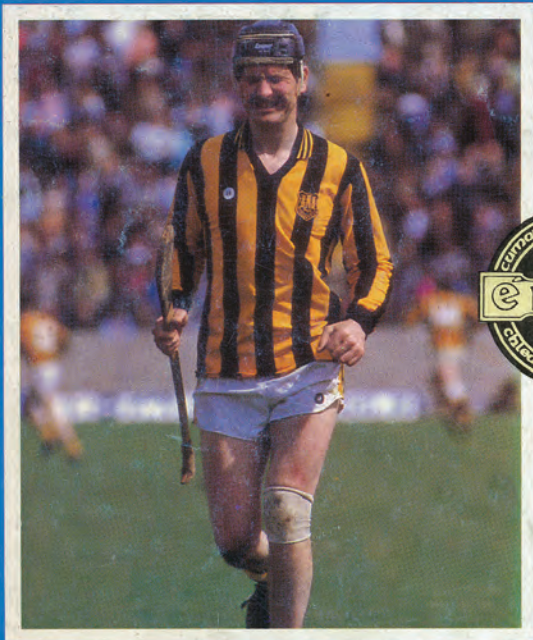


KILKENNY

G.A.A. YEARBOOK 1986



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Pictures - Front Cover

Some of the dedicated players who helped restore pride in Kilkenny hurling after a short valley period.

Top left: Kilkenny captain Frank Holohan was always at pains to do this best for the county. The Army captain led his charges to victory in the National League and Leinster championship. He had something to smile about.

Middle left: Liam Fennelly had no reason to feel downhearted after the year. He was made an All-Star during the season. Highlight for him must have been his hat-trick in the Leinster final.

Bottom left: Billy Fitzpatrick shows the grace and style that helped him win many a game for the county. He has won five all-Ireland senior and four National League medals.

Picture right: Joe O'Hara (Thomastown) who made a valuable contribution to this season's National League victory.

editorial



John Knox, Editor

When doing well, fight to secure the future

In terms of achievement on the field, the year 1986 could be classed a good one for Kilkenny. After all, the county captured four all-Ireland titles. On top of that, the senior hurlers won the National League and Leinster championship, and the handballers captured their share of the glory.

Why, then, do I feel reluctant to give '86 the stamp of approval? Many a county would be over the moon with an annual haul such as Kilkenny's.

The victories were all very welcome, and kept the county to the fore on the G.A.A. scene. For that we should be grateful.

But overall, the balance of the year was not right. The on-field achievements were not matched by off-the-field happenings and, it must be admitted, in some ways the county has lost its sense of direction.

For example, during the year a report relating to under-age games in Leinster came before the County Board. The matter was discussed, but no concrete conclusions were reached. And this, in a county that should be very concerned about the future at this level.

The standard in the local minor championships this season was less than encouraging. Come next season, six years will have passed since Kilkenny won a minor all-Ireland. By comparison with the same period 10 years ago, the results from the early part of this decade make grim reading.

Kilkenny schools did reasonably well in the colleges' championship this year, so that should help things. But the summarily way the report was viewed - as if it might never have any relevance to Kilkenny - left one wondering.

This kind of thing has happened in the past also. Could it be that success has left us insensitive, blinded us to the fact that unless we take measures to safeguard the future, things could go astray. It is easier to fall than to get back up!

The treatment of the Kilkenny senior camogie team in the all-Ireland semi-final and final was also regrettable. On their biggest days of the year the ladies were robbed of support, because of clashes with hurling games. One understands the pressure to complete fixtures, but the ladies were treated shabbily. After all, they were representing Kilkenny. They should have had the whole county behind them on all-Ireland day.

By comparison with some other counties, Kilkenny enjoyed a fine year and the trophy harvest was good. It is at times like this that the fight to secure the future should be doubled.

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HAWK EYE!



HAWKEYE . . . John Henderson never sat down on the job since he made his way onto the Kilkenny senior team in 1979. He has always been a real fighter. He has always had an eye for trouble, and in this atmospheric shot would appear to have spotted something amiss and is going to do something about it. John's first major hurling honour was an all-Ireland medal won with the Kilkenny vocational schools in 1973. Later he won minor (1975), Under-21 (1977) and senior (1979, '82 and 1983) all-Ireland honours, as well as three National League medals. And the big hearted Fenians (Johnstown) man will, no doubt, help himself to a few more honours. Can you make out his opponent in this game? A clue . . . look at the hurley.

Fearless Tommy heading for the top

THE ONES who hit the top in Kilkenny are lucky, by comparison with players in the less successful counties. A good hurler in this county can achieve a lot. That is just the nature of things.

The young hopeful who has made people sit up and take notice this time is Tommy Lennon, a player with a solid background at under-age level. He hails from Bennettsbridge — Balinaboola to be exact — and, like many before him, would appear to have the hurling world at his feet.

Yet, this fearless 20-year-old is lucky he was ever able to play the ancient game, or any other one either. Serious injuries received in an accident when he was just four years old nearly crippled him for life.

"I was lucky then", Tommy recalled. "Apparently I was even lucky to be able to walk".

Naturally, the seriousness of events 16 years ago were told to Tommy later. Apparently a lorry ran over his left foot, and crushed every bone. The damage was so bad that at one stage doctors considered amputation. It was decided to postpone such a drastic measure, and slowly the injury came round. That stay of execution could yet unfold into a story of Disney-like proportions.

During the current National Hurling League, Tommy Lennon forced his way onto the Kilkenny senior team. He has scored in all of his four outings. In one match he hit four points from play. The future looks bright — for player and county.

TOUGH STREAK

"Like most youngsters in the game I always wanted to play senior hurling for Kilkenny", Tommy conceded.

