkenny game. It brought

many successes.

Perhaps now at the turn of the G.A.A. century it is time for another big change. Remember the county must not rest on its laurels.

GET WITH IT

Change for the sake of change is never a good thing, but nonetheless a changing world demands change, fresh new approaches. Here in this county we have been slow to 'get with it' when one talks about the management of teams. Sure Pat Henderson (Fenians) is the trainer-coach of the senior side, and he commands great respect. But really he is in a nowhere position, working with a team he has very little say in picking.

Down through the years Kilkenny have stuck with the selector procedure, whereby the county senior hurling champions nominate men to pick the county team. There have been good selection committees. There have been bad. But by and large, the county has done well. But is it not time to move on, to adopt a new approach? The day of the manager has arrived!

Kerry and Dublin are there leading the rest with Mick O'Dwyer and Kevin Heffernan captaining the ships. Our own Dermot Healy does so in Offaly. And in the football arena Eugene McGee was given a no strings attached manager's job with Cavan. The decade of the manager has truly arrived.

Since the beginning of the National Leagues, five counties have appointed all powerful managers - Clare took on Limerickman Eamon Cregan; John Courtney from Cork took over the Offaly football team;



Dublin's Kevin Heffernan, one of the most successful managers in Gaelic games.

Limerick appointed Noel Drumgoole; Waterford did likewise with Jim Joe Landers (Cappoquin) and Wexford installed John Doyle (Buffers Alley). Add in Tyrone's Art McRory, Tipperary's Donie Nealon and Cyril Farrell in Galway and that brings to 12 the number of managers now operating in Gaelic games. It makes you wonder, doesn't it?

In this age when vast new sporting frontiers are being reached, appointing a manager is not just the 'in' thing, it is the right thing. Let us be honest and concede there is a certain amount of politics involved in the selection of some teams. It is hard for a selector to deal with a club pushing 'for this lad', because the 'other lads have X number of players in the panel'.

Senior champions, St.

and well when they appointed mentors this term. But even they were caught in the web. They picked their men from the four semi-finalists. Does that mean that outside the 'exclusive' semi-final club there was no one else good enough? They were not the first club, or the second or third to follow this course. It happens nine times out of 10.

After their championship defeat against Offaly the men from Wexford went home and had a pow-wow about their lack of success at senior inter-county level. Former selectors were called in to give their views to a special sub-committee of the Co. Board set-up to examine the matter.

In Wexford the championship is divided in four groups, and it was practise to give each division a selector. Herein lay the problem. The

Continued on page 98

Is the G.A.A. turning into an old men's association ?

By DIARMUID HEALY (Kilkenny People Journalist) and coach of the Offaly Senior Hurling Team.

THE G.A.A.'s past might yet prove a major obstacle in the years ahead ! So great was that past that the future was completely ignored during the Association's Centenary celebrations. And as a result the country's largest sporting and cultural organisation may have lost a golden opportunity.

With the country's younger generation crying out for imaginative and visionary leadership, the high point of the year should have been a major campaign to attract, inspire and motivate this generation.

And now that that opportunity has been lost in Centenary year, only a major crisis will rock the 'Association into moving in this direction. The minds of most G.A.A. people may have been brainwashed into thinking the 'Association has reached its promised land where its future is guaranteed. Complacency of this nature can be fatal.

In-depth planning is urgently needed if the good times of the past 100 years are to be repeated and improved. Otherwise it will be like poor old Moleskin Joe who longed for the good times, but feared he might never live to see them.

BAD IMAGE

The last time the G.A.A. was spurred into action was in the early 'seventies when it suddenly realised it no longer had a divine claim on the allegiance of the younger generation. And immediately the Economic Social Research Institute was commissioned to carry out a survey on what young people thought of the G.A.A. Among the findings were:



Dermot Healy

- The G.A.A. had a very bad image.
- The organisation of Gaelic games was rated as very poor.
- Gaelic football was rated as the least skilful of all football games.
- Only 47% of students living in urban areas said they liked Gaelic football while 20.8% said they disliked it.
- On the other hand 82.3% of rural students said they liked Gaelic football and only 4.2% disliked it.
- Also 54.1% of rural students liked hurling compared to 35.1% of urban students. And 63% of rural students liked handball compared to 35.5% in urban areas.

The G.A.A. immediately acted on these findings by establishing legislative provisions to structure the G.A.A. to

cater for young people. These provisions included:

- Every club executive must have at least two members under-21 years old.
- Each club must hold an annual general meeting for members between 16 and 21 years.
- The establishment of a structure for an annual County and National Youth Conference.
- One fifth of each county's delegates for Congress must be under-21 years.

'ASSOCIATION AGAINST CHANGE ?

Today's reality is far removed from the ideal picture painted in those legislative provisions. Few clubs elect youth members; only a handful of counties hold an annual youth convention; very few counties elect youth delegates to Congress and there has been no National Youth Congress for many years.

So while the G.A.A.'s structure at every level gives youth a platform, in practice this is not being utilised. And the G.A.A.'s Director General, Mr. Liam Mulvihill admitted this at a recent Centenary Symposium in Cork University. And he posed a very pertinent question: "Is this the fault of the young people, or is there a latent resistance in the 'Association to change ?"

Mr. Mulvihill refused to answer the question, but he felt that the 'Association as a whole should answer it. And perhaps in the coming months G.A.A. clubs throughout the country will accept that challenge.

If the challenge is accepted it could transform the G.A.A. into an irresistible attraction for young people in the years ahead. If not, there is a real danger that young people will look on the G.A.A. as an old men's organisation.



St. Kieran's College were unbeaten in Leinster colleges championships this year. The only defeat suffered by St. Kieran's during the Centenary year was in the all-Ireland senior hurling final. Above is the St. Kieran's juvenile football team who created a bit of history by capturing the first Leinster title in this grade. Back row (l. to r.): Denis Philpott (selector), Eddie Teehan, John Gavin, Mark O'Brien, Don Bradley, Fran Whelan, Pat O'Neill, Kieran Reynolds. Middle row (l. to r.): Declan Dundon, Kieran Conroy, Timmy Carpenter, Pdraig McCluskey, Pat Kehoe, Stephen Lawlor, Pdraig Byrne, Jimmy Conroy, Tommy Lanigan (selector). Front row (l. to r.): Gregory Holden, Tommy Shefflin, John Holohan, Adrian Ronan, Cathal Duffy (capt.), Brendan McEvoy, Jim Cashin, D. J. Carey, John O'Dowd.

Oldest captain John was no ordinary G.A.A. man

"HE WAS elusive, adroit and tactical and he had a subtle side-step and beautiful little swerve". That all embracing summary of a Kilkenny hurler was penned 57 years ago.

Not many people would be able to cast their mind back all those years and pin-point the individual in question. Another little hint. He was No. 45 in the Wills picture card series of hurlers in 1927.

For those who haven't a hope I will reveal the identity. It is Dicksboro's John Roberts, winner of an all-Ireland senior hurling championship medal in 1922, and the oldest man alive who captained the county. He did this in the Leinster senior final of 1922.

Today he makes light of his 89 years, and he is as bright and cheerful as a man half his age. And his recall of heroes of the past, great battles and events generally has to be heard to be believed. John Roberts is a remarkable man who likes to talk about hurling, but only in certain company.

"There are some people I would never mention hurling to", he told me as he welcomed me to his comfortable home at 10 New Street

No one could add to the above Wells card description of this unusual Kilkenny player. He stood a modest 5' 8" and weighed-in at a lightweight 10st. 3lbs. when fully fit. But in the hurling sense he measured up to the best of them.

Physically he wasn't cut out to be a full forward at all in the days when muscles and strength were generally regarded as the priorities for a man to fill the number 14 jersey. Still, he survived and earned the respect and admiration of hurling followers everywhere.

"I don't know who or what put me in that position", he said. "If it was now I would not spend five minutes there".

But John Roberts was more than just a hurler. He was an all round G.A.A. man. He was vice-chairman of Kilkenny Handball Board in 1924 along with Tom Walsh (Ballyfoyle) and the man he greatly admired, Paddy 'Icy' Lanigan (City Handball Club).

He was also a referee who officiated at an all-Ireland final between Galway and Cork, as well as senior finals in Kilkenny and Wexford. On top of all that, he was the county's representative on the Leinster Council from 1927 to 1942.

FIRST RAILWAY CUP CAPTAIN

"We will never see the likes of the men of my day again", he reckoned. "They gave everything they had for hurling. We trained day and night because we loved it so much".

As well as being skipper in the Leinster final of 1922, he was also captain of the losing 1926 all-Ireland team against Cork (4-6 to 2-0), the same year he crashed home five goals against Galway in the semi-final. And the following year he captained Leinster when they beat Munster in the first inter-provincial (Railway Cup now) ever played, a fact disputed by some.

"Munster were all powerful at that time", he recalled with a mischievous look on his face. "They got a big drop when we got the better of them".

But John, who began hurling with the Dean Street Volunteers, had an interesting tale or two to tell about life in general at that time.

This was about 1908-10 when he played with the 'Volunteers. For games they would walk from the city to Troyswood to play Threecastles in a field on Sweeney's farm, now owned by David Dowling. In 1914 he joined Dicksboro and helped them to junior and senior championship victories before he retired from the game at the age of 35. He broke into the Kilkenny senior team in 1918.

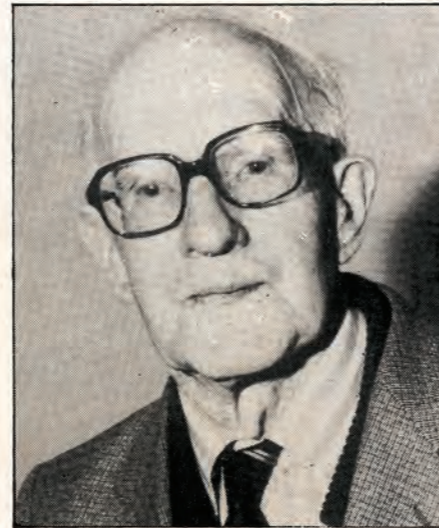
During his formative years he was encouraged and helped in many ways by the gifted Paddy 'Icy' Lanigan.

"He kept us playing", John recalled. "He brought me to many a match when I was young. He trained a lot of young lads for hurling and handball".

John felt handball was one of the best forms of training for any hurler. "It gives you a great sense of direction for hurling", he thought.

He recalled that one time he walked 16 miles on a round trip to Freshford for a match when he was about 10-years-old.

"I missed a lift to the game, so I decided to walk with a friend", he said. "We fell in with another crowd going



John Roberts

and they looked after us. People had no motor-cars. If you hadn't a bicycle you walked.

"Later, when I played with Kilkenny, you would be lucky if you got a few pounds when you were injured. We hadn't what would pay for a good hurley but we made do with what we had." His camáin at that time were supplied by a Mr. John Bradley from St. Canice's.

GO TO SEASIDE

He remembered a time when two men walked from Birr, Co. Offaly, home to Kilkenny city after a game. And he broke into loud laughter when trips to Dungarvan sprang to mind. He always enjoyed trips to Dan Fraher's field when he was a boy, because after the game he could go to the seaside and pick cockles.

"That was a great field", he reckoned. "We loved going there. Of course, there was little money around in those times and if you had two shillings (10p today) left after paying for the train you would have a field day".

Sure enough you would when all the bread and tea you could take cost only 4d (old pence) and a meat tea cost a very attractive tanner (six old pence).

"People were wonderful in those days", he thought. "Many a time I got on the match train and you would see some people without tickets. But on the way back all the tickets would be bundled together and torn in the middle and given to the conductor. They knew the tickets didn't match the number, but they turned a blind eye to it".

At that time too there was no welcome home celebrations on the night after all-Ireland victories because it

could take some people two days to get back to the city after the games.

John recalled that with the county team disputes were common enough, but once a side was put out on the field the commitment was always there.

"There was more ground hurling played then", he revealed. "In the forwards Matt Power, Dick Tobin, a great wing-forward, and myself were always together and no one ever claimed a score. If one got it we all shared in it.

"Dublin were all powerful until we beat them in 1922. They had a great pick and they had big, strong men because some of their players were members of the Garda club. After we beat them I knew we would win the all-Ireland because basically we had a young team and everyone was pulling together".

He felt Dublin had an all-Ireland pick around that time, which was the reason they were so strong. "It is a terrible pity to see them down so low today, but maybe they will come back. Hopefully they will", he added.

The greats of his day were many, he felt, and he was reluctant to mention names. He did, however, single out clubs like Mooncoin, Tullaroan, Threecastles, and Erin's Own who could turn out gifted players year in and year out.

LIST TOO LONG

When pressed again for men of special talents the names rolled off the tongue. There was Matt Power, Bill Kenny Martin 'Roundy' Lawlor, the Byrnes later on. Tom Murphy, Paddy 'Icy' Lanigan, Tom Kenny, J. J. Brennan. There were many more he wanted to name, but he felt it was not necessary, because the list was too long.

"Men like those made the G.A.A. strong", he said. "Really they made the 'Association and they passed on something wonderful to the people following on after.

"Kilkenny, above any other county, can be proud of their all-Ireland winners, and that includes the present day lads as well. It was never easy, and it is not easy today, to win an all-Ireland. Sometimes I don't think everyone understands really how hard it is".

John Roberts got one of those precious golden awards when he played his part in the victory of '22. And the people who saw him do it wrote that he was 'elusive, adroit and tactical'. He was one of the good ones alright.

NEW FACES COME TO THE FORE AND GRAB THE HONOURS

MOST of the competitions under the auspices of Bórd na nÓg are now nearing completion. All the under-16 hurling and football championships and leagues have been completed.

The minor hurling competitions, with the exception of the Roinn A League which ended in a draw, have also been decided. The minor football championship, Roinn A, has been narrowed down to three teams. Dicksboro are back in the final for the first time since 1979. They will be attempting to win a title they last won in 1971.

As Thomastown and Bigwood played a draw in the South final, the 'Boro's opponents in the final are still unknown. In the Roinn B football, Graignamanagh and St. Patrick's (Kilmacow) are in the Southern final. Bennettsbridge have qualified for the Northern decider, but the picture is still unclear regarding their opponents. Fenians (Johnstown), Graigue-Ballycallan, Clara and Muckalee have still to decide which one of them goes through.

The other unfinished final is the minor hurling league, Roinn A, for the John Tobin memorial trophy. John Lockes (Callan) and Erin's Own (Castlecomer), who contested the championship showdown, are also in this league decider. They played a thrilling 2-9 each draw in Ballyragget. John Lockes had the better of the first half and led by 1-6 to 0-5 at the interval. Erin's Own gradually took control and with Eddie Brennan and Tom Coogan in top form, they put a lot of pressure on the John Lockes defence. John Holden, Michael Holden and Bosco Bryan stood up to the pressure until the last few minutes when goals by John Holohan and Michael Walsh left the sides all square.

CURTAIN-RAISER

The minor hurling championship "A" final was played in Callan, because Nowlan Park was closed. It was a curtain-raiser to the Kilkenny - Wexford National Hurling league clash. John Lockes, playing on their own pitch, dominated the first half against opponents who never displayed their true form. John Lockes led by 0-7 to 0-2 at

half-time, despite missing numerous chances. Erin's Own had to depend on Tommy Buggy for their scores. He notched 1-6 of their final tally of 1-8. All these scores came from frees.

Goals by Paul Leahy and John Power helped John Lockes to a comfortable 2-11 to 1-8 win. The side brought back the minor title to Callan for the first time since 1950. They also captured the Joyce Cup, which commemorates a great Gael from Callan - Mick Joyce.

John Power was the man of the match for the winners. Michael Holden had a tremendous game at corner-back. Others who did well were John Holden, Bosco Bryan, Liam Egan, Phil Comerford and Kieran O'Dwyer.

Erin's Own best players were Kieran Bergin, Tommy Buggy, Jamesy Brennan in goal, Martin Carroll, Tom Coogan, Eddie Brennan in the second half and Brendan Smith.

Scorers: John Lockes - John Power (1-6, one point '65', one free), Paul Leahy (1-1), Kieran O'Dwyer (0-2), Phil Comerford, Liam Egan (0-1 each). Erin's Own - Tommy Buggy (1-6, frees), Eddie Brennan, Tom Hurley (0-1 each).

The winning team was - James Quigley, Michael Holden, John Holden, Barry O'Shea, Jimmy O'Donovan, Bosco Bryan, Pat Comerford, Phil Comerford, Liam Egan, Aidan O'Dwyer, John Power (capt.), Damien Bryan, Paul Leahy, Kieran O'Dwyer, Michael Barry. The referee was Tom Gregg (O'Loughlin's).

FIRST WIN SINCE '49

Graigue-Ballycallan captured a minor hurling championship for the parish for the first time since 1949 when they beat Glenmore in the 'B' championship at Nowlan Park. This game was played as a curtain-raiser to the senior county final, and it produced a good standard of hurling. It featured fine striking, good ground

Continued on page 90 ►

HOW IS YOUR KNOWLEDGE ON G.A.A. AFFAIRS?

— HAVE A GO AT THIS QUIZ —

Q. 1 – What county, and in what year, did a team last contest the All-Ireland senior hurling final without previously playing a single game?

Q. 2 – In what Munster town is St. Cronan's G.A.A. Park?

Q. 3 – Who captained the Limerick C.B.S. team when they won the Harty Cup in 1964, after an interval of 32 years?

Q. 4 – Who replaced Tony O'Shaughnessy on the Cork team in the 1956 All-Ireland senior hurling final against Wexford?

Q. 5 – In what year were the minor and senior hurling finals played on the same day for the first time?

Q. 6 – When was the only occasion brothers opposed each other in an All-Ireland senior hurling final?

Q. 7 – Who replaced Iggy Clarke (Galway) when he went off injured in the 1980 All-Ireland senior hurling semi-final against Offaly?

Q. 8 – The Cork captain in the 1972 All-Ireland senior hurling final was their right half-back. Who was he?

Q. 9 – Do you know the man who played a record five years for his county at minor hurling level?

Q. 10 – Tipperary had one representative on the last Carrolls All-Stars team in 1978. Who was he?

Q. 11 – Give the year Kilkenny made their first appearance in the All-Ireland under-21 hurling final?

Q. 12 – Who was the first Ulster man elected President of the G.A.A.?

Q. 13 – Liam Abernethy won an All-Ireland senior hurling medal with what county?

Q. 14 – Who was the Munster goalkeeper when they stopped Leinster winning a record six Railway Cup hurling finals in a row in 1976?

Q. 15 – What famous goalkeeper was known as "Stonewall"?

Q. 16 – Can you name the Munster college that won the All-Ireland colleges senior hurling championship in 1960, 1970 and 1980?

Q. 17 – How many All-Ireland medals are presented to the winning teams each year?

Q. 18 – Blackrock's Ray Cummins captained Cork to victory in the 1976 All-Ireland senior hurling final. Before that, who was the last Rockies man to captain a winning team? And what year did he do it?

Q. 19 – Who won the Texaco hurler of the year award in 1978?

Q. 20 – Clare won the National Hurling League final in 1977 and 1978 when they defeated Kilkenny. Can you name the Clare captains?

Q. 21 – Who played at right full-back on the Limerick team against Kilkenny in the 1974 All-Ireland senior hurling final?

Q. 22 – How many times have Kilkenny won the Liam McCarthy Cup?

Q. 23 – Who played in goal for Cork in the 1944 All-Ireland senior hurling final?

Q. 24 – Mark McDonald won an All-Ireland senior hurling medal as goalkeeper with Kilkenny in what year?

Q. 25 – Paddy Scanlon played in goal for Limerick in the drawn All-Ireland senior hurling final of 1943 against Dublin. Who replaced him for the replay?

Q. 26 – What county won the Munster intermediate hurling championship in 1962?

Q. 27 – Who replaced Pa Dillon (Freshford) at full-forward on the Kilkenny senior hurling team in the 1966 All-Ireland final?

Q. 28 – Name the two Kilkenny brothers who won seven All-Ireland senior football medals between them?

Q. 29 – The Kilkenny All-Ireland senior hurling championship winning side of 1983 was captained by Liam Fennelly. The team featured seven other players who between them captained Kilkenny to a total of nine All-Ireland victories in different grades. Name the seven men and the titles they captained the sides to win. Also name the years.?

Q. 30 – Who played at centre-forward for Kilkenny in the 1963 All-Ireland senior hurling final?

ANSWERS ON PAGE 91

AS SURE AS DAY FOLLOWS NIGHT, THEY WILL BE BACK

THE demands of time, which involved sustained battles with little respite, eventually took their toll and contributed in part to Kilkenny's early demise in the Leinster senior hurling championship. The team many locals considered the best in at least two decades, failed to make it out of Leinster in this extra special year when the G.A.A. celebrated their centenary.

For the previous 24 months there were few sides who were able to live with the Noresiders. Cork couldn't do it in two all-Ireland finals, and old rivals Wexford and Limerick failed in National League deciders.

But it all came to an abrupt and unexpected end on a bright June day in Croke Park when those lion hearted warriors from the banks of the Slaney beat the old enemy, Kilkenny, in a thrilling provincial semi-final. In light of earlier developments, the defeat of the mighty was unexpected. But all things on the day considered, it was inevitable. Not because the players or anyone else didn't want it to happen and eventually have a fairytale ending in September, but on the Sunday it mattered fate intervened. And the will of another more mighty than us all, could not be over-turned by mere mortals. Wexford, as ever, were brimfull of fight, enthusiasm and desire in the championship, after being taken apart by Limerick in the League final and suffering humiliation against Roscommon in another much publicised incident.

Kilkenny had opened reasonably well against Laois in the quarter final, but the price of victory was indeed high. In a clash with one of his own players, Paddy Prendergast (Clara) suffered a severe leg injury and was sidelined for months. That put him out for the Wexford game, and with the gifted Brian Cody (James Stephens) weeks from match fitness, the then champions were faced with more than average problems regarding the make-up of their defence.

SEAT ON THE BENCH

The bad news saga did not end there. On the week before the game John Henderson (Fenians) was laid low by the 'flu bug. When it came to match time he too had to take a seat on the bench with the substitutes.

Before a ball was even struck, Kilkenny were reduced in defence to half the personnel that had withstood a terrific second half onslaught by Cork in the previous year's all-Ireland final. It was a

loss even this great Kilkenny team could not shoulder.

During the two winning League campaigns the Noresiders had shipped their fair share of knocks, but had always managed to pull through. Eventually their luck ran out. The team that was feared by the rest of the nation could not take it when one injury was heaped on another in Croke Park on that afternoon. "From the day we started in 1982 in Division II of the League we maintained we needed luck to win anything", Pat Henderson (Fenians), the team trainer-coach, recalled. "During our successful run we enjoyed our fair share of luck, but it eventually ran out on us".

To highlight Kilkenny's misfortune takes from Wexford's success in a way, but any fair minded supporter would have to admit that the loss of three choice players of the class of Cody, Henderson and Prendergast would seriously weaken any team. How would Cork have fared without Dermot McCurtain, Denis Mulcahy and John Hodgins or Kerry without Paudie O'Shea, Tommy Doyle and Sean Walsh? It is worth a thought during analysis.

WIDE OPEN RACE

I felt after the Wexford defeat, and still do, that had even one of that trio been available it would have made all the difference. Many heavy sighs of relief were heard in Offaly, Cork and Tipperary after the colours of the black and amber were lowered. The side feared by all was gone, and it was a wide open race for the McCarthy Cup.

Subsequently Offaly finished out in delightful fashion in the province and took charge of the Bob O'Keeffe Cup. When it came to the all-Ireland they were badly off colour and a Cork side that was only mildly impressive collected the county's 25th title.

The very average all-Ireland fare set Kilkenny supporters talking once more about what might have been. "Our lads would have taken Cork", was heard more than once, twice or even a dozen times. What a pity the three-in-a-row

was missed — the first since 1911, 1912 and 1913 — and in Centenary year too.

"The present Kilkenny panel is still good enough to come back and win two more all-Irelands on-the-trot", were the fighting words from Pat Henderson after the championship exit.

That may well be true, but the sense of loss was greater this time than ever before, and particularly after the disappointing final. Now Cork have slipped two titles in front again and with Tipperary emerging as a force, it will not be easy get to the top of the pile in the immediate future.

Few close followers of the game expected Kilkenny to have much trouble dealing with Laois in the opening championship clash.

"They made their big mistake when they beat us in the League play-off", was the general opinion. Perhaps they did, but they also received a severe blow to morale when they suffered a heavy defeat in the Centenary open tournament final shortly before the provincial quarter final. That did them no good at all.

If they had any doubts about their own ability approaching the Carlow clash, they must have been doubled in proportion when Liam Fennelly slapped home two early goals for Kilkenny. The Shamrocks man struck twice in six minutes and helped the Noresiders into a 2-9 to 0-9 half time lead. They eventually won by 4-15 to 1-16.

TERRIBLE START

The long range point, Kilkenny's stock in trade, was very much to the fore that day as Kieran Brennan put on a performance that dazzled the 19,000 attendance. Noel Skehan, John Henderson, Ger Henderson, Paddy Prendergast (until injured), Frank Cummins, Liam Fennelly, Harry Ryan and Christy Heffernan also turned the screws on willing opponents. Laois were always prepared to fight, despite their terrible start. But anytime they hit a score, there was an instant

Continued on page 77 ▶

OUR 23 TITLES

WINNING CAPTAINS

YEAR		SCORE	CAPTAIN
1904	Kilkenny Cork	1-9 1-8	Jer Doheny, Tullaroan
1905	Kilkenny Cork	7-7 2-9	Dan Stapleton, Erin's Own
1907	Kilkenny Cork	3-12 4-8	Drug Walsh, Mooncoin
1909	Kilkenny Tipperary	4-6 0-12	Drug Walsh, Mooncoin
1911	Kilkenny w.o. Limerick		Sim Walton, Tullaroan
1912	Kilkenny Cork	2-1 1-3	Sim Walton, Tullaroan
1913	Kilkenny Tipperary	2-4 1-2	Drug Walsh, Mooncoin
1922	Kilkenny Tipperary	4-2 2-6	Watty Dunphy, Mooncoin
1932	Kilkenny Clare	3-3 2-3	Jimmy Walsh, Carrickshock
1933	Kilkenny Limerick	1-7 0-6	Eddie Doyle, Mooncoin
1935	Kilkenny Limerick	2-5 2-4	Lory Meagher, Tullaroan
1939	Kilkenny Cork	2-7 3-3	Jimmy Walsh, Carrickshock
1947	Kilkenny Cork	0-14 2-7	Dan Kennedy, Thomastown
1957	Kilkenny Waterford	4-10 3-12	Mickie Kelly, Bennettsbridge
1963	Kilkenny Waterford	4-17 6-8	Seamie Cleere, Bennettsbridge
1967	Kilkenny Tipperary	3-8 2-7	Jim Treacy, Bennettsbridge
1969	Kilkenny Cork	2-15 2-9	Eddie Keher, Rower/Inistioge
1972	Kilkenny Cork	3-24 5-11	Noel Skehan, Bennettsbridge
1974	Kilkenny Limerick	3-19 1-13	Nicky Orr, Fenians
1975	Kilkenny Galway	2-22 2-10	Billy Fitzpatrick, Fenians
1979	Kilkenny Galway	2-12 1-8	Ger Fennelly, Shamrocks
1982	Kilkenny Cork	3-18 1-13	Brian Cody, James Stephens
1983	Kilkenny Cork	2-14 2-12	Liam Fennelly, Shamrocks



MICK KELLY
(Bennettsbridge)



JIM TREACY
(Bennettsbridge)



NICKY ORR
(Fenians)

Ald. Nowlan, — not enough is known about him

AT the G.A.A. Congress of 1901 nominations for President were received from the floor and three names were proposed — two, M. Moynihan of Kerry and R. Cummins of Kerry withdrew in favour of Ald. James Nowlan of Kilkenny. He went on to become the longest serving President in the history of the 'Association.

James Nowlan had been very active in G.A.A. affairs since 1896. Born on strong Republican traditions, his election brought to the Presidency a person with committed separatist sympathies who was a strong promoter of national culture, especially the Irish language. He was a member of Kilkenny Corporation, and had for many years championed the cause of the working class in the Kilkenny area. He was justly rewarded for his services by being elected an Alderman while working in his native city as a cooper. He was a supporter of Sinn Féin from its foundation in 1905. He was interned in England after the 1916 Rising. He was first chairman of the Leinster Council (1900-1904) and was a member of the Leinster Council from 1896. It can be justifiably claimed that the formation of the Provincial Councils, Leinster being the first in 1900, gave a new impetus to the youthful G.A.A., and was one of the moves which helped in a major way to establish and strengthen the 'Association of the time.

NEW RULES

Luke O'Toole, who was elected secretary, also in 1901, and served until 1929, developed a wonderful understanding with James Nowlan. Under their leadership the G.A.A. fostered and developed. Nowlan and O'Toole worked in close liaison. They set-up a committee to solve the financial problems and introduced a new rules structure for hurling and revised some of the rules of football.

Pádraig O'Toole wrote in "The Anguish and The Glory": 'At the close of the year the 'Association found itself geared to revival and progress as it now had young men on the governing body who were fired with eagerness and enthusiasm and who were dedicated to lifting the whole character of the 'Association on to a



Ald. James Nowlan, Kilkenny (1855-1924), President of the G.A.A. 1901 to 1921.

higher plane'.

In November 1910 there was yet another move forward when representatives from 10 Leinster colleges met to form the Leinster Colleges' Council. In 1913 the G.A.A. purchased the site in Dublin, now known as Croke Park, the 'Association's national stadium and headquarters.

ARRESED IN JOHN STREET

The organisation of the Volunteers and the 1916 Rising caused many problems for the G.A.A. Many G.A.A. leaders were imprisoned within days of the G.P.O.

Rising. Ald. Nowlan was arrested in John Street, Kilkenny, on Easter Tuesday morning and was put in prison.

GAELIC SUNDAY

In April 1918 the British Government introduced Conscription for Ireland. The G.A.A. immediately took a very strong

stand. At a meeting chaired by Ald. Nowlan, the following motion was unanimously passed: "That we pledge ourselves to resist by any and every means in our power the attempted conscription of Irish manhood, and we call on our members to give effect to this resolution".

The British authorities reacted very strongly to the G.A.A. challenge and decreed that hurling and football matches could not be played unless a permit was obtained in respect of each match.

GAELIC SUNDAY

Again the Central Council met and a decision was made to defy the decree. The G.A.A. decided that on Sunday, August 4, 1918, every affiliated club or unit would play a game and that no permits would be sought. So Sunday, August 4, became known as Gaelic Sunday, with games being played all over the country — 1,800 in all, and no permits were sought. The R.I.C. was unable to take any action.

Ald. Nowlan was also President on possibly the saddest day in G.A.A. history — Bloody Sunday. Following the shooting of British secret service agents in Dublin on Sunday, November 21, 1920, the Black and Tans, in retaliation, fired indiscriminately on members of the Dublin and Tipperary teams, and the crowd at a football game in Croke Park. Michael Hogan, the Tipperary captain, and 12 others were shot dead, plus 100 seriously injured.

LIFE MEMBER

At the annual Congress of 1921 a very small attendance saw Ald. Nowlan resign from the post of Presidency. He was succeeded by Dan McCarthy. Ald. Nowlan was made a life member of the Central Council in recognition of his services to the G.A.A. during his 20 years' term of office.

To-day in Kilkenny, the county grounds, Nowlan Park, is a memorial to the memory of this great man. It is regrettable that so little is known of his work in the political sphere, and on behalf of the G.A.A.

Senior glory at last

IT CAME late into the year, but it was well worth the long wait . . . Kilkenny winning a national senior hurling title in Centenary year.

On December 2 at Callan, the Kilkenny senior hurlers scored a fantastic 1-11 to 1-7 victory over all-Ireland and Centenary tournament champions, Cork, in a pulsating Oireachtas final.

A surprisingly big attendance of 8,000 were treated to a contest fought with championship fervour. Four times the teams were locked together on equal terms, the last time being in the 40th minute at 1-6 each. Then points from Ray Heffernan (2) and Harry Ryan put the Noresiders on the road to their eighth Oireachtas win. Cork led at half-time by 1-5 to 0-6.

"After what the players achieved during 1982 and '83 it was nice to see them leave their mark on this important year", said trainer-coach, Pat Henderson. "This win was all about commitment. The players were very disappointed when they failed to win the National League or

Championship, but at the end of it all they had something to show for all their hard work."

Despite their glorious exploits in recent times, only two Kilkenny players – Frank Cummins and Noel Skehan in 1969 – had previously won Oireachtas honours.

In this latest victory the evergreen Frank Cummins was absolutely magnificent. The Blackrock midfielder carried off the beautiful Callan crystal 'man of the match' award sponsored by A.I.B. Cummins turned in an all action display, and Cork had no answer to his power and strength. Other good performers were Ger Fennelly, John and Ger Henderson, Nickey Brennan, Christy Heffernan, David Burke and Harry Ryan.

SURPRISE RETURN

In the semi-final Kilkenny beat Laois in another exciting tussle, this time by 3-14 to 3-12. The star performer here was Christy Heffernan, who made a surprise return after being ill for a long period. The Glenmore full-forward snatched 2-2,

and he had a hand in half the winners' total score.

After the disappointing fare in the all-Ireland final, Kilkenny supporters couldn't wait to see their favourites in action against the McCarthy Cup holders. When that day came the players did not let them down. Like on so many occasions in the past they proved tops when the chips were down.

It was a good start for the new selectors – Mick Crotty (James Stephens), Paul Fitzgerald (Glenmore), Pat Holden (Shamrocks), Dick Nolan (St. Martin's) and Michael O'Neill, Co. Board chairman. Hopefully it is only the beginning of another success story.

Kilkenny – D. Burke, F. Holohan, J. Henderson, D. O'Hara, J. Hennessy, G. Henderson (0-1), N. Brennan, F. Cummins (0-1), R. Heffernan (0-2), G. Fennelly (0-2), R. Power, M. Walsh, K. Brennan (0-2), C. Heffernan (0-2), H. Ryan (1-1). Subs: L. McCarthy, P. Walsh. In the Laois game, N. Skehan, J. Moran, D. Hoyne, T. Phelan and J. Brennan all played.

Na Scoileanna agus Liathróid Láimhe

Le Tomás de Bháldraithe, Oifigeag Gaeilge Chill Chainnigh

SEANCHARA scoile a bhuail liom le linn dó bheith ar saoire lena mhuintir i gCill Chainnigh a chuir ag smaoineamh é. Fear é nuair a bhíodh sé ina chónaí i gCill Chainnigh a raibh clú agus cáil air toisc a fheabhas 's a bhí sé chun liathróid láimhe a imirt. Ní hionadh san mar bhí Craobh na hEireann sa chluiche sin buaite age cúpla babhta. E ina chónaí anois i mBinn Eadair gairid do Bhaile Atha Cliath. Clann tógtha aige agus mic mac aige chomh maith. D'aithneofa an díomá ina ghlór nuair d'inis sé dom nár chuaigh oiread 's duine amháin dá chalinn le liathróid láimhe. Ce'n fáth? Ní raibh aon áit gairid dóibh chun an cluiche a chleachtadh; bhí an chúirt ba ghiorra dóibh i bPáirc an Chrócaigh! Ní h-aon ionadh go raibh díomá ar Jasper Dunne.

Tá fhios ag an saol mór go gcaithfidh duine an cluiche a fhoghlaim go h-óg má tá sé chun aon dul chun cinn a dhéanamh ann. Muna bhfuil cúirt laithróid láimhe sa cheanntar ina gcónaíonn sé tá fánach aige. Is beag ceann-

tar tuaithe go h-áirithe a bhfuil a leithéid d'áis le fáil ann agus a bheag nó a mhór de'n mhilleán le cur ar an Roinn Oideachais nó ar an údarás áitiúil oideachais.

Bhí uair ann nuair a lonnaití scoil nua in aon diabhal riasc nó i láthair bheag bhídeach gan mhaith. Ní bhíodh slí tímpeall ar an scoil chun iomáint nó peil nó aon saghas cluiche a imirt. Tá feabhas tagta or an scéal le fiche bliain anuas ach fós ní thugtar slí ach do fhaithe amháin iomána de ghnáth. Féachann an Roinn Oideachais chuige go mbíonn cúirt leadóige ann a oireann do chispheil chomh maith. Bhí mé ag caint uair le h-oifigeach de chuid na Roinne a mhínigh dom go meastar go bhfuil na cluichí sin tabhachtach toisc go bhfuil siad idirnáisiúnta.

Ba mhínic a bhí mé ar thoscaireacht ó'n INTO chuig an Roinn Oideachas a raibh Tógaint Scoileanna nó Foirnimh Scoileanna ar an gClár. Chaith mé trí bliana ar choiste speisialta a bhain le

Foirneoireacht agus Pleanáil scoileanna. Bhí mé im bhall de thoscaireacht ó Chumann Bunscoileanna na h-Eireann (CLCG). Glac mé leis na deiseanna san chun cheist chúirteanna Liathróid Láimhe ins na bunscoileanna a phlé le h-oifigigh na Roinne uair i ndiaidh a chéile.

Ach theip orainn aon dul chun cinn a dhéanamh. Ní hé go raibh cúirt mhór ghalánta uainn, ach d'íarramar ar an Roinn cúirt bheag ar chostas íseal a thógaint i ngach scoil nua a tógfaí nó deontas a thabhairt do no scoileanna chun cúirt a thógaint. Ach diúltaí dúinn! B'é an leithscéal a bhíodh acu i gcónaí nach bhfiaghfeadh ach beirt nó ceathrar de na scoláirí a leithéid d'áis a úsáid. Gheofaí an run ceanna a rá faoi chúirt leadóige ach bhí an cluiche sin idirnáisiúnta.

Ba chóir go gcuirfeadh muintir gach aon pharóiste d'fhiachaibh ar na h-údarás oideachais idir údarás náisiúnta agus áitiúil an áis bheag mhí-chostasúil sin a chur ar fáil go luath.

A YEAR WHEN THE TITLES ROLLED IN

By TOMMY O'BRIEN, President, Handball Association

THE YEAR 1984 was another bumper one for Kilkenny handballers. The county won 14 All-Ireland titles. The year began well when Kilkenny won the Leinster Convention Cup. Barely a week passed from that February victory but Kilkenny handballers were involved in major games.

Smithwick's handballer of the year, Pat O'Keeffe, was strongly opposed for this honour by quite a number of players with Michael Walsh – every year seems a good one for him – Billy Bourke, Michael Reade, Pierce O'Keeffe and Willie Pratt all in the running.

Among those 14 titles, all the harder to win this year because of the extra effort throughout the country to win a Centenary All-Ireland, were three team titles which also saw new ground broken for Kilkenny.

PAT AND PIERCE

Pat and Pierce O'Keeffe are dedicated handballers. Father and son – Pat is the father – they have been responsible for no less than six of those titles coming to Kilkenny. Pat is in the 50-plus bracket, which entitles him to play Golden Masters, but it doesn't stop him playing in Masters also and conceding 10 years to many of his opponents.

He won the Leinster Masters doubles with Mick Kirby, but lost the All-Ireland semi-final by a narrow margin. It was in Golden Masters, however, that he was dominant. He won three of the four titles up for grabs. Amazingly, the only one he did not capture was lost within the county when Tim Ryan and Johnny Hennessy from Ullard put paid to his hopes of winning all four crowns.

Hennessy – his arch-rival in that losing battle – was his arch-hero in the 40 x 20 Golden Masters doubles when he and Pat combined for Kilkenny's first win in this grade. It was especially praiseworthy for Johnny Hennessy as he was winning his first major title when most sportsmen would have packed it in, but this highly popular Ullard sportsman was always happy just playing the game. Now he has an All-Ireland title. Hopefully, there will be many more to come.

Pat went on to take both singles titles in this grade also. He beat Jimmy Walsh (Cork) in the American-sized court and was much too good for reigning champion and former Waterford hurling great,

Johnny Kiely in the larger 60 x 30 court. He also won the London Open Masters title.