HARDLY a season goes by but a player of promise captures the imagination. The year one doesn't is a rarity. Some come and it all happens for them over a short period. Others stay around a long time.



A day in the life . . . Tommy Lennon holds the trophy aloft after captaining the Kilkenny minor hurling team to victory in the Leinster championship of 1984.

"I am getting the chance now, and I intend taking it".

This bundle of talent appears to know no fear. He has powerful wrist action, and can strike right or left with equal strength. Indeed he showed the tough streak of someone who can take punishment when he played with the Kilkenny under-21 team this year, just three days after receiving 10 stitches in a hand injury.

Perhaps the accident of years ago heightened the threshold of pain? As a growing child, hospitals in Kilkenny and Dublin (Dr. Steevens and Crumlin) were

his home, on and off, for about two years. He endured several operations.

Even today, the memory lingers on. One foot is shorter than the other. He laughed when he explained he bought shoes to fit the big foot. The left heel has been built-up after a series of skin grafts.

"I was told years ago I could have lost the foot at that time", Tommy pointed out. "That is all in the past now, and I am looking to the future when I hope to establish myself on the senior team".

Incidentally, Tommy is a

twin. The other twin is Pat, and two other brothers, Jimmy and Jack, also play in the intermediate grade with Bennettsbridge.

Tommy got his first taste of hurling with the Gowran under-12 team. Later he played with St. Kieran's college, and figured in a Leinster senior final against old rivals, Kilkenny C.B.S. The college lost. In 1984 he captained the Kilkenny minor team to victory in the Leinster championship, but they lost a replayed all-Ireland final to an exceptional Limerick team. In '85 he suffered the same fate with the county under-21 team.

A DEFENDER

However, his luck changed this year. He figured on the all-Ireland winning junior team.

"It was great to win that", he said, in a serious tone. "It was my first all-Ireland win in three starts. Really, winning is what the game is about".

Ironically, Tommy Lennon has played most of his hurling heretofore at inter-county level in defence. Now in the biggest hurling test of his career, he is being asked to play in attack. What are his views?

"I would prefer to play in defence", he said honestly. "It is hard to adjust to the forwards. But if I could establish myself on the team I wouldn't care where I had to play."

"The pace of the game at senior inter-county level is a lot faster than anywhere else. You just have to keep going and cover your man — even in attack. I know I have been lucky to get this far in the game, but I would like to go a lot further".

Who knows what hurling doors might open for this rising star in 1987! He certainly has the talent to go a long way.

Terry Leahy — more to this stylist than the glorious moment of '47

THINK of the legendary deeds that light up the history of Kilkenny hurling! Those fabled masters of the camán and their match-winning scores and saves, luminous long-ago moments kept alive down the years and passed on in awed tones, father to son to grandson!

SOME epic incidents are so well-known, so worn into the sub-conscious of Kilkenny hurling followers, that you hear them trotted out automatically, often by people not even born at the time they took place.

Lory Meagher and the three thrilling finals of 1931 . . . Jimmy Kelly's winning point beneath the thunder-and-lightning skies of Croke Park in 1939 . . . Ollie Walsh's saves . . . Tom Walsh's injury and victory over Tipperary in 1967 . . . the physical power and presence of the 1982-83 double-double team . . .

And, perhaps most famous of all, Terry Leahy in 1947. We all know how it goes. Kilkenny and Cork, maybe the finest all-Ireland final ever, and champions Cork a point up going into lost time. Kilkenny just a whistle away from losing their third decider in a row. Come the hour, cometh the man.

A close-range free for Kilkenny. Centre-forward Terry Leahy is entrusted with saving the day. Thirty yards out from the Railway end and at an angle over near the Nally Stand, he knocks it over and levels the match. Still it wasn't over, though. How does Terry remember those last seconds?



"Though 1947 is always remembered as Terry Leahy's finest hour, it was far from being the last jewel in his hurling crown"

"Tom Mulcahy pucked out for Cork and Paddy Grace sprinted out and cleared it and put Kilkenny on one last attack. Now, playing hurling at home in Urlingford when I was young, the bigger lads used put me in goal, and my elder brother Jerry was always telling me — 'Ter, when you stop the ball, hit it out into open space where there's nobody.'

By ENDA McEVoy



TERRY'S FINEST HOUR

"And I remembered it. Mulcahy, under pressure, cleared it where I knew he would, to an empty space out around Hill 16. I was moving even before he hit it, was five yards up on Alan Lotty. The ball came straight towards me, I gathered and shot." The sliothar went arrowing over the bar at the Railway End and into hurling legend. Seconds later the final whistle sounded. Kilkenny won.

Though 1947 is always remembered as Terry Leahy's finest hour, it was far from being the last jewel in his hurling crown. He emigrated to the U.S.A. in 1949 and helped Kilkenny to their first New York hurling title the following year. For years he wowed 'em at the Polo Grounds, going on to win two more New York championships. He has lived there ever since.

Yonkers, N.Y., is a far cry from Urlingford and growing up on a small farm near the Tipperary border. Hurling came naturally to the Leahys — Jerry, Tommy, Paddy, Jack, Terry and sister Teresa, who played camogie for

Kilkenny in the 1930s. The camán was a crooked ash stick cut from a hedge; the ball an almost-sphere of cork and old leather.

Leahy senior was a cattle buyer. One morning he put his offspring out in a field thinning turnips and took off into town.

"We watched him round the bend of the road, and as soon as he was out of sight we all ran in for our hurling sticks and started playing," Terry recalls. "Didn't he forget his pipe, came back and caught us redhanded! As soon as we saw him we turned and ran in all directions. He couldn't catch us, but that night he walloped us with the razor strap. We finished the turnips the following day."



"He even got advice on hurling from his mother"

Terry's mother often sat down and watched them play. One day Terry was standing near her when he stopped and lifted a loose ball.

"You should have pulled on it, Terry," she said. It was a piece of advice he never forgot.

He saw many of the great hurlers of the late '20s and early '30s, and was fascinated by Lory Meagher. But he rates Paddy Phelan as the greatest stylist he has seen. "He had a wonderful pair of hands. When he put up his hurley the ball would come to him as if attracted by a magnet."

In secondary school in the mid-1930s, Terry was briefly part of a fine Kilkenny C.B.S. team. It contained players like Jim Langton, Eamonn Tallent, John Waldron and Martin McEvoy. Though he missed out on a Leinster title —

having left to work in Dublin — compensation came in the 1935 minor hurling championship. Kilkenny, captained by Paddy Grace, beat Tipperary by 4-2 to 3-2 in a thrilling final. Terry, who played midfield, remembers weighing in with a vital goal.

Two years later, playing with Young Irelands, he won the first of a bucketful of Dublin senior hurling championships. He also hurled junior for his adopted county that year, and actually won an all-Ireland medal.

A choice faced him, then, at the turn of the new year. Should he declare for Dublin for the 1938 senior championship, or play for Kilkenny? Allegiance to the black and amber proved stronger. Irony of ironies, Dublin beat Kilkenny in the 1938 Leinster final and went on to win the all-Ireland!! "I would have been hurling centrefield with Harry Gray on that Dublin team," Terry recalls.

GREATEST EVER

There was compensation the following year. Terry collected his first all-Ireland senior hurling medal in the famous Kilkenny—Cork "thunder-and-lightning" final. He score one point, but what a point it was: "One of the greatest I ever scored". It followed a long clearance from Paddy Phelan. Terry doubled on the drop — a trick learned from "Duffy" Burke in Urlingford — and it sailed over the bar. Micheál Ó Hehir called it one of the fastest points he had ever seen.

A marvellous day it was, and fondly remembered in Kilkenny. And 1947 was another great final too. But in between, things were pretty bleak. Three all-Ireland finals lost, and that never-to-be-forgotten defeat by Antrim in 1943. Things might have been different had not one Terry Leahy been wearing a Dublin jersey and tormenting the life out of his former team-mates.



"Not allowed travel down the country, Terry stayed in the capital and decided to play with Dublin"

Those were the years when the Free State was in turmoil, not just as a result of The Emergency, but also because the foot-and-mouth disease was raging. Not allowed travel down the country, Terry had to stay in the capital and, naturally enough, decided to play for Dublin. The Dubs won the Leinster title in 1941 and 1942. Guess who they beat in the final? Those years, of course, saw Cork's four-



Heroes of 1947 . . . three of the team who figured on the Kilkenny all-Ireland senior hurling winning team of '47. Cork were beaten by 0-14 to 2-7 in the final. From left: Jim Langton, Fr. Ned Kavanagh and Terry Leahy.

in-a-row, with Dublin beaten in three of the finals.

A world turned upside down got back to something near normality in 1945. The fighting stopped. Kilkenny hurling welcomed the return of Terry Leahy. That didn't save the Noresiders against Tipperary in 1945 (without Leahy) or against Cork in 1946 (with Leahy). Then came 1947.

After retaining the Leinster championship, Kilkenny faced Galway in the all-Ireland semi-final in Birr. The game attracted a record 33,250 crowd and threw up one of the most controversial finishes ever.

Galway were a point ahead going into injury time when the referee, a Mr. D. Costello of Tipperary, blew the whistle. Galway supporters thought the match was over and rushed onto the pitch to celebrate. When the confusion died down and the match restarted, Terry Leahy equalised from a free and then intercepted Seanie Duggan's puck-out to set up Jim Langon for the winning point.

So Kilkenny got into their third successive all-Ireland final. And what a final! To quote "An Camán" in the *Kilkenny People*: "Playing with all the traditional skill and prowess for long the salient feature of hurling in this county, Kilkenny defeated Cork by a point (0-14 to 2-7) at Croke Park in one of the greatest and most memorable hurling finals ever played. All the thrills and clamour of great all-Ireland finals surged across the field of memory as Cork and Kilkenny fought grimly and relentlessly in a game that will be written into the annals of the G.A.A. . . . It was a characteristic Kilkenny finish in keeping with the dour and unflinching spirit that many times in the past turned what looked like certain defeat into a sensational triumph, a spirit that has left its mark on Kilkenny hurling from the early days . . ."

ROAR OF CROWD

Terry Leahy was up early that morning, September 7, 1947. He had done his training for the final in the grounds of St. Patrick's college, Drumcondra. He was helped by his brother Tommy, Matty Power and Charlie Kealy from the St. Vincent's club.

"After 8 o'clock Mass that morning Matty and Tommy brought me out for a few pucks. We took frees from the most acute angles — there were only about 36 inches between the posts to aim at. That practice was certainly a great help when I came to take the equalising free, and it was a great thrill to hear the roar of the crowd when I put it over."



"Terry's appearance at the window of the Metropole Hotel excited the masses into tumultuous and sustained cheering"

Kilkenny led by 0-7 to 0-5 at the interval, Terry having scored one point from play. According to "An Camán," he went on to score five more, two from frees and one a "wonder point scored from one of his special half-volley shots while he was on his knees and tackled by two Corkmen."

The Noresiders again made most of the running in that latter period, but two snap Cork goals, and the champions were grimly hanging on as the final dragged into injury-time. Then came Terry Leahy's never-to-be-forgotten piece of magic.