Meanwhile, however, his son Pierce was not leaving all the family honour to his father! Pierce had been chosen to partner Michael 'Ducksie' Walsh in minor, and proved he was a perfect partner. Naturally, with Walsh as partner, Pierce was going to 'see' a lot of the ball. He stood manfully under the great pressure, and came through with flying colours.



BILLY BOURKE

This was certainly true in the Leinster softball semi-final when they faced their only real threat for the title – Meath. O'Keeffe was at his best and looked as if he could win through on his own. He was not found wanting in hardball either. When he and Walsh were 8-18 down in the first game of the All-Ireland final against Meath, O'Keeffe stepped into the gap and served out the game, and an ace in the next in the same hand.

On the biggest night of his handball career, under the glare of maximum exposure in Croke Park, Pierce came on court with a swollen jaw from massive teeth problems. He once more showed his class by withstanding the pressure and giving a masterful display. He won a fourth All-Ireland, but not in Kilkenny colours. He and Pat Hoban won the All-Ireland senior colleges' title with De La Salle, Waterford.

MICHAEL WALSH

The player to excite handballers throughout the country nowadays is, undoubtedly, Michael Walsh. Diminutive in physique, he is so fast, and his timing so good, that this is no real disadvantage to him.

He dominated minor this year. That was no surprise. Didn't he do so during the previous two years, so this year was hardly going to be an exception. Still, it was headline-making stuff. He won both 40 x 20 titles in minor grade. He then won both softball titles, also fully expected, but with a twist. He was the first player ever to win six minor softball titles. In fact, he has gone through three years of softball without losing a single game!

Then it was decision time. Should he try to equal Billy Bourke's record by going for both hardball titles as well. He had never played the game before. He took to it so well it was no surprise when he won through in both singles and doubles to take all six minor titles; 11 minor All-Irelands in his career.

This was not the sum total of his achievements this year, however. He won the Centenary junior title, beating among others Billy Bourke. He won the London Junior Open. He made his senior debut and won his way through to the All-Ireland senior Coca Cola semi-final!

Here he met champion Tony Ryan. He lost a great first game lead, levelled at one game each, and was on top in the third when a fall on the slippery ground lost him a certain ace and possible victory.

In the Leinster Utility Services Open, he won his way to the final. He beat Tom O'Rourke on the way and lost a marvellous first game 21-20 to Tony Ryan before being well beaten in the second. In the Munster Open, he also reached the final, beating Tom Quish and Tom Morrissey on the way, before losing out in a close final to, yes, Tony Ryan once more! He also was a member of the Talbot's Inch teams which won both inter-club senior titles. He is due to collect another award – this time a most unusual one and a first ever for a Kilkennyman. This should be public knowledge by the time this article is in print!

Continued on page 84 ►

CAN WE EXPECT MORE FROM MARTIN'S?

THE most improved team in Kilkenny, perhaps even in the whole country, must be senior hurling champions, St. Martin's (Ballyfoyle - Coon - Muckalee).

They won the local title by producing a fine brand of hurling against Shamrocks (Ballyhale) in the final. It was their finest hour . . . until then. Since they have improved immeasurably under the shrewd guidance of coach, Tom Neville (Wexford), and have been crowned kings of club hurling in Leinster.

No one deserved success more than St. Martin's. Hurling means a lot more to them than most folk, and they work hard at the game.

Coach Tom Neville, and trainer, Billy Brett, have struck up a devastating combination.

"Having made the breakthrough in Kilkenny we wanted to prove something to ourselves, and others. We are no bad team", selector, Paul Kinsella said. "We have got so far now we intend going the full distance".

And if enthusiasm is to count for anything, then St. Martin's will be top of the class when the all-Ireland championship concludes. They have a never ending love for hurling, and a great willingness to work at improving their skills.

That is what St. Martin's have done since they won their first Kilkenny title. They opened in the Leinster championship against O'Toole's (Dublin) and made hard work of winning by 2-13 to 0-13.

For the next match against Buffers Alley (Wexford) at Athy they travelled to the Co. Kildare venue the week before the game to have a work-out on the pitch. It helped, and they won by 4-12 to 2-8.

The next week-end they were back in Athy. This time they won the provincial title by beating a good Kinnitty (Offaly) by 2-11 to 0-12.

There was no comparison between the hurling St. Martin's played in Kilkenny, and outside. The players have matured no end, and their approach to the game is first class. They throw the ball around well, and never get involved.

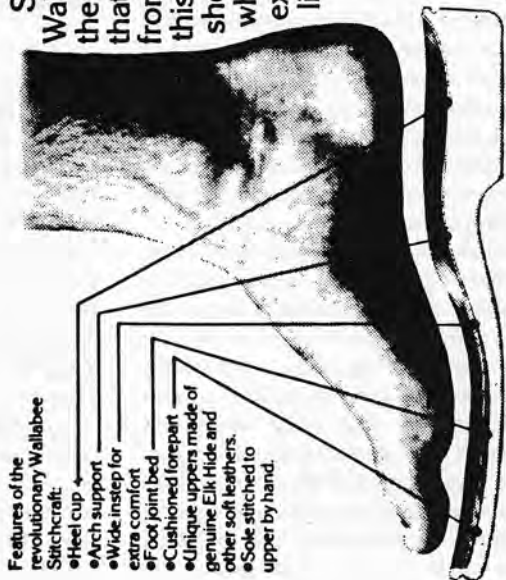
St. Martin's were surprise winners of the Kilkenny championship. They surprised many in Leinster. Hopefully, they will have a few more surprises for us in the new year.

St. Martin's Leinster final team: B. Shore, J. Kelly, T. Maher, N. Morrissey, T. Walsh, Jim Moran, M. Maher, John Moran, P. Lawlor, J. Morrissey, P. Moran, J. Brennan (captain), D. Coonan, T. Moran, R. Maloney. Subs: J. J. Dowling, T. Kinsella.

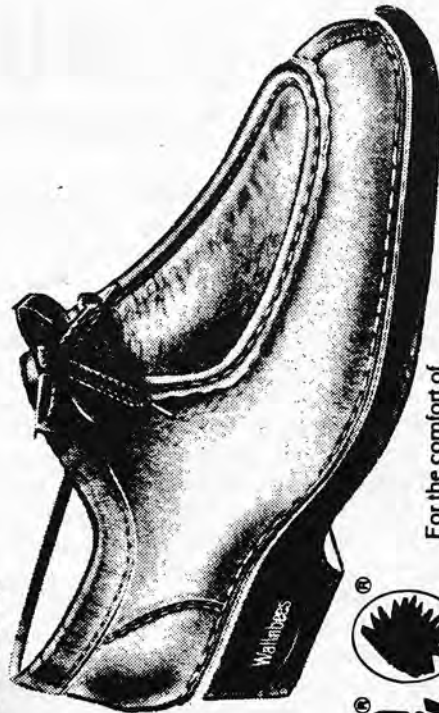
Made by hand for the comfort of your feet.

The Wallabee Stitchcraft.

Slip your feet into a pair of Wallabee Stitchcraft and experience the ultimate in comfort. Comfort that you never thought possible from a shoe. You see, the heart of this Irish designed, Irish made shoe is its unique footbed sole which follows the foot contours — exactly the way nature intended — like a footprint in the sand.



- Features of the revolutionary Wallabee Stitchcraft:
- Heel cup
 - Arch support
 - Wide instep for extra comfort
 - Foot joint bed
 - Cushioned forepart
 - Unique uppers made of genuine Elk Hide and other soft leathers.
 - Sole stitched to upper by hand.



For the comfort of your feet, buy a pair of Wallabee Stitchcraft at:
A quality Irish product. Made by Padmore & Barnes Ltd., Kilkenny.



AT LEAST THE COUNTY LOST NO GROUND

THERE ARE two ways Kilkenny people could look at the All-Ireland colleges' senior hurling championship this year. The optimists would consider it a year when a title was won. The pessimists would see it as one when a title was lost. But from whatever side one views it, the county had to be given credit for not losing any ground.

St. Kieran's College, that bastion of the ancient art of camán wielding, unsuccessfully contested the All-Ireland final against St. Finbarr's (Farrenferris). The losing margin of 0-8 to 1-15 was considerable, but yet there was consolation for the city boys.

The best tidings came in Leinster, when St. Kieran's topped Birr Community School in the final to collect their first provincial crown since 1977 and their 34th in all. For a school of such a proud sporting tradition as St. Kieran's, seven years was a long time to wait for provincial honours.

Things didn't work out as St. Kieran's had hoped in the All-Ireland, but with a young and light team they did well. And just as important as anything else, they picked up invaluable experience for the players who are still eligible to continue the quest for outright victory in 1985.

This was the second year a Kilkenny team contested the senior final. In 1983 Kilkenny C.B.S. lost the All-Ireland to St. Flannan's (Ennis), so at least the county managed to hold on to the provincial crown.

Unlike the C.B.S. the previous year, who could well talk about the 'one that got away' after the final, St. Kieran's could have no excuses. They were well beaten in their bid for an 8th title by a team that was better than useful at taking the long-range point.

Laboured progress

St. Finbarr's made lacklustre opponents look very ordinary as they made the running from the second minute. In the wide open spaces of Croke Park the 'Barrs started slowly and were making only laboured progress until they got through for their first goal in the 19th minute. That put them 1-7 to 0-3 clear when playing with the strong wind, and by the break they were even better off when 1-10 to 0-4 in front.

That considerable lead seemed to shatter the 'College boys' confidence

and they never looked like pulling it back. Indeed, after some promising performances earlier, the effort in the decider disappointed.

Long before the end more than a couple of the St. Kieran's players had accepted defeat, but such as Tony Byrne, Liam Egan, Tomás McCluskey, Pat Carroll, Eamon Morrissey and Willie O'Dwyer, in the first half, put in efforts worthy of the highest praise.

Former Waterford and Munster star Nicky Cashin and Fr. Fergus Farrell, the team handlers, worked hard with their charges, but St. Finbarr's were just too powerful. There was nothing anyone could do to halt the Munster champions' bid for their fifth title.

So St. Kieran's had to be satisfied with their success in Leinster. That was achieved with wins over Good Counsel (New Ross), St. Peter's College (Wex-

ford) and then Birr in the decider.

Of the lot, the semi-final against St. Peter's was the toughest. The 'College opened the campaign against Good Counsel. They hardly had to raise a sweat as they mounted a half-time lead of 3-7 to 0-1. Eventually they won by an impressive 5-14 to 1-3 with Eamon Keher, son of former county 'great' Eddie Keher, hammering home 2-5.

Game spoiled

It was back to the same venue, Dr. Cullen Park, for the semi-final against St. Peter's, who are always a team to be reckoned with. The game was spoiled by strong winds, but the Noresiders seemed to adjust to the demanding conditions better. After playing into the teeth of the wind they trailed by just 0-1 to 0-2 at the break. Then they got 1-7 to 0-3 in front by the end of the third quarter and they looked to be coasting to a handy win.

Thereafter St. Peter's ran riot. They held their opponents scoreless for the rest of the match and in the end lost by the slenderest of margins, 1-7 to 1-6. St. Kieran's escaped and lived to fight

Continued on page 82 ▶

They were in first final

ST. KIERAN'S College had the honour of contesting the first All-Ireland colleges' senior hurling final in 1944. It was a losing start against St. Flannan's (Ennis), who won by 5-5 to 3-3. Ever since, the Kilkenny school has been classed as one of the giants of the competition.

Perhaps it is no coincidence then that St. Flannan's and St. Kieran's head the honours list. The Co. Clare school leads the rest with nine victories, while the Noresiders have scored two less.

Incidentally, before the All-Ireland series was started, an inter-provincial championship was held. This was inaugurated in 1927.

St. Kieran's were involved in another first this time when they contested the Centenary final. The decider against St. Finbarr's was the first one to be televised live. St. Kieran's won the Croke Cup in:

1948

St. Kieran's 2-12; S. Colman's (Fermoy) 2-2.

1957

St. Kieran's 4-2; St. Flannan's (Ennis) 2-7.

1959

St. Kieran's 2-13; Tipperary C.B.S. 4-2.

1961

St. Kieran's 8-8; North Monastery (Cork) 1-4.

1965

St. Kieran's 6-9; Limerick C.B.S. 6-1.

1971

St. Kieran's 8-6, St. Finbarr's (Farrenferris) 5-8.

1975

St. Kieran's 6-9; Coláiste Iognáid Rís (Cork) 2-3.

YES, PADDY GRACE WAS AMAZING

"ASK NOT what your country can do for you, but rather what you can do for your country". The late John F. Kennedy, when President of America, inspired a nation with those simple but very meaningful words. Today, they are as relevant as when they were delivered in the sixties.

Those well chosen words expressed a wise doctrine, not just in relation to one's country, but to involvement in anything. Involvement for the right reason is all about doing good. To do, and not to expect.

We all know people who have devoted themselves to something. Not the sacrifice of money or such like, but of time. It may be for the handicapped, the old, the missions, the poor or the blind. It could be anything, where people work so others can benefit. Time and money mean nothing to the true blues.

In late July the G.A.A. in Kilkenny lost a true blue. The death of Co. Board secretary of the past 36 years, Mr. Paddy Grace, took from the ranks of the 'Association one of the greatest men ever to hold an administrative position, in this county or any other.

Paddy, the portly man with a cheerful smile that could brighten up a room, was arguably Kilkenny's most renowned G.A.A. personality. Known to young and old alike as Paddy, he had a down-to-earth feeling for the 'Association that was unique.

"He had reached a maturity in his job that it became automatic to him", his great friend Monsignor Tom. Maher remarked during a touching homily at the funeral mass.

A MILLION FRIENDS

He recalled that he never once saw Paddy Grace taking a note about anything he was asked to do. But still, in victory or defeat, he never forgot anything. He was a man blessed with a fantastic memory.

"He was an extraordinary man in an extraordinary job", he went on. "He recognised everyone and was recognised by everyone".

That was Paddy Grace alright, the man with a million friends, and a word for every one of them.

His heart was captured by the G.A.A. when he was just a small boy living in

Bonnettstown. Somehow he wriggled his way into the home of former Town Clerk, Jimmy Hawe, who lived near the Graces', when Mooncoin and Tullaroan players were celebrating together after a gruelling championship encounter.

The small boy with the bright eyes was so taken by the warmth and friendship of men who only hours previously were locked in fierce battle, that there-and-then he decided the G.A.A. was for him.

"When I experienced such an event I said this was for me", Paddy recalled years later. "Since, the G.A.A. has been my life".

He was 67 when he died. He had lived a full life and he had realised his ambition, which was to do all in his power to further the cause of the G.A.A. Few could ever have said they did more. Paddy would never have said he did anything. That wasn't his way. He worked. He got things done. His reward was to see things right.

Paddy Grace was larger than life, a truly colourful character. He played in the famous 'thunder and lightning' all-Ireland senior hurling final of 1939 when he helped his beloved Kilkenny to victory over Cork. He collected a second such award in the epic final of 1947. On that never to be forgotten occasion he made the vital interception which led to Terry Leahy shooting the winning score.

MEDALS AT SIX GRADES

What few knew about the '47 final was that Paddy took 'time out' during the pre-match parade. As a young player he was essentially shy and retiring. He could not stand the tension of the march around. In his own way he solved the problem. He sat it out in the dug-out. Then seconds before the start he dashed to his right corner-back position, and the lamb of the pageantry became the lion of the fray.

With Leinster, Paddy Grace won Railway Cup hurling honours in 1941.



Paddy Grace, Kilkenny Co. Board secretary for 36 years.

And in Kilkenny he won county medals at six grades.

In 1934 he helped Kilkenny C.B.S. to victory in the Leinster colleges junior hurling championship. That was his first real taste of victory. Later he won minor, junior and intermediate hurling honours with Eire Og before he helped Carrickshock to that yet unmatched four-in-a-row of senior titles between 1940 and 1943. He helped Dicksboro to a senior championship success in 1950.

With Eire Og he won a junior football championship in 1937, and 11 years later he helped St. John's capture the senior crown.

It was in 1948 that he was elected secretary, and he went on to be the longest serving Co. Board secretary in Ireland. During his term the county won a magnificent 10 all-Ireland senior hurling titles. To a mad hurling man like Paddy, those were great years, even if sometimes the harvests were bad. The fortunes of Kilkenny hurling was Paddy's barometer.

ONE OF A KIND

He had a special way about him. He knew who was genuine and who was not, and when it came to the distribution of all-Ireland tickets – which he did in a unique manner – he made sure the right people were always looked after.

Going through life you meet many

Continued on page 30 ►

They tried hard for a consolation prize



Kieran Brennan

THE TWO major hurling trophies may have been handed back by Kilkenny in 1984, but they made a very bold bid to get another as a consolation prize. The Noresiders went into Clare's own backyard, and only after a thrilling encounter gave best to the home side by the minimum margin in the Oireachtas senior hurling final.

That was back on a cold and miserable November afternoon. It was the county's eighth defeat in the Oireachtas decider, while Clare collected their third title.

At the time the final was played, Kilkenny were chasing the hat-trick of National League, All-Ireland championship and, of course, Oireachtas. Time was to wipe out that lofty goal, but at least the Noresiders enjoyed the satisfaction of reaching a final during the Centenary year, even if it was one of the lesser competitions.

For the Marble City side, the series involved two games – a semi-final against Wexford and the showdown against Clare. Both were played in the middle of Winter and while the first was a middle of the road affair, the second was most enjoyable.

The Wexford match was played at Nowlan Park and attracted a couple of thousand supporters. There was no messing around in the tackling, and it was tough, testing stuff all the way.

In the end Kilkenny won by double scores (0-14 to 0-7) after leading by 0-6 to 0-4 at half-time. But four times in the opening period the teams were level, the last being in the 25th minute at 0-4 each.

Reason to be grateful

Wexford began to fade in the second half and actually went the closing 11 minutes without scoring. The weather deteriorated during this period, and with it the fare became poor.

Ennis, where subsequently the G.A.A. officially launched the Centenary celebrations, was beautifully turned out for the second meeting of the counties in the Oireachtas final. About 5,000 people turned out, and their brave efforts in uninviting weather were handsomely rewarded.

Clare gained the verdict on a 1-12 to

1-11 scoreline, but they had every reason to be grateful to smashing centre-back Sean Stack and goalkeeper Denis Conroy, who hurled star games.

It was the first time Kilkenny's prolonged exertions of the previous two years began to show. Some of the players looked leg-weary at times and in need of a break from the game, while Clare were mad-hungry after indifferent form for a long period, and this made the difference in the end between victory and defeat.

The Noresiders turned over 0-9 to 1-3 in front and were further boosted by a penalty goal from Christy Heffernan – he was in America and missed the semi-final – in the 33rd minute. Clare looked out of it, but they did a Lazarus-type act and came back from the dead, much to the delight of their loyal supporters.

In going for the Oireachtas, Kilkenny were attempting to bridge a gap stretching back to 1969 when they scored their last victory in the competition.

Kilkenny players used were – Noel Skehan, John Henderson, Dick O'Hara, Paddy Neary, Joe Hennessy, Ger Henderson, Jim Kinsella, Sean Fennelly,

Eamon Wallace, Paudie Lannon, M. J. Ryan, Harry Ryan, Richard Power, Kevin Fennelly, Michael Kelly, Paddy Prendergast, Nickey Brennan, Kieran Brennan, Liam Fennelly, Christy Heffernan, Frank Cummins and Billy Fitzpatrick.

The scores that nearly did it

October 23 at Nowlan Park

Kilkenny 0-14
Wexford 0-7

Scorers: K. Fennelly (0-7); H. Ryan (0-3); E. Wallace (0-2); P. Lannon, R. Power (0-1 each).

November 6 at Ennis

Clare 1-12
Kilkenny 1-11

Scorers: B. Fitzpatrick (0-7); K. Fennelly (0-3); C. Heffernan (1-0); K. Brennan (0-1).

SEVEN TO OUR CREDIT

KILKENNY lost more Oireachtas finals than they have won. Since the competition commenced in 1939 they won seven titles, and lost just one more.

Their initial success was in 1940, which was also their largest when they beat Cork by a massive 23 points. The victories were scored in:

1940

Kilkenny 7-11, Cork 1-6.

1947

Kilkenny 2-12, Galway 2-6.

1957

Kilkenny 4-10, Waterford 2-5.

1959

Kilkenny 6-6, Galway 5-8.

1966

Kilkenny 4-7, Wexford 1-7.

1967

Kilkenny 4-4, Clare 1-8.

1969

Kilkenny 4-14, Cork 3-10.



Back Row (L-R): Jim Kerwick, Billy Gaffney, Sean Dowling, Paddy Grace, Jim Quinn, Eamon Malone, Tom Goss - ?, Tom Dooley, John Bergin.
2nd Row (L-R): Fiacre McKenna, Joe Bergin, Jimmy Bergin, Paddy Phelan, Greg Sinnott, Henry Murray, Paddy McGuinness, - ? -, Larry Morrissey, Michael Walsh, Joe Galvin, Phil Drohan.
3rd. Row (L-R): Eddie Walsh, Tom Cantwell, Liam Davitt, Paddy Walsh, Jack Coady, Tommy McGuinness, Turlough Hoban, Tom Davis, Paddy O'Neill, Tommy Kerwick, Mick McBride, John Fitzgerald.
4th. Row (L-R): ?, Pat Walsh, Peter Heneberry, Francis Murphy, Sean O'Brien, Bobby Quigley, Mick Slattery, Canice Coogan, Jerry Dunne, Sam Oakes, David Murphy, Tommy Dowling, Paddy Cleere.
Front Row (L-R): Jim Rhatigan, Paddy Farrell, Dick Corrigan, Mick McGarry, Jim Lucas, Paddy Mahony, Jim Byrne, Jack Shortall, Tommy Murray, Jim Bergin, Paddy Casey, Eddie Delahunty, Toddy Kealy.

TAKEN 1945 (Stand Down Parade City Old Coy)

The coffin of the late Paddy Grace was draped in the Tricolour. Many people wondered why. Paddy had served in the defence forces, and above we reproduce a picture of him with his comrades.

◀ Continued from page 28

people. Those of us who knew Paddy Grace met one of a kind. The mould which formed the man was original. We were all richer for having known him.

He had a remarkable wife in Maureen,

a lady who down through the years learned as much about the G.A.A. and the management of its affairs as her husband did. She was the invisible assistant, the woman with an ever warm welcome

to callers at their Newpark home. To others the loss of Paddy Grace, the friendly man, was enormous. The loss to her cannot be measured. She, and her family, have our sympathy.

THINKING OF BUYING A NEW OR USED CAR, VAN OR TRUCK

BOLAND'S New Ross

is the place to go



FULL RANGE OF NEW MODELS EX-STOCK
 Good selection of Quality Used Models on display.

TOP TRADE-IN ALLOWANCE PAID
 H.P. Personal Loans and Leasing facilities available

For further information contact:

Michael Long, Seamus Boland, or Gary Murphy

**WATERFORD RD.
 NEW ROSS**

Phone 051/21403 21604 21213
 Open Mon-Sat. 9.30-6 p.m. or by appointment.

"JUST A LITTLE SOMETHING ABOUT FOOTBALL"

THE YEAR 1984 was no different from any other as far as football in Kilkenny was concerned. A few interested people put in a lot of effort as usual, but the hurling big brother took all the limelight.

No matter what, it seems, football will always struggle in Kilkenny, where the big ball game is regarded by some as more of an inconvenience than anything else.

John Lockes (Callan) official Barry Henriques is the chairman of Kilkenny Football Board. He has made riveting statements about the treatment the game has received in the past. In a less hostile mood, he reflects on the happenings of the past 12 months.

IT IS that time of the year again when one party approaches a second and says: 'Do us an article on Gaelic – as if there was any other kind – football'. The second party enquires about a theme, something that has not been done before. The first party replies: 'Aw sure, you'll think of something'.

So this article starts on a Monday – two weeks later and still searching for a subject. Can one write about success? Well, at inter-county level Kilkenny's success rate, measured on a scale of 1 to 10, would optimistically hit a figure of five.

The minor selectors advocated a programme of weekly competitive matches from early Spring. For once the Co. Board, especially the late Paddy Grace (R.I.P.) the secretary, facilitated the programme in every way possible. The programme, and training, moved along as planned, but – you might have guessed – on the evening we played Wexford in the first round of the Leinster championship two of our most vaunted players failed to show up until the second half.

At that stage we had lost centre-back Bosco Bryan

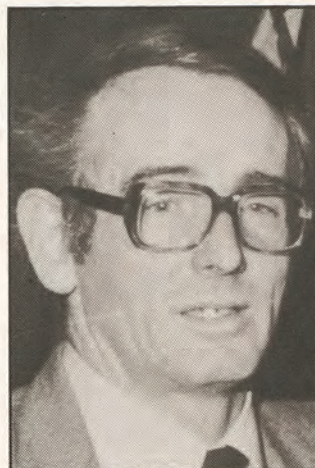
(John Lockes) and Wexford had taken an unassailable lead. The boys tried everything they knew, gave 110%, but were marginally beaten. All the good work of the players, and mentors – Harry Bryan, Gabriel Teehan, Bill Walsh and Fr. Kelly, who is now working on the African missions – was to no avail. Did we have success? you may ask. Yes, in terms of commitment, effort and dedication.

FIFTH YEAR AS UNDER-21 PLAYER

The Kilkenny under-21 football team was really a surprise packet. No collective training, matches or even getting-to-know-you meetings. Yet it took the luckiest of sideline frees to earn Laois a second bite of the apple in the first round of the Leinster championship.

The replay in Timahoe was tough and uncompromising. Laois emerged victorious by a small margin. Incidentally, this marked David Hoyne's (Thomastown) fifth year as an under-21 football player.

Laois were later barely beaten by Carlow, who blazed



Barry Henriques

a great trail towards championship honours. Had we success? Yes. The talent of Thomas Brennan (Railyard), Tommy Phelan (Shamrocks), Joe Walsh (Bigwood), Lar McEvoy (Lisdowney), Michael Devane (Dicksboro) and Mick Duggan (Glenmore) would seem to augur well for the future. A notable absentee for the replay with Laois was a fellow – a man he wasn't – who preferred to train with the under-21 hurling panel on the big night.

The junior county team was pitted against Wexford in Thomastown. The team looked great on paper. The nucleus of the side was made

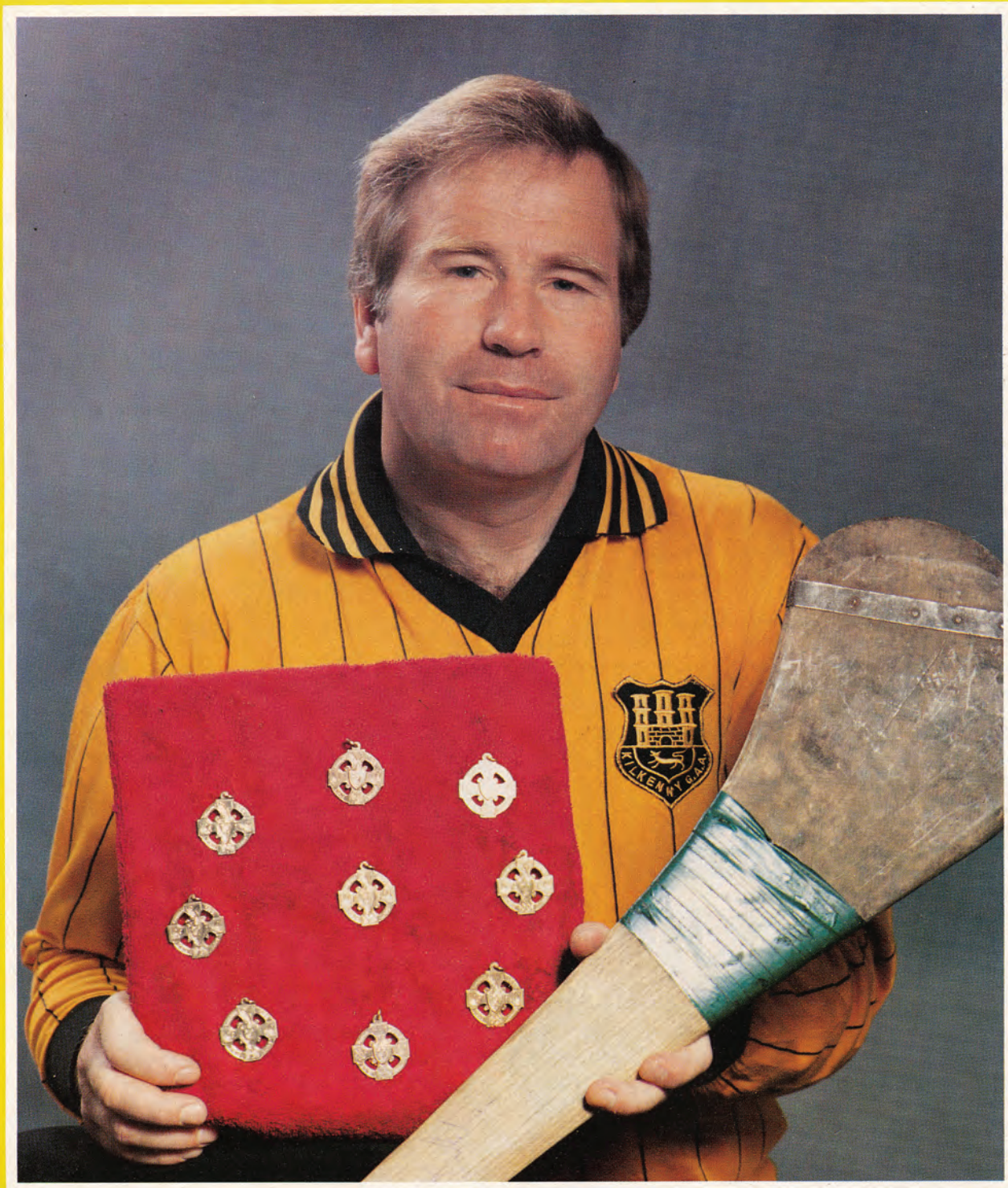
up by the finest of players from Thomastown and the Railyard with a great help from Bennettsbridge (Jimmy Lannon), Freshford (Murty Tierney and Eamon Maher), Dunnamaggin (the evergreen and reliable Malachy Hogan) and Muckalee (Pat Lawlor). One error of judgement cost Kilkenny the match, but not until they gave Wexford the fright of their lives. Subsequently, Wexford went on to contest the All-Ireland final.

What a pity the selectors – Kieran Meally, Brendan O'Sullivan – did not reap due rewards for their dynamic efforts. Believe you me, anyone involved in football in Kilkenny has every entitlement to use the word effort.

The finest football game locally this year was without doubt the Centenary final between Thomastown and Muckalee. What a battle. It was full of manliness, skill, and heart. Thomastown emerged victorious, but only after extra-time. One had to feel sorry for the losers.

There you have it – an article with little or no acrimony, which is unusual for me. On a success scale of 1 to 10 I still think five is just about par.

NOEL SKEHAN



AFTER THE first 100 years of Gaelic games, a Kilkenny man holds the record for the biggest number of all-Ireland senior medals won by an individual.

Noel Skehan, the Bennettsbridge goalkeeping genius, won nine all-Ireland hurling medals, and as he is still playing, he has a chance to add to that fabulous collection.

In 1982 Noel Skehan joined John Doyle (Tipperary) and the legendary Christy Ring (Cork), who were the record holders until then with eight medals each. When Kilkenny won the all-Ireland of 1983 the Smithwick's Brewery employee went ahead of all the rest.

Noel Skehan won senior all-Ireland medals in 1963, 1967, 1969 (as a sub) and 1972 (captain), 1974, 1975, 1979, 1982 and 1983.

IN TRYING CIRCUMSTANCES, SHAMROCKS SHINE THROUGH

ORGANISATION wise and attention wise, it may not have been much of a competition, but for the fourth time in nine years a Kilkenny team carried off the all-Ireland club senior hurling championship.

This time the Shamrocks (Ballyhale) did it, as they scored their second win in three years.

This was a competition that was belittled by the powers that be on one of the greatest occasions of the G.A.A., the Centenary anniversary. Time out of number you hear the so called aristocracy of the 'Association spouting about the importance of the club. When it came to this particular competition the clubs were treated very shabbily indeed.

The highly motivated Shamrocks had to play just six matches, including a replayed final, to get their hands on the Tommy Moore memorial trophy. Between one thing and another it took eight months to complete this less than demanding schedule. It was not the fault of the clubs.

The Kilkenny champions, at any rate, were always willing to fulfil their commitments. When it came to the semi-finals and final they even agreed to play the matches on consecutive days.

But when the final against Gort (Galway) ended in stalemate they were forced to wait from April until June before the replay could be fitted in. That meant the inter-county club championship touched on two local championships spanning two years. That's a fair long time.

In such circumstances you would have to wonder was it worth bothering about at all. But the Shamrocks took their task of Kilkenny standard-bearers very seriously, and they excelled by bringing home the cup despite all the hassle.

INSPIRED MATES

As ever they were prepared to get on with the job. Great servants such as Maurice Mason, Liam Dalton, Johnny Walsh and the evergreen and ever enthusiastic Ollie Harrington rolled up their sleeves and inspired their younger team mates to go for a bit of history on this special occasion.

To win their third Leinster final (1978, '81 and 1984) the Ballyhale brigade had to beat Kiltale (Meath) and Erin's Isle (Dublin) without the skilled Ger Fennelly and Brendan Fennelly, who were both injured. Ger was back for the provincial final which was a demanding battle

against the best of Offaly, Kinnitty (3-6 to 0-9).

It was from here on that this usually well organised competition ran into deep trouble. Because of a glut of competitions and Centenary ceremonies, it was hard to find time to play the all-Ireland series. Eventually it was decided to finish it on a weekend, with the semi-finals on Saturday and the final the following day.

It was one way of getting the championship over and done with, but gave scant regard to the clubs involved, or their supporters. In the case of the Shamrocks they were given a Navan venue for their semi clash with Ballycastle (Antrim). As they went into that tie they didn't know where they were going to be the next day if they won. The Sunday venue depended on the outcome of the other semi-final between Gort (Galway) and Middleton (Cork).

This meant the Kilkenny side and indeed all the rest, were unable to make hotel arrangements for meals and so on for the day of the final. Supporters had to hang by radio and television sets to find out where they were going on this particularly long mystery tour of Ireland.

GOT MESSAGE

The opening half of the semi-final featured nasty and wild pulling. It became so bad at times that before the start of the second half the referee spent five minutes clearing the sideline area. Happily this action got the message through to 'cool it' and the Northerners were dispatched on a 3-14 to 2-10 scoreline.

It wasn't by any means an easy passage for the South Kilkenny boys. At half-time they led by 3-5 to 1-5, but untypically they lost control of proceedings in the new half and Ballycastle fought back to whittle down the arrears to a point. With some great hurling being turned in by Maurice Mason, Watty Phelan, Ger Fennelly, Liam Long, Michael Kelly and Kevin Fennelly, the Noresiders took control again and won with a good bit in hand.

Gort's win in the other penultimate match decided the Birr, Co. Offaly venue

for the final. By this time the Shamrocks had Liam Fennelly, victim of a wild tackle in an inter-county match against Waterford, nursing a leg injury. He did not feel good enough to tog-off for the semi-final. For the sake of the Shamrocks it was just as well he jumped into action against Gort.

The hard tackling Connacht champions led at half-time by 0-7 to 0-5. In the 41st minute the Shamrocks mentors risked Liam Fennelly because the game was slipping away from them, despite heroic midfield play by the immensely effective Johnny Walsh.

Afterwards Liam Fennelly 'made' a goal for his brother Kevin and also engineered two frees which helped the Kilkenny side get a 1-10 each draw. Indeed, Liam went one better and was involved when another free was awarded to the Shamrocks. But the chance to win was missed, so the final went to a second clash.

This was played on June 3 at Thurles. This time the Shamrocks kept the status-quo and again scored 1-10. Gort were only able to reply with 0-6, and left one wondering how they managed to do so well the first day.

MARKED MAN

The teams were on level terms at 0-4 each in the 20th minute. Then a typical snappy burst by the Noresiders produced a goal for Ger Fennelly and a point from his brother, Kevin to leave them 1-5 to 0-4 clear at the halfway mark. That was the beginning of the end for Gort.

Entering the last quarter the Shamrocks decided to take off the now fully-fit Liam Fennelly. He was obviously a marked man, and it was more for his own safety than anything else that he was withdrawn. In his absence, the powerful hurling of Maurice Mason, Dermot Fennelly, Kevin and Ger Fennelly and Ollie Harrington carried the Shamrocks to a memorable victory.

This was a victory as much for perseverance as for skill. The stop-start nature of the event made it impossible for mentors to keep their charges perked-up. When it mattered the



THE SHAMROCKS – all-Ireland Club Senior Hurling Champions, and beaten Kilkenny finalists.

Back row (l. to r.): Johnny Walsh, Liam Fennelly, Ger Fennelly, Frank Holohan, Sean Fennelly, Liam Long, Maurice Mason, Michael Fennelly, Liam Dalton. Front row (l. to r.): Kevin Fennelly, Watty Phelan, Tommy Phelan, Dermot Fennelly, Brendan Fennelly, Michael Kelly, Tom Ryan (trainer). Inset: Ollie Harrington.

Shamrocks put in the work and they plundered the treasure.

Shamrocks final team was: O. Harrington, F. Holohan, L. Dalton, W. Phelan, M. Fennelly, M. Mason, S. Fennelly, J. Walsh, T. Phelan, B. Fennelly, G. Fennelly, M. Kelly, D. Fennelly, K. Fen-

nelly, L. Fennelly. Sub – L. Long. Other members of the panel were D. Connolly, P. Holden, S. Grace, R. Kenneally, G. Dempsey and J. Dollard.

The Shamrocks also won this championship in 1981 when they beat St. Finbarr's (Cork) by 1-15 to 1-11. They lost

the final of 1979 to Blackrock (Cork) by 5-7 to 5-5.

The only other Kilkenny club who won this championship were James Stephens who were successful in 1976 against Blackrock and in 1982 against Mount Sion (Waterford).



Developing In 1 Hour

Kilkenny People

**HIGH STREET, KILKENNY
056-21015**



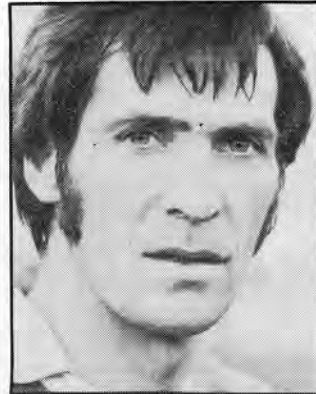
All-Stars – ahead of the rest



Liam Fennelly



Ger Henderson



Frank Cummins



Paddy Prendergast

IN THE individual and collective roll of honour, Kilkenny are superior to all the rest as regards the Bank of Ireland All-Star awards scheme.

No other county, in either of the ancient codes of hurling or football, can compare with the magnificent 57 awards bagged by the sweet caman wielders from the banks of the Nore.

Even the elegant Kerry footballers have to accept second best. Overall they have 52 awards to their credit.

When the current Bank of Ireland stars were announced there was great jubilation on the Noreside when nine players were selected. This was after the county registered the double of National League and Championship victories for the second successive year.

Extraordinary goalkeeper, Noel Skehan, became the All-Star supremo for both hurling and football when he was honoured for the seventh time.

Prior to the '83 All-Stars — they were only announced in February of this year — the Bennettsbridge net-minder, Joe McKenna (Limerick) and Kerry footballer, Pat Spillane, shared the honours in

the individual rankings with six awards each.

Spillane, however, is still out on his own in football.

Having nine players on the '83 selection also gave Kilkenny a first. This was the greatest number honoured in the same year, and equalled the record held by Dublin (1977) and Kerry (1981).

On the hurling side the previous best was eight. Cork had this number honoured in 1977 and the Noresiders had a like number five years later.