A predictably riotous welcome was the order of the night when Kilkenny arrived home on Monday. Terry's appearance at the window of the Metropole hotel apparently excited the masses below into tumultuous and

TERRY LEAHY - Continued

sustained cheering. That was just the start of a very busy week of celebrations. People gave him a royal reception in Urlingford with a torchlight procession, black and amber flags, the Owen Roe fife and drum band, and shoulder-high transport through the village. The following Friday night there was supper in the Parochial hall, Galmoy, and a banquet organised by Johnstown Gaels in the Spa hotel.

SIMPLE MESSAGE - TRAIN

A short time after the final, Terry bumped into Fr. Seán Reid, O.Carm., a Ballyhale man home on a holiday from America. "Terry," he said, "Kilkenny have never won a New York hurling championship. Would you think of coming out to play for us?" Two years later, in June 1949, Terry Leahy left for New York.

Emigrating at the same time was a group of other Kilkennymen. "Steve Kelly from Mooncoin, the Glendons of Clomantagh, Jackie Cahill, Mike O'Rourke of Glenmore and Jimmy McCormack, Eoghan Ruadh. "We had a meeting down in The Bronx. I was immediately made captain of the team.

All I said was 'lads, we have got to train'."

So they trained. All that bitter New York winter in the snow and sleet of Van Cortlandt Park they prepared for the following year, slogging away in their long-johns. Their big day was a scorcher — 100 degrees. Kilkenny faced Tipperary in the 1950 New York senior hurling final. With 30 seconds left it was all square. A free to Kilkenny 80 yards out.

"My team-mates said 'Terry, you take it.' The referee came up and said 'You must score direct, nobody must touch the ball.' Dead silence," he remembers. "I stooped, lifted the ball, up into the clouds and it sailed over the bar for the winning point. Kilkenny had won their first New York championship." They did it again seven years later, again beating Tipperary by a point. Guess who scored it?

Terry scored another well-remembered point playing for New York against Tipperary at the Polo Grounds in the early 1950s. The ball ran between him and Seamus Bannon (T) at midfield. Terry lifted it, and with a drop-puck sent it soaring over the bar and out into the Harley river.

LOVES COMING HOME

A third New York Championship

came his way in 1961, this time in the junior grade.

Though he has lived in the "Big Apple" for close on 40 years, working for most of them on the buses for the Manhattan and Bronx Surface Transit Operating Authority, one of Terry's greatest pleasures is coming back to Kilkenny. He usually returns in August for three weeks or a month. He visits his relations — brother Paddy and daughter Tishie are both married and living in Dublin — catches up with his old team-mates and friends, goes to a few race meetings and, of course, takes in the all-Ireland hurling finals.

Looking back on his career, who would he name as his greatest opponent? "Oh, that is too difficult . . . Alan Lotty and John Quirke of Cork, Paddy Clohessy of Limerick, John Keane of Waterford — how could I separate them?"

Cork were his favourite opponents: "maybe it was because we had much the same style." Eddie Keher, he feels, was the greatest of more recent times.

His final thoughts? "Well, just that I got a lot of enjoyment out of it all, the days we lost as well as the days of glory when I was so proud of helping bring back the McCarthy Cup to the banks of the Nore."

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Bearing in mind the state of affairs, League win was special

WITH little prior intent, and by following a piecemeal plan that was cast on them more than anything else, Kilkenny got a winning act together and virtually sneaked a win in the National Hurling League that concluded in 1986.

THE Noresiders started the campaign with a lukewarm performance against a shadow Laois side. For a long time outright League victory seemed beyond them because they were in the process of team building, but, like a steam train that slowly builds up a full-head of pressure, Kilkenny got things going and in the end they were flying.

The battling performance in the final win over Galway was the culmination of a lot of hard work. A lot of things had been tried. Some worked, some didn't. Players were disappointed, others overjoyed. But in this particular case the end justified the means.

There is an awful lot to be looked at and considered when taking stock of the League success. One must shower praise on the selectors: Eddie Keher (Rower-Inistioge), Pat Delaney (Fenians) and Johnny Walsh (Shamrocks), not to mention trainer-coach Pat Henderson (Fenians). They came together as a team at a time when confidence was at a very low ebb in the county.

The previous year the League had been little short of a disaster for Kilkenny. At least in the championship there was some improvement, but minus even a Leinster final appearance, never mind a win, it could not be termed anything but a failure, going on Kilkenny standards. Raw courage shown by the players nearly succeeded against all the odds in the championship, but even that was not enough.

LITTLE TO ENTHUSE OVER

So by the time the new League campaign came around there was little to enthuse about on the Noreside. Had some of the players been cheesed off to the extent that they would never bother again? Maybe they might not be able to again! Were things really so bad in the county that all that faced Kilkenny was a bleak future?

A respected former Kilkenny hurler once said to me: "No matter how bad things are in the county, Kilkenny are always capable of winning something. Every year the county is capable of winning the All Ireland. A bit of luck and good handling of the players are all it takes." After the '86 League win I understand exactly what that man meant.

That luck and good handling were evident during the campaign. There was luck involved in the first win over Laois. And, remember, without winning there, Kilkenny's visit to Cork on March 9 for a do-or-die effort wouldn't have mattered. There was also luck, allied with genuine class, involved in the quarter-final downing of surprisingly good Westmeath.

On the other hand, the selectors showed their paces. Sure, they made mistakes, too. But they were prepared to try things, and give players a chance. They succeeded where others had failed in the past and made a full-back out of John Henderson. Joe Hennessy was tried successfully as a corner-back, before being switched out to the wing again. And probably the biggest success of the year was the trying of Richard Power in midfield. The indefatigable Carrickshock clubman was given a new lease of life and enjoyed perhaps his best season ever at inter-county level. Then there was the unearthing of John Mulcahy's unrivalled value in the inter-county game... his use as a scoring substitute.

All these things mattered in the end. The genuine efforts of the mentors were recognised by the players and they matched every good deed off the field with one on it. The performance in the final — on a day that didn't really suit hurling — bore the hallmark of contented and committed men.