But there was another record for Kilkenny. They had two sets of brothers picked. John and Ger Henderson and Liam and Ger Fennelly marked the only selection in which two sets of brothers found favour in the same year.

Surprisingly, the inclusion of the Fennellys marked the first All-Star awards for the honoured laden Shamrocks (Ballyhale) club.

Of course, the Hendersons had a third member of the family honoured. Big brother, Pat, the current Kilkenny trainer-coach, won awards in 1973 and 1974.

Cork stand second in the hurling roll of honour with 41 awards. The only other county above the 20 mark is Limerick, who have 23.

The Kilkenny All-Stars of 1983 were: Noel Skehan, John Henderson, Dick O'Hara, Joe Hennessy, Ger Henderson, Frank Cummins, Ger Fennelly, Billy Fitzpatrick, Liam Fennelly.

The full list of Kilkenny Bank of Ireland All-Stars reads:

7

Noel Skehan, Bennettsbridge – 1972, 1973, 1974, 1975, 1976, 1982 and 1983.

5

Eddie Keher, Rower-Inistioge – 1971, 1972, 1973, 1974 and 1975.

4

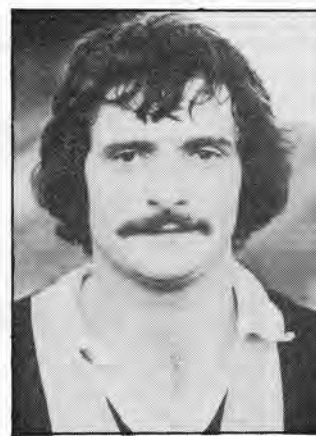
Frank Cummins, Blackrock – 1971, 1972, 1982 and 1983.



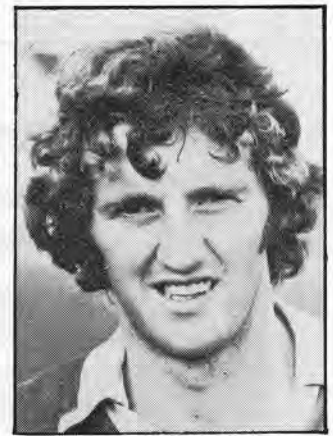
Dick O'Hara



Joe Hennessy



Billy Fitzpatrick



Ger Fennelly





Ger Henderson, Fenians – 1978, 1979, 1982 and 1983.

Phil 'Fan' Larkin, James Stephens – 1973, 1974, 1976, 1978.

Liam 'Chunkey' O'Brien, James Stephens (now O'Loughlin's) – 1973, 1974, 1975 and 1979.

3

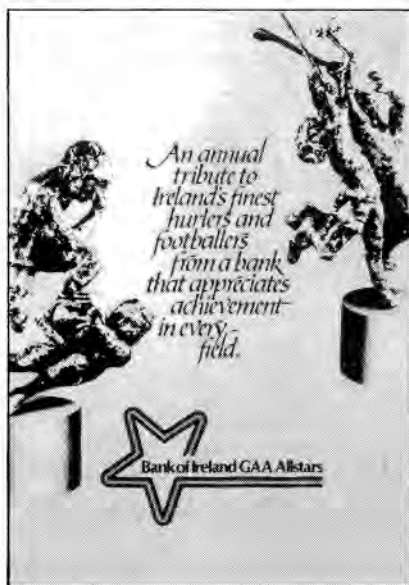
Mick 'Cloney' Brennan, Erin's Own – 1975, 1976 and 1979.

Joe Hennessy, James Stephens – 1978, 1979 and 1983.

Kieran Purcell, Windgap – 1973, 1974 and 1975.

2

Brian Cody, James Stephens – 1975 and 1982.



Pat Delaney, Fenians – 1972 and 1973.

Billy Fitzpatrick, Fenians – 1982 and 1983.

Pat Henderson, Fenians – 1973 and 1974.

Jim Treacy, Bennettsbridge – 1971 and 1972.

1

Martin Coogan, Erin's Own – 1971.

Mick Crotty, James Stephens – 1974.

Ger Fennelly, Shamrocks – 1983.

Liam Fennelly, Shamrocks – 1983.

Christy Heffernan, Glenmore – 1982.

John Henderson, Fenians – 1983.

Pat Lawlor, Bennettsbridge – 1972.

Dick O'Hara, Thomastown – 1983.

Paddy Prendergast, Clara – 1982.

Richard Power, Carrickshock – 1982.



'Big Apple' visitors made historic trip

ST. BARNABAS Gaelic football club, New York, carved their own niche in this Centenary year by sending a minor football team to this country. And they spent two days during their historic tour in Kilkenny, where they were guests of the James Stephens club.

All the members of the visiting side and their officials were accommodated by members and supporters of the Kilkenny city club.

On the evening of Tuesday, July 31, the visitors took on the home side in a minor football challenge at the James Stephens club grounds at Larchfield. After an excellent game the New York side emerged victors by 2-6 to 0-8.

Outstanding for the winners were goalie Joe Madden, man of the match David Sweeney, while the losers had good performances from Thomas Leahy, Martin Forristal and John Larkin. The game was refereed by P. J. Butler.

New York panel: Martin O'Malley, Jimmy Murray, Eugene Handlow, Kevin Byrne, David McSweeney, Denis Ryan, John Coleman, Chris Coleman, Benny Smith, Michael Finnegan, Eddie Kerin,

James O'Boyle, Denis Burke, Joseph Madden, Brian Montgomery, Michael Weldon, James Carey, Michael Carey, Peter Cassidy, Richard Doherty, Patrick Firth, Michael Shea, James Sevane.

James Stephens: L. Power, S. Maguire, T. McEvoy, T. Delahunty, P. Sullivan, N. Brophy, N. I. Lanigan, Tom Leahy, M. Forristal, J. Smith, A. Kummer, N. Morrissey, P. Heffernan, G. Grace, J. Larkin. Subs.: J. Dalton, D. Cody.

On day two of the American boys' visit they were received at the City Hall by the Mayor, Mr. Tom Crotty, and gifts were exchanged. In the afternoon the visitors played a basketball game against St. Patrick's, and afterwards were taken on a conducted tour of Smithwicks Brewery.

Later that day in the James Stephens club rooms at Larchfield the American party were entertained to a farewell dinner, during which commemorative plaques were presented.

Mr. Bill Cody, chairman of the Kilkenny club, presented a beautiful plaque to the St. Barnabas club chairman, Mr.

Paddy Markham. The latter presented a beautiful inscribed plaque to the James Stephens club. A set of trophies was also presented to the James Stephens juvenile chairman, William Smith, by Mr. Markham. The trophies were for the James Stephens minor side that had played St. Barnabas.

The plaque presented to the St. Barnabas club was sponsored by the well-known Kilkenny man in New York, Mr. John Byrne, a founder-member of the St. Barnabas club. John is a great friend of the James Stephens club and gave them valuable assistance during their visit to New York in 1978.

During the evening Mr. Cody welcomed the Americans to Kilkenny on what he described as a historic visit and paid tribute to the high standard shown by their players. He complimented the officers on the tremendous work they were doing for Gaelic football in New York.

Mr. Markham and Jim Coleman, tour organiser, thanked the James Stephens club for their hospitality.

THE JUNIORS HAD TO VIRTUALLY WIN TWO FINALS

IT IS not every team that has to win two finals before being crowned champions, but, in some ways, that is virtually what one Kilkenny side had to do in '84. The competition was so hot at the conclusion of the championship that the last two games were worthy to be classed as deciders.

The Noreside team with this very gruelling schedule was the junior hurlers, who toppled Cork in a smashing semi-final at Nowlan Park, and then five days later sank Galway in the final at Thurles. The semi was a real cracker, and while the showdown was not far behind, both could hardly have been bettered.

In many ways this was an exceptional win by Kilkenny, who had been beaten at the semi-final stage the previous year. The team that was expertly trained and roused for battle by former goalkeeping great, Ollie Walsh (Thomastown), saw an astronomical 32 players used during the five match campaign.

The selectors – John Healy (Tullagher/Rosbercon); Joe Prendergast (Thomastown); Eddie Leahy (O'Loughlin's); Billy Gaffney (Tullaroan) and Co. Board chairman, Michael O'Neill – saw chinks in the armour highlighted at each stepping stone along the way. As

it turned out, the only teams that remained the same were the ones that finished the semi-final and started the final.

In certain respects one must praise the selectors for the desire to constantly search for talent, and wonder at the same time why it took them so long to find the right blend. It all worked out well in the end, but if the opposition in Leinster had been tougher, developments might have taken another more tragic course.

PLENTY OF PLACES

Part of the explanation for the big panel used was due to the rules of the competition. Players who participated in the all-Ireland semi-final the previous year were ineligible for a time. After the provincial championship they were free to resume again and this led to the late inclusion of such fine performers as Pat Power, John Marnell and John O'Dwyer.

The same situation will prevail next season, when the players who helped in the Leinster final and all-Ireland series this time will be ruled out until the provincial championship is concluded. So there should be plenty of places up for grabs for the junior and intermediate club players locally.

Obviously they were on offer this season also. The opening round victory over Kildare at Newbridge was a very ordinary one. The Noresiders won by 0-18 to 1-8, but it took them ages to come to terms with a free pulling Kildare, after they were on even terms of 1-4 (Kildare) to 0-7 at the break.

Meath were hammered to the tune of 26 points in the next outing. It was after that the team began to show promise. In the Leinster final victory over Wexford they showed a mean streak that suggested they were tuned-in nicely and they would take a bit of beating.

While on the scoreboard (2-13 to 0-7) it wasn't the greatest test in the world, the physical battle on the field was something different. The Noresiders played it as they met it – with a tough, no nonsense style. They showed double

Continued overleaf ►



KILKENNY – the All-Ireland Junior Hurling Champions of 1984

Back row (l. to r.): John O'Dwyer, Michael Galway, Michael Doyle, Pat Power, Michael Cleere, John McDonald, John Marnell, Sean Tyrrell. Front row (l. to r.): Bill O'Hara, Pat Walsh, John Brennan (capt.), David Hoyne, Dick Walsh, Michael Rafter, Tom Whelan.

◀ Continued from previous page

scores in front at half-time (0-8 to 0-4) and a goal within 25 seconds of the re-start by Michael Rafter put an almighty task before Wexford. When David Hoyne and John Mulcahy tacked on points, the job was beyond the Slaneysiders.

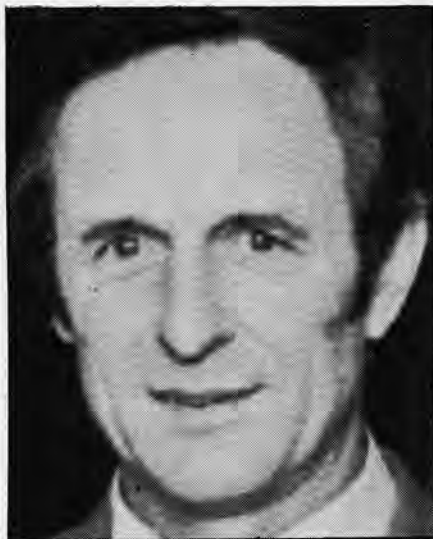
That was the turning point, and in the all-Ireland semi-final before the home fans at Nowlan Park, a good attendance of 3,000 was treated to excellent fare. Cork, who had won the corresponding clash the previous season, were a good, full of hurling team. They lost, but only to a side that was a shade better.

SWEPT OFF FEET

This epic encounter was a game of contrasting halves. The Leesiders could scarcely have played better as they worked-up a half-time lead of 2-9 to 1-4. The timely introduction of John Marnell and Bill O'Hara plugged holes in the home defence and with Pat Walsh a revelation when moved to centre-forward for the new half, the visitors were swept off their feet and out of the championship.

The improvement in the Noresiders play in the second half was hard to credit. And just to make sure no one left the arena before the last puck, Cork kept battling away. With 30 seconds remaining they were awarded a penalty. Fortunately for the home side, and unfortunately for Cork, it was saved and cleared. It was a thrilling finish to one of the best games of the year.

So only days later Galway took on a cook-ahoop Kilkenney in the Semple Stadium showdown. The craft and skill of the Leinster men made all the difference as they worked a 0-13 to 2-5 victory. The win might have been more emphatic but for two blinding saves by the losers goalkeeper, Matt Gannon. As well, for one of the losers goals the winners guardian, John Brennan, was unlucky when judged to have stepped over the line when executing a save.



Billy Gaffney (Tullaroan)



John Healy (Tullagher-Rosbercon)

In the joy of victory such things were forgotten. The juniors were the first Kilkenney county team in an all-Ireland, and they gave a winning lead. Trainer, Ollie Walsh, and his charges had a lot to be happy about.

Indeed, for the county at large this win was significant. The team unearthed players, who, in the future, could make their mark at the top level.

One was goalkeeper, John Brennan, whose brave and consistent play made sure his hat was in the ring when candidates for the senior team were being considered. Windgap's Pat Walsh was another who mid-way through the campaign was an ordinary unheard of player in the backwaters of the intermediate championship. His style and skill made people sit-up and take note. David Hoyne was another who made better than average progress.

Of course, all the players had reason to be very proud of their individual contributions. But such as Billy O'Hara, John Marnell, Michael Cleere, Sean Tyrrell, Michael Doyle and John O'Dwyer had days when no one could match them.

Players used during the campaign were: J. Brennan (Thomastown); B. O'Hara (Thomastown); M. Galway (Thomastown); T. Whelan (Graignamanagh); P. Power (Carrickshock); J. Marnell (Dicksboro); M. Cleere (O'Loughlin's); D. Hoyne (Thomastown); S. Tyrrell (O'Loughlin's); D. Walsh (Tullaroan); P. Walsh (Windgap); J. McDonald (Mullinavat); M. Doyle (Barrow Rangers); J. O'Dwyer (John Lockes); M. Rafter (Emeralds); J. Lawlor (Barrow Rangers); J. Kinsella (St. Senan's); E. Brennan (Piltown); P. Heffernan (Tullagher-Rosbercon); J. Mulcahy (O'Loughlin's); J. Dunne (Dunnamaggin); J. Moriarty (Emeralds). P. Ryan (Young Irelands); M. Walsh (Thomastown); P. Nolan (Graignamanagh); J. Hall (Tullaroan); S. Kiely (Thomastown); J. Heffernan (Tullagher-Rosbercon); J. Brennan (Young Irelands); K. Robinson (O'Loughlin's); M. Farrell (Thomastown); B. Sweeney (Tullaroan).

The trail to victory

April 29 at Newbridge:

KILKENNY 0-18
KILDARE 1-8

Scorers: J. Mulcahy (0-8); J. Dunne (0-5); J. Heffernan (0-2); M. Walsh, J. Hall, M. Farrell (0-1 each).

May 19 at Nowlan Park:

KILKENNY 4-17
MEATH 0-3

Scorers: M. Doyle (2-3); J. McDonald (1-2); J. Mulcahy (0-5); M. Rafter (1-2); D. Walsh (0-2); J. Nolan, S. Tyrrell, D. Hoyne (0-1 each);

June 29 at Dr. Cullen Park, Carlow (Leinster Final)

KILKENNY 2-13
WEXFORD 0-7

Scorers: M. Rafter (2-2); J. Mulcahy (0-5); S. Tyrrell, D. Hoyne (0-2 each); D. Walsh, J. Dunne (0-1 each).

July 31 at Nowlan Park

KILKENNY 2-15
CORK 2-12

Scorers: J. O'Dwyer (2-4); M. Rafter (0-4); D. Walsh, P. Walsh, M. Doyle (0-2 each); S. Tyrrell (0-1).

August 5 at Semple Stadium, Thurles (All-Ireland Final)

KILKENNY 0-13
GALWAY 2-5

Scorers: J. O'Dwyer (0-7); P. Walsh (0-3); D. Walsh, J. McDonald, M. Rafter (0-1 each).

Move up one place

THIS year's junior all-Ireland hurling success moved Kilkenney up one place in the overall standing. They now lie joint third with London with five wins.

Cork (9) and Tipperary (7) lead the field, followed by Kilkenney and London.

The county's best decade was the fifties when they won two titles. The victories were recorded in:

1928

KILKENNY 4-6
TIPPERARY 4-4

1946

KILKENNY 5-4
LONDON 2-2

1951

KILKENNY 3-9
LONDON 3-5

1956

KILKENNY 5-2
LONDON 2-8

1984

KILKENNY 0-13
GALWAY 2-5

WHAT A YEAR FOR A FIRST!

THE Kilkenny senior hurlers may not have qualified for the Centenary All-Ireland final, but the county had a direct involvement in the Semple Stadium showdown.

Defeated finalists Offaly were trained by Noresider Dermot Healy. The Conahy Shamrocks club man did an expert job with a team which won its way through to the decider in the same year promotion from Division II of the National League was gained.

But another man went one better. He was there running around with the 30 hurling heroes on the field.

The Centenary final referee was none other than Paschal Long from the famed Carrickshock club. What a year to be chosen for his first senior final. And he did a top class job.

Previously Paschal refereed at all levels in Kilkenny where



All-Ireland Centenary senior hurling final referee, Paschal Long (Carrickshock) flanked by captains, Pat Fleury (Offaly) and John Fenton (Cork) on the right.

he handled junior, intermediate and senior deciders.

He officiated at the 1983 All-Ireland minor hurling final between Galway and Dublin. He made good progress and maintained a high level of fitness, and this season he

was the man in the middle at the Leinster senior hurling final between champions Offaly and Wexford.

From there he took charge of the All-Ireland semi-final between Cork and Antrim, and so impressed the powers-that-be that he was put in

charge of the big one.

He is an experienced official who regularly referees National League and Railway Cup games.

Paschal is married and has two sons. He works with Beamish and Crawford at their depot in Thomastown.

KILKENNY CO-OP LIVESTOCK MARKET LTD.

Telephones: 056-21407, 21418, 21020

Barrack Street, Kilkenny

**Cattle Sales – Thursdays;
Sheep Sales – Mondays**

**Calves Sales –
Tuesdays**



Visitors are cordially invited to inspect our premises, preferably on Sales days, when they can see the Best Stock in Ireland on offer.

THEY DON'T CARE, BUT THEY WON'T ADMIT IT

THERE WERE countless familiar passages, but nothing new on the football scene in Kilkenny during this very important season. There was a lot of talk. There was the usual honest effort by the interested few. Yet again the inter-county scene was farcical, not just at senior level, but right down the line.

You know, the way things stand, if the G.A.A. survives another 100 years, football in Kilkenny will probably be the same nothing game. Let us not fool ourselves, the big ball game in this county is making progress in only one direction – backwards. It is a pity, because a small effort would go a long way if the game was only given half a chance.

Above I suggested the G.A.A. might be a bit dodderly. It is, and it's of its own doing. And Kilkenny is unknowingly a party to that weakening of the mighty structure that is the 32 county G.A.A.

You see here in this county, hurling is the game everyone wants to know about. Tradition has a part to play in that. The county has always been renowned for the great players it produced in the code. It is hard for football to compete.

It would be only a fool who would suggest hurling will ever be replaced by Gaelic football in Kilkenny. There is no need for that to happen because there is room for both games on the Noreside.

BAD HABITS

At the moment this county is very lobsided in its promotion of Gaelic games. That can be a dangerous thing. A rot can start in the weak limb and bad habits could be picked up by those involved in the stronger section. Standards,

both individual and collective, could drop.

Therein lies the real danger for the G.A.A. The danger comes from within. A casual approach towards one game could lead to a weakening of commitment in the other, something that can too easily happen in bad times.

The sad state of football in Kilkenny is more than a Football Board problem. It should be of concern to everyone interested in the 'Association in the county. When something loses ground, when at worst it should be holding its own, then there is every reason for drastic measures to be taken.

People at the top level in Kilkenny may not admit it, but any hurling competition takes precedence over a football one. The senior football championship has a very low rating, despite efforts by the Thomastown club in recent years to upgrade the medals awarded to the winners. Fair play to Thomastown. Gain some respectability, and then you will make progress. Thomastown asked to have the medals on a par with the hurling awards. It was an effort at getting things moving forward.

At the Co. Board Convention at the beginning of the year the G.A.A. President, Paddy Buggy (Slieverue) hit the nail on the head.

"There is no enthusiasm in this county to promote foot-

ball", he told delegates. Everyone heard the words, but missed the message. He meant what he said.

A few people like Barry Henriques (John Lockes), Kieran Meally (Railyard), Seamus Delaney (Football Board Secretary), Brendan O'Sullivan (Thomastown) and Stephen Walsh (Shamrocks) – there are others and I apologise for not mentioning them – are dead set on improving the game. Invariably their efforts receive little support, but they carry on regardless. They deserve great praise.

START FOOTBALL AFTER HURLING

What chance have the players to improve the skills of the game if most matches are thrown back to the Winter months. The unwritten rule seems to be – when all the hurling is over the football can commence. Imagine having to nominate a team for the Leinster club championship. It happened this year. It has happened regularly in the past.

The usual argument is thrown out that a shortage of time is a problem. That is true. But, did anyone ever sit down and think about the value of many of the hurling competitions being run? You have a Roinn A and B in this and a Roinn A and B in that. There is considerable room for tightening up. Surely the senior foot-

ball championship is far more important than half the Mickey Mouse hurling championships being organised.

Providing games for as many people as possible is a grand idea, but there must be some hope of a beneficial kickback if the basic idea is not to be defeated. Someone, it was Brendan O'Sullivan (Thomastown), tossed out the idea that the concentration should be within the county to improve the image of football. He had the right approach.

Just think about it for a moment. If the senior football championship was properly run in Kilkenny then the county would have legitimate representatives in the Leinster club championship. The county would also have a base to work on the county team.

At county level Kilkenny are the laughing stock. They are the bottom team in the bottom grade, Division IV of the National League. Now I have seen a couple of these Division IV sides who have beaten Kilkenny. None have been anything great. In fact, I would say the majority have been poor to very average. Still they can register respectable scores against Kilkenny.

The difference in skill to be bridged in Division IV is not great. There are few Jack O'Sheas, Barney Rocks, Brian Taltys, Colm O'Rourke or

Richie O'Connors operating at this level. The main difference is in confidence, and how the teams are organised.

PERFORM MIRACLES

Football at club level in Kilkenny is not organised. This is not altogether the fault of the Football Board officials. It is the fault of the Kilkenny world they operate in. So if club football is not properly organised, how could anyone reasonably expect the county team to come together and perform miracles?

In one league match this year, Fermanagh were visitors to the Noreside. Because the Kilkenny hurlers were in action the same day, no one knew who exactly was

available. It was pitiful to see Football Board secretary, Seamus Delaney, throwing a team together on his own and naming 17 substitutes. He was doing only what any person interested in trying would have done. As it turned out 15 players appeared for the match at St. John's Park. Not one substitute turned up.

When you go to matches and see the real football people in Kilkenny trying, your heart goes out to them. They don't want to topple hurling. They just want an equal chance for their code. It is hard to see them getting it in the present climate. You know why? Because certain people in authority just don't care, but they won't admit it.

Phil, a loyal and faithful worker

THE Kilkenny G.A.A. lost a great friend this year through the death of Mr. Phil Cahill, Tinnakelly, Kilmanagh. He was aged 71.

He was a man who was wrapped-up in the 'Association, and he was always willing to promote Gaelic games and pastimes. In fact, he was a founder member of the Kilmanagh set-dancing group and he helped them to many honours in his day.

Phil was a loyal follower of Kilkenny hurling teams. He travelled the length and breadth of the country to see them play, and seldom did he utter an unsavoury comment, in good times or bad.

He was a founder member of the Ballyline hurling team and he played with them when they won the junior championship of 1938. On the collapse of that team he fell in with the new parish club, Graigue-Ballycallan, and was a member up to the time of his death.

He was a delegate to Kilkenny Co. Board and served on various committees within the 'Association. But it was in the organising of Scór competitions that he showed his immense loyalty to the cause.



When he took up the challenge of Scór the interest in Kilkenny was at a low ebb. Through his own enthusiastic efforts and willingness to coax others he generated enormous interest in the competitions. And before his death he had the satisfaction of watching the greatest numbers ever taking part in the various competitions at the end of the 1983 season.

Phil Cahill was a man whose heart was in the right place. If he ever disagreed with anyone over some point or other it wasn't because he wanted to be obstreperous, but because he truly believed the point of view he was trying to put across. He was a kind and gentle and considerate man.

The G.A.A. over the past 100 years has developed into a strong, vibrant organisation. Good men like Phil Cahill played their part in making it so. May he rest in peace.



ELECTRICITY

WITH SLIMLINE STORAGE HEATING

Now you can enjoy all day warmth all Winter at a price you can afford because storage heaters run on less than half-price electricity.

Storage heaters give out no smoke or fumes; there's no fuel to order or store, no ashes to carry, nothing to clean up and no maintenance.

And now there's a new generation of storage heaters, slimmer (as little as 6" deep), neater, more efficient, more controllable and styled in a choice of sizes to fit in well anywhere. They can be installed quickly and economically with very little disruption or mess... and no deposit/easy terms are available to suit your budget.

GET THE FACTS

This free booklet has all the facts and figures about all kinds of electric storage and plug-in heaters.



You can get the HEATELECTRIC book from your ESB shop where you can see the full range of heaters.

ESB

GAELIC games were well established in Kilkenny before an independent board was formed to administer football affairs.

Fifty years after the Co. Board proper was formed, the Football Board was brought into being. The year was 1937 and the first chairman was Mick Heffernan (Glenmore). In 1943 he was the first vice-chairman ever elected. At that time the game was strongest in the South, a point highlighted by the fact that the first four chairmen were all from that end of the country.

On May 8, 1887, the first recorded senior football final was played in the county between Kilmacow and Kilkenny. The initial clash ended in a 0-2 each draw, and Kilmacow won the replay by 1-3 to 0-0.

At that time the Co. Board supervised football affairs, and in recent years the call has often been made for a return to that format. Indeed, an investigation into football affairs about five years ago



MICK MEALLY,
longest serving chairman of Kilkenny Football Board.

recommended this approach, but the idea was never acted upon.

HONOURS

Most people in Kilkenny would expect the Railyard, with 17 senior titles to their credit, to be streets ahead of the rest. They are not. They share top spot with Glenmore.

Funnily enough, Glenmore won their last senior crown in 1955, the same decade the Railyard picked up their first win. The Railyard started their glorious run with a victory in 1951, but while they may have been late starters, they dominated until the late 'Seventies and one time put five successes back-to-back.

The Meally family were always great football people in Kilkenny, and they were the big organisers behind the Railyard, with the late Mick Meally a rare breed in the football game. His 12-year reign (1952-63) as chairman was the

The 'Board came— 50 years after

longest by any individual in the hot seat. Football in this county may have deteriorated in recent times, but not so many years ago a Kilkenny team could hold its own with most in any grade outside the senior. Today the very young teams are the only ones that can do that. Some famous men have kicked football in this county. One was present-day Fianna Fáil frontbencher John Wilson,

who turned out with Sarsfields (Conahy) while a teacher in St. Kieran's College. Present-day Kerry star Ogie Moran also has a connection with the local game. His father, Denis Moran, was a prominent player in Kilkenny. Many men have given loyal service to the Football Board. The officers who have served, and continue to do duty are:

CHAIRMEN

1937-1939	Mick Heffernan (Glenmore)
1940-1942	Luke Roche (Tullagher)
1943-1945	Paddy Walsh (Bigwood)
1946-1948	Jim Luttrell (Coolagh)
1949-1950	Mick Gibbons (St. John's)
1951	Tom Fitzgerald (Glenmore)
1952-1963	Mick Meally (Railyard)
1964-1969	Francis O'Brien (Kilkenny)
1970-1974	Mick Meally (Railyard)
1975-1980	Nicky McGrath (Kilkenny)
1981	Barry Henriques (Coolagh)

VICE-CHAIRMEN

1943	Mick Heffernan (Glenmore)
1944	Kieran Carroll (Sarsfields)
1945-1947	Paddy Brown (Railyard)
1948	Mick Gibbons (St. John's)
1949-1950	Tom Hoyne (Muckalee)
1950	Bob Wallace (Graignamanagh)
1951	Mick Morrissey (Muckalee)
1952-1960	John Butler (The Rower)
1952	Eamon Rice (Sarsfields)
1953-1954	Paddy Hennessy (St. Canice's)
1955	Tom Hoyne (Muckalee)
1956	Tom Hoban (Brownstown)
1961-1963	Francis O'Brien (Kilmoganny)
1964	John Butler (The Rower)
1965	Willie Doherty (Barrowmount)
1966-1968	Joe Walsh (Railyard)
1969	Tom Brennan (Clara)
1970	Christ Leahy (The Village)
1971-1979	Francis O'Brien (Kilmoganny)
1980	Tom Ryan (Glenmore)
1981	Kieran Meally (Railyard).

Note: There were two vice-chairmen for 1950, also for 1952-56.

SECRETARIES

1937-1940	Liam Mac Oda (Clomanto)
1941-1943	Tom Butler (The Rower)
1944-1964 (Mar.)	Jim Lyng (The Rower)
1964 (Mar.)-1967	Mick Morrissey (Muckalee)
1968	Tommy O'Brien (Kilkenny).
1969	Seamus Delaney (Clann na Gael)

CORK – in one way they are out on their own



By **PETER HOLOHAN**
who for over 40 years
was a staff journalist
with the "Kilkenny People"

CORK, Kilkenny and Tipperary have won a combined total of 70 All-Ireland senior hurling titles, but Cork is the only county of the three to have won four in a row. The other two went near to it on occasions, but never succeeded.

Cork may have been a bit lucky to have scored one of their victories in 1941, when Kilkenny and Tipperary were out of the running because of the prevalence of foot-and-mouth disease in both counties, which necessitated severe travelling restrictions.

They might be considered lucky to have won in 1943 because that was the year in which Kilkenny were sensationally beaten by Antrim in Belfast in the semi-final. This 1943 side was considered reasonably good, and how they could lose 3-3 to 1-6 at Corrigan Park must be one of the mysteries of the All-Ireland series.

Kilkenny's three in a row were won in 1911, 1912 and 1913. The honour of winning the 1911 final is robbed of some of its glitter by reason of the fact that it was on a walk-over.

Kilkenny and Limerick were due to meet at the Cork Athletic Grounds, but due to heavy rain for some days before the final, the pitch was considered unfit for play. Limerick had toggged out, but the referee, Mr. Tom Kenny (Galway) and officials of the Central Council carried out an inspection and declared the pitch unplayable. The game was refixed for Thurles, but Limerick, who were anxious to play at Cork, refused to travel and Kilkenny were awarded the title.

Tipperary, who had been beaten by Limerick, were nominated to play Kilkenny in a substitute final which the Noresiders won.

Kilkenny appeared in four

finals – 1893, 1895, 1897 and 1903 – before their first victory in 1904. That was the year when, it might be said, Kilkenny hurling really matured. Cork and Tipperary had won six titles each before the Marble City side secured their first.

DISPUTE

It was then that Kilkenny really began to make an impact, and in the years between 1904 and 1913 they won seven crowns, losing in 1906, 1908 and 1910. They could have been themselves to blame for losing the 1906 final. A dispute arose regarding the selection of a goalie, and when Ned Teehan (Tullaroan) was not chosen the Tullaroan players refused to take part. Mooncoin selected the team and they had Jim Dunphy in goal.

They were beaten by 1-14 to 0-5 by Dublin in the Leinster final, but the morale of the side must have been greatly upset by the dispute.

Winning the Railway Shield could, quite conceivably, have cost Kilkenny the 1908 All-Ireland final. Kilkenny were beaten in the first round by Wexford by a point, 1-8 to 0-10, but the Noresiders objected on the grounds that a Wexford player named Donoghue, who played in a junior football game before the match, had been sent to the line and, consequently, was not eligible to play in the hurling game.

Kilkenny were anxious to have the game replayed, but the Leinster Council chairman Mr. Dan McCarthy ruled

against Wexford. Kilkenny did not contest the Leinster final against Dublin.

They had 15 of the 17 players on the team which won the Railway Shield and held they were entitled to keep the Shield. The Leinster Council wanted a play-off by the counties which had supplied players in the Leinster victories in the competition, but Kilkenny would not agree.

They were ruled out of the Leinster championship for six months by the chairman, but were reinstated on appeal to the Central Council. Kilkenny were eventually given custody of the Shield, but it could have cost them the All-Ireland title.

REFUSED TO PLAY

There was more trouble for Kilkenny in 1910. They were nominated to represent Leinster in the All-Ireland championship and beat the London-Irish by 5-11 to 0-3 in the semi-final at Waterford. But in the Leinster final against Dublin they were without the Doyle brothers, Dick, Eddie and Mick.

The Doyles refused to take part in the 1909 county final against Erin's Own at Waterford as there was some dispute between the Waterford G.A.A. and the owners of the field who wanted it used for sports other than G.A.A. games. The Doyles supported the Waterford Board's stand and did not play in the county final, nor in the All-Ireland championships.

If Kilkenny had won in 1906 they would have won four in a row; they would have won three in a row if they had won the 1908 and five in a row if they had won in 1910.

The teams between 1904 and 1913 showed little variation in personnel from one year to another. Even apart

from Droog Walsh, Jack Rochford, Dick Doyle and Sim Walton, who played on all seven winning sides, most of the others took part in five or six of the games.

Kilkenny again went near to winning four in a row in the early 1930s. They beat Clare in 1932; Limerick in 1933 and after losing to Dublin in the 1934 Leinster final came back to beat Limerick again in the 1935 final.

WHAT ABOUT COOGAN?

They were beaten by 3-5 to 2-2 by Dublin in the 1934 Leinster final, but Kilkenny had been to America in 1934 and might not have been as well tuned up for the championship as they might have been.

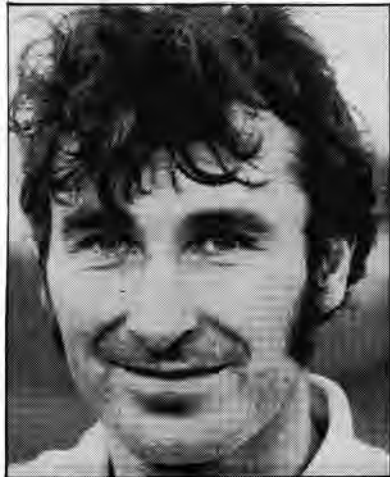
They won the 1972 final, and after losing to Limerick in 1973, came back again to gain revenge on the Shannonsiders in 1974, and to triumph over Galway in 1975.

Kilkenny were beaten by 1-21 to 1-14 in the 1973 final, and whenever this game is recalled the question is invariably asked – how would Kilkenny have fared if Martin Coogan had been playing?

Kilkenny were without Eddie Keher, Jim Treacy and Kieran Purcell in 1973, but Purcell came on as a sub. even though he had undergone an appendix operation a short time before the game.

Every county has its own hard luck story to tell. Everyone likes to talk about what might have been, but at the end of the day luck probably works both ways – you win some and you lose some.

GOOD TO SEE 'CHUNKY' BACK



AN OLD Kilkenny hurling favourite returned to the fold this season and made a big contribution in the intermediate championship.

Liam 'Chunky' O'Brien, the one-time darling of Kilkenny fans when he was a top-class inter-county player, took up his hurley again after being out of competitive action since the county final of 1981 when he played with James Stephens.

The former All-Star swapped his 'Stephens' shirt for the green and white of O'Loughlin Gaels and he helped them qualify for the intermediate semi-finals in which they were beaten by St. Lactain's (Freshford).

Usually you hear of players going out of the game. It was nice in Centenary year to welcome a good one back. At 34 he still has a big contribution to make.

Chunky's choice of O'Loughlin's was understandable. He was born and reared in Assumption Place, so he was only going back to join his parish team.

He was probably one of the most gifted hurlers this county ever produced. In the All-Ireland final wins of 1975 and '79 he won the 'man of the match' awards presented by R.T.E. That is a feat few, if any, can boast about.

He also won All-Ireland medals in 1972 and 1974 and captained the county in '77. The same year Kilkenny were beaten in the Leinster final by Wexford and in the National League decider by Clare.

Would you believe it, they played in six successive finals !

By PETER HOLOHAN

SINCE no county over the last 100 years appeared in six successive all-Ireland hurling finals one could be excused for being somewhat baffled if asked to name two players who played in six consecutive finals.

When I was asked to name the two players concerned I plumped for Matty Power and his first cousin Eddie Byrne, but it was purely a guess. I was right, however.

The Kilkenny cousins played for Dublin in the 1930 all-Ireland final when they were beaten by Tipperary; they gave their allegiance to their native county in the subsequent years and figured on the Kilkenny team that played in the three finals of 1931 against Cork.

They also played with Kilkenny in 1932 and 1933, and that adds up to six consecutive all-Ireland final appearances.

It was common practice in the 1920's and 1930's for players from other counties who played with Dublin clubs to play for the county in the championship series. Several Kilkenny men won all-Ireland honours in both hurling and football with Dublin.

Matty Power was a member of the Garda Síochána and played with the Garda side which was quite a formidable force in Dublin championship hurling. Eddie Byrne played with another renowned Dublin club, Young Irelands.

While Eddie Byrne never won an all-Ireland medal with Dublin, Matty Power was on the metropolitan side that beat Galway by 5-3 to 2-6 in the 1924 final. He had already won an all-Ireland when helping Kilkenny beat Tipperary 4-2 to 2-6 in the 1922 final.

After two draws, 1-6 each in the first game and 2-5 each in the second, Kilkenny were ultimately beaten by 5-8 to 3-4 in the third game by Cork in 1931.

Kilkenny beat Clare by 3-3 to 2-3 in 1932, and Limerick by 1-7 to 0-6 in the 1933 final. After losing to Dublin in the 1934 Leinster final Kilkenny came back

to win the 1935 title by again beating Limerick, 2-5 to 2-4 on this occasion.

WON 12 MEDALS

This great Kilkenny side had passed its peak at this stage and went down 5-6 to 1-5 to Limerick in 1936 and 3-11 to 0-3 in 1937. This final was played at Killarney.

Matty Power played in the Leinster final with Dublin in 1927, 1928, 1930 and with Kilkenny in 1931, 1932, 1933, 1934, 1935, 1936 and 1937 apart from his appearance with Kilkenny in 1922 which means that in all he played in 13 Leinster finals and won 12 medals.

The 1929 Leinster final was declared void, as both Dublin and Kilkenny were disqualified for being late taking the field.

Eddie Byrne appeared in Leinster finals in 1930, 1931, 1932, 1933, 1934, 1935, 1936 and 1937 and was on the winning side in six of them. Kilkenny were beaten by Dublin in the 1934 provincial final. That was the year the team travelled to America.

Eddie Byrne's brother, Podge also figured on the 1931 side. He played in seven Leinster finals, winning six and three all-Ireland medals.

Matty Power in his 15 years in top class hurling won five all-Ireland medals with Kilkenny in 1922, 1932, 1933 and 1935 and one with Dublin in 1927. Eddie and Podge Byrne won three all-Ireland medals each.

While the record held by Eddie Byrne and Matty Power is unique in relation to hurling, Jack Lynch, the former Taoiseach has an even more distinctive record of having appeared in seven consecutive all-Ireland finals, four in hurling and three in football.

Kilkenny won seven all-Ireland finals between 1904 and 1913, but did not make six consecutive appearances in finals. They appeared in eight Leinster finals in the same period and won seven.

Kilkenny appeared in all-Ireland finals in 1904, 1905, 1907, 1909, 1911, 1912, and 1913.

MAN IN THE RIGHT PLACE SHOWED THE WAY TO VICTORY



MONSIGNOR TOMMY MAHER

ONE of the major hurling championships in Kilkenny this season was won because the right man was in the right place at the right time. And unusually enough, it wasn't a player who might have cracked home a winning score or anything like that.

The victory of the much improved Mullinavat hurlers in the junior championship was their first such success in 45 years. It was their fourth junior triumph in all, which put the emerging club at the head of the honours list with the famed Mooncoin.