SAILING

Kilkenny's seventh National League

win came as a result of a 2-10 to 2-6 success over Galway. The Connacht side won plenty of possession during the early part of proceedings, but still after 26 minutes they found themselves 0-1 to 2-4 behind. By the break they were slightly better off, but still 1-2 to 2-4 down.

Kilkenny did well during the third quarter and managed to get seven points clear. They looked to be sailing. All of a sudden Galway exploded into life, and with 19,000 people engrossed in the contest, the arrears were cut down to the minimum with 10 minutes remaining.

The game seemed to be out of Kilkenny's control. Or was it? The players just dug in their heels, and three splendidly worked scores, plus the useful involvement of Mulcahy as a scoring reserve, got them a win their courage and efforts deserved.

This was no easy match. It was often tough, rough at times even. There was no fancy stuff. There were no easy options. The hurling was hard and direct. Galway didn't die, they were killed off.

Memories that stick in the mind from that day were a brave catch by Kevin Fennelly as half the Galway forward line charged at him; when Paddy Prendergast twice blocked down P.J. Molloy, and then got in a mighty clearance, and the dance of joy by Joe Hennessy afterwards.

But those final day heroics were only the culmination of a lot of hard work, during a long 10-match programme. Remember that in between, Ger Henderson had received a knee injury that threatened his career. During the Christmas break he cycled himself back to full fitness. Paddy Prendergast had been out of favour for a long time but on his return in the semi-final he put in an explosive performance that later earned him the B&I award for April.



KILKENNY, FORD NATIONAL HURLING LEAGUE CHAMPIONS 1986/'86

In front (from left): Lester Ryan, Kieran Brennan, Pat Walsh, Joe Hennessy, Ger Fennelly, Frank Holohan (captain), Liam Fennelly. Behind: Paddy Prendergast, Christy Heffernan, Joe O'Hara, Richie Power, Ger Henderson, Sean Fennelly, John Henderson, Kevin Fennelly.

As mentioned earlier, the League had commenced with a win, if a somewhat shaky one, against Laois. Then there was a narrow defeat in Birr against Offaly. The final score here was 3-13 to 2-14, but on one occasion the winners held a commanding 13 points lead.

For the next round against Galway, the new selectors were in charge. There was an instant change, and whereas before this Kilkenny had played with pride, there was a new passion about their hurling against the Tribesmen. The visitors had won their two opening ties, but despite the fact that only one local forward scored, Kilkenny did well and won. What was most important was the attitude of the players.

LITTLE CONFUSED

Midfielder, Ger Fennelly turned in a cracking afternoon's work, and helped himself to 1-7. There was great praise afterwards, too, for Ger Henderson, Joe Hennessy, Michael Maher — he became ill later and was forced out of the panel — Frank Holohan and Christy Heffernan.

Before the Christmas break Dublin held Kilkenny to a draw at Croke Park, and that sent players and supporters alike into the break a little confused. Had the promise shown against Galway been misleading? There was consolation when Clare were beaten in February, but then Limerick upset the expected trend when they visited Nowlan Park and went away with a victory.

This left Kilkenny going to Cork needing a win to make the quarter-finals. They got it, and in a manner that confirmed the Noresiders would be there or thereabouts when the silverware was being handed out at the end of the year.

It wasn't a particularly nice day to be in Pairc Uí Chaoimh, unless you were a Kilkenny man. It was cold and bleak. The hurling was something else. It was hard, uncompromising. It wasn't always the fittest who survived, but the toughest.

First half goals from Billy Fitzpatrick and Liam Fennelly made all the difference as Kilkenny opened up a half-time lead of 2-7 to 0-4. Early in the new half Cork were reduced to 14 players, when a man was sent off. With 10 minutes remaining the hard-hitting visitors were 3-10 to 0-7 clear. In the end they repulsed a daring Cork fightback, and won by 3-10 to 3-7.

The 'men only' sign could have been hung on the entrance to the Pairc Uí Chaoimh pitch that day. It was that sort of game. I know I went home convinced the sky was the limit for Kilkenny. And you know it was, even despite what happened in the championship subsequently. That was another story entirely.

DROP BACK

Kilkenny were in the sort of form where they had made up their minds they were not going to be beaten. And men who made sure they wouldn't were Ger Henderson, Richard Power, Sean, Kevin and Liam Fennelly and

Lester Ryan, who had a gruelling first half tussle with Tom Cashman. The Blackrock man didn't appear after the break. As well, Johnny Murphy had a splendid match and 'made' 2-2 of Kilkenny's total.



There was a big drop back in form for the quarter-final against Westmeath, who played first rate combination hurling. They had a marked fitness advantage and caused their opponents all sorts of trouble. They deserved more than an interval lead of 0-10 to 1-4. In the end they were shattered by a 43rd minute super goal from Liam Fennelly, and were eventually beaten by 3-8 to 0-15. In the semi-final, Cork offered only token resistance and were easily sent packing. Too easy to be true, in fact.

So Kilkenny marched on to a League win. A win at any time deserves to be praised, but bearing in mind the state of affairs at the beginning, the Noresiders did particularly well this time.

The men who sampled League victory

KILKENNY'S seventh League victory didn't improve their position in the all-time records. The Noresiders still run fourth behind Tipperary, Cork and Limerick. The latter have eight wins to their credit.