It was a victory for brushed up skill as much as commitment over an impressive Emeralds (Urlingford) in the final that was played at Callan. The concluding scoreline was 3-9 to 1-5, after the victors had led by 1-3 to 1-2 at half-time.

On the field Mullinavat played a brand of hurling that had all the hallmarks of good coaching. There was nothing complicated about their play. It was good enough to bridge a county junior title gap that stretched way back to 1939.

But such joyous events just don't happen. They are brought about through the investment of a lot of hard work. And a good co-ordinator can channel all the effort on the training field in the right direction so that on match days everything should fall into place in a nice orderly fashion.

ADMIRABLE WAY ABOUT HIM

Well, Mullinavat had their 'man in the right place' to guide them up the straight and narrow to a county title. He was none other than Monsignor Tom Maher, the former President of St. Kieran's college, and former pioneering coach with the Kilkenny senior hurling team for 21 years.

You see, Monsignor Tom is no or-

dinary hurling man. He is a deep and positive thinker on the game. He is experienced as a mentor, and he has an admirable way about him that makes him a leader among men. He can extract the best from players simply, whereas others toil and still end up getting an inferior effort.

With Mullinavat selectors, Joe Anthony, John Scully, Jim Walsh, Tommy Duggan and Michael Carroll the former county coach struck up a winning combination. While they gave fine leadership off the field, they had players like Mossy Murphy, an all-Ireland senior medalist and team captain Tommy Frisby to lead by example in the thick of the fray.

Murphy had a fine season at full forward and rounded off the campaign

Continued overleaf ▷

MULLINAVAT - KILKENNY JUNIOR HURLING CHAMPIONS OF 1984

Back row (l to r): Michael Duggan, Liam Law, Dan Power, Paudie Holden, Michael Fitzgerald, Ned Frisby, John McDonald, Mossy Murphy, Paddy Frisby, Peter McDonald, Sean Walsh, Tommy Duggan, Michael Law, Tom Anthony, Timmy Gough.

Front (l to r): John Haberlin, Michael Knox, Tommy Duggan, Paddy Fitzgerald, Harry Watters, Tommy Frisby (capt), John Dunphy, Joe Walsh, Stephen Foskin, John Joe Aylward, Andy Aylward.





THE EMERALDS (URLINGFORD) – KILKENNY JUNIOR HURLING FINALISTS 1984

Back row (l to r) — Jim Gibbons, Martin Power, Pat Phelan, Jimmy Tone, John Cahill, Liam Cody, Henry O'Grady, Michael Burke, Paddy Ryan, Tony Hughes, John Hughes, Paddy Fox, Pat Tobin, Eddie Holohan, Liam Moriarty.

Front (l to r) — Tom Phelan, Frank Cleere, John Moriarty, John Tobin, Michael Grace (capt), Michael Rafter, David Burke, Jimmy Queally, John Tobin.

◀ Continued from previous page

by scoring seven of the nine points in the final. His experience proved invaluable and younger players such as John and Peter McDonald, Sean Walsh and Michael Law were better for his presence.

In the South the eventual winners had a thoroughly demanding campaign that stretched over a dozen games before they won divisional honours at the expense of Dunnamaggin. That big number of matches helped them in the long run. It gave Monsignor Tom time to work with his charges and on the day of the final they had virtually perfected the hand-pass.

By any yardstick it was a good, fast and close marking decider. There was virtually nothing between the teams at the break when Emeralds trailed by 1-2 to 1-3. As close and all as the hurling was, you could see the Maher influence on the Mullinavat team. The ball was moved quickly. The basic hand-pass was a gambit used effectively, and regularly, but not too often at the same time.

USEFUL CONTENDERS

Basically this is a young Mullinavat side, and they have potential and should be useful contenders in the intermediate grade next season. A good number of the players have sampled success at minor (Roinn B) level, so the shrewd work of club officials in keeping them at the game has paid off handsomely.

They have learned a lot along the way and even when they fell into arrears — it only happened once — in the final they kept cool and calm. That happened two minutes into the second half when the Emeralds went 1-4 to 1-3 in front. A swift reply from the ever dependable Mossy Murphy tied the scores for the third and last time. Then came a 36th minute goal from Michael Law, and when Sean Walsh had a second within a minute (3-4 to 1-4) it was curtains for the Northerners.

The celebrations in the deep South were something to behold. After all, 45

years is a long time to wait and many a former player with the club shed a tear. Years of long and mostly painful effort had at last been rewarded.

During the run to victory the team all the parish related to was only beaten once. That was in the third round when Dunnamaggin showed great form and won by 3-11 to 2-5.

The same sides were later to clash in the Southern final at Piltown on September 16. Before that Mullinavat went on to take the scalps of Mooncoin, St. Senan's (Kilmacow), Rower-Inistioge, Tullogher-Rosbercon, Carrigeen, Slieverue and Shamrocks (Ballyhale) to get through to the semi-final. In the penultimate match they had just too much power for John Lockes (Callan) and won looking back by 2-18 to 0-8.

The Southern showdown was a teak-tough tussle in which Dunnamaggin tried magnificently to repeat the result of the earlier clash. At half-time they looked capable of doing so, but the steady Mullinavat selectors virtually

picked a new team that led to them getting the verdict on a 2-12 to 2-6 scoreline.

HELP FROM FRIEND

The one switch that proved all important was the shifting of Mossy Murphy to full forward from centreforward. He was much more effective near the goal, while further afield John McDonald, Paddy Frisby, Dan Power and promising full back, Paudie Holden played like men hungry to make a bit of history. Eventually they did, with more than a little help from their friend, Monsignor Tom Maher.

To have faith in a leader is a wonderful thing. Mullinavat had belief in their man. A story goes that early in the season club officials visited Monsignor Maher in his home and sounded him out about starting training for the championship. He drew back the curtains and wondered aloud about how uninviting the weather was outside.

"I wouldn't like to be out in that, and I don't think the players would either", he suggested. In his chosen time he got the players going, and he kept them ticking over nicely during a long, long campaign.

The Mullinavat team in the final was — John Dunphy, Tom Frisby (capt.), Paudie Holden, Andy Aylward, Pat Frisby, Dan Power, J. J. Aylward, Joe Walsh, Peter McDonald, Sean Walsh, John McDonald, Stephen Foskin, Harry Watters, Mossy Murphy, Michael Law. Sub used was Timothy Gough. Other subs were Thomas Anthony, Liam Law, Thomas Deegan, Michael Fitzgerald, John Haberlin, Michael Knox, Tom Duggan, Ned Frisby, Michael Duggan, Pat McEvoy, Paddy Fitzpatrick.

The Emeralds team was — D. Burke, J. Tone, P. Phelan, M. Bourke, J. Hughes, L. Cody, M. Grace, P. Ryan, J. Tobin, E. Holohan, F. Cleere, J. Moriarty, J. Queally, M. Rafter, P. Tobin. Subs: H. Grady, M. Power, P. Tobin, J. Cahill, J. Tobin, L. Moriarty, M. Phelan, T. Hughes, J. Gibbons, T. Phelan, T. Broderick, J. Phelan.



Paudie Holden and Tom Frisby, Mullinavat, in control as Frank Cleere, Emerald's, tries to gain possession.

THEY WENT TOP OF THE CLASS

THE Centenary junior hurling champions, Mullinavat, scaled the dizzy heights this year and ended at the top of the class.

The Southerners victory pushed them joint top in the roll of honour with neighbours, Mooncoin. Both have four victories to their credit.

Few championship winning teams have shown the confidence Mullinavat displayed during the campaign.

A date was set for the Southern final against Dunnamaggin, but because of the replay in the all-Ireland minor hurling final involving Kilkenny, there was a fear the junior clash might have to be called off.

Reason was that Mullinavat had a player, Pat McEvoy, involved in the minor final. No way did they want the junior final put off. They had geared themselves for the game on such a date, and they were determined to get on with the job on that day.

Many a club would have sought a postponement. Their confidence was rewarded at the double when they went on to take the ultimate honours.

Mooncoin (4) – 1920, 1937, 1942, 1961.

Mullinavat (4) – 1915, 1916, 1939, 1984.

James Stephens (3) – 1924, 1929, 1955.

Dicksboro (3) – 1910, 1914, 1919.

Thomastown (3) – 1927, 1945, 1962.

Glenmore (3) – 1923, 1953, 1980.

Carrickshock (3) – 1928, 1954, 1979.

John Lockes (2) – 1911, 1952.

Knocktopher (2) – 1931, 1965.

North Selection (2) – 1932, 1934.

Bennettsbridge (2) – 1948, 1951.

Danesfort (2) – 1925, 1930.

Galmoy (2) – 1949, 1966.

Clara (2) – 1969, 1977.

One each — 1905 – Owen Roes (Urlingford); 1906 – Erin's Own (City);

1908 – Suir Side Rovers (Mooncoin); 1913 – Mong; 1922 – Clonmore; 1926 – Knockmoylean; 1933 – South Selection; 1935 – Bonnettstown; 1936 – Eire Og; 1938 – Ballyline; 1940 – Three-castles; 1941 – Hugginstown; 1943 – Stoneyford; 1944 – The Rower; 1946 – Graigue; 1947 – Johnstown/ Urlingford; 1950 – Slieverue; 1956 – St. Senan's (Kilmacow); 1957 – Tullogher; 1958 – Erin's Own (Castlecomer); 1959 – St. Lactain's (Freshford); 1960 – Lisdowney; 1963 – Rower-Inistioge; 1964 – Young Irelands (Gowran); 1967 – Coon; 1968 – Fenians (Johnstown); 1970 – Windgap; 1971 Newpark Sarsfields; 1972 – Graignamanagh; 1973 – Shamrocks (Ballyhale - Knocktopher); 1974 – Muckalee-Ballyfoyle Rangers; 1975 – O'Loughlin's; 1976 – Conahy Shamrocks; 1978 – St. Patrick's (Ballyragget); 1981 – Piltown; 1982 – Barrow Rangers (Paulstown/ Goresbridge); 1983 – Tullaroan.

FOR THE REST, THERE WILL BE OTHER YEARS

IT MAY have been their second defeat in four years in the junior hurling final, but the Emeralds (Urlingford) had good reason to be satisfied at the end of the season.

It is never easy to accept defeat, but they must have had consolation in the fact that they gave it their best shot. They were involved in a good final, and they played well.

Earlier in the year they had qualified for the special Centenary open draw tournament final. Again defeat was their lot, but getting to that decider was a remarkable achievement against senior and intermediate opposition.

The Emeralds have a good club structure. They have players in David Burke, John Hughes, Pat Phelan, Michael Rafter, Johnny Moriarty and the vastly experienced Frank Cleere who could hold their own in any similar company in the country. Eventually they just have to succeed.

The second best team in the South this term was Dunnamaggin, who were

led by the lion hearted Malachy Hogan. They lacked a bit of punch up front when it came to the crunch, but they had moments to relish.

Their most consistent performers were Canice Mackey, John Ryan, Michael Kelly, Jimmy Dunne, Seamus Martin and Malachy Hogan during a year when they made a bold bid for a second Southern title to go with the one they won in 1966.

In the Southern semi-final Tullogher-Rosbercon had every chance to pave a way to victory. They bowed the knee to Dunnamaggin, but they must have felt sore when they thought afterwards about all the first half chances they threw away.

In the North, O'Loughlin's proved a bit of a surprise packet when they got through to the final. This was in a year when their intermediate team enjoyed a fine run also. For 50 minutes of the divisional final they kept with the Emeralds, but then they faded and were beaten by 3-17 to 0-9.

Still, they had their moments and good players in Declan Byrne, Eddie Leahy, Seamus McEvoy, Derek Shelly, Liam Tyrrell and Peter Dowling.

The St. John's Park outfit pulled off the surprise of the championship when they tripped-up fancied Danesfort in the semi-final. The losers never hit form until the closing stages, when the match was out of their reach. Even the powerful hurling of county under-21 player, Des Dunne, could not save them. Other good performers during the year were Pat Davis, Ger Woodcock, Paddy Fennelly, Tom O'Neill, Gerry Doyle and Pat Kiely.

Graigue-Ballycallan failed to make it into the shake-up in the North. Still they very nearly pulled the plug on the Emeralds at an early stage. In a preliminary round game the eventual finalists needed to win, Graigue-Ballycallan held a considerable lead on them at one stage. A series of changes worked wonders for the Emeralds and they pulled through. Graigue had reason to think about what they missed.

ST. MARTIN'S THE 20th IN LINE



FAIRYTALES are generally for children, but grown men got engrossed in one in Kilkenny this year. And there were 10,000 witnesses there to see them, and they roared their approval.

The Centenary senior hurling championship threw-up a conclusion that could compare with the best happy ending stories. On the 100th anniversary of the founding of the G.A.A. a new team, from a hurling mad parish, added its name to the illustrious winners of the handsome Tom Walsh Cup.

All wins are popular, but some are more popular than others, for a variety of reasons. The success of the daring St. Martin's (Ballyfoyle-Coon-Muckalee) team in the senior championship was noteworthy for the amount of goodwill it generated. "No one deserved a win more than them", was a comment widely used.

It wasn't that anyone wanted the elegant Shamrocks (Ballyhale) dethroned. No, it was more that people were glad the Northerners had been rewarded for honest and prolonged effort.

There is not a club team in this part of the world that puts more into the game than St. Martin's put into hurling. For a week before this memorable final, and no one can properly gauge for how long afterwards, the life of the parish of Muckalee centred around the match. "They were the best bunch of men ever to come out of the parish", was

the general opinion. Fine praise indeed for a side that was a long, long shot for the title when the 12 contestants started out in the quest for honours in the early part of the Summer.

DISAPPOINTMENT REMEMBERED

St. Martin's, a club formed in 1982 by the amalgamation of Muckalee-Ballyfoyle Rangers and Coon, had never enjoyed a sporting moment like it. It was a real parish effort, and the breakdown of the 15 heroes read - Muckalee (8); Coon (4) and Ballyfoyle (3).

Up until 1971 the parish as a unit was represented by Coon. The same year Muckalee-Ballyfoyle Rangers was established, and in 1980 they qualified for the senior hurling final, only to lose in a replay to the Shamrocks. The first day the teams drew 3-10 (S) to 2-13 (M.B.). The second day the Southerners proved too strong and won by 3-13 to 1-10. It may have been four years later that a team from the parish eventually got back into the senior decider, but the disappointment of that Nowlan Park



ST. MARTIN'S (Ballyfoyle - Coon - Muckalee) - who captured their first Kilkenny senior hurling championship in this, the Centenary year.

Back Row (l. to r.): Jim Moran, John Moran, Richard Maloney, Michael Maher, Patsy Moran, Jack Morrissey, Tony Maher, John Morrissey, Tom Moran.

Front row (l. to r.): Billy Brett (trainer), John James Dowling, Tom Walsh, Bobby Shore, Johnny Brennan (capt.), Paddy Lawlor, Danny Coonan, Jimmy Kelly, Tom Neville (coach).

Continued overleaf ►

ST. MARTIN'S THE 20th IN LINE

◀ Continued from previous page



Dick Nolan, a hard-working St. Martin's official and present county senior hurling selector.

defeat was still very much alive in the mind of the players. A majority of the same men went into action in the Centenary final. No way were they going to be beaten a second time. They were prepared to go through a stone wall to capture the richest sporting prize in Kilkenny for the homely Northern parish. A blazing last quarter carried St. Martin's to their first senior win on a convincing 1-14 to 1-7 scoreline. The opening half was very tense and close, and at the end St. Martin's showed 0-7 to 0-4 in front.

The Shamrocks, a side of admirable skill and courage, put in a scintillating burst between the 38th and 42nd minutes and wiped out arrears of five points to get back level at 1-7 (S) to 0-10. They had firmly taken control, but just as they seemed set for a match clinching burst, St. Martin's blazed up the glory trail.

A defensive error gave tear-away full-forward, Tom Moran, a chance of a goal which he slotted home. In a flash Johnny Brennan added a point, and suddenly there was no holding the Northerners. They unleashed an effort of unseen proportions that gained them a special place in the hearts of everyone who attended the memorable game. And best of all, custody of the Tom Walsh Cup.

Page 52

"I would have been satisfied just to win, but we did it in style", declared an over the moon St. Martin's coach, Tom Neville afterwards. "When Shamrocks came back they gave us the severest test of character any team could experience".

PEOPLE CRIED

The parish of Muckalee went wild for at least a week. Bonfires blazed on the hills of Ballyfoyle, Coon and Muckalee. Grown men cried openly when overcome with emotion on the greatest day in the life of the parish. Former players who had toiled for years had their prayers answered that the 'big one' would eventually be landed.

Coach, Tom Neville was hailed. So too were shrewd selectors Paul Kinsella, Dick Nolan and Billy Costigan. And the trainer, Billy Brett, who had his charges flying on the day, was not forgotten.

There were 15 hurling heroes. Not one was found wanting in the intense heat of battle. Captain Johnny Brennan had a remarkable match and pocketed 11 points. Not far behind in the excellence stakes were devastating centre-back, Jim Moran, Tony Maher, Tom Walsh, Bobby Shore, Michael Morrissey and Tom Moran.

"They deserved everything they got" coach Tom Neville felt. "Never have I met a more committed bunch of players". High praise indeed from a man who soldiered through two successful all-Irelands (1960 and '68), and three losing ones in 1962, '65 and 1970 with his native Wexford.

The climax was memorable enough for St. Martin's, but there were other moments they relished. Like the semi-final for instance. Here they tackled their bogey team, James Stephens. They shattered a psychological barrier here when they beat the city crew by 3-6 to 1-5. This was their first win over 'Stephens in a major match. To get through to the concluding stages they suffered one reverse when beaten by 2-13 to 1-6 by Glenmore. Nothing went right that day, but for



Paul Kinsella (Coon), selector with St. Martin's.

the next test against Mooncoin everything was ship shape and a 2-12 to 2-6 win was registered. Yet in the semi-finals they were unimpressive, although never in any bother.

"We needed to improve on our semi-final form if we were to have any hope", Tom Neville recalled later. "Between the semi-final and final we showed the biggest improvement of the whole year. That was satisfying". And that was good enough to make them the 20th club to win the Kilkenny senior hurling championship.

The St. Martin's winning team was – B. Shore, J. Kelly, T. Maher, J. J. Dowling, T. Walsh, Jim Moran, M. Maher, J. Morrissey, John Moran, P. Lawlor, P. Moran, J. Brennan (capt.), D. Coonan, T. Moran, R. Maloney. Subs: J. Morrissey, N. Morrissey, T. Kinsella, J. Kinsella, E. Morrissey, J. Maher, R. Teehan, J. Kelly, P. Coonan, S. O'Neill, P. Comerford, T. Morrissey.

Shamrocks – K. Fennelly, F. Holohan, L. Dalton, W. Phelan, L. Long, M. Mason, S. Fennelly, J. Walsh, M. Fennelly, T. Phelan, G. Fennelly, D. Fennelly, B. Fennelly (Capt.), L. Fennelly, M. Kelly. Subs – D. Connolly, O. Harrington, P. Holden, S. Grace, G. Dempsey, Paul Phelan, Pat Phelan, R. Walsh, S. Phelan, J. Phelan.

See "It could have been an ordinary event" on page 56.

A GOOD SHOW SATISFIED EVERYONE

IT IS not often that you find unanimous acceptance after defeat, but such was the case in one particular instance with Kilkenny supporters this term. They saw a county team downed in an all-Ireland hurling final, but they took it without uttering an angry word.

The losing effort of the Kilkenny minor team to classy Limerick in a replayed all-Ireland decider earned as much praise from followers as many a victorious side did. The team gave everything they had, and in some cases a little bit more. For supporters that was enough, even if the laurels were not landed.

Of course, there were extenuating circumstances leading to that goodwill atmosphere. Only a week previously Limerick and Kilkenny had played a draw on the day the senior and minor finals were played together at Semple Stadium, Thurles.

Limerick, putting on a show that was positively devastating at times, were almost robbed of the Irish Press Cup by exceedingly lucky opponents. Noneside supporters were very disappointed, not that the team had failed to win, but because it was a pathetic performance generally.

Limerick had played all the hurling and displayed all the talents. Yet Kilkenny almost ended up with the title, and it was the Shannonsiders who had to get the last point to earn a draw. Had Kilkenny won that match it would have been the greatest piece of legitimate sporting robbery in the 100 years of the G.A.A.

NARROW ESCAPES

On the second day, however, the Nonesiders made amends. The effort was put in. They showed the hurling ability everyone knew was in them. They did the county proud, and a surprisingly big 9,000 crowd went home happy.

The attitude of most of the players in the draw and replay was like chalk and cheese. Some like Alan McCormack, and deadly defensive trio, Bosco Bryan, Frankie Morgan and Larry O'Brien could have done no more on either day, while John Power, Tommy Lannon and Liam

Dowling also showed ability above their tender years.

Because of narrow escapes in the Leinster final and all-Ireland semi-final many regarded this side as a lucky one. Perhaps it was, but judging by the flair shown in the all-Ireland replay, there was a lot of ability involved as well.

Limerick eventually won by 2-5 to 2-4 in a game that earned loud praise even from the most partisan followers on both sides. There was no shame in this defeat. The losers mounted a magnificent rearguard action in the second half and Morgan and Bryan put on super shows.

Limerick were hit hard in the early stages and this knocked them out of their stride. So at half time the Leinster champions showed 2-3 to 1-2 in front. During that half Kilkenny lost talented midfielder, Gerry Drennan, with a head injury. That was a crucial loss when the bigger and stronger Munster boys applied sustained pressure in the new half.

The losers had their last point in the 38th minute. That effort by captain, Tommy Lannon, put them 2-4 to 1-3 ahead, and from there to the end they absorbed heavy pressure. It was a measure of the side's character, that despite the ferocity of the Limerick onslaught they still lost by only a single point.

RESPECTABLE DEFEAT

It was all so different in the drawn match. Here Limerick played all the hurling and Kilkenny enjoyed all the lucky breaks. It was a miracle the tie ended in a 3-8 (K) to 1-14 draw. The Shannonsiders superiority on the day was unquestionable.

The Munster boys owned the first half and led at the break by 1-9 to 0-2. On top of that fine score they also drove 11 wides. With five minutes of normal time remaining they still led by a handy 1-13



Proud Kilkenny captain, Tommy Lannon holds the cup aloft after victory in the Leinster minor hurling championship.

to 1-7 and Kilkenny supporters were prepared to settle for a respectable defeat.

Then in a flash captain Tommy Lannon and Jim Farrell cracked home goals and substitute, Walter Purcell shot a point. Amazingly Limerick were behind, but justice was done when they grabbed an equaliser. In the replay it was never easy, but Limerick collected their first title since 1958. It was a long, long wait, but when they eventually got a winning side, they got a very good one.

In Leinster the Nonesiders collected their 28th crown. The early rounds against Westmeath and Offaly were relatively easy. The final was a whole new ball game. Wexford provided the

Continued on page 55 ►



KILKENNY – All-Ireland Minor Hurling Finalists 1984

Back row (l. to r.): Alan McCormack, Liam Dowling, James Farrell, Frankie Morgan, John Power, Billy Cleere, Gerry Drennan, Bosco Bryan.

Front row (l. to r.): Paddy Fennelly, Declan Mullan, Liam Egan, Tom Lannon (captain), Pat McEvoy, Willie Dwyer, Larry O'Brien.

A GOOD SHOW SATISFIED EVERYONE

◀ *Continued from page 53*

opposition, and they were only downed by a goal from substitute, Walter Purcell in the dying seconds.

The final scoreline was 2-10 (K) to 1-11. The losers led by 1-6 to 1-5 at the interval but fell into 1-10 to 1-6 arrears before the end of the third quarter. Kilkenny looked to be sailing at this point, but suddenly they gave up the chase and with a minute remaining were a point down. Purcell, son of former county great Kieran Purcell, became the hero of the hour with his winning goal from 25 yards.

LUCKY TEAM

There was a bit of luck attached to the all-Ireland semi-final win over Galway also. The Connacht champions lost by 2-9 to 2-10 after missing a glorious chance from a free for the equaliser in the closing stages. Consequently, this particular Kilkenny string earned the name of a 'lucky team'.

When it came to the final the selectors — Terry Brennan (Bennettsbridge); John Walsh (Mooncoin); Rev. L. Cassin (John Lockes); George Leahy (Bord na nOg chairman); Sean Doherty (Galmoy) and trainer, Fr. Tom Murphy

Was it unlucky 13?

WAS it unlucky 13 when Kilkenny contested the all-Ireland minor hurling final this season?

Since records began in 1928 the Noresiders have registered 12 victories. The last was in 1981 against Galway.

This year's defeat by Limerick was the county's sixteenth in the all-Ireland. Hopefully they will not have to wait long for that elusive next success.

1931

Kilkenny 4-7; Galway 2-3

1935

Kilkenny 4-2; Tipperary 3-3

1936

Kilkenny 2-4; Cork 2-3

1950

Kilkenny 3-4; Tipperary 1-5

1960

Kilkenny 7-12; Tipperary 1-11

1961

Kilkenny 3-13; Tipperary 0-15

1962

Kilkenny 3-6; Tipperary 0-9

1972

Kilkenny 8-7; Cork 3-9

1973

Kilkenny 4-5; Galway 3-7

1975

Kilkenny 3-19; Cork 1-14

1977

Kilkenny 4-8; Cork 3-11 (draw)

Kilkenny 1-8; Cork 0-9 (replay)

1981

Kilkenny 1-20; Galway 3-9

(O'Loughlin's) — crossed their fingers and hoped for one more favour from the Gods. They got it when they got away with a draw.

In the replay the tete-a-tete Fr. Murphy had with the team had the desired effect and each player gave of his very best. They could have done no more.

Kilkenny final team (replay) A. McCormack (James Stephens); F. Morgan (James Stephens); B. Bryan (John Lockes); W. O'Dwyer (Carrickshock); L.

O'Brien (Slieverue); T. Lannon, capt. (Bennettsbridge); D. Mullen (James Stephens); G. Drennan (Galmoy); P. Phelan (Shamrocks); P. McEvoy (Mullinavat); J. Power (John Lockes); B. Ayres (James Stephens); W. Purcell (Windgap); M. Frisby (Slieverue); L. Dowling (St. Martin's). Subs: L. Egan (John Lockes); T. Byrne (Young Ireland); J. Farrell (St. Lactain's); P. Fennelly (Danesfort); J. Queally (Emeralds); E. Morrissey (St. Martin's); T. Buggy (Erin's Own); J. Walsh (Piltown).

GOALS AND POINTS GALORE

May 19 at Mullingar

KILKENNY 3-9
WESTMEATH 1-1

Scorers — B. Cleere (3-2); B. Ayres, L. Egan (0-2 each); J. Farrell, J. Power, P. McEvoy (0-1 each).

June 23 at Athy:

KILKENNY 4-6
OFFALY 1-5

Scorers — W. Purcell, G. Drennan (1-1 each); P. McEvoy, J. Queally (1-0 each); B. Ayres (0-2); J. Power, L. Egan (0-1 each).

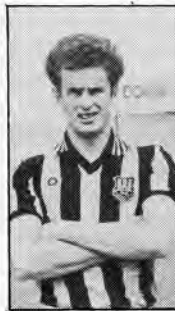
July 8 at Croke Park: (Leinster final)

KILKENNY 2-10
WEXFORD 1-11

Scorers — L. Dowling (1-2); W. Purcell (1-0); J. Power, P. McEvoy, G. Drennan (0-2 each); T. Lannon, L. Egan (0-1 each).



Pat McEvoy.



Billy Ayres.



Liam Dowling.



Larry O'Brien.

August 5 at Thurles

KILKENNY 2-10
GALWAY 2-9

Scorers — P. McEvoy (0-7); L. Egan (1-1); B. Cleere (1-0); J. Power, G. Drennan (0-1 each).

September 2 at Thurles (All-Ireland final)

KILKENNY 3-8 (17 pts)
LIMERICK 1-14 (17 pts)

Scorers — P. McEvoy (1-5); T. Lannon, J. Farrell (1-0 each); G. Drennan, J. Power, W. Purcell (0-1 each).

September 9 at Thurles (replay)

LIMERICK 2-5
KILKENNY 2-4

Scorers — L. Dowling (1-2); W. Purcell (1-0); P. McEvoy, T. Lannon (0-1 each).

JUST ONE NATIONAL WIN

IN THE long and success laden history of the G.A.A. Kilkenny have only managed to win one intermediate hurling all-Ireland.

That was in 1973 when Graignamanagh man, Paddy Grace, led the county to its only victory in this grade.

Indeed, it was the only all-Ireland the county contested at this level. In 1961 Kilkenny had to go into the intermediate all-Ireland championship because it was classed as one of the strong counties.

In 1977 the county was given the option of entering teams in three grades — senior, minor and either under-21 or intermediate. They went for the in-

termediate, although they found victories hard to come by.

The only time the Noresiders fared any way well before they eventually scored a national win was in 1967 when they won the Leinster championship. But in the all-Ireland semi-final they were beaten by London.

Incidentally, the local intermediate championship was reintroduced in 1973 after being dormant for years. Up to that there were only two adult hurling championships locally the junior and senior.

The '73 all-Ireland intermediate winning team was — Paddy Grace, captain (Graignamanagh); Maurice Mason

(Shamrocks); Kieran Mahon (Barrow Rangers); Michael Hoyne (Shamrocks); Jimmy Dunne (Dunnamaggin); Timmy Murphy (Danesfort); Tom Foley (Graignamanagh); Pat Kavanagh (Graignamanagh); Dixie Burke (Carrickshock); Johnny Doyle (Emeralds); Pat Holden (Shamrocks); Jack O'Connor (Graignamanagh); Frank Cleere (Emeralds); Jim Walsh (Mullinavat); Shem Muldowney (Conahy Shamrocks).
Subs: Martin Power (Emeralds); Liam Ryan (Graignamanagh); Jack Bolger (Graignamanagh); Seanie McGarry (Dicksboro); Patsy Trait (Dicksboro); Pat Walsh (Barrow Rangers).

IT COULD EASILY HAVE BEEN AN ORDINARY EVENT

WHAT a very ordinary senior hurling championship it would have been had St. Martin's not exploded on the scene. The sure-footed Shamrocks were the favourites from start to finish, and had they triumphed, the predictability of it all would have lessened the delight of victory.

The Shamrocks were always outstanding in Kilkenny, and outside. They were sporting ambassadors, who cared as much about the image they portrayed of hurling in Kilkenny, as the image they portrayed of themselves. For that we should all be grateful.

The Ballyhale side worked hard at the game, and their criss-cross style of play carried them to powerful victories — five senior championship wins in six years, including a three-in-a-row. With the depth of talent at their disposal, they will not be kept down long.

Otherwise you could class it as a year when virtually all the rest made progress — backwards. Glenmore apart, few fared any better than they did the previous season.

The Glenmore lads got through to the semi-final, but what they hoped would be a day of joy ended sadly when

they fell to the Shamrocks. The losers were robbed early in the week of the considerable talents of former All-Star, Christy Heffernan, who was ill. Shortly after the throw-in sterling defender, Ned Aylward, had to go off injured, and later a similar sad fate befell John Heffernan.

In the end Glenmore were beaten by 2-9 to 1-7, but with a full strength side for the entire 60 minutes, who knows what they might have achieved. Perhaps they will tell us next year?

The other losing semi-finalists, James Stephens, although Centenary tournament winners, never seriously considered winning the championship. They were satisfied with having a good run to blood-in new players for future assaults on the title.

Their great rivals, Fenians (Johnstown) fell by the wayside early. The years have taken their toll of the former giants of the local game, and a re-shaping job will have to be done for next year if they hope to make progress.

For a while Mooncoin promised great things. The arrival of Domo Conolly from Clara helped them. They have been moving slowly in the right direction for the past few

years, but this time they would appear to have taken time out. Perhaps they will get on the move again next term.

Yes, indeed, the surprise success of St. Martin's saved the championship, and gave us something exciting to look forward to next season.



**KILKENNY
ELECTRICAL
WHOLESALE
LTD.**



LIGHTING

Crompton - Philips - Sylvania - Thorn - Tungsram - Linolite.

EMERGENCY LIGHTING

Chloride Gent - Ventilux - J.S.B. - Churchouse.

B.B.C. Aerial and Amplifier - Sonim - Kathrein - Jaybeam

Sonim Dish Antennae.

INDUSTRIAL EQUIPMENT

Black & Decker - Baier - AEG - MK - Xpelair - Crabtree - Le

Grand - Newman Electric Motors - Steinel - TMK - Soar - Volex

- Vent Axia - Siemens - Telemecanique - K Lauke.

SMALL APPLIANCES

Krups - Clairol - Benrad - Dimplex - Ideal - Russell Hobbs AKA

Siemens - Dimpc - Glen - Winterwarm - Philips.

Agents for SWAN GENERATORS

1.5 to 55kva and P.T.O. models. Ex-stock

(6365)

**44 INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, HEBRON ROAD,
KILKENNY. Telephone 22394/62333.**

ORGANISING ABILITY TO THE FORE

IN SPITE of some drawbacks, it is fair to say that the G.A.A. Centenary year was a signal success. The arrangements for the celebration showed a high level of sophistication, particularly since the G.A.A. is an amateur sports organisation – by common consent one of the greatest amateur sports organisations in the world.

The organising skill shown was really remarkable. All 32 counties entered enthusiastically into the celebration, and each club and county had its own contribution to make. There was also complete co-operation from the top down.

There was, of course, the usual rhetoric, but this was to be expected in a Centenary year; it wasn't overdone, however and the G.A.A. to its credit concentrated all its energies on making 1984 a year to remember.

It was a pity, therefore, that what we expected to be the showpieces of the year, the hurling and football finals, failed to come up to expectations.

The hurling final died ignominiously after the first half, while the end result in the case of the football final was plain to be seen long before the game finished. While I have the greatest respect for Offaly, who have made such a significant contribution to hurling over the years, especially in recent times, what the final really needed was a Cork/Kilkenny clash.

There is so much tradition and

glamour in Cork/Kilkenny games down the years that they would have made an ideal pairing for this final, probably more than any other. But that was not to be, and Offaly rightly won their place in the decider. The second half display was not at all representative of their true worth, and their total collapse is inexplicable.

By way of contrast the football final brought together two sides with an established football tradition. But this game was also very disappointing.

THREE TITLES

Having failed in their bid to win the senior title, Kilkenny had to make do with three national titles – junior and under-21 hurling and the club championship won by the Shamrocks. This was, of course, in addition to four Leinster titles – the minor hurlers won out in the province and got within an ace of adding the all-Ireland to Kilkenny's tally.

If the games failed to measure up to expectations, certainly the cultural activities could not have been more successful.

The ceremonies which marked the hurling final at Thurles were probably the most impressive ever to mark an all-Ireland. There had been grave doubts about the feasibility of Semple Stadium as a suitable venue for the hurling final, but these were proved completely groundless and the Tipperary Co. Board

and the people of Tipperary and Thurles in particular rose to the occasion in magnificent style.

On the home front cultural activities figured prominently and exhibitions and activities in line with the G.A.A.'s fine cultural tradition were held in almost every parish and extended over the whole year.

Perhaps the most notable contribution in the cultural field came from the Tullaroan club who produced a splendid Centenary book. Considerable research was undertaken over a couple of years and the end product, largely the work of amateurs in this field, was really outstanding.

Extensive attention was focussed on the highlights in hurling and football over the past 100 years with television, radio and the newspapers devoting considerable attention to the many activities associated with the Centenary. Kilkenny went into the Centenary year as all-Ireland and National League champions, and quite a lot of attention was devoted to Kilkenny's role in the G.A.A. scene.

BIG HONOUR

We were also in the unique position of having a Kilkennyman, Paddy Buggy as President of the 'Association in Centenary Year. This was a big honour, not alone for Paddy Buggy himself, but for Kilkenny and it means that his name will be linked with the G.A.A. for as long as the 'Association exists.

On the other hand Kilkenny hurling suffered a serious loss by the death of the Co. Board secretary, Paddy Grace. Like Paddy Buggy, he too was an all-Ireland hurler and it was rather ironic that having served as county secretary for a longer period than any other county secretary in the 'Association's history, he should pass away in Centenary year.

Having survived all the vicissitudes and changing times of 100 years, the G.A.A. soon begins the road to its second century stronger than ever. It can look to the future with some confidence, though it is impossible to say what the future may hold.



Samaritans

*"to help the
suicidal and
despairing"*

**13 BEAU STREET
WATERFORD**

Tel: (051) 72114.

SCHOOL BOYS FROM 'COMER HELPED LIFT THE GLOOM

THESE are depressed times we are living in. There are precious few families who have not been afflicted one way or another by the recession. Still, we must all fight on and hope for better things in the future.

Castlecomer, the quaint Kilkenny/Laois border town, has suffered its own bit of misfortune in these hard times. Indeed, what with factory closures and so on, the town has had more than its fair share of ill luck down through the years.

So with the durable people of the town a piece of good news can evoke greater excitement than it might in some other areas. They had some this year. It led to great celebrations, and for a while the troubles of our age were forgotten.

The good news was provided by school goers . . . the boys from the local Presentation convent. They proved themselves hurling kings when they capably handled the best the country had to offer in the all-Ireland colleges senior hurling (Roinn B) championship.

In recent years Castlecomer hasn't exactly been snowed under with hurling successes, never mind one at national level. They had every reason to celebrate, because it was the first win in the competition for the school, and for Kilkenny.

In an action packed final at Croke Park, the Presentation convent scored a convincing 3-10 to 0-8 victory over St. Patrick's high school, Maghera (Derry). To get their hands on the glittering Corn O Caoimh Cup, the hardy 'Comer boys had to play eight matches, a tough programme by any yardstick.

In the big stadium on the big day the Noresiders turned in a brilliant second half performance. The lively Liam Dowling cracked home two goals early in the closing moiety and had a hand in another which James Brennan netted. By the time they were finished their smashing double act, the Derry boys were destroyed.

VIDEO OF GAME

At half-time, although they had missed easy chances, 'Comer led by 0-7 to 0-4. They picked-up the pace in the new half and the St. Patrick's boys just could not live with them. It was a nice piece of history, and it was all captured on film, because 'Comer man, Br. Louis (Michael

Murphy) from the Patrician college, Finglas, made a video recording of the match and presented it to the winners afterwards.

The Presentation, Castlecomer, became the first Kilkenny winners of the cup. In 1982 and '83 Callan C.B.S. went within a hair's breadth of victory, but defeat was their lot against Cashel C.B.S. and Nenagh C.B.S.

"The boys worked hard all the year and they deserved all they got out of the game", a delighted school vice-principal and team supremo, Michael Hester declared. Indeed, they became the first convent school to even appear in the final. In 1977 and '80 they won the Roinn C Leinster championship, but this was their greatest sporting hour to date, since the school went co-educational in the seventies.

During the campaign different players chose different days to show what they were made of. Throughout the outstanding performer was Tommy Buggy, a Kilkenny minor and Leinster inter-provincial player. He was in a class of his own and if he is dedicated to the game he should be a senior star of the future.

Accurate free taker, Liam Dowling, Martin O'Neill, Seamus Dooley, Barry Rice, David O'Rourke and Thomas

HENNESSY'S SPORTS

14 Parliament St., Kilkenny

Tel. Pffice (056) 62848.

SEE OUR RANGE OF CONNEMARA MARBLE
TROPHIES

Open 6 days a week: 9.30 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.

Suppliers to Clubs, Associations and Schools

Trophies
Plaques
and
Medals
to suit
all
sports

Engraving
Service
available



Racquet
Stringing
for
Squash,
Badminton
and
Tennis



The Presentation Convent, Castlecomer, who won the All-Ireland Colleges' senior hurling (Roinn B) final in 1984. Back row (left to right): Michael Brophy, Thomas Coogan, Paul Brennan, Barry Rice, David O'Rourke, Seamus Dooley, Brendan Smith, Martin Carroll, Kieran Bergin, John Kennedy, Paul Nolan. Middle row (left to right): David Buggy, Liam Dowling, James Breen, Martin O'Neill (captain), James Brennan, Tommy Buggy, Thomas Cody, Billy Hennessy, Michael Baylon. Front row (left to right): Eamon Connery, Martin Holohan, Tom Hurley, Paddy Brennan, Liam Young.