The current decade has been a good one for Kilkenny, however. We have won three of our titles in that time. The years and teams were:

1933 (Kilkenny 3-8, Limerick 1-5) — Jim Dermody, Paddy Larkin, Peter O'Reilly, Jack 'Sag' Carroll, Paddy Phelan, Podge Byrne, Eddie Doyle (capt), Eddie Byrne, Lory Meagher, Jimmy Walsh, Tommy Leahy, Martin Power, John Fitzpatrick, Johnny Dunne, Matty Power. *Subs:* Jack Duggan, Tommy Carroll, Martin White, Paddy Dowling, Jimmy O'Connell, Jim Grace, Dan Dunne, Billy Dalton, Jimmy Purcell, Paddy 'Skipper' Walsh, Paddy 'Nully' Walsh, Martin Gleeson, Mick Larkin (was also awarded a medal).

1962 (Kilkenny 1-16, Cork 1-8) — Ollie Walsh, Tom Walsh (Dunnamaggin), Jim 'Link' Walsh, Micky Walsh, Seamus Cleere, Alfie Hickey (capt), Martin Coogan, Andy Comerford, Nicky Power, Eddie Keher, Dick Carroll, Willie Murphy (Carrickshock), Denis Heaslip, Sean Clohosey, Billy O'Dwyer. *Subs:* Johnny McGovern, John Maher, Tommy O'Connell, Paddy Kelly, Dick Dunphy, Larry O'Keeffe.

1966 (Kilkenny 0-9, Tipperary 0-7) — Ollie Walsh, Ted Carroll, Jim Lynch (capt), Jim Treacy, Seamus Cleere, Pat Henderson, Martin Coogan, Paddy Moran, John Teehan, Sean Buckley, Jim Bennett, Claus Dunne, Tom Walsh (Thomastown), Pa Dillon, Joe Dunphy. *Subs:* Pat Carroll, Dick Dunphy, Pat Delahunty, Ned Connolly, Tom Murphy, Wattie McDonald, Tommy O'Connell, Eddie Keher.

THE SCORING ROAD TO VICTORY

October 6, at Nowlan Park:

Kilkenny 1-13 *Laois* 0-7
Scorers: J. Murphy, H. Ryan (0-3 each); G. Fennelly (0-3, one free, one '65'); L. Fennelly (1-0); R. Power, P. Walshe (0-2 each).

October 20, at Birr:

Offaly 3-13 *Kilkenny* 2-14
Scorers: G. Fennelly (0-8, seven frees); L. Fennelly (2-0); H. Ryan (0-3); L. Ryan, J. Murphy, P. Walsh (0-1 each).

November 3, at Nowlan Park:

Kilkenny 2-9 *Galway* 0-9
Scorers: G. Fennelly (1-7, goal penalty, five frees, one '65'); B. Fitzpatrick (1-0); J. Hennessy (0-2).

November 17, at Croke Park:

Dublin 1-10 *Kilkenny* 0-13
Scorers: G. Fennelly (0-7, three frees); E. Fitzpatrick (0-3); C. Heffernan, K. Brennan, J. Murphy (0-1 each).

February 9, at Nowlan Park:

Kilkenny 1-17 *Clare* 2-9
Scorers: J. Mulcahy (0-7); K. Brennan (0-4); L. Fennelly (1-0); G. Fennelly (0-2, one free, one '65'); B. Fitzpatrick (0-2); C. Heffernan, M.J. Ryan (0-1 each).

February 23, at Nowlan Park:

Kilkenny 3-4 *Limerick* 0-15
Scorers: K. Brennan (1-2); J. Mulcahy (1-0, penalty); B. Fitzpatrick (1-0); L. Walsh, R. Power (0-1 each).

March 9, at Pairc Uí Chaoimh:

Cork 3-7 *Kilkenny* 3-10
Scorers: K. Brennan (1-2); G. Fennelly (0-5, frees); L. Fennelly, B. Fitzpatrick (1-0 each); R. Power (0-2); J. Mulcahy (0-1).

April 13, at Portlaoise, League quarter-final:

Kilkenny 3-8 *Westmeath* 0-15
Scorers: G. Fennelly (0-5, frees); L. Fennelly, J. O'Hara (1-0 each); L. Ryan (1-2); B. Fitzpatrick (0-1).

April 27, at Thurles, League semi-final

Kilkenny 2-15 *Cork* 1-8
Scorers: L. Ryan (2-1); K. Brennan (0-5); G. Fennelly (0-5, frees); B. Walton, C. Heffernan, R. Power, L. Fennelly (0-1 each).

May 11, at Thurles, League final

Kilkenny 2-10 *Galway* 2-6
Scorers: G. Fennelly (0-5, frees); G. Heffernan, L. Fennelly (1-0 each); P. Walsh, K. Brennan, J. O'Hara, L. Ryan, J. Mulcahy (0-1 each).

Free-taker Ger led the way

AS USUAL, the main free-taker headed the scorers' chart for Kilkenny during the successful drive through the League. In the absence of a sharpshooter from placed balls in attack, the onerous task fell on the shoulders of midfielder Ger Fennelly, who coped excellently.

The stylish Shamrocks (Ballyhale) player scored one goal from a penalty, and with an abundance of points from frees and 65s, he ended the campaign with a very impressive tally of 1-47. Not bad at all.

The Fennellys kept the scoring

craze in the family. That deadly finisher, Liam, finished second in the Kilkenny scoring chart with 22 points to his credit, which was made up of 7 goals and 1 point.

In all, the Noresiders hit a fabulous 19 goals and 113 points during the League, which worked out at an average of 17 points per match.

The highest individual tally was also scored by Ger Fennelly, when he hit 1-7 against Galway. Not far behind here was newcomer John Mulcahy, who helped himself to seven points in an outing against Clare.

In all, 16 players hit scores during the campaign.