Coogan were others who must have outstanding memories from some battle or other. Everyone played their part, and the spirit in the training camp was second to none.

FAST OFF MARK

Early round victories were scored over Bagenalstown De La Salle, Knockbeg college, Callan C.B.S. and Portlaoise C.B.S. before the Cistercian college, Roscrea, were beaten by 1-11 to 1-2 in the Leinster semi-final. After that the Dr. Staunton Cup, for the winners of the Leinster championship, was collected at the expense of Oaklands C.B.S. (Dublin). The score was 3-6 to 2-4, after the Dubs had led by eight points at the interval.

Just as they were later to prove in the all-Ireland final, 'Comer were fast off the

mark after the break. This time snappy goals were slammed home by Billy Hennessy, David O'Rourke and James Breen before Paul Brennan (2), Liam Dowling (3) and Tommy Buggy (1) had points to clinch the issue.

The all-Ireland semi-final against St. Jarleth's college, Tuam, was a near thing. The Kilkenny boys edged through by 1-11 (14 pts.) to 2-7 (13) thanks to a '65 from the ice-cool Tommy Buggy with barely 30 seconds remaining. At the half-way mark the losers showed 1-5 to 0-2 in front.

The winners settled in the new half and after 16 minutes had wiped out the arrears and nosed a point ahead. The Tuam lads never gave up the hunt, and were only dispatched by that deadly effort from Buggy. The same day Tom

Cody, Dooley, and Rice were unbelievable in defence.

Yes, times may be bad for the county in general, but the skilled hurlers from the Presentation convent, Castlecomer helped lift the gloom, for a while anyway.

The Castlecomer panel — James 'Shinner' Brennan (14), Tom Cody (17), Seamus Dooley (17), Barry Rice (17), Kieran Bergin (17), Tommy Buggy (17), Martin Carroll (18), Tomas Coogan (17), Martin O'Neill (17), Paul Brennan (17), Brendan Smith (17), Liam Dowling (16), James Brennan (15), David O'Rourke (17), Billy Hennessy (17), Paddy Brennan, Martin Holohan, Michael Boylon, Tom Hurley, John Kennedy, Eamon Connery, Liam Young, Paul Nolan, Michael Brophy, David Buggy.

The choice of Champions

☆
THE STAR HURLEY
☆

**RAMIE
DOWLING**

Hurley Manufacturer

Best of luck to the Hurlers

**66, UPPER PATRICK ST.
KILKENNY**

Tel: 056 - 22777

A DAY SEEN ONCE IN 100 YEARS

THE SUN shone brightly on a warm Summer's day. Kilkenny clubs marched in their finery as Nowlan Park was transformed into a sea of colour. Still, everything revolved around the games – hurling, football, camogie and handball. The day was Sunday, June 10 and the occasion, Kilkenny's own Centenary celebrations. This was the time when finals of special competitions organised to mark the 100th. anniversary of the G.A.A. came to a glittering climax. Fresh faced Co. Board chairman, Michael O'Neill, hoisted the special Centenary flag which had been presented to the Board when the G.A.A. officially launched the Centenary year in Ennis at Easter.

Looking on were hundreds of club representatives from all parts of the county, north, south, east and west. Each club had been invited to send four people – the chairperson, a past and present player and an under-age player. Each intertwined the generations within the clubs, and the Association.

"Our thoughts today go back over 100 years and we remember and pay tribute to the people who have served the G.A.A.", Michael O'Neill remarked. "At the same time we must cast an eye to the future and lay plans".

Kilkenny President of the G.A.A., Paddy Buggy was there for this special occasion. President of the Handball Association, Tommy O'Brien from Michael Street was there too, as was another Kilkenny President, Mary Fennelly of the Camogie Association. The day of G.A.A. celebrations began with mass celebrated in O'Loughlin's/Gaels clubrooms by Bishop Laurence Forristal of Ossory. He was assisted by Fr. Tom Maher C.C., St. John's.



James Stephens, who won the Centenary Tournament open hurling title.



Thomastown, the Centenary Tournament open football champions.

WHERE THE HONOURS WENT

Readings were taken by nine times all-Ireland senior medal winner, Noel Skehan (Bennettsbridge) and Co. Baord P.R.O., Tom Ryall (Graigue-Ballycallan). Prayers of the Faithful were said by John Healy (Southern Board chairman), Nickey Brennan (present county hurler),

Harry Ryan (present county hurler), Toddy Lacey (Conahy Shamrocks) and Bro. Norbert from St. John's. On the field of play, the honours went to James Stephens (hurling), Thomastown (football) and St. Paul's (camogie) while Bobby Shore (St. Martin's) won the

Continued on pages 66 & 67 ►

ALL THE PRESIDENTS

1884 Muiris Ó dáibhín (Tiobrad Árann)
 1887 Éamonn Binéid (An Clár)
 1988 Muiris Ó Dáibhín (Tiobrad Árann)
 1889 Peadar S. Ó Ceallaigh (Gaillimh)
 1895 Proinsias B. Ó Duinnín (Luimneach)
 1898 Mícheál Diring (Corcaigh)
 1901 Séamus Ó Nualláin (Cill Chainnigh)
 1921 Dónal Mac Cártaigh (Áth Cliath)
 1924 Pádraig D. Ó Clúmháin (Luimneach)
 1926 Liam P. Ó Clúmháin (Luimneach)
 1928 Seán Ó Riain (Áth Cliath)
 1932 Seán Mac Cártaigh (Corcaigh)
 1935 Riobárd Ó Caoimh (Laois)

1938 Pádraig Mac Cor Midhe (Aontraim)
 1943 Séamus Gáirnéar (Tiobrad Árann)
 1946 Dónal Ó Ruairc (Ros Comáin)
 1949 Mícheál U Ó Donnchadha (Port Lairge)
 1955 Séamus Mac Fearáin (Aontraim)
 1958 An Dr. S. S. Stiobhairt (Á Bróin (Cill Manntáin)
 1964 Alf Ó Muiri (Ard Macha)
 1967 Séamus Ó Fainnin (Port Láirge)
 1973 An Dr. Dónal Ó Cianáin (Ros Comáin)
 1976 Conchúr Ó Murchú (Corcaigh)
 1979 Pádraig Mac Floinn (An Dún)
 1982 Pádraig Ó Bogaigh (Cill Chainnigh)

A GOOD ONE FOR POSTERITY



Surrounded by Presidents . . . author of "Kilkenny – The G.A.A. Story", Tom Ryall is surrounded by Kilkenny Presidents in the G.A.A., Paddy Buggy (overall), Tommy O'Brien (handball) and Mary Fennelly (camogie). Also pictured are the late Paddy Grace (left) and Brian Desmond, Bank of Ireland.

AN IMPRESSIVE array of Centenary publications hit the shelves of book stores all over the country since the end of 1983.

Almost every county brought their records up to date and assembled all the facts and figures in book form. At the end of another centenary there should be ample evidence to prove that the G.A.A. was indeed a mighty body during its first one.

Kilkenny, too, had its history of Gaelic games documented. In a county that has scored so many famous victories, and suffered defeats as well, there was no shortage of incidents to write about. The task was undertaken by that workaholic – by the way, he does not drink – for the G.A.A., Tom Ryall. Ten years ago the Graigue-Ballycallan official

started his gigantic task. The end product was proof of his labours. The book, *Kilkenny – The G.A.A. Story 1884–1984*, did justice to the author, his county and the Association.

"I was always interested in records and the people who made them, and it was from there that the whole thing developed", Tom said. "I often saw things written that were incorrect, so I decided I would try and set the record straight".

Dead straight he set it, with a 420-page publication that, if anything, contained too much information. But, as they say, it is better to have something than to be looking for it.

A LONG TIME

He covered absolutely everything – the 23 All-

Ireland senior hurling victories; the National Leagues; minor, under-21, colleges' and vocational schools championships; handball; camogie and even the Kilkenny club in New York and the Scór competitions.

Ten years was a long time to be wading through files, newspaper cuttings and so on. Tom Ryall stuck with it to the very end and he produced a book that was second to none.

Indeed, it must be admitted that we 'lifted' some of our historical pieces from the book. It was an invaluable part of the stock at hand for checking names, dates, scores, venues, what have you.

The records section at the back has to be seen, then

used, to be really credited. Just a look at the records would impress you. But when you dig deep to verify a fact it is only then that you really begin to fathom their real worth, and the countless hours it must have taken to assemble them.

Between the covers of *Kilkenny – The G.A.A. Story 1884–1984* Tom Ryall did justice to heroes of the past and present – the people who made 100 magnificent years of Kilkenny and Irish history.

Another interesting book that came to hand was the *Greats of Gaelic Games* (100 Centenary Edition) by Owen McCann. Its strong point is its national records section. Again everything was nicely displayed in an easy to read manner. A good purchase at £4.95.

Sixth All-Ireland victory the highlight

THE action has almost been completed in the Inter-Firm competitions at the time of writing. The only game still to be played is the all-Ireland Senior Hurling final. Here, local side Public Services will take on Green Isle (Banagher). Whoever wins will be taking the honours for the first time.

The Galway based firm has never contested an all-Ireland final, while Public Services were beaten by the Clara Teachers in 1982.

Public Services beat Clover Meats (Waterford), Mahon and McPhillips and Avonmore Creameries to win the Kilkenny title. They toppled E.S.B. (Dublin), powered by Offaly players Joe Dooley and Mark Corrigan, in the Leinster final. The final score was Public Services 2-10, E.S.B. 1-6.

In the all-Ireland semi-final, the Kilkenny side beat Duracks (Clare) by the minimum margin - 2-10 to 2-9. The winning point was scored by Matt Ruth from a free in the last minute. In addition to Ruth, others who played well for the winners were Cormac Quinn, who had a great game, Nicky Cashin, who captains the side, Paddy Neary, Kevin Hennessy, Henry Ryan and in the last quarter Anthony Bergin, when he went on as a substitute.

The Kilkenny area final against the all-Ireland holders, Avonmore Creameries was a great game which Public Services won by 1-12 to 0-14. The vital score was knocked home in the 22nd minute by Tipperary county player, Liam Maher. Maher was brilliantly put through by Matt Ruth. At half-time Public Services led by 1-5 to 0-6.

In the closing minutes, the Ballyragget men had three chances of levelling the game, but all three efforts went narrowly wide.

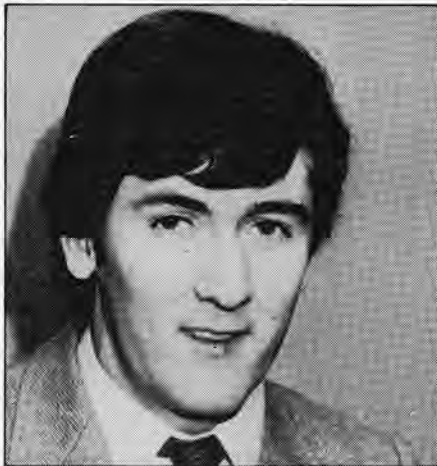
Services had good players in John Guinan, Tony Maher, Brian Murphy, Cormac Quinn, Kevin Hennessy, Thomas Leahy, Matt Ruth and Liam Maher.

Best for Avonmore were Morgan Kelly, a great goalie, Nicky Brennan, who was the best player on view, Jimmy O'Brien, when he moved to the half-back line, Mick Bolger, Johnny Brennan and John Mulcahy.

SCORERS

Public Services: Liam Maher (1-2); Matt Ruth (0-4, three frees); Gordon Ryan (0-2); Kevin Hennessy, Thomas Leahy, Anthony Bergin, Martin Fogarty (0-1 each).

Avonmore Creameries: Mick Walsh (0-4, two frees); Johnny Brennan, John Mulcahy (0-3 each); Nicky Brennan (0-1, free); Dick Walsh, John Hall, Billy Fitz-



Michael Walsh (Dicksboro), he was in top scoring form with Runtalrad-Tierneys.

patrick (0-1 each). The referee was Podge Butler.

Public Services: John Guinan, Paddy Neary, Tony Maher, Brian Murphy, Pat Starr, Tom Brennan, Cormac Quinn, Kevin Hennessy, Thomas Leahy, Gordon Ryan, Liam Maher, Ritchie Delaney, Anthony Bergin, Matt Ruth, Nicky Cashin.

SIXTH WIN

The junior all-Ireland inter-firm title has been brought back to Kilkenny for the sixth time. Runtalrad/Tierneys went all the way to take the S.P.S. Cup.

The Thomastown/Inistioge based side suffered just one defeat on the way to their historic win. They lost a round of the league to Threecastles Farm Services.

In the Kilkenny semi-final they bounced back to reverse that league result by beating the Threecastles side by 1-10 to 1-3. Runtalrad/Tierneys met St. Canice's Hospital/Smithwicks in the area final. At half-time the city based side were in front and when they went 10 points ahead in the second period they looked to be on the way to victory. With Michael Walsh picking off the scores from frees and play the South Kilkenny side narrowed the gap. Amid great excitement, Runtalrad-Tierneys pulled a point ahead, but justice was done when Jimmy Dunne levelled the scores one minute into injury time. The final score read Runtalrad/Tierneys 2-12; St. Canices/Smithwicks 1-15.

The replay was also a fine game.

Runtalrad/Tierneys were well on top on this occasion. After leading by 0-7 to 0-3 at half-time they ran out easy winners by 0-16 to 0-7. Michael Walsh, Dan Breen, Willie Kennedy, Tommy Malone, Brendan Fennelly and James Ireland did best for the winners.

The Kilkenny champions won the Leinster final when they beat Cosets (Carlow) in the semi-final by 3-9 to 1-5 and Meadow Meats (Laois) in the decider by 3-8 to 0-5. The latter game was a personal triumph for Michael Walsh, who scored 3-6 of his side's total. The other scores came from Brendan Fennelly (0-1) and Noel Cottrell (0-1).

GLORIOUS OCCASION

The all-Ireland semi-final in Cashel against Alanco (Cork) was one of the finest inter-firm games of the year. The Kinsale based side led at half-time by 2-8 to 3-3. Eventually the Kilkenny boys pulled ahead in the second half and ran out winners by 6-10 to 4-10. The game was another glorious occasion for Michael Walsh, who this time scored a fabulous 3-7. Runtalrad/Tierneys had their other scores from Noel Cottrell (2-0), Ger Lyster (1-0); James Ireland (0-2), Tommy Malone (0-1).

A vital switch was the moving of Michael Phelan from corner-back to full-back to mark the dangerous Ray Cummins, the former Cork all-Ireland star.

The all-Ireland final was played in Banagher, Co. Offaly, with Thermoking (Galway) providing the opposition. The Kilkenny side played brilliant hurling in the first half as they built up a commanding lead of 1-14 to 0-1. At the interval it was obvious the title was bound for Kilkenny. Although the Galway crew came more into the game in the second half, they could not get the scores against a defence in which Dan Breen, Willie Kennedy and Paddy Fennelly were outstanding. Phil Cahill had a great hour at midfield and he got good assistance from Bob Grace. Brendan Fennelly had a brilliant opening quarter, during which he could do no wrong. Michael Walsh was again prominent and scored 1-6. James Ireland was also prominent in attack. The Kilkenny champions relaxed a bit in the last quarter and the losers narrowed the gap to six points when they got through for three goals. There was never any doubt about the winners superiority and the final score was Runtalrad/Tierneys 1-16, Thermoking 3-4.

The winners scorers were Michael Walsh (1-6 four frees); James Ireland,

Continued on page 67 ►

RIGHT INCENTIVE GOT TALENTED LACTAIN'S GOING

THE winning of the Kilkenny intermediate hurling Centenary championship had a lot to do with incentive. It proved what could be achieved if skilled players knuckled down to a task and allowed nothing to divert them from their victory goal.

So it was with St. Lactain's (Freshford), who scored one of the most comprehensive wins in the intermediate final in years. They hurled with extreme determination. They showed exceptional spirit and they bridged a 21 year gap since their last championship success, which was in the senior grade in 1963.

Where did this incentive that drove St. Lactain's on to a powerful success come from, you may well ask. Well, there were two sources. First was their demotion from the senior grade when the major championships were reshaped at the beginning of 1984. And, although some club officials might not admit it, the rift at the Threecastles end of the parish at the start of the year also got the adrenalin flowing.

The end result was that St. Lactain's put in the off the field effort better than they had done for years. The spirit that was born on the training field came through in the united effort of the team, and once they got into a good run, there was no holding them.

It was generally agreed that St. Lactain's and Graignamanagh represented the strongest intermediate final pairing for some time. Yet, the Northerners romped to a comprehensive 2-14 to 1-5 win, after leading by 1-7 to 0-2 at half-time. Their huge victory margin was achieved less one man, who was sent off 12 minutes from time.

"The whole town was behind the team", one official declared. "After a few years of indifferent form it all came right this time. Perhaps it was because the team was in the intermediate grade and they won matches more regularly than when senior. Whatever the real reasons,

hurling in Freshford was rarely in a healthier state than it was this year".

MAJOR ASSET

Going on the form they showed in the final, St. Lactain's will have to be treated with respect in the senior championship. They achieved the result in the decider with only a token effort from one of their finest players, Martin Kennedy, who was dogged by injury during the season and was only able to act as substitute — he did go on however — during the historic victory. He will be a major asset come next season.

The Freshford lads were so keyed-up they forgot their early season troubles and the loss of Kennedy and blasted Graignamanagh from the throw-in. After only 24 minutes they were 1-7 to 0-1 clear, and with former county panelists, Gordon Ryan, in delightful form at centre-back, they looked winners even at that early stage.

So good was Gordon Ryan that day that the Kilkenny senior selectors were forced to re-think about his future involvement with the county squad. The Thomastown based Garda received back-up of the highest order from Noel Hughes, Michael Walsh, Gerry Doheny, Eamon Maher, Seán Connery (the team captain played 15 years in the senior grade with the club), Pierce Phelan, Mick Morrissey and Brian Waldron.

In many ways it was great that success came St. Lactain's way during Centenary year. There was a time not so many years ago when they suggested they had the makings of a future senior championship winning side. That was at a time when the likes of Kennedy and

Waldron were coming through and present club chairman, Pa Dillon was still playing.

They were always able to stretch city club, James Stephens, even during the latter's championship winning years. But for some reason the Northerners lost their way. They never followed through with the promise that was definitely there, so perhaps their step back to success might propel them forward at double quick pace.

A championship win can do untold good for the confidence of players. Just to believe they are as good as the opposition can be half the battle. Now that St. Lactain's have the momentum going, they should safeguard against letting the enthusiasm drop, because basically this is a young team that can only get better with the addition of experience.

This latest victory was the club's fourth in a Kilkenny adult hurling championship. Their first taste of glory was in the junior championship in 1959. They followed that with senior successes in 1961 and 1963, and this season they bridged the gap in between.

More than that, it completed a fine run of wins that has seen the club take titles at all levels from under-12 to senior grade. There are not many outfits who can boast of a record as comprehensive as that.

St. Lactain's are situated in a part of the county that has always been able to produce first class hurling stock. Even this year's team contained seven players who pulled on a county shirt — Gordon Ryan, Michael Walsh, Seán Connery, Pierce Phelan, Michael Morrissey, Brian Waldron and Welsh born Jim Farrell. Now surely they have something worthwhile to work on and have every reason to think in terms of senior success again.

Apart from the form in the final

Continued overleaf ▶



St. Lactain's (Freshford), the intermediate hurling champions of 1984. Back row (l. to r.): John Doyle, Eugene Hughes, Michael Brennan, Tom Beckett, Michael Walsh, Jim Farrell, Noel Hughes, Eamon Maher, Gordon Ryan, Martin Barnaville, Gerry Doheny, Michael McCarthy (team manager), Martin Kennedy, Seamus Cahill, Christy Maher, Tommy Maher. Front (l. to r.): Martin Dawson, John Joe Kelly, Pierce Phelan, Christy Hickey, Michael Morrissey, Joe Morrissey, Brian Waldron, Sean Connery, Pat Brennan, Paddy Moriarty, Tony O'Neill, Declan Killeen, Martin Walsh. Mascot: Walter Kelly.

◀ Continued from previous page

altogether, mentors should consider how the team fared all year. The opening was not the best, but once the early indifference was replaced by a willing spirit, the players showed they had it in them to be winners.

At the conclusion they were handy winners of a good championship. For make no mistake about it, the intermediate standard of hurling in this county is good.

St. Lactain's proved to everyone that

they were a cut above the rest. They have the potential to go on to greater things, simply because they are a good well balanced side. It is entirely up to themselves. Perhaps someone can come up with another incentive to stir them into a frenzy of activity that could lead to success?

The St. Lactain's team in the final was: M. Brennan, J. Morrissey, N. Hughes, G. Doheny, C. Hickey, G. Ryan, M. Walsh, S. Connery (captain), E. Maher, P. Phelan, M. Morrissey, P. Bren-

nan, B. Waldron, J. Farrell, T. Beckett. Subs: M. Kennedy, P. Moriarty (used). Not used: J. Doyle, E. Hughes, M. Barnaville, S. Cahill, C. Maher, T. Maher, M. Dawson, J. J. Kelly, T. O'Neill, D. Killeen, M. Walsh.

Graignamanagh: R. Dunne, T. Whelan, J. Cody, T. Foley, P. Kavanagh, B. Grace, T. Dowling, P. Cahill, M. Morrissey, P. Prendergast (capt.), P. Nolan, J. O'Driscoll, J. Whelan, J. Meaney, M. Dunne. Subs: N. Lyng, T. Prendergast, P. Morrissey.

THINGS NOT AS BAD AS THEY SEEM FOR GRAIGNAMANAGH

ALL things considered, Graignamanagh had a lot to be happy about over their effort in the intermediate hurling championship. They were soundly beaten in the final, but, unfortunately for them, that was one of the low points of their otherwise good season.

Graig can look to the future with reasonable confidence. They blooded a few promising youngsters this term who can provide the spring-board for future victories.

Long servers like Tom Foley, Pat Kavanagh and Peter Prendergast were not found wanting. But perhaps the best one over the season was corner-back, Tom Whelan who caught the eye of the Kilkenny junior selectors and rightly so. He can be relied on in the future, as can Richard Dunne, Tommy Dowling, Jim Foley and Tom Meaney.

At the finish of the championship things might have looked black for the Southerners, but if they really examine their position, they will see they have a

lot of talent to work on.

Conahy Shamrocks were the choice of many to win the championship in the early stages. With the Brennan brothers, Nickey, Kieran, Paudie and Gearoid to the fore they suggested in the early stages they were going to make an instant return to the senior grade after being regraded in the reshuffle at the beginning of the year.

They forced their way into a three way play-off for a place in the semi-finals. Unfortunately on the day they were due to play Graignamanagh their star forward, Kieran Brennan, was unable to start the match. By the time he was thrown into the fray the speedy Graig men had taken a decisive lead. Conahy never recovered and kissed their chances goodbye.

BAD BOUT OF INJURIES

The beaten semi-finalists were O'Loughlin's — they lost the final the previous year — and Carrickshock.

In the long run a bad bout of injuries

robbed O'Loughlin's of class players. County junior star, Sean Tyrrell missed the semi-final because of a long term injury, and the towering Michael Cleere was not as effective as he might have been, again because he was sidelined through injury for a long spell.

The St. John's Park outfit looked a fair each way bet in the initial stages, but when they ran into ill luck their prospects faded.

Carrickshock had a right chance to make it into the final when they held a commanding lead over Graignamanagh in the semi-final. But a problem that has surfaced during the year when they tended to let the initiative slip cropped-up again and they were dumped out of the championship.

Fine performers here were Richard and Maurice Power, Pat Power, Noel Maher, Pat Duggan and Martin Raggett, but they paid the penalty for not being able to keep the pressure up when they had a team on the run.

THINGS NOT AS BAD AS THEY SEEM FOR GRAIGNAMANAGH



GRAIGNAMANAGH — the defeated intermediate hurling finalists

Back row (l. to r.): Michael Morrissey, Pat Nolan, Jim Whelan, Tom Dowling, Hugh Ryan, John Meaney, Tom Foley, Jim Cody. Front row (l. to r.): Philip Cahill, Bob Grace, Jim O'Driscoll, Peter Prendergast (capt.), Richard Dunne, Tom Whelan, Michael Dunne, Pat Kavanagh. Mascot: Liam Bolger.

The other team that joined this championship from the senior grade was Bennettsbridge. They started well with a sweet victory over Dicksboro, but ended up having to fight against relegation.

'Bridge mentors reckoned it would take a couple of years before the minor and under-21 players from good teams the year before made their mark. They have the material to work on. They

should have the hurling. Only time will tell whether or not they have the interest. A good 'Bridge team battling for top honours in Kilkenny would be something in the new century.

Conahy top the lot

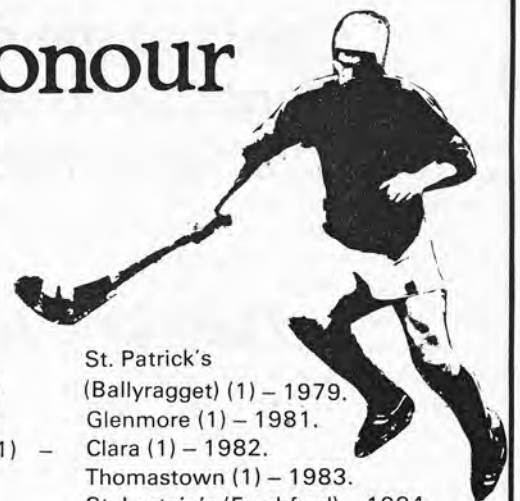
THE new intermediate hurling champions, St. Lactain's (Freshford) joined 14 other clubs who have won the title just once.

The table toppers are Conahy Shamrocks with three victories, their last in 1977. They are followed by this year's losing finalists, Graignamanagh, who have two.

The first championship was played in 1929. The actual final wasn't decided until February 23, 1930 at Nowlan Park when Urlingford beat Kilmacow by 6-0 to 2-1.

Roll of Honour

Conahy (3) – 1930, 1932, 1977.
 Graignamanagh (2) – 1976, 1980.
 Urlingford (1) – 1929.
 Danesfort (1) – 1931.
 St. Fiacre's (1) – 1934.
 John Lockes (Callan) (1) – 1935.
 Slieverue (1) – 1936.
 Eire Og (1) – 1937.
 Coon (1) – 1973.
 Shamrocks (Ballyhale/Knocktopher) (1) – 1974.
 Muckalee/Ballyfoyle Rangers (1) – 1975.
 O'Loughlin's (1) – 1978.



St. Patrick's (Ballyragget) (1) – 1979.
 Glenmore (1) – 1981.
 Clara (1) – 1982.
 Thomastown (1) – 1983.
 St. Lactain's (Freshford) – 1984.

First winners, Tullaroan, lead the way

THREE years after the G.A.A. was founded, the first Kilkenny senior hurling championship was played. That was in 1887 and the winners were Tullaroan, who to date have won the title 19 times, by far the greatest take of any club.

The second championship was won by Mooncoin, who stand second in the roll of honour with Bennettsbridge. Both won the championship 12 times.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Shamrocks (5) – 1978, 1979, 1980, 1982, 1983.

Eire Og (4) – 1939, 1944, 1945, 1947.

Dicksboro (3) – 1923, 1926, 1950.

Confederation (3) – 1893, 1894, 1896.

Erin's Own (City) (2) – 1905, 1909.

Threecastles (2) – 1898, 1903.

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

Johnstown (1) – 1914.

Thomastown (1) – 1946.

Graigie (1) – 1949.

Slieverue (1) – 1954.

John Lockes (Callan) (1) – 1957.

Rower-Inistioge (1) – 1968.

St. Martin's (Ballyfoyle, Coon, Muckalee) (1) – 1984.

A DAY SEEN ONCE IN 100 YEARS

◀ Continued from page 60

special long-puck competition. All were presented with magnificent Centenary medals struck at the Kilkenny Design Workshops.

'Stephens proved too good for surprise packet of the hurling tournament, Emeralds (Urlingford) who although only a junior team, battle their way through to the decider. The city side won by 2-17 to 1-5 after leading by 0-9 to 0-3 at half-time. The teams were:

James Stephens: A McCormack, P. Neary, B. Cody, N. Cashin, T. Hogan, M. Hennessy (capt), J. O'Brien, J. Hennessy, T. Leahy, L. Mullen, J. J. Cullen, M. Forristal, J. McCormack, A. Egan, B. Walton. **Subs** – D. Collins, J. Scott, L. Hennessy, D. Bolger, G. Morrissey, R. Walsh, T. Henderson, E. Brennan.

Emeralds: D. Burke, J. Tone, M. Burke, P. Phelan, J. Hughes, L. Cody, M. Grace, E. Holohan, J. Tobin, J. Moriarty, P. Ryan, J. Queally, F. Cleere, M. Rafter, J. Cahill. **Subs** – L. Moriarty, J. Tobin.

The football decider was a much closer affair. Here it took extra time to separate

Thomastown and Muckalee. The 'Town won by 2-11 to 1-6 after they had been level at 2-3 (T) to 1-6 at the end of normal time. The winners here got a fine trophy sponsored by Moremiles Tyre Services Limited, who have depots on the Waterford and Dublin roads. The teams here were:

Thomastown: J. Brennan, B. Doyle, D. O'Hara, D. Prendergast, M. Walsh, M. Galway, J. Prendergast, D. Hoyne, C. Ruan, M. Farrell, J. Costelloe, W. Lannon, G. Walsh, A. Hoyne, B. O'Hara. **Subs** – C. Moore, T. Walsh, E. Kavanagh, T. Flynn, L. O'Neill.

Muckalee: K. Brennan, J. Kelly, M. Morrissey, B. Morrissey, R. Maloney, J. Morrissey, P. Lawlor, J. Moran, J. Maher, J. Brennan, M. Maher, M. Morrissey, M. Lane, A. Maher, T. Morrissey. **Subs** – E. Breen, B. Shore, R. Nolan.

St. Paul's added further to their glittering array of trophies when they proved too good for Bennettsbridge in the camogie decider. The score was 5-5 to 2-8. All the winners scores were landed by a superb Angela Downey while Paula Lennon (1-3), Helena McCormack (1-4) and Claire Cullen (0-1) replied for the 'Bridge.

In all aspects of the G.A.A. Kilkenny has played a leading part during the last 100 years. No doubt they will do so again during the next centenary. But this was a day of festivity seen only once in 100 years.

'Stephens remember stars of the past

ONE OF the giants of the Kilkenny club scene, James Stephens, merged the old with the new in a very meaningful way as part of their Centenary celebrations.

Stars from years past who brought honour to the famed Larchfield outfit were feted in the comfortable clubrooms by the present committee.

The 'old boys' were invited to a special get-together, when stories from past battles were recalled.

The surviving members of the 1929 junior championship winning side attended. So too did the senior champions of 1935 and '37 as well as the 1942/43 junior team and the 1946 senior semi-finalists. The group was rounded off by the men from the 1955 junior hurling championship winning side.

'Stephens historian, Christy Leahy, unearthed the names and addresses of the surviving team members, and each reached an individual invitation.

"Since you won your first championship in 1924 (J.H.) your club has held a proud position in Kilkenny hurling", President of the G.A.A., Paddy Buggy wrote in a letter of congratulations read out at the informal gathering.

"By this celebration, recalling the outstanding players and games of other days, you are ensuring that the present day members and players will live up to the proud tradition of James Stephens and you will inspire future generations of your people to play our games and give of their best for the honour of the 'Vil-

lage", the President added.

The stars of former years who attended the gathering were:

1929 J.H. Champs: Paddy Foley, Michael Holland, Mick Carroll, John Shortall, Dermot Hughes, Jimmy Morrissey, Mick Tyrrell, Billy O'Connor, Jack Phelan.

1935 S.H. Champs: M. Tyrrell, J. Morrissey, M. Leahy, M. Holland, Dick McEvoy, Michael Phelan, Mick Fennelly, Jack Fennelly, Lar Carroll, Paddy Denieffe, Billy Ayres, Tommy Dunne, Jack Downey.

1937 S.H. Champs: M. Tyrrell, Marty McEvoy, J. Morrissey, John Shortall, D. McEvoy, L. Carroll, M. Holland, J. Fennelly, Paddy Leahy.

1942/43 J. team and 1946 S.H. Semi-finalists: Jimmy McGrath, M. Tyrrell, Joe Hennessy, Kevin Grogan, Ned Larkin, Bobby Brannigan, Jim Larkin, Paul Fennelly, William Kerwick, Ray Cody, Paddy Burke, Kevin McGrath, Tommy Long, John Dunne, Paddy Molloy, P. J. O'Neill, Derry O'Connor, Mark Nugent, Billy Butler, Din Brennan, Pat Shortiss, Jim Fox, Pierce Walton.

1955 J.H. Champs: N. Larkin, Sean Tyrrell, Paddy Tyrrell, Jim McCarthy, Lou McCarthy, Sean Leahy, Jimmy Coyne, Dick Coyne, Tony Coyne, Michael Dunne, Mick Morrissey, Peter Fennelly, Joe Walsh, Jim Holland, Jody Fox, Philip Brennan, Kevin Dowling, Tom Ryan, Dixy Brennan, Tom Roche, Seamus Maher, Seamus Fry.

CUMANN LUTH-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 1984.

Their kind support is deeply appreciated.

TED CARROLL, *Runaí*

Sixth All-Ireland victory the highlight

◀ Continued from page 62

Brendan Fennelly (0-4 each); Tommy Malone, Phil Cahill (0-1 each).

The winning team was Paddy Grace, Michael Phelan, Dan Breen, Willie Kennedy, Michael Tierney, Pat Walsh, Paddy Fennelly, Bob Grace, Phil Cahill, Ger Lyster, Tommy Malone, Brendan Fennelly, Michael Walsh (Capt.), James Ireland, Noel Cottrell.

FOOTBALL

Avonmore Creameries won their first Kilkenny inter-firm football title when they beat Public Services in the County final. It was Avonmore's fifth appearance in the county final. They lost the deciders of 1979, 1981, 1982 and 1983.

A hat-trick of goals by Wicklow county player, Connie Murphy was the highlight of the game. Played in terrible

weather, the game produced a fair standard of football. On their way to the final Avonmore beat Mahon & McPhillips and Clover Meats. The score in the county final was Avonmore Creameries 3-5; Public Services 0-6.

Best players for the winners in addition to Connie Murphy, were Vincent Cleere, Kieran Leonard, when he went on as a substitute, Garry Luttrell, Joe Tierney, Mick Walsh, Morgan Kelly and Kevin Mulhall.

Best for the 'Services side were John Bracken, Joe Kelly, a member of the Galway football team, Nicky Cashin, Paddy Neary, Tom Berry and Michael Keating.

SCORERS

Avonmore Creameries: Connie Murphy (3-0); Morgan Kelly (0-4, two frees); Pat Cahill (0-1).

Public Services: Michael Keating (0-2 one free); Eugene Grehan (free); Paddy Neary, Tom Barry, Vincent Bradley (0-1 each).

The winning team was Tom Bolger, Garry Luttrell, Vincent Cleere, Joe Tierney (Capt.), Willie Phelan, Ger Moynihan, Pdraig Keegan, Paddy Cahill, Mick Walsh, Timmy Ruth, Connie Murphy, Michael Walsh, Kevin Mulhall, Johnny Buckley, Morgan Kelly. Subs – Kieran Leonard, Joe Casey.

In the Leinster Championship, Avonmore Creameries, had to field without a number of their side who were involved in local championship fixtures. The loss of players like Connie Murphy and Morgan Kelly was a big handicap and they lost against Dundalk Traders by 3-12 to 2-2. However, they were pleased to have broken the hoodoo that haunted them at local level.

Trial and error trail to victory

A TRIAL and error team won Kilkenny an all-Ireland title this season. The changes were many. Some worked, some didn't, but in the end a national title was brought back to the Marble city. It was a victory for courage off the field, as much as on it.

The success of the county under-21 hurling team was very sweet, for more than one reason. It was Kilkenny's second all-Ireland win of the Centenary year. The selectors had tried, and tried again until they came up with the right, winning blend. And then, as if to complete the job immaculately, the final victory was over age old rivals, Tipperary.

An all-Ireland win is nice at any time, but one over the 'old enemy' is something else. Here was a team that had followed through with the promise shown in the minor grade, when the main body of the personnel involved had also won the ultimate honours.

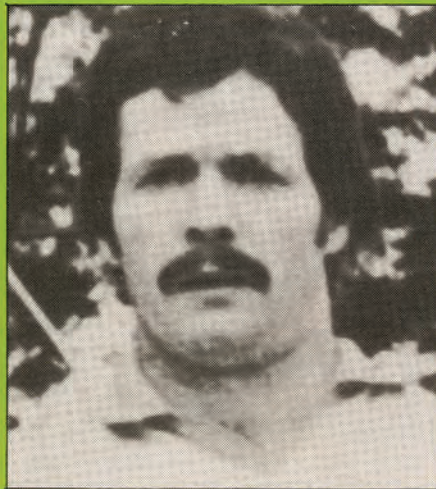
The selectors, those often maligned people of sport, did their job well. Oh, they weren't without fault, but they had courage to go with their beliefs and when they saw a problem they moved swiftly to solve it. Hence they used no less than 24 players during the six match campaign. The only two teams that were the same were the ones for the semi-final and final. It was a situation when trial and error proved a winning way.

Fenians (Johnstown) mentor, Martin Fitzpatrick was a track-suit trainer who definitely got the response from the players. The Avonmore Creameries employee admitted all along that the players had the winning look about them, but he never allowed them to fall into a lull and he had them primed for the Walsh Park showdown.

Good and all as everything worked out in the finish, there was a certain amount of luck involved. To be sure, goalkeeper David Burke played the proverbial blinder in the all-Ireland final. But long before that exciting tussle Lady Luck had befriended the black and amber wearers.

EXCEPTIONAL PROMISE

It was in their opening match at Nowlan Park against a talented Laois team. The home side scraped a 1-14 (K) to 3-8 draw that night, but the O'Moore County officials maintained afterwards



Martin Fitzpatrick (Fenians), the team trainer, had the players flying.

that a late effort by one of their forwards was a point. It had been signalled wide, by of all people, a Laois umpire.

Kilkenny are notoriously slow starters in games, but this nearly turned out to be the end of the road for them. The visitors were quick and decisive in the tackle, and were not at all flattered by their half time lead of 2-7 to 0-6. They could easily have been two goals better off.

Needless to say goalkeeper, David Burke, who enjoyed a terrific campaign which pushed him through to the senior county team, had a great game. So too did David Hoyne, another one who was to show exceptional promise.

Kilkenny were so unsteady that Ray Heffernan, who was suffering from a muscle injury and was unable to start, was forced into action. It was just as well he was, because he grabbed six valuable points that took Laois to a second meeting.

The replay was in Borris-in-Ossory, and again the eventual all-Ireland champions enjoyed the breaks. A palmed goal four minutes into extra-time by John McDonald (Mullinavat) earned them a dramatic 2-12 to 2-10 win. Again Laois tore into their opponents and 10 minutes from time they shared parity. Two minutes into 'lost time' they were a

point up, so you can see how fine the Noresiders cut it.

Eddie Wall, Michael Morrissey and Tommy Phelan made their championship debut that night and for the next game against Dublin, Liam Walsh and the find of the season, Pat Walsh, did likewise. Another game further on Brian Young (Erin's Own) was introduced and then for the all-Ireland semi-final Larry Cleere (Bennettsbridge) made a return after being out injured for nearly three months. So it was chop-and-change all the way.

PUT RECORD STRAIGHT

The Leinster semi-final victory over Dublin featured a five star performance by Ray Heffernan. The Glenmore ace cut loose in the second half against a better than normal Dublin side. He snatched 11 points as the Noresiders won by 3-15 to 2-12.

Over 4,500 people travelled to Carlow for the provincial final against Wexford. In the corresponding clash at minor level three years earlier, everything went against the Slaneysiders and they reckoned this was their chance to put the record straight. But they didn't and were dispatched on a 0-18 to 1-10 scoreline.

The losers had their chance during an indifferent third quarter, but they just hadn't it in them to put in a winning burst. It was sad news overall for Wexford. This completed a hat-trick of defeats in Leinster finals, and all were at the hands of Kilkenny.

The all-Ireland semi-final against Down was a non-event as the Northerners were beaten by 5-16 to 1-9. In fairness, Down had about five players who showed genuine class, but that potential will probably never really be realised because of a lack of adequate competition. What a pity!

Kilkenny/Tipperary clashes have always been attractive, and this all-Ireland drew 10,000 supporters to Walsh Park. Generally it was a good final, but it had its valley periods. However it featured a sizzling finish as the Noresiders edged through by 1-12 to 0-11.

Four points in the closing five minutes sank Tipperary only after they were

Continued overleaf ►



KILKENNY – All-Ireland Under-21 Hurling Champions 1984

Back row (l. to r.): Liam Walsh, Denis Carroll, John McDonald, David Hoyne, Larry Cleere, Ray Heffernan, Pat Walsh, Brian Young.
Front row (l. to r.): Liam McCarthy, Eddie O'Connor, Tommy Phelan, David Burke, Seamus Delahunty, Eddie Wall, Richard McCarthy.

TRIAL AND ERROR TRAIL TO VICTORY

◀ Continued from page 69

deprived of what would surely have been the winning goal by a wonder save by 'keeper, David Burke. The Emeralds (Urlingford) clubman turned in a performance that often brought gasps of disbelief from supporters on both sides. Really, he won the game for Kilkenny, but he got super assistance from David Hoyne, Larry Cleere, Brian Young, Eddie Wall and Liam McCarthy, who proved a revelation when moved from corner to full-forward.

This was a good Tipperary team, not one that cracked easily. They trailed by 0-6 to 1-5 at the break, but they took the game to their opponents after the change around. When Burke brought off that super stop, the winners were fading and defending a slim 1-9 to 0-10 lead. That piece of brilliance from Burke was the single most important stroke delivered during an absorbing hour's play.

It was a team that had promised a lot . . . and then delivered the goods. And the men who proved good handlers (the selectors) were Joe Dunphy (Mooncoin); Martin Cass (Glenmore); Jimmy Lannon (Bennettsbridge); Jimmy O'Brien (James Stephens) and Michael O'Neill (Co. Board chairman). They had every reason to be proud of their efforts.

The number of games, either full or partial, each player took part in was: David Burke, Eddie O'Connor, David Hoyne, Pat Ryan, Seamus Delahunty, Denis Carroll, John McDonald, Liam McCarthy, Richard McCarthy, Ray Heffernan (6 each); Eddie Wall, Tommy Phelan, Michael Rafter (5 each); Liam

Walsh, Pat Walsh (4 each); Anthony Prendergast, Brian Young, Larry Cleere, Tomas Leahy, Michael Morrissey, Des Dunne (3 each); Eddie O'Neill, Jimmy

Doran, G. O'Neill (one each). Players not used: J. Dunphy (Mullinavat); P. Barron (Glenmore); P. Nolan (Black and Whites).

WE MOVE UP A PLACE

Although not directly involved, Kilkenny had a part in the first all-Ireland under-21 hurling final ever played.

The initial decider, involved Tipperary and Wexford. The match was played in Kilkenny in October 1964.

In the victory parade, the Noreside county stands third in the list. Their win this year moved them one above Galway, with four to their credit.

The table toppers are Cork (8) who

are followed by Tipperary (5). Kilkenny's all-Ireland victories were recorded in:

1974

Kilkenny 3-8; Waterford 3-7.

1975

Kilkenny 5-13; Cork 2-19

1977

Kilkenny 2-9; Cork 1-9

1984

Kilkenny 1-12; Tipperary 0-11

SCORE FOR SCORE FOR . . .

May 30, at Nowlan Park

Kilkenny 1-14 (17 pts.)

Laois 3-8 (17 pts.)

Scorers: R. Heffernan (0-6); R. McCarthy (1-0); P. Ryan, M. Rafter, T. Leahy (0-2 each); L. McCarthy, D. Carroll (0-1 each).

June 6 at Borris-in-Ossory (replay)

Kilkenny 2-12

Laois 2-10

Scorers: J. McDonald, D. Carroll (1-2 each); L. McCarthy (0-4); R. Heffernan (0-3); M. Rafter (0-1).

June 20 at Athy

Kilkenny 3-15

Dublin 2-12

Scorers: R. Heffernan (0-11); R. McCarthy (2-1); S. Delahunty (1-2); L. McCarthy (0-1).

July 15 at Carlow (Leinster final)

Kilkenny 0-18

Wexford 1-10

Scorers: R. Heffernan (0-5); D. Carroll (0-3); L. McCarthy, T. Phelan, P. Walsh, R. McCarthy (0-2 each); J. McDonald M. Rafter (0-1 each).

August 12 at Trim

Kilkenny 5-16

Down 1-9

Scorers: L. McCarthy (2-3); S. Delahunty (2-1); R. Heffernan (0-5); J. McDonald (1-1); D. Carroll (0-2); T. Phelan, P. Walsh, R. McCarthy, M. Rafter (0-1 each).

August 26 at Walsh Park, Waterford

Kilkenny 1-12

Tipperary 0-11

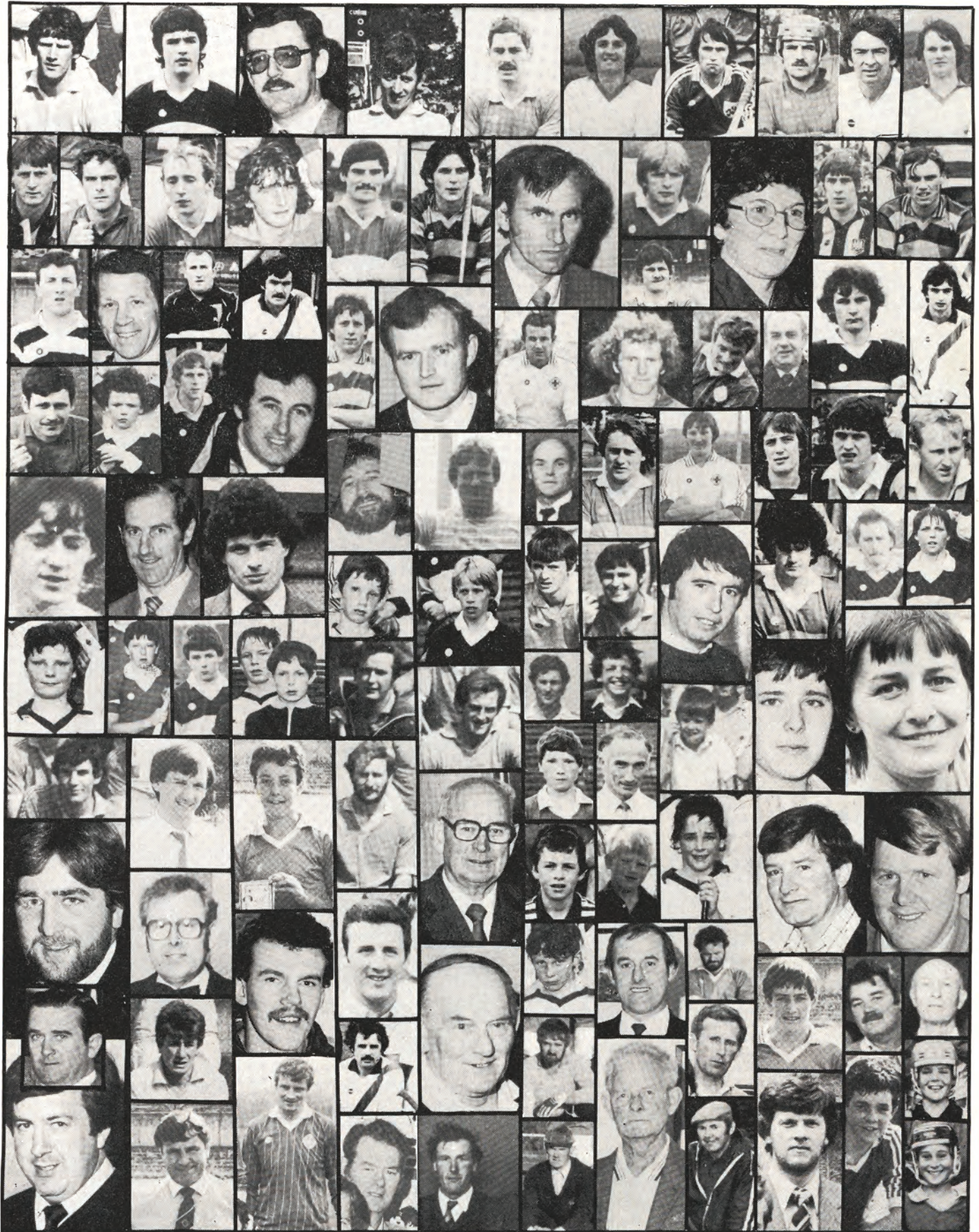
Scorers: R. Heffernan (1-4); L. McCarthy (0-4); P. Walsh, D. Carroll, P. Ryan, M. Rafter (0-1 each).



LISDOWNEY – County Junior Football Champions 1984

In front (l. to r.): Eamon McArdle, Michael Carroll, Neddy Wall, Jimmy Walsh, Billy McEvoy, John Guinan, Tom (Tar) Hogan (Capt.), Liam Downey, Liam Brennan, Michael Walsh, Michael Champion. Back row (l. to r.): Peter (Sandie) Tallis (Coach), Tim Brennan, Paul Brennan, Michael Gorman, Tom McEvoy, Tom Carroll, Jerry Henderson, Ronan Kearney, John Fogarty, Laurence McEvoy, Lar Kenny, Eamon Dunne (Selector).

Spot a familiar face



'Well, we had a good run in the League'

◁ Continued from page 14

beat Galway they removed the latter danger, but when Laois proved too good Kilkenny were just removed . . . from the League.

But few complained. There were happy memories from the prolonged campaign. Who could forget the performance of courage and strength put on by Christy Heffernan when Laois were beaten at Nowlan Park; the sheer determination shown by Joe Hennessy in the

defeat by Wexford, and the forceful play of Ger Henderson the same day; the powerful fielding and general defensive play of Nickey Brennan in the last match and the 2-1 scoring feat by debutant Michael Kelly in the same encounter.

Yes, Kilkenny had good times in the League . . . for the past three seasons. No other group of players was able to do better.

WHEN AND WHERE THE SCORES CAME

October 2 at Limerick

Limerick 2-13
Kilkenny 2-8

Scorers: B. Fitzpatrick (1-3, two points frees); K. Brennan (1-0); M. J. Ryan (0-2); G. Henderson, N. Brennan, F. Cummins (0-1 each).

October 16 at Nowlan Park

Kilkenny 2-10
Clare 1-4

Scorers: B. Fitzpatrick (1-5), K. Brennan (1-1), H. Ryan (0-2), M. J. Ryan, C. Heffernan (0-1 each).

October 30 at Wexford

Wexford 2-12
Kilkenny 0-12

Scorers: B. Fitzpatrick (0-8), C. Heffernan (0-2), G. Henderson, L. Fennelly (0-1 each).

November 13 at Nowlan Park

Kilkenny 3-13
Laois 1-10

Scorers: B. Fitzpatrick (0-6); L. Fennelly (1-2); C. Heffernan, H. Ryan (1-1 each); K. Brennan (0-2); F. Cummins (0-1).

November 27 at Nowlan Park

Kilkenny 1-9
Galway 1-13

Scorers: B. Fitzpatrick (0-6), L. Fennelly (1-0), H. Ryan (0-2), K. Fennelly (0-1).

February 12 at Walsh Park

Waterford 0-11
Kilkenny 2-13

Scorers: B. Fitzpatrick (1-9); C. Heffernan (1-0); R. Power (0-2); G. Fennelly, H. Ryan (0-1 each).

February 26 at Páirc Uí Chaoimh

Cork 0-13
Kilkenny 0-11

Scorers: B. Fitzpatrick (0-6); K. Brennan (0-2); G. Fennelly, P. Lannon, C. Heffernan (0-1 each).

'OLD HANDS' GAVE TYPICAL SERVICE

KILKENNY may have completed the second League – Championship double in 1982-83, but they still continued to use a big number of players the following year, which was surprising, because most individuals had more or less established themselves.

In the National League last season, 27 players were used during the six-month campaign. This was two more than the previous year, and just five less than when they built the team and won promotion from Division II in 1981-82.

The biggest number of changes were made for the second match. The team to play Clare showed five changes from the one that opened against Limerick, while another panelist, Kevin Fennelly, was sent in as a substitute.

Things became settled after that, and besides the injured Ger Fennelly, who was kept out of action until after Christmas, only three more players were 'blooded'.

Those great campaigners Noel Skehan and Frank Cummins never took a rest and soldiered through the worst of weather. Not for them a hit-and-miss ef-

fort, but a full-blooded approach all the way that was really appreciated by the team management.

The Bennettsbridge guardian was the victim of a heavy tackle in the match against Waterford early in the new year, but although stretched off unconscious, and visibly shaken for a few days afterwards, he was back between the posts for the next outing.

That was just typical of the commitment of these great servants of Kilkenny hurling.

The men who played were (number of games in brackets): Noel Skehan, John Henderson, Paddy Prendergast, Ger Henderson, Frank Cummins, Kieran Brennan, Billy Fitzpatrick, Christy Heffernan (8 each); Dick O'Hara, Joe Hennessy, Sean Fennelly (7 each); Kevin Fennelly (6); Nickey Brennan, Richard Power, Harry Ryan (5 each); M. J. Ryan, Liam Fennelly (4 each); Paddy Neary, Paudie Lannon, Ger Fennelly (3 each); John Marnell, Jim Kinsella, Gordon Ryan, Tom Brennan, Eamon Wallace, Ray Heffernan, Michael Kelly (1 each).

March 4 at Limerick

Kilkenny 1-14
Galway 1-7

(Relegation play-off)

Scorers: B. Fitzpatrick (1-8), G. Fennelly (0-3), R. Heffernan, K. Brennan, C. Heffernan (0-1 each).

March 11 at Croke Park

Laois 2-14
Kilkenny 2-12

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

FITPATRICK TOPS AGAIN

Top scorer
Billy
Fitzpatrick



RELIABLE free-taker Billy Fitzpatrick once again headed the scoring list for Kilkenny in the National Hurling League.

In nine outings the Fenians' (Johnstown) attacker managed to get well clear of his nearest rival, Christy Heffernan, who shared the top honours with the Avonmore Creameries' employee the previous year with 44 points total each.

This time Fitzpatrick bagged 4-55, well clear of Heffernan's 2-9. However, the Glenmore full-forward scored in one match less.

In all, the Noresiders scored 13 goals and 102 points, with 15 players figuring on the list.

Fitzpatrick also had the honour of registering the single highest score in one match. He did this against Waterford in that unruly game early in the New Year when three players were sent off. He managed 1-9, with eight points coming from frees.

The second man in the honours list here was Michael Kelly from Shamrocks (Ballyhale). In his one and only outing, which was against Laois in the play-off for a quarter-final place, he slammed home a handsome 2-1.

By comparison with the previous year when they won the League (and played just one match more), Kilkenny scored exactly 11 goals less. The overall figures in 1982-83 were 24 goals and 102 points.

The men who rose the white and green flags were: Billy Fitzpatrick (4-55, or 67 points); Christy Heffernan (2-9, or 15 points); Kieran Brennan (2-8, or 14 points); Liam Fennelly (2-3); Harry Ryan (1-6); Michael Kelly (2-1); Ger Fennelly (0-6); Richard Power, M. J. Ryan (0-3 each); Ger Henderson, Frank Cummins (0-2 each); Kevin Fennelly, Paudie Lannon, Nicky Brennan, Ray Heffernan (0-1 each).

All you need for

HOW TO GET HOME

PAINT·WALLPAPER·TILES·DOORS·WINDOWS·BLOCKS·BRICKS·ROOFING·TOOLS·
PLUMBING·ELECTRICAL BATHROOMS·KITCHENS·HOME HEATING·COOKERS

All you need is

Chadwicks

HEBRON ROAD, KILKENNY. TEL.(052)21044.

DUBLIN·ATHLONE·CASTLEBAR·CLONMEL·KILKENNY·MALLOW·MIDLETON·NAAS·NAVAN·NENAGH·WEXFORD

CAMOGIE - A SISTER, BUT NOT CINDERELLA

CENTENARY year has focussed the spotlight on the G.A.A. It's growth and progress over the past 100 years have been gloriously proclaimed.

But, while the G.A.A. continues to go from strength to strength, what of its "poor relation" - camogie - formerly established just two decades after the G.A.A. itself.

Is camogie still just a Cinderella sport, overshadowed by the G.A.A. giant? Or has it matured and developed its own muscle?

Those were the direct questions put to former Kilkenny camogie star, Miss

Mary Fennelly, now in her last year as President of the Camogie Association.

And, she was definite with her reply.

"We are a strong 'Association of our own right, although enjoying close links with the G.A.A. Our relationship is comparable to a brother and sister one. In no way are we the poor relation, or ever have been".

However, she admits that



BREDA WALL

the help of the G.A.A. has made life for the 'Association much easier.

AIDED DEVELOPMENT

"We are over 80 years on the go. And the G.A.A. has been with us from the start. They have given us pitches, facilities and advice, and have aided our development significantly.

So, is it just a one-way process, or does the G.A.A. benefit from its sister organisation?

"Certainly the G.A.A. gains from our close relationship. For instance, the vast majority of primary school teachers are ladies, and as camogie is now firmly established in teaching



ST. PAUL'S, KILKENNY - defeated finalists in their club's twenty-first birthday open championship

In front (from left): Nellie Colclough, Liz Neary, Kathleen Holohan, Bridie McGarry, Mary Canavan, Brian Canavan (mascot), Breda Ryan, Angela Downey. Behind: Mary Fennelly (National President, Camogie Association of Ireland), Catherine Neary, Marlie Lawlor, Annette Stapleton, Teasie Brennan (Chairperson, St. Paul's), Carmel Savage (Vice-Chairperson).

training colleges, they are able to help keep the spirit of Gaelic games alive at the crucial primary level", she says.

She also points out that the inclusion of camogie in Feile-na-nGael has proved mutually beneficial.

"We have the same aims and ideals and want to go forward together", she enthuses.

She notes that the strength of the G.A.A. lies in the strength of the community. And, as a camogie club can add to the strength of this basic unit, increasingly G.A.A. clubs are anxious to have a sister club established.

No sour grapes so far! But is there anyway the relationship between the two Associations can be improved?

"I think the Camogie Board should be represented at Co. G.A.A. Board level. The representative need not have a vote, but merely be an observer as previously existed in Kilkenny", says the President.

THE PURPOSE ?

"It would help to continue the good co-operation between the two bodies", she smiles.

Existing goodwill between the two is evident by the financial support given to camogie by the G.A.A. at Co. Board and provincial levels.

HIGH PROFILE

In relation to Centenary year, does the Camogie Association not even feel a twinge of sisterly jealousy at the vast amount of publicity and attention cornered by its big brother this year?

Not in the least, Mary claims. Moreover, camogie has benefitted greatly from the year, she adds.

"I was invited to attend all the special Centenary events and this generated a great deal of publicity for the 'Association'. I also had the opportunity of meeting G.A.A. personnel from 32 counties, and made valuable contacts. The G.A.A. President, Dr. Paddy Buggy, and secretary, Mr. Liam Mulvihill, have also given us a prominent mention at many Centenary functions", she says.

A very special occasion for Miss Fennelly during the year was when she became the first Camogie Association President to address G.A.A. Congress.

"It was a unique chance for me to express our gratitude to the G.A.A. for all their support, particularly when we took the crucial step of appointing a full-time officer and they provided a permanent office for her in Croke Park. This further enhanced the prestige of the 'Association", she points out.

GOOD COVERAGE

She points out that the G.A.A. did not monopolise the media. Apart from good newspaper coverage, the all-Ireland camogie final was televised this year for the first time. And it attracted a large number of viewers.

She says that participation in the Feile-na-nGael competition, organised by the G.A.A. is undoubtedly "the greatest thing that has happened camogie".

"It is the greatest promotion we have. It is a magnet for young players and clubs, and serves as a nursery school for senior players", she adds.

She adds that camogie had contributed to Feile by broadening its scope, and adding a dash of colour.

So, according to her, the relationship between the Camogie Association and the G.A.A. is a close, friendly and mutually beneficial one.

And, quite rightly so, she explains: "We share a love of every aspect of our Gaelic culture. We realise that our games are a vital expression of our national identity. With so much in common, our friendship and co-operation is simply natural".

Get to know Your Local Money Expert



You can gain a lot by getting to know Jim Freeman – Manager of the Kilkenny Branch of Mercantile Credit. Like a new car . . . a home extension . . . a boat or a caravan . . . the holiday you've been promising yourself!

In fact, any major purchase can be readily financed through a Mercantile Personal Loan. Mercantile's expertise in money matters extends to all types of personal and business financial needs, including Leasing, Industrial Lending, Consumer Finance and, of course, Deposit Accounts.

Deposit and Saving Accounts

From £100 upwards you can invest any amount at high interest rates with absolute security and ease of withdrawal. There's a choice of schemes to suit both large and small investors and Income Cheques can be sent monthly.

Protected Payments Plan

When you have a Mercantile Credit Loan – P.P.P. covers repayments in the case of redundancy, accident or sickness. Ask for details.

You can always bank on

Mercantile Credit
COMPANY OF IRELAND LIMITED

The Parade, Kilkenny.
Telephone (056) 62004.

An Irish Bank in the Barclays Bank Group



The Kilkenny senior hurling team that was beaten in the Leinster semi-final against Wexford. Back row (l to r): Richard Power, Dick O'Hara, Frank Cummins, Billy Fitzpatrick, Frank Holohan, Sean Fennelly, Liam Fennelly, Christy Heffernan. Front (l to r): Harry Ryan, Joe Hennessy, Noel Skehan, Ger Fennelly, Kieran Brennan, Ger Henderson, Nickey Brennan. Mascot - Alan Cummins.

◀ Continued from page 21

reply, and so they were always faced with an uphill climb. Despite all their misfortune, Kilkenny kept the treble dream alive until the last second of the semi-final against Wexford. The deciding score was 3-10 to 1-13, but it was only a late goal from that ageless battler, Tony Doran, that destroyed the Centenary all-Ireland dream. Wexford exploded like a bomb from the throw-in and were 0-6 clear before their opponents rose a flag. Indeed, Kilkenny badly needed that score, a penalty goal by Christy Heffernan in the 18th minute, because frustration was beginning to set in. Afterwards the 33,061 spectators were treated to a ding-dong battle, but the Slaneysiders were never headed. In the 27th minute Kilkenny clawed back to equal terms (0-6 to 1-3), but by half-time they had slipped 1-5 to 1-8 down. They got into even worse trouble when Martin Fitzhenry palmed an early second half goal to push Wexford a commanding 2-9 to 1-6 in front. Thereafter the Noresiders showed courage and commitment above and beyond the call of duty. They held their opponents scoreless for 19 pulsating minutes while they edged their way back to level terms. Then they missed a

glorious chance of a point to go in front. They missed it, and within seconds Doran had the ball in the net at the other end. The hearts of nearly 70,000 Kilkenny people sank. "For a while it seemed as if there was going to be no tomorrow", one dejected Kilkenny player remarked afterwards.

GRATEFUL FOR GOOD TIMES

As ever, the players did the county proud. And supporters did the players proud as well. In the past Kilkenny supporters could be the most critical in the country after a defeat. Not so this time. Everyone was grateful for the good sporting times of the previous two years, particularly during a recession. They felt for the players. They realised four national titles in two years was a handsome fortune. There is hardly any need to say Kilkenny will be back. That is as certain as day follows night. We all await the new dawn. The Kilkenny selectors - Tom Ryan (Shamrocks); Brendan O'Sullivan (Thomastown); Mick Crotty (James Stephens); Pat Delaney (Fenians); Michael O'Neill (Co. Board chairman) - used 20 players in the championship. Those who played were:

Noel Skehan, John Henderson, Dick O'Hara, Nickey Brennan, Joe Hennessy, Ger Henderson, Paddy Prendergast, Frank Cummins, Kieran Brennan, Harry Ryan, Ger Fennelly, Richard Power, Billy Fitzpatrick, Christy Heffernan, Liam Fennelly, Frank Holohan, Sean Fennelly, Denis Carroll, Ray Heffernan and Kevin Fennelly. Panelists not used were Michael Kelly, Paddy Neary, Billy Purcell, Jim Dunphy and Eddie Aylward.

SCORES, BUT NOT ENOUGH

May 27 at Dr. Cullen Park, Carlow:
 KILKENNY 4-15
 LAOIS 1-16
Scorers - B. Fitzpatrick (1-6); L. Fennelly (2-0); C. Heffernan (1-1); H. Ryan (0-3); R. Power (0-2); K. Brennan, G. Fennelly, D. Carroll (0-1 each).

June 17 at Croke Park:
 WEXFORD 3-10 (19 pts.)
 KILKENNY 1-13 (16 pts)
Scorers - B. Fitzpatrick (0-5); C. Heffernan (1-1); K. Brennan (0-3); H. Ryan (0-2); R. Power, R. Heffernan (0-1 each).

Looking towards a Centenary in '87

IN 1987 Kilkenny will celebrate the Centenary of the founding of the Co. Board. The G.A.A. was three years old before a properly constituted 'Board was set up in this county.

To date there have been 17 chairmen and 15 secretaries.

The late knight of the pen, Paddy Grace, served for 36 years, which was the longest term of anyone in that position, while the sitting chairman, Michael O'Neill, with 15 years' service behind him, has occupied the chair for the longest stint.



D. J. GOREY



BOB AYLWARD

The man who served most often as chairman was Denis J. Gorey (Burnchurch). He held office on three separate occasions. He was first elected in 1903, and finished that term in 1907. He was elected for just one year in 1913, and two years later he was back at the helm again.

Danny O'Connell (Kilkenny) served two separate terms as secretary, and he was the only person to do this. He held office from 1902 to '13 and later in 1932.

The full list of chairmen and secretaries reads:

CHAIRMEN

1887	P. J. O'Keeffe (Workingmen's Club)
1888	James Shelly (Callan)
1889	Martin P. Kenny (Castlecomer)
1890	John Walsh (Ballyhale)
1891-1893	No County Board
1894-1902	Joe Purcell (Confederation)
1903-1907	Denis J. Gorey (Burnchurch)
1908-1912	Jer Doheny (Tullaroan)
1913	Denis J. Gorey (Burnchurch)
1914	John Dunphy (Glenmore)
1915	Denis J. Gorey (Burnchurch)
1916-1922	Sean Gibbons (Clomanto)
1942-1943	Pierce Barden (Hugginstown)
1944-1956 (July)	Tom Walsh (Blacks and Whites)
1956 (July-Dec.)	Martin Egan (Threecastles)
1957-1958	Robert Aylward (Knockmoylan)
1959-1968	Nicholas Purcell (Graigue)
1969	Michael O'Neill (St. Senan's, Kilmacow).

SECRETARIES

1887 (Jan.-June)	Stephen Donleavy (Kilkenny)
1887 (June-Dec.)	Pat Geary (Kilkenny)
1888	James Hearne (Kilkenny)
1889 (Jan.-July)	Pat Geary (Kilkenny)
1889 (July)-1890	James Grace (Thomastown)
1891-1893	No County Board
1894-1895 (Aug.)	Tim Quinn (Confederation)
1895 (Aug.)-1900	Edward McSweeney (Confederation)
1901	Frank P. Burke (Kilkenny)
1902-1913	Danny O'Connell (Kilkenny)
1914-1917 (July)	John Lalor (Threecastles)

1917 (July)-1918	James Aylward (Mullinavat)
1919-1931	Michael Moore (Kilkenny)
1932	Danny O'Connell (Kilkenny)
1933-1946 (Sept.)	Liam Mac Oda (Clomanto)
1946 (Sept.)-1947	Joe Young (Tullaroan)
1948	Paddy Grace (Dicksboro)

TREASURERS

1887-1890	Thomas Harrington (Johnstown)
1891-1893	No County Board
1894	Dick DeLoughrey (Confederation)
1904-1905	John Holohan (Tullaroan)

TRUSTEES

1906	Edward McSweeney (Confederation)
1906-1913	Danny O'Connell (Kilkenny)
1907-1919	James Nowlan (Confederation)
1914-1918	John Lalor (Threecastles)
1919	Danny O'Connell (Kilkenny)
1919-1931	Mick Moore (Kilkenny)
1920-1922	Ned Purcell (Kilkenny)
1923-1924	Dick Grace (Tullaroan)
1925-1928	Mick Heffernan (Glenmore)
1929-1936	Rev. Michael Doyle, C.C. (Kilkenny)
1932-1937	Danny O'Connell (Kilkenny)
1937-1957 (July)	Mick Moore (Kilkenny)
1938-1960	Joe Rice (Foulkstow)
1957 (July)-1964	Liam Moore (Kilkenny)
1961-1977	T. J. Bergin (Johnstown)
1965-1980	Joe Walsh Thomastown)
1978-1983	Podge Cody (Kilkenny)
1981	Jim Rice (O'Loughlin's)
1984	Jimmy Brophy (Piltown).

Memories, good and bad, from a selector and supporter

WHEN I was asked to write something on my most memorable all-Ireland final day, I got to thinking about the number of show-downs I have seen. I have been at 65 in all, 34 in hurling and 31 in football. For the purpose of this article, I will deal with hurling only.

The first final I saw was the Tipperary/Kilkenny clash in 1950. The minor decider was of special significance to me, as the captain of the team, Pat Lennon, played with my own club, while the trainer was Davy Maher, who had been my teacher at Kilmanagh national school. I was 16-years-old at the time, and going to Dublin was a big experience because I had only been there once previously. This is a far cry from today when even the smallest children are in Croke Park from four years onwards, numerous times in the same year.

It was my first time to see Croke Park. Like all young lads from Kilkenny, I dreamt of the day that I too would be playing for the black and amber in an all-Ireland. It was not to be, however, but I did become part of the action at the 1967 and 1969 finals as a selector.

Croke Park in 1950 was a totally different place from what it is today. Where the Hogan Stand is now, there was two smaller stands. One was known as the Hogan Stand, and is now in the Limerick Gaelic grounds. Also at that side was the Long stand. People did not sit in this stand. It was a standing area with the stand giving cover to the spectators. The people also stood in front of the Hogan Stand, and in front of the Long Stand as far as the perimeter wall. It was in this area that I saw my first all-Ireland.

Sideline seats were around then and the people queued from 9 o'clock in the morning until the gates opened at noon to get one of those sideline seats. They were not bookable, and it was a case of first come, first served. I saw the 1951 all-Ireland between Tipperary and Wexford from one of those seats. Kilkenny won the minor match, but lost the senior.

Page 80

However, the fact that I was in Croke Park for the first time was the thrill of a lifetime.

FIRST TICKET

I can still recall Art Foley's great save from Christy Ring in 1956. In 1955 for the Wexford/Galway game I had my first all-Ireland ticket. It was for the Corner Stand, the present Nally Stand. I was sitting beside the late Mr. Liam Ryan (Clara). Liam was very excited when his brother Tom won his first all-Ireland senior medal as corner-forward with Wexford.

I was back in Croke Park last year to see Liam's son, Harry win an all-Ireland senior medal with Kilkenny. Sadly Liam was not there.

In 1957 I saw my first all-Ireland from the Cusack Stand side. At that time the area under the Cusack Stand was standing only. Many people will never forget the crushing they got in this part of the field, particularly around midfield. For sheer hurling this was the greatest all-Ireland final I have ever seen. The display of Ollie Walsh in the Kilkenny goal is a memory that is still etched in my mind's eye.

The 1958 all-Ireland was notable in that there was no stand at the Hogan Stand side, as the new Hogan Stand was being built. There was seating accommodation, but it was not covered.

FINEST HOUR

In 1959, a hurling accident left me on crutches, and I saw the draw and replay from the invalids area at the Railway end. In the drawn game, I saw what I considered the greatest save I ever saw in hurling. John Kiely, the Waterford full-forward, doubled on an incoming ball



Tom Ryall

and somehow Ollie Walsh deflected it over the bar. It was a save in a million. Ollie's display on that day will never be forgotten, and I still regard it as his finest hour.

The replay was on October 4. It was the first time I was ever in the dressing rooms in Croke Park. As an invalid I was brought to my seat and to get to it I was brought through the dressing room where the London hurlers were togging out to play Antrim in the junior final, which was the curtain raiser.

The 1962 decider still stands out as one of the great finals. Wexford conceded two goals in the first minutes, but came back and only went down by two points in a thriller. Eddie Keher's 14 points in 1963 is another highlight in my all Ireland memories. Waterford scored six goals in this match, but still lost.

The all-Ireland of 1967 was a day I will never forget. I was a selector with Kilkenny. It was all so different from the other all-Irelands. This was the first time Kilkenny travelled on the morning of the match since the early all-Ireland triumphs. I attended 9 o'clock mass in St. John's and joined the rest of the travelling party in special carriages laid on by C.I.E. for the team and officials. As we made our way to Dublin we tried to read the papers or play cards.

Then a rumour spread that Ollie Walsh had cut his wrist and was doubtful for the game. Most of the players in our carriage were inclined to treat it as a joke. Then Nicholas Purcell, who was Co. Board chairman gave us the bad news.

Ollie had a bad cut on his wrist and he was taken to hospital to get stitched. A bus met us at Kingsbridge station and whisked us off to the Holybrook hotel where we had some light refreshments. I can still remember the rush towards Ollie Walsh when he came back from the hospital. There was general relief when we were told he would be able to play.

Then the pep-talk in the hotel from Mons. Tommy Maher. It was back to the bus and the short journey to Croke Park. Among the visitors to the hotel before the game was Brendan Boyer, and the late Tom Dunphy, members of the Royal Showband, who were at the zenith of their fame. For the first time I witnessed at close quarters the tension that is part and parcel of the dressing-room in the final minutes before the team takes the field.

WALKIE-TALKIE CONTACT

This was the year Monsr. Maher decided to have half the selectors in the front row of the Cusack Stand. They were in contact with the rest in the dug-out via Walkie-Talkie. I was one of those who was in the Cusack Stand.

It was an historic day for Kilkenny. Tipperary were beaten at last after a 45 year hoodoo. The victory celebrations were marred, however, by a tragic accident to classy forward, Tom Walsh, who never wore the black and amber again. There was no organised victory function that night, which in recent years have been hosted by the Kilkenny Mens Association. The following day both teams were guests of the G.A.A. at the

Gresham Hotel after first travelling to R.T.E. in Donnybrook to see a video of the game. Then the journey home and a tremendous welcome in Kilkenny.

In 1969 I was a selector again. I will never forget the tension before the game when we had to pick a replacement for Paddy Moran, who was declared unfit. It is now history that a certain player was decided upon to replace Moran. Opinion, however was sharply divided and the late Co. Board Secretary Paddy Grace called the selectors together again and the previous decision was rescinded after a long debate. This left a lot of pressure on me personally and one other selector. Had Kilkenny lost, we would have been run out of the county. Luckily for us, the player we plugged so hard turned in a blinder and Kilkenny won. I will never forget the pressure of that day. I would not like to experience it again.

Thereafter, all-Ireland day was one that brought joy to me because it represented THE day of the year in the Irish sporting calander. It has been a successful period for Kilkenny, with six great victories against two losses. No matter who is playing in the final, it is a big occasion. I would never miss one while the Lord gives me strength. There is nothing like the roar of the crowd as the teams appear from the tunnel. The standing to attention for the National Anthem is something special and the excitement of supporters is something to be seen.

This is all the greater when a new

team comes through, just like Offaly in 1981, or the return of Galway to the winners enclosure in 1980 after 57 years.

I have rambled on and on, but the editor assured me to nominate my most memorable all-Irelands. I have narrowed it down to two years, 1950 and 1967.

However, I will nominate 1967 as my most memorable all-Ireland final. This is not because of the quality of the hurling, which could not compare to games like Kilkenny and Waterford in 1957 and 1959; Tipperary and Wexford in 1962; Cork and Wexford in 1956 or Cork and Kilkenny in 1972. But the excitement generated by being part of it all as a selector on that famous occasion was some experience.

A LITTLE STORY

Finally, just a story on being a selector. In 1969 as I made my way from the top of the Cusack Stand to the dressing-room at half-time, a prominent Kilkenny official met me and asked me how we looked at so-and-so and left him on the field. We did not replace this player. He came out in the second half and played a blinder. I had to smile to myself the day after the game when I read one of the daily 'papers and the quotes from a number of people about the game. This Kilkenny official who had asked me to replace this player was one of those interviewed. And lo and behold he claimed the man he told me to take off at half time, was the 'man of the match'. How 30 minutes can change the destiny of a player. Roll on September, 1985.



In the under-13 football championship (Roinn A) final (1983) the Kilkenny C.B.S. beat Thomastown by 2-4 to 1-2 to capture the Bertie O'Callaghan Cup. Back row (l. to r.): Donal McCarthy (trainer), John Valentine, Pat Dunphy, Enda Coughlan, Cyril Keegan, Brendan Leahy, Vinny Byrne, Niall Lacey. Middle row (l. to r.): Brian White, John Peters, Mark Doran, Michael Power, Clement McCorry, Adrian Murphy, Derek Kenny, John Grogan. Front row (l. to r.): Andrew Doyle, Conor Brett, Pat Hogan, Frank Colclough (capt.), Sean Kelly, Malcolm Murphy, Brian Delaney, Pat Murphy.



The St. Kieran's college senior hurling team who captured the first Leinster title since 1977. The team was beaten in the all-Ireland final. Back row (L to R): Walter Purcell, Pat Carroll, Pat Foley, Tom O'Sullivan, Eamon Keher, John Hoban, Liam Egan. Front (L to R) Tommy Ryan, Tomas McCluskey, Tony Byrne, Tim Phelan, Eamon Morrissey, Willie O'Dwyer, John Feehan, Lorcan O'Neill.

AT LEAST THE COUNTY LOST NO GROUND

◀ Continued from page 27

another day, which was the Leinster final against Birr C.S., this time at the bumpy Borris-in-Ossory pitch.

As already stated, that match ended with St. Kieran's collecting their first title since 1977. They led by 2-2 to 0-4 at the half-way mark and eventually got the verdict by 3-6 to 2-4. The clinching score came in the 40th minute when great work by Lorcan O'Neill and Liam Egan made a goal for Eamon Keher. That left Birr trailing by 0-4 to 3-3 and broke the back in their challenge.

There was just one more contest before the All-Ireland. That was the semi-final against Our Lady's College (Gort) who were beaten by 3-8 to 1-5. The stars of this particular show were Liam Egan, Tommy Ryan, Tony Byrne, Pat Carroll and Eamon Morrissey.

While the final was a big disappointment, St. Kieran's followers had reason to be satisfied with the results gained by a relatively young side. Hopefully, better days will be ahead for them. The experience of '84 should stand to the players.

Spot a star

Perhaps the tradition of St. Kieran's was against this team in the final

analysis. It has to be conceded that the standard of hurling in the colleges' championships has fallen over the years. But too often people can expect too much from such teams.

You cannot go to games hoping to spot a possible Brian Cody, Billy Fitzpatrick, Kieran Brennan, Paddy Prendergast or Harry Ryan. They all came through the ranks at St. Kieran's. But they took heavy knocks before they eventually blossomed into talented senior stars. The new crop must be given time to mature. Hopefully it will.