The men who rose the white and green flags were: Ger Fennelly (1-47, or 50 points); Liam Fennelly (7-1, or 22 points); Kieran Brennan (2-25, or 31 points); Billy Fitzpatrick (3-6, or 15 points); Lester Ryan (3-5, or 14 points); John Mulcahy (1-9, or 12 points); Harry Ryan (0-6); Richard Power (0-6); Christy Heffernan (1-3, or 6 points); Johnny Murphy (0-5); Pat Walsh (0-4); Joe O'Hara (1-1); Joe Hennessy (0-2); M.J. Ryan, Liam Walsh, Billy Walton (0-1 each).

BIG NUMBER OF PLAYERS USED

DURING 1985, Kilkenny fared poorly in the National League and All Ireland hurling championship, so there was considerable work to be done when the new selectors took charge.

Perhaps the biggest problem was to get the spirit in the camp right again. But besides, the mentors had to find out which players who had served the county well in previous years still 'had it', as they say, and what was the talent coming through like.

Not surprisingly, then, the selectors got through a big number of players. After all, when they took up office they said the All Ireland championship was the one they wanted to win. The League was going to be used to 'blood' players.

So by the end of the League, Kilkenny had tried 31 players, which was the largest number in years. The previous year 27 had been used, and the year before that, 25.

Only half-a-dozen players figured in all 10 games. They were Kevin, Ger and Liam Fennelly and John Henderson, Joe Hennessy and captain Frank Holohan.

The men who played during the League were (number of games in brackets): Ger, Kevin and Liam Fennelly, Joe Hennessy, John

Henderson, Frank Holohan (10 each); Richard Power (9); Ger Henderson (8); Pat Walsh, Lester Ryan, Kieran Brennan (7 each); Christy Heffernan, Billy Fitzpatrick (6 each); Paddy Prendergast, Tom Brennan, John Mulcahy, Sean Fennelly (5 each); Michael Maher, Johnny Murphy, Joe O'Hara (4 each); Harry Ryan (3); Frank Cummins, Joe Wall, Liam Walsh, M.J. Ryan, John Power (2 each); Dominic Connolly, John Marnell, Billy Purcell, Gordon Ryan, Billy Walton (1 each).

1976 (Kilkenny 6-14, Clare 1-14 replay) - Noel Skehan, Phil 'Fan' Larkin (capt), Nicky Orr, Brian Cody, Pat Lawlor, Pat Henderson, Ger Henderson, Liam 'Chunky' O'Brien, Frank Cummins, Mick Crotty, Matt Ruth, Billy Fitzpatrick, Mick 'Cloney' Brennan, Pat Delaney, Eddie Keher. Subs: John Lyng, Kevin Fennelly, Ger Fennelly, Mick Fennelly, John Marnell, Dick O'Hara, Kieran Purcell, Joe Hennessy, Tom McCormack. McCormack and Purcell played in the drawn game. Nicky Orr and Billy Fitzpatrick came on for the replay.

1982 (Kilkenny 2-14, Wexford 1-11) - Noel Skehan, John Henderson, Brian Cody (capt), Dick O'Hara, Nicky Brennan, Ger Henderson, Paddy Prendergast, Joe Hennessy, Frank Cummins, Ger Fennelly,

Richard Power, Kieran Brennan, Mick 'Cloney' Brennan, Liam Fennelly, Billy Fitzpatrick. Subs: Matt Ruth, Kevin Fennelly, Paddy Neary, Willie Purcell, Billy Walton, Dinny McCormack, Frank Holohan, Eamon Wallace, Paudie Lannon, Christy Heffernan, Maurice Power, John Lawlor.

1983 (Kilkenny 2-14, Limerick 2-12) - Noel Skehan, John Henderson, Dick O'Hara, Paddy Neary, Nicky Brennan, Ger Henderson, Paddy Prendergast, Frank Cummins, Sean Fennelly, Richard Power, Ger Fennelly, Harry Ryan, Billy Fitzpatrick, Christy Heffernan, Liam Fennelly (capt). Subs: Tom McCormack, Paudie Lannon, Kevin Fennelly, Brian Cody, Eamon Wallace, Joe Hennessy, Mick 'Cloney' Brennan, Matt Ruth, Willie Purcell, Lester Ryan, Ned Kelly, Jimmy Kinsella.

1986 (Kilkenny 2-10, Galway 2-6) - Kevin Fennelly, Paddy Prendergast, John Henderson, Frank Holohan (capt), Joe Hennessy, Ger Henderson, Sean Fennelly, Richard Power, Ger Fennelly, Pat Walsh, Kieran Brennan, Joe O'Hara, Lester Ryan, Liam Fennelly, Christy Heffernan. Subs: John Mulcahy (used), John Brennan, Paudie Brennan, Tommy Brennan, Billy Fitzpatrick, Harry Ryan. Frank Cummins was injured at the time and was not listed.

Bad year, so Liam the lone star

KILKENNY'S poor showing during the hurling year of 1985, they did badly in the shake-up of the League and failed to make the provincial final, was highlighted when the Bank of Ireland All-Star team was picked.

Only one Nore side player was chosen, which was the lowest number of any year when locals made the much sought-after selection.

The All-Star scheme was introduced in 1971 by Carrolls cigarettes, and then taken over in 1979 by the Bank of Ireland. In all that time, Kilkenny failed on three occasions to have anyone picked. The empty years were 1977 (then Carrolls) and 1980 and '81.

Our lone '85 star, Liam Fennelly (Shamrocks) was picked at left full-forward. The previous worst when Kilkenny players were honoured was



Liam Fennelly.

only 12 months earlier, when two men, Joe Hennessy and Kieran Brennan, made the exclusive 15.

The county's best showing was in the second double winning year of recent times, 1983. On that occasion, after a League final win over Limerick, and then an All-Ireland victory over Cork, nine Nore side players were chosen as Bank of Ireland All-Stars.

This latest success was Liam Fennelly's second. He also made the team in 1983.