The St. Kieran's panel: P. Foley (Windgap), T. Byrne (Gowran), P. Carroll (Dicksboro), T. Ryan (Johnstown), J. Moore (Tullaroan), L. O'Neill (Dunnamaggin), W. O'Dwyer (Carrickshock), T. Phelan (Ballyragget), T. McCluskey (Graigie/Ballycallan) J. Holohan (B'ragget), L. Egan (Callan), N. Brophy (James Stephens), P. Thornton (James Stephens), W. Purcell (Windgap), E. Keher (O'Loughlin's), J. Feehan (Conahy Shamrocks), T. O'Sullivan (Thurles Sarsfields), E. Morrissey (St. Martin's), P. Keogh (Rower-Inistioge), J. Walton (James Stephens), S. O'Neill (Gowran), M. O'Neill (Gowran), M. Murphy (Ballycallan), D. Purcell (Tullaroan), L. Leydon (O'Loughlin's).

When they hit the mark

March at Carlow

St. Kieran's College 5-14
Good Counsel 1-5
Scorers: E. Keher (2-5), E. Morrissey (2-1), W. Purcell (1-2), P. Thornton (0-5), L. Egan (0-1).

March at Carlow

St. Kieran's College 1-7
St. Peter's College 1-6
Scorers: E. Morrissey (1-0), J. Feehan (0-2), W. Purcell, T. McCluskey, E. Keher, P. Thornton, T. Phelan (0-1 each).

April at Borris-in-Ossory

St. Kieran's College 3-6
Birr C.S. 2-4
Scorers: E. Morrissey (1-3), N. Brophy, E. Keher (1-8 each), L. Egan (0-2), P. Thornton (0-1).

April at Birr

St. Kieran's College 3-8
Our Lady's College 1-5
Scorers: E. Morrissey (2-0), L. Egan (0-5), E. Keher (1-1), P. Thornton, J. Holohan (0-1 each).

May 6 at Croke Park

St. Kieran's College 0-8
St. Finbarr's 1-15
Scorers: L. Egan (0-6), E. Keher, E. Morrissey (0-1 each).

CHAMPS FOR THE THIRD TIME



St. Kieran's College, who made it three-in-a-row in the Leinster Juvenile hurling championship.
Front (l to r): Charlie Carter, John Holohan, Greg Holden, John Gavin, Brendan McEvoy, Dick Dooley, D.J., Carey.
Middle (l to r): Fr. P. Bollard (selector), Tommy Shefflin, Pat Kehoe, Pat O'Neill, Owne Meade, Jimmy Conroy, Robert Cody, Brian Ryan, Fr. Fergus Farrell (selector).
Back (l to r): Pdraig McCluskey, Adrian Ronan, Frank Whelan, Dominic Bradley, Mark O'Brien, Eddie Teehan, Ian Crosby.

Once great event resurrected

THE once great colleges inter-provincial senior hurling championship was resurrected as one of the special events for the celebration of 100 years of Gaelic games.

This championship in years past was one of the most illustrious on the G.A.A. calendar, but for some reason it was allowed die.

G.A.A. President, Paddy Buggy, was just one distinguished hurler to play in it. While a student at Mount Sion C.B.S. (Waterford) he

was picked to represent Munster.

Former President of St. Kieran's college, and for 21 years the trainer-coach of the Kilkenny senior county team, Monsignor Tom Maher was another.

Back in 1959 the championships were held for the last time, so a 25 year gap was bridged when the hurling and football competitions were decided in Kilkenny over the one week-end in late April.

In the end Munster won

the hurling and Leinster the football. In the hurling decider, Leinster were beaten after they had bettered Ulster by 4-18 to 2-4 in the semi-final.

The deciding score in the hurling final was 6-10 (M) to 1-3 after the winners led by 1-2 to 0-2 at the break. Seven Kilkenny players helped Leinster in the showdown.

The Leinster team was: A. McCormack (Kilkenny C.B.S.); T. Buggy (Presentation, Castlecomer); P. Carroll (St. Kieran's college); K. Murphy

(Wexford C.B.S.); R. Kelly (Birr C.B.S.); N. McDonald (St. Peter's college); F. Morgan (Kilkenny C.B.S.); L. Ryan (St. Kieran's college), N. Gath (Birr C.S.); B. Ayres (Kilkenny C.B.S.); J. Neville (St. Peter's college); E. Synnott (St. Peter's college); B. Kelleher (Colaiste Eanna); P. Horgan (Birr C.B.S.); E. Morrissey (St. Kieran's college). *Sub.:* P. Foley (St. Kieran's college); T. Byrne (St. Kieran's college). In the semi-final, Pat Cass (Kilkenny C.B.S.) played but he was injured for the final.

A YEAR WHEN THE TITLES ROLLED IN

◀ *Continued from page 25*

MICHAEL READE – BILLY BOURKE

Michael Reade and Billy Bourke began the year in junior partnership and decided to have a go at the Leinster Convention Cup. They were successful here in a competition where all the top Leinster players were in action, so it was no surprise when they had a real go at the championship.

They combined perfectly. Michael Reade is a perfect 40 x 20 partner as one will find. The power of Reade often opened the way for a Bourke kill. They won their way through the championship to qualify for senior ranks next year, but they also added a few extra notches to their respective guns.

Billy Bourke won the junior singles also, and was a member of the Talbot's Inch teams that won both 40 x 20 and 60 x 30 All-Ireland senior inter-club titles.

Michael Reade was on the side that won the 40 x 20 championship. This was a particularly welcome title to him, as he had been on the Talbot's Inch side which came through last year's tests also, winning the final at Belfast.

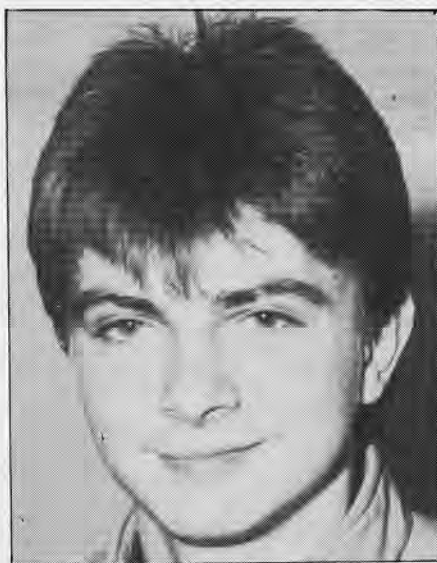
TALBOT'S INCH

With the talent at the club's disposal, Talbot's Inch should win the All-Ireland inter-club title every year. This doesn't happen, very often because the top players take a break from the game after a tough season when inter-club time comes around.

This year, however, the players decided to have a real go. The inter-club method changed to having your best players eligible. The 60 x 30 team was a very strong one – Paddy Reilly, Ollie Harold, Billy Bourke and Michael Walsh, with Anthony Greene as fifth man.

They were never really tested. Ballymore Eustace had a strong team, but could not match the all round ability of the Kilkennymen. Clonmel had home venue for the final and, despite the defeat of Billy Bourke by Billy Mullins in the first 21 aces, Bourke came back strongly and the issue was never in doubt afterwards.

With 40 x 20, it was a case of retaining your title. Last year when teams were limited to two seniors, Talbot's Inch won through with Anthony Greene, Michael Reade, Michael Walsh and Thomas Reade. Thomas was replaced this year by Billy Bourke. The side didn't get a real test until the final, when they



MICHAEL WALSH

had a major obstacle to overcome in Tralee, who had won the title two years previously.

Superior class told, however, and the Kilkenny side came through in the end.

O'LOUGHLIN'S

O'Loughlin's may be only a new club in handball, but they have made a huge impact, especially at juvenile level. Last year they looked good for the novice inter-club title when they won through in Leinster, but they came a cropper against Newport in the Mayo side's home court.

Michael Bourke was replaced on the team by County Handball Secretary, Con Moore, and the remaining trio, Billy Walsh, Phil Parsons and John Atkinson remained on to try their luck once more.

Luck had nothing to do with it in the end, just marvellous form by the Kilkenny team who stormed past everyone they met, with the possible exception of Garryhill. On their match through Leinster they had a tough tie against Garryhill before going on to win impressively against Crinkle, Talbot's Inch, Lisnagarvy (Belfast) and St. Finbarr's (Cork).

The easiest game of the lot was the final against one of Cork's major hurling powers, who have just built two new courts. It was something of a unique game with the 1980 Club of the Year – O'Loughlin's – facing the 1983 Club of the Year. For Billy Walsh, John Atkinson, Phil Parsons and Con Moore with fifth man Michael Burke, it was a dream come true with a Centenary All-Ireland under their belt.

WILLIE PRATT

Willie Pratt had a great run in the 1984 hardball championships. He played senior singles for Kilkenny, and teamed up with Peadar Hughes for senior doubles.

Together they reached the senior doubles semi-final against Tom and John Quish and, although the Kilkenny pair lost, they gave a very good account of themselves against a pair who won the final 21-1, 21-2, to leave the Kilkenny pair looking like the second best duo in the country.

Willie had a much more successful run in senior singles. In the earlier rounds his best display was when ousting former runner-up, Mickey Walsh (Roscommon). He reached the semi-final where he faced Cavan's Greg Sheridan. After a dour battle, Pratt got through to a senior All-Ireland final, the first Kilkennyman to reach this since John Joe Gilmartin.

He faced hardball specialist Pius Winders (Kildare) and was rated underdog from the start. But the wily St. Canice's player had his rival in all sorts of trouble in the first two games, which Winders was glad to share.

The third game was a real humdinger, with the extra experience of the Ballymore Eustace player getting him through an exciting third game.

LEINSTER CHAMPIONS

Kilkenny's list of Leinster champions for 1984:

40 X 20

Golden Masters singles, Pat O'Keefe (Mullinavat).

Golden Masters doubles, Pat O'Keefe (Mullinavat) and Johnny Hennessy (Ullard).

Minor singles, Michael Walsh (Talbot's Inch).

Minor Doubles, Michael Walsh (Talbot's Inch), Pierce O'Keefe (Mullinavat).

Junior Singles, Billy Bourke (Talbot's Inch).

Junior Doubles, Billy Bourke (Talbot's Inch), Michael Reade (Talbot's Inch).

Masters singles, Pat O'Keefe (Mullinavat).

Under-14 singles, D. J. Carey (Goresbridge).

Inter-club senior, Talbot's Inch (M. Reade, B. Bourke, M. Walsh, A. Greene, S. Reade).

Inter-club novice, O'Loughlin's (C. Moore, J. Atkinson, B. Walsh, P. Parsons, M. Bourke).

Convention cup, M. Reade, B. Bourke.

60 X 30

Minor singles, M. Walsh (Talbot's Inch).

Minor doubles, M. Walsh (Talbot's Inch), P. O'Keeffe (Mullinavat).

Masters doubles, P. O'Keeffe, M. Kirby (Mullinavat).

Golden masters doubles, T. Ryan, J. Hennessy (Ullard).

Under-14 doubles, J. Delaney (O'Loughlin's), S. Kelly (Talbot's Inch).

Leinster Colleges' senior singles, D. Kenny (Talbot's Inch).

Leinster Colleges junior doubles, D. Kenny, J. Kelly (Talbot's Inch).

Community Games

Under-13: S. Kelly (Talbot's Inch), C. Maher, D. Clifford, S. Whelan, J. Kerwick (Don Bosco). Team manager was Bobby Falsey (Don Bosco).

WINNERS, WINNERS, WINNERS

40 X 20 County Champions (1984)

U.12 S. - C. Maher (Don Bosco);
U.12 D.: S. Quigley and S. Whelan (Don Bosco).

U.14 S.: D. J. Carey (Goresbridge);
U.14 D.: J. Delaney and J. Burke (O'Loughlin's).

U.16 S.: L. Aldridge (Mullinavat);
U.16 D.: M. Hayes and M. Barcoe (O'Loughlin's).

M.S.: M. WALSH (Talbot's Inch); M.D. M. Walsh and N. O'Reilly (Talbot's Inch).

J.S.: J. Brennan (Mothel); J.D.: P. Walsh and D. Hennessy (Talbot's Inch).

S.S.: B. Bourke (Talbot's Inch); S.D.: B. Bourke and M. Reade (Talbot's Inch).

U.21: Joe Walsh (Mullinavat); U.21 D.: J. Bolger and R. O'Brien (Goresbridge).

N.S.: B. Walsh (O'Loughlin's); N.D.: B. Walsh and J. Atkinson (O'Loughlin's).

Sp. N.S.: B. Falsey (Talbot's Inch); Sp. N.D.: P. Brennan and P. Dowling (Mothel).

Mas. S.: P. O'Keeffe (Mullinavat); Mas. D.: C. Young and D. Hennessy (Talbot's Inch).

G.M.S.: P. O'Keeffe (Mullinavat).

Novice team of 4: Talbot's Inch (B. Falsey, J. McEvoy, R. Maher, M. Blanchfield).

Junior team of 4: O'Loughlin's (B. Walsh, P. Parsons, J. Atkinson, M. Burke).

60 X 30 County Champions (1984)

U.12 S.: S. Whelan (Don Bosco);
U.12 D.: S. Quigley and C. Maher (Don Bosco).

U.13 S.: J. Bryan (Goresbridge); U.13 D.: P. J. Taylor and D. Clifford (Don Bosco).

U.14 S. D. J. Carey (Goresbridge);
U.14 D.: B. Aldridge and E. Law (Mullinavat).

U.15 S.: P. Clifford (Don Bosco); U.15 D.: J. Hickey and C. Quigley (Don Bosco).

U.16 S.: M. Hayes (O'Loughlin's);
U.16 D.: D. Kenny and J. Kelly (Talbot's Inch).

M.S.: M. Walsh (Talbot's Inch); M.D.: M. Walsh and N. O'Reilly (Talbot's Inch).

U.21 S.: B. Bourke (Talbot's Inch); U.21 D.: B. Bourke and D. Bourke (Talbot's Inch).

J.S.: J. Doyle (Clogh); J.D.: J. Walsh and Pierce O'Keeffe (Mullinavat).

I.S.: J. McEvoy (Talbot's Inch); I.D.: J. Wafer and T. Reddy (Kilfane).

N.S.: B. Falsey (Talbot's Inch); N.D.: J. Neary and P. Savage (Talbot's Inch).

Sp. N.S.: E. O'Keeffe (Mullinavat); Sp. N.D.: J. Holden and L. Holden (Kilfane).

S.S.: O. Harold (Talbot's Inch); S.D.: P. Hughes and J. Doyle (Clogh).

Mas. S.: M. Kirby (Mullinavat); Mas. D.: C. Young, D. Hennessy (Talbot's Inch).

G.M.S.: P. O'Keeffe (Mullinavat); G.M.D.: T. Ryan, J. Hennessy (Ullard).

Novice team of 6: Mullinavat (J. O'Mara, L. Kelly, P. Phelan, J. Aldridge, L. Aldridge).

Junior team of 6: Mullinavat (P. O'Keeffe, Pierce O'Keeffe, J. Walsh, S. Foskin, J. Anthony, L. Law).

Novice team of 3: Kilfane (J. Holden, L. Holden, J. Holden).

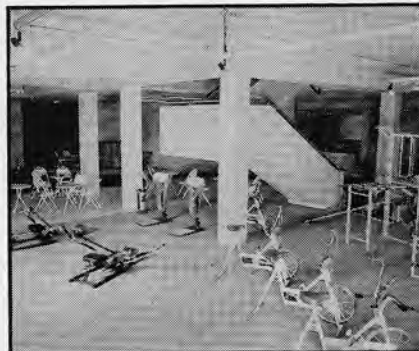
Junior team of 4: Talbot's Inch: M. Blanch, S. Fitzgerald, S. Kirwan, B. Falsey.

THE ROSE HILL HOTEL HEALTH & LEISURE CENTRE



42' heated indoor pool. Californian Hot Tub. Work it out in our Professional Gym with 8 work stations, weightlifting apparatus, 6 exercising bicycles, chinning bar, 4 massage belts, 4 rowing machines, T jogger.

*Amongst the most complete,
luxurious and accessible
health and leisure
centres in Ireland*



2 Sunbeds. 2 Hardcourt Tennis Courts. 4 Table Tennis Tables. Pool/Snooker Table. Separate Sauna (and changing) facilities for men and ladies.

7 a.m. to 11 p.m. daily. Weekends 7 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Expertly trained staff. For details of membership and further information, contact:

HEALTH & LEISURE CENTRE, ROSE HILL HOTEL, COLLEGE ROAD, KILKENNY.

Tel. 056-62000, 21927. Telex 80177 or Tel. Dublin 01-606666

MOONCOIN TOPS WITH FOUR TITLES

AT STATED elsewhere, all the under-16 competitions have been finished. It was a great year for Mooncoin, who emulated the 1983 feat of James Stephens, and took four titles. While 'Stephens victories were all in the A grade, Mooncoin took the two hurling titles in Roinn A, as well as the two football titles in Roinn B.

Mooncoin and James Stephens served up two thrilling finals, in the championship and league in Hugginstown. The championship was played on the eve of the all-Ireland hurling final.

Mooncoin opened, backed by the breeze and went 1-1 in front. By half-time they had doubled that and 'Stephens replied with two points, leaving the Southerners leading by 2-2 to 0-2 at the interval. 'Stephens piled on the pressure in the second half, but they could not get a goal and Mooncoin won by 2-5 to 0-9.

Outstanding for the winners were Brian Foskin, Joe Murphy, the captain, Tommy Murphy, Derek Rothwell and Patrick Doyle. The city side had good players in Martin McCarthy, Richard Minogue, Nicky Comerford, John Devlin and Dominic Bradley.

SCORERS

Mooncoin: Derek Rothwell, Gerald O'Shea (1-1 each); Tommy Murphy (0-2), Joe Murphy (0-1). **James Stephens:** Richard Minogue, John Devlin, Kevin Conroy (0-2 each), Dominic Bradley, Pat Heffernan, Nicky Morrissey (0-1 each).

The winning team was - Paddy Moran, John Delehunty, Brian Foskin, Gerard O'Neill, David Phelan, Joe Murphy (capt), James Dunphy, Tommy Murphy, Patrick Doyle, Martin Delehunty, Richard O'Keeffe, Liam Purcell, Eamon Ronan, Derek Rothwell, Gerald O'Shea.

Referee - Richard Carroll (Mullinavat).

LEAGUE WAS CLOSE

The league clash was also very close. Mooncoin got through by 1-5 to 1-4. This tie was a personal triumph for Tommy Murphy. From full-forward he notched all of his side's scores. Mooncoin went ahead by 1-2 to 0-0. A Dominic Bradley goal brought 'Stephens

back into the game. At the interval Mooncoin led by 1-3 to 1-2.

Each side scored two points in the second half. Twice 'Stephens were denied scored by Mooncoin goalkeeper, Patrick Moran in the closing stages.

SCORERS

Mooncoin: Tommy Murphy (1-5). **James Stephens:** Dominic Bradley (1-1), Richard Minogue, Kevin McCormack, Kevin Conroy (0-1 each).

The winning Mooncoin team was: Patrick Moran, John Delehunty, Brian Foskin, Gerard O'Neill, David Phelan, Joe Murphy (capt), James Dunphy, Derek Rothwell, Patrick Doyle, John Doran, Richard O'Keeffe, Liam Purcell, Ritchie Hogan, Tommy Murphy, John Fripps. **Sub:** Declan Ryan.

The referee was Paschal Long (Carrickshock).

FANTASTIC HEIGHTS

Castlecomer brought off a double in Roinn B hurling when they won the championship and league. The championship clash with Graignamanagh was a tremendous game. The opening half was good, but it was nothing compared to the second. The excitement reached fantastic heights. At the interval, Graig led by 1-4 to 1-2.

Castlecomer went ahead with a Willie Holden goal. Their opponents came back to lead by 4-6 to 4-3 entering the last quarter. A goal by Willie Holden (his third of the game) levelled the scores. James Brennan and Michael Fenlon exchanged points. Then in the last minute Eamon Connery and James Brennan grabbed the all important points. The final score was:

CASTLECOMER	5-6
GRAIGNAMANAGH	4-7

Castlecomer's outstanding players were Liam Slevin in goal, Paddy Brennan, Paul Nolan, Eddie Brennan, Michael

O'Neill, Christy Brennan, James Brennan and Willie Holden.

Graignamanagh had good players in Damien Bolger, Willie Bolger, Alan Foley, Brendan Corbett, Paul Ryan, Edward Bolger, Michael Fenlon and John Byrne.

Scorers: Castlecomer - Willie Holden (3-0), James Breen (0-2), Michael O'Neill, Eamon Connery, James Brennan (0-1 each). **Graignamanagh:** John Byrne (1-5, four points frees), Michael Fenlon (1-2), S. Canning, Edward Bolger (1-0 each).

The winning team was Liam Slevin, Michael Brophy, Patrick Brennan, Liam Young, M. Brennan, Paul Nolan, John O'Donovan, Eddie Brennan, Michael O'Neill, James Brennan, James Breen, Christy Brennan, Eamon Connery, Tom Nolan, Willie Holden. The referee was P. J. Butler (James Stephens).

'Comer's victory in the league decider was the mis-match of the year as they beat the Rower-Inistioge by 7-20 to 1-5. At the interval 'Comer led by 5-7 to 1-5. James Brennan was outstanding for the winners. Others who did well were Paddy Brennan, Liam Young, Eddie Brennan, Christy Brennan and Willie Holden. Willie Meaney was the losers best player. Others who tried hard were Pat Grace, Michael Galvin and Richard Proctor.

Scorers: Castlecomer - James Brennan (1-10); Eddie Brennan (1-5), Tom Nolan (2-1), Willie Holden (2-0), Eamon Connery (1-1), Christy Brennan (0-3). **Rower-Inistioge:** R. Prendergast (1-0), Pat Grace (0-2), Michael Mackey (0-2), Richard Proctor (0-1).

The winning team was Liam Slevin, Liam Young, Michael Brophy, P. Breen, Paul Nolan, Pat Brennan, M. Brennan, Eddie Brennan, Michael O'Neill, James Brennan, James Breen, Christy Brennan, Eamon Connery, Tom Nolan, Willie Holden. **Subs:** V. Smith, John O'Donovan, C. Phillips. Referee - P. J. Butler (James Stephens).

SHARED HONOURS

Clara and Tullogher/Rosbercon shared the honours in Roinn C. Clara won the championship. After their defeat in the league, they were determined to

win the championship. Their team included four players who later played in the under-21 county final. The four were James Langton, Philip Murphy, John Shortall and Liam Byrne. They played a big part in this under-16 victory.

Others who fared well for Clara were Nicholas Carrigan, Martin Whearty, Eamon Mulrooney, Davy Hoyne and Matthew Casey.

The winning team was – J. J. Ward, Pat Brennan, Martin Whearty, Mark Dowling, Nicholas Carrigan, James Langton, Jim Murphy, Edmond Mulrooney, Liam Byrne, Niall Hanrahan, Philip Murphy, John Shortall, Davy Hoyne, Matthew Casey, Pat Barcoe.

Tullagher/Rosbercon pulled off a surprise win in the league final in Thomastown. It was a close contest with a late goal by Paul Young giving them a 4-3 to 2-7 victory. The winners goalkeeper, Eamon Phelan was outstanding. Seamus Bookle, Eddie O'Sullivan and Simon Walsh stood out in defence. Tom Murphy at midfield was the man of the match. Best of the forwards were Paul Young, Michael Ryan and Under-14 Kilkenny player, John Murphy.

The winning team was Eamon Phelan, Pat O'Neill, Seamus Bookle, Eddie O'Sullivan, Denis Power, Seamus Phelan, Simon Walsh, Tom Murphy (capt), Tom Bookle, Michael Ryan,

Seamus Croke, Sean Kennedy, John Murphy, Seamus Kennedy, Paul Young. **Subs:** Simon Kennedy, for Seamus Kennedy, Brian O'Neill for Denis Power. Other panelists were Kevin Lackey, Seamus Murphy, David Culleton and John Lyng.

FOOTBALL DOUBLE

James Stephens won a double in football. They retained the championship and league crowns in Roinn A. The championship final against Thomastown was a very close affair. The city boys won by 0-7 to 0-5.

In the league 'Stephens also beat Thomastown, this time by 2-4 to 1-3. The losers were game opponents, but they lacked the strength up front to beat bigger and stronger opponents.. Outstanding for 'Stephens were Jimmy Conroy, Anthony Smith, Nicky Comerford, Richard Minogue, Kevin McCormack, Kevin Conroy and Pat Heffernan. Thomastown's best were R. Maher, Matt Bookle, Cathal Fitzgerald, J. O'Neill, Michael Donnelly and Kevin Maher.

The winning James Stephens team, in both league and championship, was Jimmy Conroy, Joe Dalton, Anthony Smith, Fran Whelan, Richard Minogue, Nicky Comerford, Dominic Bradley, John Devlin, Kevin McCormack, Benny Nugent, Mark Duffy, Kevin Conroy,

Padraig Larkin, Pat Heffernan, Martin McCarthy, Ger Delehunty went on as a sub in the league final.

Mooncoin completed the double in Roinn B football. They beat Clara in a well contested championship final by 1-6 to 0-6. At half-time Mooncoin led by 1-3 to 0-3 and held that lead through the second half to win their second title. They had previously won in 1980. Best for the winners were John Doran, captain, Joe Murphy and outstanding prospect Patrick Doyle and Tom Murphy. Clara's best were Martin Whearty, J. J. Ward, Edmond Mulrooney, Denny Hoyne, Philip Murphy and John Shortall.

It took Mooncoin two games to win the league. A late point gave Gowran a draw on the first occasion. The scores were 0-6 (M) to 1-3. There was never any doubt about the replay. The Southerners ran out winners by 1-6 to 0-2.

The winning team, in both championship and league was: John Doran, John Delehunty, Brian Foskin, Gerard O'Neill, David Phelan, Joe Murphy, Patrick Doyle, Richard O'Keeffe, Tom Murphy, Michael Reid, Derek Rothwell, James Dunphy, Eamon Ronan, Gerald O'Shea, Declan Ryan. Shem Gibbons was the championship referee. Tommy Duggan took charge of both league finals.



Erin's Own (Castlecomer), the Centenary Roinn B under-16 hurling champions.



Thomastown, who defeated Graignamanagh to win the under-14 Roinn A hurling championship final.

'Non-existent' club played 28 matches



The Threecastles team who played in the Kilkenny inter-firm junior hurling championship this year under the name of Threecastles Farm Services. Back row (l. to r.): Nicky Doheny, Pierce Dalton, Liam Walsh, Paul Dalton, Michael Manogue, Frank Lennon, James Campion, Andy Cleere, Jim Cleere, Noel Ryan, Sean Murphy. Front row (l. to r.): Eamon Hennessy, Shem O'Donnell, Michael Doheny, Ger Mullen, Michael Darmody, Dick Dalton (capt.), Paul Murphy, Pat Morrissey, Pat Dunne. Insets: Tom Manogue (r.), Liam Hennessy (m.), Martin O'Donnell (l.).

A NON-EXISTENT hurling club made a big impact in Kilkenny during Centenary year. Officially the thriving outfit with a huge following did not exist, but they were there playing the game and they earned quite a reputation for themselves.

In fact, so busy were the enthusiastic players that they got through a staggering 28 matches in a little over four months, and in the end they had to cut back on their heavy workload.

That was the unusual Centenary story from Threecastles hurling club, the outfit that was told there was no room in the championship for them by Kilkenny Co. Board. Of course, the Board, going strictly according to the rule book, had no choice but to turn down the application. But Threecastles said they would prove their worth, and that was what they did.

At the beginning of the year Threecastles decided to go it alone and wanted to break from St. Lactain's

(Freshford), the parish team they have been part of since 1961. The bye-laws of the Co. Board allow only one team in each parish, and on a 32-30 vote the Threecastles application for inclusion in the junior hurling championship was turned down.

"We were very disappointed when our application was rejected", club vice-chairman, John Manogue conceded.

"Now we have proved ourselves by being active during a full season and we will apply for entry into the championship again next year".

So they could get regular hurling, Threecastles changed their name, but only a slight bit mind you. As Threecastles Farms Services they

entered the inter-firm junior hurling championship. What happened? They galloped through to the Kilkenny area semi-finals, and in the process became the only team in the province to beat eventual all-Ireland champions Runtalrad-Tierney's (Thomastown).

SOUGHT ACTION

"We were pleased with the way things went", admitted one player, Martin O'Donnell. "It has to be admitted we gave a reasonable account of ourselves". They scored victories over the Army, Runtalrad-Tierney's and St. Canice's Hospital-Smithwick's Brewery to get through to the last four.

Besides the inter-firm games, they also sought action against other Kilkenny and Carlow clubs. At first local clubs were slow to accept them, but they waited and waited and by the end of the year

Continued on page 96 ►

MINOR HURLING CHAMPIONS



JOHN LOCKES – Roinn A Minor Hurling Champions 1984

Back row (l. to r.): P. Leahy, D. Bryan, B. O'Shea, P. Comerford, B. Bryan, J. Holden, J. Donovan, K. O'Dwyer. Front Row (l. to r.): L. Egan, J. Quigley, J. Power (Capt.), M. Holden, M. Barry, A. O'Dwyer, P. Comerford.



GRAIGUE-BALLYCALLAN – County Minor Hurling (Roinn B) Champions 1984

Back row (l. to r.): Sean Casey, Leslie Trayer, Michael Murphy, Tomás McCluskey (Capt.), Phil Purcell, Sean Delaney, John Teehan, John Cuddihy. Front row (l. to r.): Paul Muldowney, Denis Butler, Phil Maher, Adrian Ronan, Richie Maher, Jim Kenny, Jim O'Brien.

NEW FACES COME TO THE FORE AND GRAB HONOURS

◀ Continued from page 19

hurling and exchanges that were sporting in the extreme.

The winners paved the way to victory in the 11 minutes immediately after the break when they cracked home 2-1 without reply. That pushed them eight points clear, and with the advantage of the breeze they were sailing. The winners led at half-time by 1-4 to 1-3.

Glenmore tried hard in the last quarter, but with Tomás McCluskey in brilliant form in the winners' defence, they were never going to make it. The final score was 3-7 to 2-5.

Tomás McCluskey won the man of the match award sponsored by Hennessy's Sports. His performance really had spectators considering why he was not on the county minor team. Earlier in the year he skippered St. Kieran's College to the All-Ireland senior final which they lost to St. Finbarr's (Farranferris). Others who played well were 14-year-old goalkeeper Adrian Ronan, Phil Maher, who held the free-scoring Glenmore full-forward Frank Kirwan in a vice-like grip; Michael Murphy, Phil Purcell, Sean Casey, Leslie Trayer, Jimmy Kenny and John Teehan, who scored two great goals. He hit a tally of 8-8 in four championship games.

Glenmore's best players were Noel Mullally, Willie O'Connor, Vincent O'Connor, Ned Phelan, Michael Phelan in the second half, Frank Kirwan and Denis Mullally.

Scorers: *Graigue-Ballycallan* – John Teehan (2-2, 0-2 frees), Jimmy Kenny (1-1), Michael Murphy (0-2), Richard Maher, Sean Delaney (0-1 each). *Glenmore* – Frank Kirwan (1-3, 1-0 penalty, 0-2 frees), Ray O'Connor (1-0), Michael Phelan (0-2).

The winning team was – Adrian Ronan, Phil Purcell, Phil Maher, Denis Butler, Jim O'Brien, Tomás McCluskey (capt.), Leslie Trayer, Michael Murphy, Sean Casey, Paul Muldowney, Richie Maher, John Cuddihy, Jimmy Kenny, Sean Delaney, John Teehan.

Referee – P. J. Butler (James Stephens).

NEW TEAMS

The great thing about the minor championships in Centenary year was the emergence of new teams. While John Lockes (Callan) and Graigue-Ballycallan won titles after lapses of 34 and 35 years respectively, Conahy Shamrocks won their very first minor hurling championship when they beat

Dunnamaggin in the "C" decider in Danesfort.

Conahy looked in a vulnerable position at half-time when they led by only two points (0-4 to 0-2) after playing with the strong breeze. They switched the emphasis to ground hurling in the second half. This paid handsome dividends. A goal by John Feehan two minutes after the restart helped Conahy considerably. When Finbarr Phelan scored a spectacular goal the Northerners went ahead by 2-6 to 0-2. Lorcan O'Neill tried hard to get Dunnamaggin back into the game. He got through for a goal with eight minutes to go, but Conahy held out for a 3-6 to 1-4 victory.

Seamus Dooley at full-back for Conahy was the man of the match. He gave a five-star performance. Paul Brennan was wonderful in goal. Denis Carroll also did well in defence. John Feehan and Billy Hennessy got on top at midfield in the second half. Seanie Mahony was the winners' best forward. He got most assistance from Michael Feehan and Sean Cahill.

Best for the losers were Seamus Power, Lorcan O'Neill, J. J. Kennedy, Pat Moylan, Paschal O'Dwyer and Paddy O'Neill.

Scorers: *Conahy Shamrocks* – John Feehan (1-2, 0-1 free), Finbarr Phelan (1-1), John Gunner (1-0), Seanie Mahoney (0-2), Denis Carroll (0-1). *Dunnamaggin* – Lorcan O'Neill (1-0), Seamus Power (0-2, 0-1 free), Pat Moylan (0-1, '65'), Paddy O'Neill (0-1).

The winning team was Paul Brennan, Cyril Dunne, Seamus Dooley, Declan Downey, Kevin Dooley, Denis Carroll, James Brennan, John Feehan, Billy Hennessy, Sean Cahill, Micky Feehan, Seanie O'Mahony, John Gunner, Finbarr Phelan, Larry Deevy. *Sub:* Robbie O'Mahony.

Referee: Shem Gibbons (Gowran).

Tullaroan captured the minor hurling league, Roinn B, when they beat another Northern team, Fenians (Johnstown), in the final in Callan. The score was 2-9 to 1-8. Fenians led at half-time by 0-7 to 0-4 after playing with the breeze.

It was Tullaroan who started best and had four points on the scoreboard before the Fenians replied. A goal by Seamus Dunne in the 37th minute put Tullaroan into the lead. Although the Fenians levelled with a Gerry Phelan point, Tullaroan took a firm grip once Tommy Hogan

goaled.

Best for Tullaroan were Liam Keoghan, James Moore, John Dowling, Diarmuid Purcell, Derek Gaffney, Seamus Dunne and Jimmy Walton. Fenians were best served by Willie Dollard, Tommy Ryan, Liam O'Gorman, Greg McCarthy, Patsy Mackey, Jimmy Brennan and Gerry Phelan.

Scorers: *Tullaroan* – Diarmuid Purcell (0-5, 0-4 frees), Tommy Hogan, Seamus Dunne (1-0 each), Jimmy Walton (0-2), Derek Gaffney, James Moore (0-1 each). *Fenians* – Jimmy Brennan (1-3 1-2 frees), Willie Dollard (0-1, free), John Curran, David Behan, Tom Holohan, Gerry Phelan (0-1 each).

The winning team was Eamon Holland, John O'Dea, Aidan Clohosey, John Dowling, James Moore, Liam Keoghan, Bill Hennessy, Diarmuid Purcell, Brendan Dooley, Richie Walsh, Tommy Hogan, Derek Gaffney, Seamus Dunne, Billy Lanigan, Jimmy Walton.

Referee – Paschal Long (Carrickshock).

St. Martin's won the senior and special junior hurling championships for the first time. They completed a great treble when the minor hurlers collected the Roinn C league. It was the first minor title in any grade for the parish. The final was played in Ballyragget and, like the 'B' decider, two Northern teams battled it out. The final score was: St. Martin's 4-7, Danesfort 1-7. The game proved a personal triumph for Eamon Morrissey (St. Martin's), who scored 3-5 of his side's total. Morrissey was the main difference between the sides. St. Martin's led at half-time by 2-3 to 0-6, thanks to goals by Morrissey and Martin Stapleton.

In the second half St. Martin's were in control and ran out easy winners. Others who did well for the winners were Liam Dowling, who dominated midfield in the second half, Paul Dowling, a fine full-back, Kevin Brophy, Tom Cody, Martin Stapleton and Denis Brophy.

Danesfort's best were Pat Hayes, Pat Barden, Tom Hayes, Paddy Fennelly in the early stages, Ronan Conway, Jim Cahill, Colm Hayes and Paddy Hoban.

Scorers: *St. Martin's* – Eamon Morrissey (3-5), Liam Dowling (0-2, frees), Martin Stapleton (1-0). *Danesfort* – Jim Cahill (0-6, four frees), Martin Carroll (1-0), Paddy Hoban (0-1).

Referee: Marty Buggy (Conahy Shamrocks).

MEMORIES FLOOD BACK

For this genial former great, the build-up to all-Irelands always bring the memories flooding back. Nightly he attends the training sessions at Nowlan Park so he can get a real line of form on all 'the lads'.

"It is hard for players coming up to the final", he reckoned. "There is terrible pressure on them. You can do too much. You can't do enough. On the day you have to be in top form".

He said that when he sees a player bang on form during the build-up to an all-Ireland he would feel like going out and tell him to stop.

"Really, I would love to be able to go out and say STOP, leave it so", he conceded. "You can see the lads who have done enough. When they get to that certain level if they went at it for a few more nights they could go over the top".

Questioned about the future of the game in Kilkenny, he was positive: "I am confident. There is a nice flow through of players to the senior team. Even if you only get two from the minor and under-21 teams you would be doing well. If that was the flow through every year we would be away with it. You know, we seem to be getting them. I hope it continues".

The former star felt that in many ways Kilkenny were lucky. He said it must be frustrating for counties that never make the break. He mentioned Laois, Waterford of a few years ago, and Wexford today.

WHO HE THOUGHT BEST

"Wexford are very unfortunate altogether", he said. "They have beaten us when we were going well, and then ended up with nothing. You have to feel for them and their long serving players".

Before finishing I asked this avid and well informed hurling follower to nominate his best Kilkenny team, and then player, from all he has seen.

Immediately he went for the 1939 all-Ireland winning team.

"My first memory of an important game was that 1935 all-Ireland. We were after playing minor the same day", he recalled. "But that was some team. To me it was the best. From goalkeeper Jimmy O'Connell to corner-forward, Matty Power there wasn't a weak link".

He pondered long and hard before nominating his best individual. Then he went for the late Jack Mulcahy.

"Jack had a great heart as a player", he said. "His tackling, and the way he would make room for a forward was beyond compare. He was a great bit of stuff. But then, if one was to go for a scoring machine, you just could not pass Eddie Keher. He was a genius. Any man who could score 14 points in an all-Ireland final has to be special".

Well, were you right?

QUESTIONS ON PAGE 20

- A. 1** – It was Galway in 1958.
A. 2 – Roscrea, Co. Tipperary.
A. 3 – Eamon Cregan.
A. 4 – Vincent Twomey.
A. 5 – It was 1934.
A. 6 – The year was 1917 when Tipperary played Dublin. Stephen Hackett played with Tipperary, while his brother, Martin, was on the Dublin team.
A. 7 – Gerry Flynn (Castlegar).
A. 8 – Frank Norberg.
A. 9 – Jimmy Smyth (Clare).
A. 10 – Tommy Butler.
A. 11 – It was 1968. Cork beat them by 2-18 to 3-9.
A. 12 – Paddy McNamee in 1938.
A. 13 – With Cork in 1952.
A. 14 – Seamus Shinnors (Tipperary). He was the Connacht goalkeeper in 1980.
A. 15 – Andy Fitzgerald (Cork).
A. 16 – North Monastery (Cork).
A. 17 – Twenty-one.
A. 18 – Eudie Coughlan in 1931.
A. 19 – John Horgan (Cork).
A. 20 – Jimmy McNamara (1977) and Sean Stack (1978).
A. 21 – Willie Moore.
A. 22 – Sixteen times: 1922, '32, 1933, '35, 1939, '47, 1957, '63, 1967, '69, 1972, '74, 1975, '79, 1982, '83.
A. 23 – Tom Mulcahy.
A. 24 – It was 1922.
A. 25 – Tom Shinney.
A. 26 – Galway.
A. 27 – Fr. Tommy Murphy.
A. 28 – Pierce and Jack Grace. Pierce won five.
A. 29 – They were Noel Skehan (S.H. 1972); Brian Cody (S.H. 1982 and M.H. 1972); Dick O'Hara (Vocational Schools S.H. 1975); Ger Fennelly (S.H. 1979 and under-21 H. 1974); Kieran Brennan (Colleges S.H. 1975); Billy Fitzpatrick (S.H. 1975); Harry Ryan (M.H. 1975).
A. 30 – Johnny McGovern (Bennettsbridge).

'BOARD HONOURS ITS STARS

KILKENNY Co. Board honoured their own Sports Stars. They were not the illustrious Bank of Ireland or Smithwicks award winners, but local club men who distinguished themselves during the year.

They received their magnificent Kilkenny Design Workshops awards from Monsignor Tom Maher at Co. Board Convention in the Springhill hotel.

One of the dynamic team who helped the John Lockes (Callan) club carry out their top class ground development was honoured. He was John Locke's secretary Barry Hickey, who was regarded as the outstanding club official of the year. Other winners were:

Top club – Shamrocks (Ballyhale). The award was received by chairman Patrick Holden.

Senior hurler of the year – Frank Cummins (Blackrock). Received on his behalf by Kevin Fennelly (Shamrocks).

Senior footballer of the year – John Costelloe (Thomastown). Received on his behalf by Mick Kelly (Thomastown).

Intermediate hurler of the year – Richard Power (Carrickshock). Received on his behalf by P. J. Rohan (Carrickshock).



Barry Hickey (John Lockes)

Junior hurler of the year – Bobby Sweeney (Tullaroan). His club hosted Convention.

Junior footballer of the year – M. J. Ryan (Galmoy). Received on his behalf by Sean Doherty (Galmoy).

Under-age player of the year – Tommy Lannon (Bennettsbridge).

Under-age referee of the year – P. J. Irish (Slieverue).

RESULTS 1984

Senior Hurling Championship

FIRST ROUND

Fenians 2-12; Glenmore 1-11.
Mooncoin 1-9; Thomastown 2-6.
St. Martin's 4-11; Galmoy 2-5.
Shamrocks 3-8; Rower-Inistioge 3-7.
James Stephens 1-11; Erin's Own 3-4.
St. Patrick's (Ballyragget) 3-9; Clara 3-8.

SECOND ROUND

Glenmore 1-15; Thomastown 0-8.
Mooncoin 4-11; Galmoy 0-2.
St. Martin's 1-11; Fenians 1-7.
Shamrocks 3-8; James Stephens 0-15.
Clara 2-9; Erin's Own 1-10.
Rower Inistioge 2-13; St. Patrick's 2-8.

THIRD ROUND

Glenmore 3-6; Mooncoin 3-4.
Fenians 3-12; Galmoy 0-5.
St. Martin's 1-11; Thomastown 1-5.
Shamrocks 3-12; Erin's Own 2-12.
Rower-Inistioge 3-12; Clara 1-16.
James Stephens 0-12; St. Patrick's 0-7.

FOURTH ROUND

Glenmore 2-13; St. Martin's 1-6.
Mooncoin 4-12; Fenians 2-8.
Thomastown 3-8; Galmoy 0-6.
St. Patrick's 5-6; Shamrocks 3-8.
Rower-Inistioge 4-14; Erins Own 0-6.
James Stephens 2-11; Clara 2-8.

FIFTH ROUND

Glenmore 3-14; Galmoy 2-9.
Thomastown v. Fenians (not played).
St. Martin's 2-12; Mooncoin 2-6.
Shamrocks 2-7; Clara 2-6.
James Stephens 4-14; Rower-Inistioge 1-13.
St. Patrick's 2-9; Erins Own 0-10.

SEMI-FINALS

St. Martins 3-6; James Stephens 1-5.
Shamrocks 2-9; Glenmore 1-7.

COUNTY FINAL

St. Martins 1-14; Shamrocks 1-7.

RELEGATION

Erin's Own 3-8; Galmoy 2-8.
No of games played - 33.

Intermediate Hurling Championship

FIRST ROUND

St. Lactain's 2-14; Windgap 2-5.
Bennettsbridge 3-6; Dicksboro 1-6.
Conahy Shamrocks 3-10; Graignamanagh 3-8.
O'Loughlins 1-18; Tullaroan 1-6.
Carrickshock 2-14; Piltown 1-10.
Barrow Rangers 1-9; Young Irelands 2-5.

SECOND ROUND

Bennettsbridge 2-10; Windgap 1-7.
Conahy Shamrocks 2-7; Dicksboro 1-7.
Graignamanagh 3-9; St. Lactain's 1-7.
Tullaroan 1-10; Piltown 1-6.
Carrickshock 3-9; Barrow Rangers 0-11.
O'Loughlin's 4-15; Young Irelands 4-9.

THIRD ROUND

Windgap 2-9; Dicksboro 3-5.
Game declared null and void.
Dicksboro 2-10; Windgap 2-9.
St. Lactains 2-12; Conahy Shamrocks 2-10.
Graignamanagh 3-12; Bennettsbridge 2-8.
Carrickshock 2-18; Tullaroan 1-10.
O'Loughlins 2-13; Barrow Rangers 2-6.
Piltown 8-14; Young Irelands 2-7.

FOURTH ROUND

Graignamanagh 1-13; Windgap 1-6.
St. Lactain's 6-17; Dicksboro 2-5.
Conahy Shamrocks 1-15; Bennettsbridge 2-9.
Young Irelands 2-8; Tullaroan 2-6.
O'Loughlin's 4-9; Carrickshock 2-11.
Piltown v. Barrow Rangers (not played)

FIFTH ROUND

Conahy Shamrocks 2-13, Windgap 3-7.
St. Lactains 2-18; Bennettsbridge 2-5.
Graignamanagh 3-11; Dicksboro 0-8.
Barrow Rangers 2-13; Tullaroan 2-10.
Piltown 2-15; O'Loughlin's 0-18.
Carrickshock 2-14; Young Irelands 2-3.

PLAY OFF

St. Lactains 2-11; Graignamanagh 0-15.
Graignamanagh 5-9; Conahy Shamrocks 1-10.

SEMI-FINALS

St. Lactain's 2-13; O'Loughlin's 0-13.
Graignamanagh 3-10; Carrickshock 0-15.

COUNTY FINAL

St. Lactains (Freshford) 2-14; Graignamanagh 1-5

RELEGATION

Tullaroan 2-20; Young Irelands 0-2.

FINAL RELEGATION

Young Irelands (Gowran) 2-14; Windgap 4-2.
No. of games played - 37.

Junior Hurling Championships

NORTH

FIRST ROUND

Graigue/Ballycallan 2-11; James Stephens 2-3.
Danesfort 0-11; Emeralds 1-3.
O'Loughlins 3-2; Lisdowney 0-8.

SECOND ROUND

Graigue-Ballycallan 1-11; O'Loughlins 1-6.
Emeralds 0-10; Blacks & Whites 0-4.
Danesfort 5-18; Ye Faire Citie 4-2.

THIRD ROUND

Danesfort 3-9; Blacks & Whites 1-4.
Lisdowney 7-16; Ye Faire Citie 0-3.

FOURTH ROUND

O'Loughlins 3-11; James Stephens 2-7.
Graigue/Ballycallan 8-11; Ye Faire Citie 1-2.
Lisdowney 2-7; Blacks & Whites 0-7.

FIFTH ROUND

Lisdowney 1-8; Graigue-Ballycallan 1-7.
Emeralds 1-20; Ye Faire Citie 1-5.
O'Loughlin's 3-16; Blacks & Whites 1-10.

SIXTH ROUND

Ye Faire Citie 4-0; James Stephens 3-2.
Emeralds 2-8; O'Loughlins 1-11.
Lisdowney 2-7; Danesfort 1-10.

SEVENTH ROUND

Graigue-Ballycallan 6-14; Blacks & Whites 2-4.
Danesfort 1-11; O'Loughlins 1-7.

RESULTS 1984

EIGHTH ROUND

Emeralds 0-15; Graigue-Ballycallan 1-11.
O'Loughlins 4-16; Ye Faire Citie 0-4.

NINTH ROUND

Danesfort 0-16; Graigue-Ballycallan 1-6.
Lisdowngy 1-11; Emeralds 1-9.

SEMI-FINALS

O'Loughlins 1-12; Danesfort 2-6.
Emeralds 2-11; Lisdowngy 0-10.

NORTHERN FINAL

Emeralds 3-17; O'Loughlins 0-9.

ELEVENTH ROUND

Dunnamaggin 5-9; Slieverue 1-8.
Tullagher/Rosbercon 1-11; Thomastown 2-7.
John Lockes 6-12; Carrigeen 1-3.
Mullinavat 1-9; Shamrocks 1-7.

SEMI-FINALS

Mullinavat 2-18; John Lockes 0-8.
Dunnamaggin 1-10; Tullagher/Rosbercon 0-11.

SOUTHERN FINAL

Mullinavat 2-12; Dunnamaggin 2-6.

COUNTY FINAL

Mullinavat 3-9; Emeralds 1-5.
No of games played - 83.



Special Junior Hurling Final Roinn A

SOUTH

FIRST ROUND

Rower-Inistioge 2-19; St. Senan's 3-4.
Mullinavat 1-10; Thomastown 0-5.
John Lockes 5-6; Dunnamaggin 2-6.
Shamrocks 2-20; Carrigeen 1-4.
Slieverue 1-8; Mooncoin 2-5.

SECOND ROUND

Tullagher-Rosbercon 3-13; Rower-Inistioge 1-3.
St. Senans 2-8; Thomastown 0-5.
Mullinavat 2-10; John Lockes 1-8.
Dunnamaggin 2-17; Shamrocks 0-6.
Slieverue 2-9; Carrigeen 2-6.

THIRD ROUND

Tullagher-Rosbercon 1-14; St. Senans 1-8.
Dunnamaggin 3-11; Mullinavat 2-5.
Mooncoin 3-11; Carrigeen 0-5.
Rower-Inistioge 1-9; Thomastown 0-6.
John Lockes 1-12; Shamrocks 0-9.

FOURTH ROUND

Dunnamaggin 2-10; Rower-Inistioge 2-7.
Tullagher-Rosbercon 0-11; John Lockes 0-11.
Mullinavat 3-12; Mooncoin 1-3.
Thomastown 1-7; St. Senans 1-6.

FIFTH ROUND

Tullagher-Rosbercon 1-14; Slieverue 1-5.
Mullinavat 4-15; St. Senans 4-4.
Dunnamaggin 0-18; Carrigeen 1-3.
Rower-Inistioge 2-7; Mooncoin 2-6.
John Lockes 0-13; Thomastown 1-3.

SIXTH ROUND

Mullinavat 1-11; Rower-Inistioge 1-9.
St. Senans bt. Carrigeen.
Thomastown bt. Mooncoin.
Tullagher/Rosbercon 1-13, Shamrocks 1-9.
John Lockes 5-13, Slieverue 4-6.

SEVENTH ROUND

St. Senans 4-5, Slieverue 0-7.
Dunnamaggin 3-14; Mooncoin 3-9.
Thomastown and Shamrocks a draw.
Mullinavat 1-10; Tullagher/Rosbercon 2-5.
Rower-Inistioge 3-14; Carrigeen 1-7.

EIGHTH ROUND

Rower-Inistioge 1-12; Slieverue 2-7.
Dunnamaggin 0-8; Thomastown 0-5.
Tullagher/Rosbercon 5-13; Carrigeen 0-1.
John Lockes 1-11; St. Senans 0-5.
Shamrocks bt. Mooncoin.

NINTH ROUND

Dunnamaggin 3-12; St. Senans 1-5.
Tullagher/Rosbercon 5-11; Mooncoin 3-6.
Mullinavat 2-16; Carrigeen 1-2.
Shamrocks 3-7; Slieverue 2-6.
Rower-Inistioge 0-11; John Lockes 1-6.

TENTH ROUND

Tullagher/Rosbercon 5-6; Dunnamaggin 3-8.
John Lockes 6-14; Mooncoin 5-4.
Mullinavat 4-14; Slieverue 1-3.
Thomastown bt. Carrigeen.
Rower-Inistioge 1-17; Shamrocks 2-8.

NORTH

FIRST ROUND

Clara 1-4; Dicksboro 0-3.
St. Martins 2-12; Cloneen 0-4.
Emeralds bt. Bennettsbridge.
Erins Own 2-8; Fenians 3-2.

SECOND ROUND

St. Martins 1-7; Dicksboro 0-2.
Clara 3-13; Cloneen 1-1.
Fenians 2-11; Emeralds 3-7.
Erins Own bt. Bennettsbridge.

THIRD ROUND

St. Martins 3-7; Clara 3-6.
Dicksboro v. Cloneen not played.
Erins Own 2-7; Emeralds 2-4.
Fenians v. Bennettsbridge not played.

NORTH SEMI-FINALS

St. Martins 3-14; Fenians 2-4.
Clara 4-7; Erins Own 3-10.
Clara 3-8; Erins Own 4-5.
Clara 2-9; Erins Own 2-7.

NORTHERN FINAL

St. Martins 2-6; Clara 0-9.

SOUTH

FIRST ROUND

Glenmore 1-13; Graignamanagh 1-7.

SECOND ROUND

Graignamanagh bt. John Lockes.

THIRD ROUND

Glenmore bt. Graignamanagh.

SOUTH FINAL

Glenmore 2-14; Graignamanagh 0-5.

COUNTY FINAL

St. Martins 3-7; Glenmore 2-5.
No of games played - 20.

RESULTS 1984

Special Junior Hurling Roinn B

FIRST ROUND

St. Lactains 4-15; Ye Faire Citie 1-0.
St. Patrick's 2-7; Lisdowney 1-5.
Young Irelands 5-4; Blacks and Whites 2-9.
James Stephens bt. Galmoy.
Graigue/Ballycallan 1-9; Danesfort 1-9.
Conahy Shamrocks 2-12; Barrow Rangers 2-4.

SECOND ROUND

Tullaroan bt. St. Patricks.
Young Irelands bt. James Stephens.
St. Martins 3-3; Galmoy 2-4.
Danesfort 4-6; Barrow Rangers 0-6.
Conahy Shamrocks 5-15; Graigue/Ballycallan 1-4.

THIRD ROUND

Tullaroan 5-12; St. Lactains 1-7.
St. Martins 4-13; Blacks and Whites 3-4.
Conahy Shamrocks 4-7; Danesfort 1-7.
Graigue/Ballycallan bt. Barrow Rangers.

FOURTH ROUND

St. Lactains 2-11; St. Patricks 1-10.
Tullaroan 3-8; Lisdowney 2-2.
St. Martins 2-9; James Stephens 2-6.

FIFTH ROUND

St. Martins 2-10; Young Irelands 2-7.

PLAY OFF

Graigue/Ballycallan 2-8; Danesfort 0-7.
Graigue/Ballycallan 1-10; St. Lactains 2-7.
Graigue/Ballycallan 2-9; St. Lactains 2-6.
Young Irelands (Gowran) 1-10;
Graigue/Ballycallan 1-6.

NORTH SEMI-FINALS

St. Martins 1-11; Young Irelands 2-1.
Conahy Shamrocks 1-14; Tullaroan 1-7.

NORTH FINAL

Conahy Shamrocks 2-16; St. Martins 1-13.

SOUTH

FIRST ROUND

Tullagher/Rosbercon 4-6; Carrickshock 3-4.
Dunnamaggin 2-8; Windgap 1-6.
Piltown bt. St. Senans.
Mooncoin & Rower/Inistioge played a draw.

SECOND ROUND

Carrickshock 5-11; Windgap 4-3.
Tullagher/Rosbercon 4-5; Dunnamaggin 3-4.
Rower/Inistioge bt. Piltown.
Mooncoin bt. St. Senans.

THIRD ROUND

Mooncoin bt. Piltown.
Rower/Inistioge bt. St. Senans.
Carrickshock & Dunnamaggin played a draw.
Tullagher/Rosbercon 4-4; Windgap 1-9.

PLAY OFF

Carrickshock and Dunnamaggin played a draw.
Carrickshock bt. Dunnamaggin by two points.

SEMI-FINALS

Tullagher/Rosbercon 4-11; Rower/Inistioge 3-6.
Carrickshock 2-11; Mooncoin 1-4.

SOUTH FINAL

Carrickshock 3-13; Tullagher/Rosbercon 1-8.

COUNTY FINAL

Conahy Shamrocks 2-10; Carrickshock 1-7.
No of games played - 44.

Under-21 Hurling Championships Roinn A

NORTH

FIRST ROUND

James Stephens 5-9; Galmoy 0-6.
Bennettsbridge 7-11; Erins Own 3-7.
O'Loughlins 1-8; Dicksboro 1-4.

SECOND ROUND

Bennettsbridge 7-8; James Stephens 2-5.
Clara 3-9; O'Loughlins 2-6.

NORTHERN FINAL

Clara 3-4; Bennettsbridge 0-12.

SOUTH

FIRST ROUND

Mullinavat 4-11; Thomastown 2-13.
Glenmore 2-14; John Lockes 3-7.
Graignamanagh 1-10; Mooncoin 1-9.

SECOND ROUND

Glenmore 1-12; Mullinavat 2-8.
Graignamanagh 6-9; Shamrocks 1-5.

SOUTHERN FINAL

Glenmore 1-8; Graignamanagh 1-5.

COUNTY FINAL

Glenmore 1-14; Clara 3-8.
No of games played - 14.

Under-21 Hurling Championship Roinn B

NORTH

FIRST ROUND

St. Patrick's 1-12; Young Irelands 1-10.
Lisdowney 6-16; Conahy Shamrocks 1-3.
St. Lactains 1-15; Tullaroan 3-3.
Barrow Rangers 7-9; Blacks & Whites 2-5.

SECOND ROUND

Graigue/Ballycallan 6-6; St. Patricks 2-5.
Lisdowney 4-14; St. Martins 2-13.
Danesfort 1-7; St. Lactains 1-3.

THIRD ROUND

Lisdowney 6-6; Graigue/Ballycallan 2-8.
Fenians 1-13; Danesfort 1-5.

NORTHERN FINAL

Fenians 4-8; Lisdowney 3-5.

SOUTH

FIRST ROUND

Rower/Inistioge 1-16; Dunnamaggin 0-2.
Piltown bt. St. Senans (Kilmacow)
Slieverue 8-5; Carrickshock 1-5.

SECOND ROUND

Piltown 1-11; Piltown 0-9.
Slieverue 3-13; Windgap 3-10.

SOUTHERN FINAL

Slieverue 3-10; Piltown 0-2.

COUNTY FINAL

Slieverue 2-10; Fenians (Johnstown) 1-6.
No of games played - 17.

RESULTS 1984

Minor Hurling Championship Roinn A

NORTH

FIRST ROUND

Bennettsbridge 2-7; Galmoy 1-8.
Erins Own 3-8; St. Patrick's 1-4.
Dicksboro 1-12; O'Loughlins 2-6.

SECOND ROUND

Bennettsbridge 2-3; James Stephens 1-6.
Bennettsbridge 2-5; James Stephens 1-5.
Erins Own 4-9; Dicksboro 2-6.

NORTHERN FINAL

Erins Own 2-10; Bennettsbridge 2-6.

SOUTH

FIRST ROUND

Thomastown bt. Mooncoin.
John Lockes 6-12; Slieverue 0-6.

SECOND ROUND

John Lockes 8-10; Mullinavat 2-4.
Thomastown bt. Shamrocks.

SOUTHERN FINAL

John Lockes 2-11; Thomastown 3-4.

COUNTY FINAL

John Lockes 2-11; Erins Own 1-8.
No of games played - 13.

Minor Hurling Championship Roinn B

NORTH

FIRST ROUND

Graigue-Ballycallan 4-5; Tullaroan 1-11.
St. Lactain's 3-10; Young Irelands 3-8.

SECOND ROUND

Graigue/Ballycallan 4-7; St. Lactains 0-6.
Fenians 3-9; Clara 4-4.

NORTHERN FINAL

Graigue/Ballycallan 4-7; Fenians 1-8.

SOUTH

FIRST ROUND

Rower-Inistioge 4-12; Piltown 0-3.
Glenmore 3-10; Windgap 2-6.

SECOND ROUND

Glenmore 2-10; Graignamanagh 3-5.
Rower-Inistioge 3-4; St. Senans 1-4.

SOUTHERN FINAL

Glenmore 4-8; Rower-Inistioge 2-5.

COUNTY FINAL

Graigue/Ballycallan 3-7; Glenmore 2-5.
No of games played - 11.

Minor Hurling Championship Roinn C

NORTH

FIRST ROUND

Goresbridge/Paulstown bt. Lisdowney.
Conahy Shamrocks 2-16; Blacks & Whites 0-4.

SECOND ROUND

Conahy Shamrocks 2-8; Danesfort 2-4.
St. Martins W.O. Goresbridge/Paulstown scr.

NORTHERN FINAL

Conahy Shamrocks 3-6; St. Martins 2-7.

SOUTH

Carrickshock 3-4; Tullogher/Rosbercon 0-4.

SOUTHERN FINAL

Dunnamaggin 2-9; Carrickshock 2-4.

COUNTY FINAL

Conahy Shamrocks 3-6; Dunnamaggin 1-4.
No of games played - 7.

Senior Football Championship

FIRST ROUND

Railyard 1-5; Gaels 0-7.
Glenmore 0-7; Bigwood 0-4.
St. Lactains 2-7; Paulstown 0-7.
Thomastown 1-8; Shamrocks 1-5.
Muckalee 1-8; James Stephens 1-2.
Graignamanagh 2-5; Sarsfields 1-4.

SECOND ROUND

Railyard 0-4; Glenmore 0-4.
Bigwood 1-5; Gaels 0-3.
St. Lactains 0-6; Slieverue 0-5.
Muckalee 0-11; Graignamanagh 1-2.
Thomastown 1-8; Sarsfields 0-5.

THIRD ROUND

St. Lactains 3-6; Glenmore 1-5.
Paulstown 5-5; Bigwood 1-4.
Muckalee 1-8; Shamrocks 2-3.
James Stephens 1-6; Sarsfields 1-6.

FOURTH ROUND

Railyard 2-6; St. Lactains 1-5.
Paulstown 3-7; Glenmore 1-3.
Thomastown 1-7; Muckalee 0-6.

FIFTH ROUND

Railyard 3-5; Bigwood 1-4.
Paulstown bt. Gaels by 3 pts.

SIXTH ROUND

Railyard 4-7; Paulstown 0-7.

SEMI-FINALS

Thomastown 1-5; St. Lactain's 0-4.
Railyard 4-6; Muckalee 1-8.

COUNTY FINAL

Thomastown v. Railyard.
No. of games played - 24. *Continued on page 99* ▶

'Non-existent' club

◀ Continued from page 88

had played matches against St. Martin's (Ballyfoyle-Coon-Muckalee), Graignamanagh, Graigue-Ballycallan, Lisdowney, Tullaroan, Black and Whites, Conahy Shamrocks, O'Loughlin's, Emeralds (Urlingford), Clara and Young Irelands (Gowran). In Carlow they played Ballinkillen and Ballymurphy.

All the time they attracted a large following, and they reckoned they must have set a record for gate receipts at a first round inter-firm match. Nearly £120 was collected at their opening match. Later in the Conahy Shamrocks tournament final against Lisdowney there was a £400 'gate'.

"At one stage we were playing two matches a week", committee member and well-known Kilkenny referee, Dinny Butler explained. "When the invitation for matches started to come, we just had to take them. In the end we ended up burning out the players, but at least we proved we could meet any demands made upon us".

The resolute group I met were even brazen enough to suggest they wouldn't

know themselves if they were in the championship. It would be easier to cope with the match schedule then and dates, venues and times would be more readily available.

TOO MANY HURLERS

"Oh, we were glad of the matches", chairman, John Butler said. "They gave us the opportunity to sort out some minor problems. But if we get into the championship in 1985 we will field two teams – one in the junior championship and the other in the special junior championship (Roinn B)"

They felt there are too many hurlers in the parish of Freshford for the needs to be adequately met by one club. They estimated they have 40 players aged between 17 and 30 willing to play hurling.

"The treatment we received from the Co. Board last year has fired our enthusiasm", claimed another committee member, Nicky Grace. "There was such commitment shown all round by players, officials and supporters that

we just have to go on".

"In many ways it was a good Centenary year for us", John Minogue suggested. "Because of the team the entire locality gained new status. Fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters and cousins at all times looked forward to going to the matches. The whole locality was involved".

Off the field they also worked hard. They celebrated La na gClub in style at their own hurling field on the lands of Denis Lannon. They organised cabarets to finance needs like jerseys and hurlies, and they head into the new year firmly in the black.

"If for some reason our application is turned down again this time we will continue playing", John Butler pointed out. "What we are doing is fighting for youngsters to be allowed play hurling". The Threecastles officers are – Jack Cleere (president); Dean Comerford and Rev. J. Joyce (vice-presidents); John Butler (chairman); John Manogue (vice-chairman); Michael Doheny (secretary-treasurer).

Committee: Denis Butler, Martin Dalton, Eamon Hennessy, Sean Murphy, Noel Ryan, Nicky Grace, Richard Dowling, Jim Rafter, John Keogh, Dick Dalton. Team selectors are – John Butler, John Manogue, Nicky Grace, Richard Dowling, Noel Ryan.

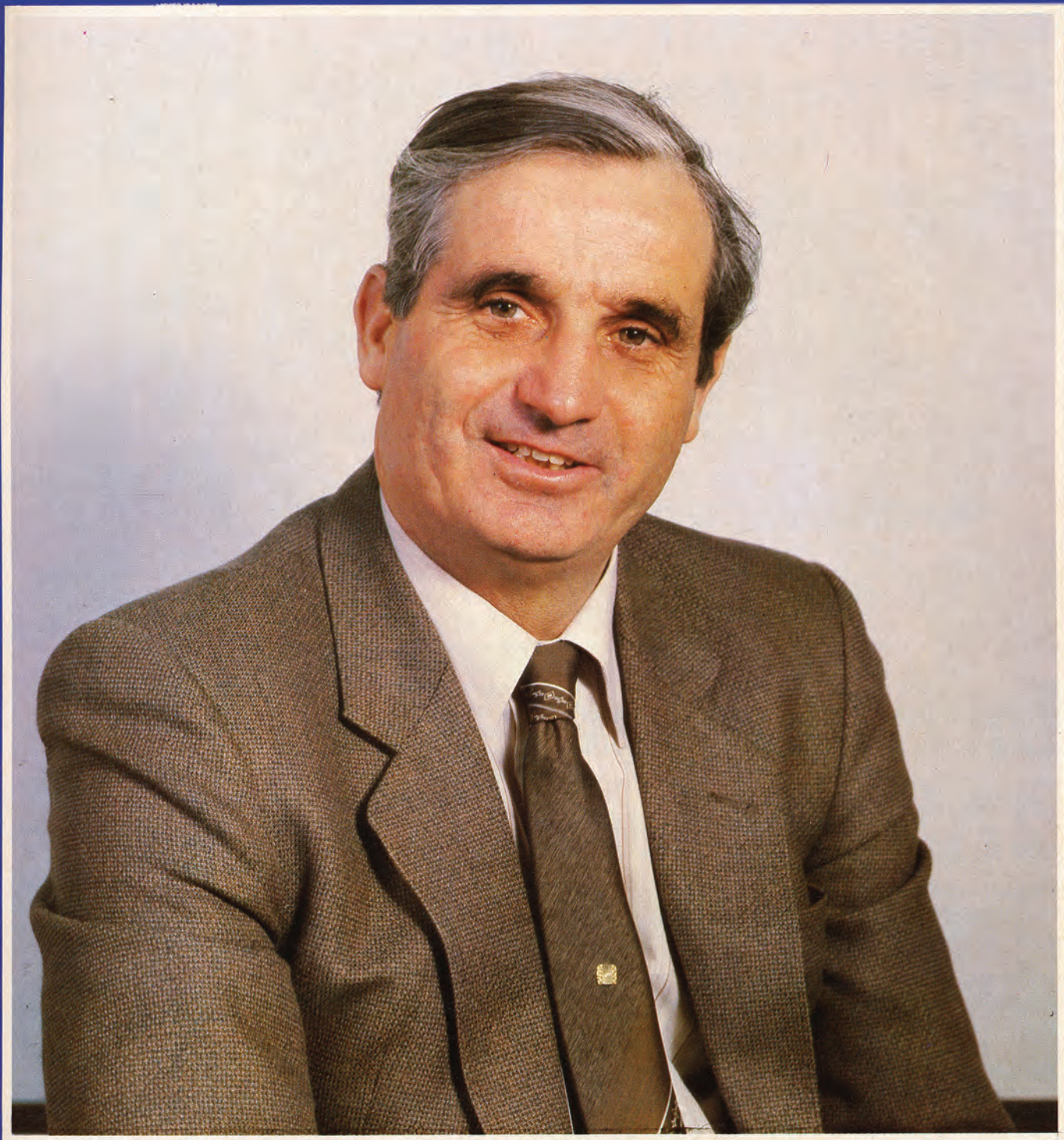
UNDER-21 ALL-IRELAND HURLING CHAMPIONS 1984



**St. Canice's Kilkenny
Credit Union Ltd.**



A Winner for 21 years — 1964-1985



CENTENARY PRESIDENT

Having taken over as President of the G.A.A. at Congress in Kilkenny in 1982, Paddy Buggy, led the Association through the Centenary year.

The Slieverue official took over the position almost 61 years to the day that another Kilkenny man, Ald. James Nowlan stepped down after the longest reign as President.

Ald. Nowlan was first elected in

1901. He stood down at Congress on March 27, 1921. Paddy Buggy became the second Kilkenny man to take over the post on Sunday, March 28, 1982.

Another Kilkenny native filled the office of President. The late Bob O'Keeffe, in whose memory the cup for the Leinster senior hurling champions is named, was President from 1935 to 1938. From Mooncoin, he was teaching

in Borris-in-Ossory at the time and served as a Laois official.

Incidentally, Kilkenny had four Presidents within the G.A.A. during Centenary year. There were Paddy Buggy, of course, Tommy O'Brien of the Handball Association, Mary Fennelly of the Camogie Association and Nicky McGrath, of the Vocational Schools sports organisation.

MANAGERS— with 12 now the idea has taken off

Continued from page 15

men were coming under pressure from within the area they served — very much like a T.D. with his constituents — to push for this lad and that lad.

In Wexford they decided the way out of the problem was to appoint John Doyle, and let him pick his men. He confined his selection committee to two men he had complete trust in, and later when an unfortunate accident cut short Mick Jacob's career, he was invited to help out.

Can anyone honestly say that club pressure does not exist in Kilkenny? It would be classed as a crime in his home parish if a selector did not get a man from his own club into

a panel at least. And this is the case with all county teams, not just the senior.

You see a manager would make all the difference. In the first place he would have to be strong — strong to take on the responsibility in the first place, and strong to withstand such pressure. Let the manager pick his men to help him, and you can bet your bottom dollar that no one would pick any more than three people.

In most games managers keep selection committees small. In the heat of battle you can't be asking Mick, Paddy, Joe, Seamus and Harry what to do. Decisions must be made and acted upon quickly.

Small is beautiful, and small groups can be the most productive.

Of course, not everyone is cut out to be a manager. In Kilkenny we have the ideal man for the job and there is no million pound prize for guessing who that person is.

You see a successful manager must be a mishmash of a lot of things. As well as trainer and coach he would need to be a man of discipline, who would have to show that his commitment is as good as any man under him.

GET AROUND AWKWARD ONES

It would do no harm if he was a bit of a cajoler, which would help him get around the awkward ones who you can never tell what to do, and won't respond to orders anyway. He would have to be a bit of a marriage counsellor

as well, qualities which would come in handy when explaining to a wife or girlfriend why their loved one must be with him when he could be with them instead.

There would be a bit of psychology involved too; an ability to motivate and be able to impart his message to his players. And of course he would have to have a plan in mind, not just about where the team might be going in the immediate future, but for a couple of years.

Sceptics might laugh and say what we are after is the 'ideal person'. That is exactly what we are after, in a sporting context. Such people are around and in this county too. How foolish we are not to give him — for there is one wellknown to us all — a free hand. In Kilkenny the time has come to break with tradition, and get into the fashion.

Dr. Paddy the 27th Leader

HE started out the year as 'Mister' but by the end of it he was known as 'Doctor'.

That was the dramatic change for Paddy Buggy, the Slieverue, Co. Kilkenny man and current President of the G.A.A.

In April, the one time county hurler was conferred with an honorary doctorate degree by the National University of Ireland.

Paddy, winner of an all-Ireland senior hurling medal in 1957, was honoured in company with Cardinal Tomás O Fiaich and world renowned flautist, James Galway, among others.

On this historic day he was accompanied to Dublin by former hurling star, Jim Langton, Jim Walsh (Slieverue), Paddy Grant (Slieverue), Dick Mahony and the late Co. Board secretary, Paddy Grace. At the Congress of 1982 in his native Kilkenny, Paddy Buggy became the third Noresider to be installed as



President. Almost 61 years to the day that Ald. James Nowlan stepped down after the longest reign as President, Paddy Buggy took over. The first Kilkennyman to hold the highest post in the G.A.A. was Ald. Nowlan who was elected in 1901. He held office until he stood down at Congress on March 27, 1921. The second Kilkenny native to hold the office of President was Bob O'Keeffe, in whose

memory the cup for the Leinster senior hurling champions is named. He held the position from 1935 to '38. He was originally from Mooncoin. At the time he held the

post he was teaching in Borris-in-Ossory, and he was elected as a Co. Laois official. Paddy Buggy is the 27th President in the history of the G.A.A.

KIERAN RYAN

YOU BEND THEM — WE MEND THEM

Experts in Chassis Realignment and an excellent colour matching system for all colours, including metallic.

PANEL BEATING
SPRAYING
TOW-IN SERVICE



Industrial Estate,
Hebron Road, Kilkenny

Phone: 056-21694.

RESULTS 1984

Junior Football Championship

NORTH

FIRST ROUND

Lisdowney 8-7; Graigue/Ballycallan 0-1.
Castlecomer bt. Galmoy.
Dicksboro 4-3; Tullaroan 1-3.

SECOND ROUND

Emeralds bt. Ye Faire Citee.
Gowran bt. Muckalee.
Danesfort bt. Clara.
Castlecomer 3-8; Dicksboro 2-3.
Bennettsbridge bt. Fenians.
Lisdowney 3-2; Blacks & Whites 1-8.
Lisdowney 2-9; Blacks & Whites 0-3.

THIRD ROUND

Emeralds 3-10; Ballyragget 0-3.
Danesfort 2-5; Gowran 0-2.
Castlecomer 2-5; Bennettsbridge 2-4.
Lisdowney bt. The Gaels.

FOURTH ROUND

Emeralds 2-2; Danesfort 0-2.
Lisdowney 1-4; Castlecomer 0-1 (unfinished).
Lisdowney awarded game.

NORTHERN FINAL

Lisdowney 4-6; Emeralds 0-5.

SOUTH

FIRST ROUND

Mooncoin bt. Carrickshock.
Shamrocks 1-2; Kilmoganny 0-3.
St. Patrick's 4-7; Slieverue 2-6.
Thomastown 3-14 Lamogue 0-7.
Tullagher/Rosbercon 0-11; Piltown 1-1.
Rower-Inistioge bt. Carrigeen.

SECOND ROUND

Mooncoin bt. Shamrocks.
St. Patrick's (Kilmacow) 4-7; Thomastown 0-7.
Tullagher/Rosbercon 1-12; Rower/Inistioge 0-4.
Coolagh 3-8; Bigwood 1-1.

THIRD ROUND

Mooncoin bt. St. Patrick's.
Coolagh 3-5; Tullagher/Rosbercon 1-5.

SOUTHERN FINAL

Mooncoin 2-9; Coolagh 2-0.

COUNTY FINAL

Lisdowney 3-6; Mooncoin 0-9.
No of games played - 31.

Under-21 Football Championship Roinn A

NORTH

FIRST ROUND

James Stephens 2-9; Dicksboro 1-3.

NORTHERN FINAL

James Stephens v. Railyard.

SOUTH

FIRST ROUND

Glenmore v. Slieverue.

SOUTHERN FINAL

Thomastown v. Glenmore or Slieverue.

COUNTY FINAL

No of games played - 5.

Under-21 Football Championship Roinn B

NORTH

FIRST ROUND

Lisdowney 1-7; Sarsfields 1-5.

SECOND ROUND

Blacks & Whites 1-4; Bennettsbridge 0-3.
Lisdowney v. Muckalee.
Castlecomer 3-6; St. Lactains 0-2.

THIRD ROUND

Clara v. Castlecomer.
Blacks & Whites v. Lisdowney or Muckalee.

NORTHERN FINAL

SOUTH

FIRST ROUND

Graignamanagh v. Mooncoin.
The Rower-Inistioge v. Carrickshock.

SECOND

Bigwood v. Lamogue.
Graignamanagh or Mooncoin v. Rower/Inistioge
or Carrickshock.

SOUTHERN FINAL

COUNTY FINAL

No of games - 12.

Special Junior Football Championship

NORTH

FIRST ROUND

Blacks & Whites bt. Gowran.
Clara bt. Muckalee.

SECOND ROUND

Clara 5-8; The Gaels 2-2.

NORTHERN FINAL

Blacks & Whites 2-7; Clara 1-3.

SOUTH

Kilmoganny bt. Rower-Inistioge.

SOUTH FINAL

Carrickshock 1-8; Kilmoganny 1-3.

COUNTY FINAL

Carrickshock 1-8; Blacks & Whites 1-4.
No of games played - 7.

RESULTS 1984

Minor Football Championship Roinn A

NORTH

NORTH FINAL

Dicksboro 2-6; James Stephens 2-2.

SOUTH

Thomastown 3-4; Coolagh 0-6
Bigwood 1-5; Slieverue 0-6.

SOUTH FINAL

Thomastown 1-6; Bigwood 2-3.

COUNTY FINAL

Dicksboro v. Thomastown or Bigwood.
No of games played - 6.

Minor Football Championship Roinn B

NORTH

FIRST ROUND

Sarsfields 2-8; Blacks & Whites 1-3.
Bennettsbridge 2-2; Young Irelands (Gowran) 0-4.
Fenians (Johnstown) 2-6; St. Lactain's (Freshford) 2-5.
Graigue/Ballycallan 2-1; Railyard 0-5.
Muckalee v. Clara.

SECOND ROUND

Bennettsbridge 3-3; Sarsfields 1-4.
Graigue/Ballycallan v. Fenians.

THIRD ROUND

Graigue/Ballycallan or Fenians v. Muckalee or Clara.

NORTH FINAL

SOUTH

FIRST ROUND

Graignamanagh 4-11; Shamrocks 2-3.
St. Patrick's (Kilmacow) 2-7; Mooncoin 1-3.

SECOND ROUND

St. Patricks (Kilmacow) 1-6; Kilmoganny 1-1.

SOUTH FINAL

St. Patricks (Kilmacow) v. Graignamanagh.

COUNTY FINAL

No of games played - 14.

Build a House for a price you cannot afford to ignore



1. Member of the National House Building 6-year Guarantee Scheme.
2. Houses qualify for Government Grants.
3. All persons employed are fully skilled tradesmen.
4. Only first class materials are used.
5. Built-in wardrobes.
6. Price includes septic tank.
7. Design service, drawings and apply for planning permission.

PADDY RAGGETT
- BUILDING CONTRACTOR
Tel. 056-65948 anytime.

Waterford Road, Kilkenny.
Tel. 0409-5948 anytime.
Tel. 056-65948.