In the 15 years of the scheme, Kilkenny have taken a record number of hurling awards. In all, 60 awards have been brought to the Nore side. Second are Cork (49), Galway (26), Limerick (25), Offaly (18), Wexford and Tipperary (14 each), Clare (13), Waterford (4), and Dublin and Laois (one each).

Jimmy Walsh

— majestic player, captain and selector

By Paddy Buggy

Former President of the G.A.A.



IN 1939 Jimmy Walsh became the first Kilkenny captain to receive the McCarthy cup for the second time. He had also skippered the successful Kilkenny side against Clare in 1932. He gave great service to hurling and played in seven finals in all as follows:

1932 — v Clare — captained the winning team; 1933 — v Limerick (successful); 1935 — v Limerick (successful); 1936 — v Limerick (lost); 1939 — v Cork (captained the winning team); 1940 — v Limerick (lost).

He played in the 1935 League game in Kilkenny which was described by Mick Mackey (Limerick) as the greatest hurling match he ever played in. He was captain of Kilkenny in the League game in Cork in 1940, when Christy Ring made his debut. Kilkenny did the double in 1933 and won the

first League title, as well as the All-Ireland, a feat only equalled by the Kilkenny team of 1982 and 1983. The county's League victory didn't come until 1962. In 1934 he went on a tour of the 'States with the Kilkenny team before losing the Leinster final on a replay to Dublin.

In 1937 the Noresiders defeated Dublin in the relayed Leinster final, but Jimmy Walsh was not available for the final played in Killarney. In 1940, he won an Oireachtas medal. In 1941 the foot and mouth epidemic interfered with the Kilkenny championship ambitions as Jimmy Walsh's career with the county team came to its end.

He was one of the youngest captains to lead a winning all-Ireland team. There is an argument to be settled here. At first it was claimed that John Roberts was the

youngest. Then many argued that Jimmy Walsh was the youngest. Again when Billy Fitzpatrick (1975) led Kilkenny to victory it was claimed he was the youngest.

OUTSTANDING CAREER

Jimmy was also successful with Leinster in the Railway Cup (1932, '33, '36). He had an outstanding career with his club, Carrickshock. He helped them to six senior hurling titles — 1931 their first against Urlingford; 1938 and the record four-in-a-row of 1940 — 1943.

Peculiarly enough, it does not always follow that great hurlers are great judges of hurling. Putting prominent all-Ireland hurlers on selection committees does not always bear results. Jimmy Walsh, I would say, was an exception to this rule. For his club Carrickshock and Kilkenny, he had a very keen perception when it came to judging a hurler. Unlike many

great hurlers, he was prepared to make allowances that players of different generations might not measure up to his standard.

He was a very dedicated hurler, and spent hours at home practising accuracy by hitting the ball at the window of the loft over the barn. Whether playing at midfield or in the forwards, he seldom left the field without scoring. To avoid being blocked he developed a peculiar way of hitting the ball very close to his face, and received many facial injuries as a result. He developed wonderful friendships with opponents. Jack Lynch (Cork), who later became Taoiseach, always enquired about Jimmy and often went to see him. He was also very helpful to friends from other counties, and it is said he gave his hurley to John Keane (Waterford) to bring him luck in the 1948 final won by Waterford.



One of the great Carrickshock teams from the early part of the century.

LOVED HURLING

Jimmy believed in playing an attacking game. He often advised that a wing half-back should advance to tackle an oncoming player, that a team-mate centreback or corner back should cover, and that as a last resort there was always the goalkeeper. Above everything else, he had a tremendous love for hurling. He would never miss an important game played by Carrickshock or Kilkenny. I remember meeting Jimmy on his way home after one of our great victories of the seventies at a time when his health was failing. He replayed many strokes and scores from the game. The victory brought him the elation and sense of achievement that comes to every good Kilkenny hurling supporter on such an



Jimmy Walsh.

occasion. Then suddenly tears filled his eyes and he said: "You are young and you'll see many more great finals. This might be my last".

Jimmy won a junior championship with Carrickshock in 1928 when they defeated Wellbrook in the final. The following is a record of Carrickshock's involvement at county final level during Jimmy's era when Carrickshock's clashes with the star studded Eire Óg team were something else, as the Yank might say. Carrickshock also had some great tussles during that period with Tullaroan, and neighbours Mullinavat.

1931 Carrickshock 5-8; Urlingford 3-8; 1932 Mooncoin 6-4; Carrickshock 5-5; 1933 Tullaroan 6-5; Carrickshock 5-4; 1934 Tullaroan 6-6; Carrickshock 1-5; 1935 James Stephens 3-5; Carrickshock 2-5; 1938 Carrickshock 2-5; Eire Óg 1-5; 1939 Eire Óg 3-7; Carrickshock 3-5; 1940

Carrickshock 1-4; Mullinavat 1-2; 1941 Carrickshock 4-5; Eire Óg 3-7; 1942 Carrickshock 3-2; Threecastles 2-3; 1943 Carrickshock 3-6; Mullinavat 1-3; 1944 Eire Óg 7-9; Carrickshock 4-4; 1945 (replay) Eire Óg 2-7; Carrickshock 1-10; Eire Óg 4-8; Carrickshock 1-7; 1946 Thomastown 5-4; Carrickshock 4-5; 1948 Carrickshock 2-3; Tullaroan 1-12; 1951 Carrickshock 5-6; Tullaroan 4-5.

Jimmy Walsh is buried in his native townland in Kilcreedy cemetery, alongside his centrefield partner and team-mate, Jimmy Kelly and other Carrickshock stalwarts, including 'The Count' Jack Phelan, a noted referee, who officiated at the junior all-Ireland final of 1950.



Winners of the Special Co. Board awards for the year were (from left) Ger. Fennelly (Shamrocks), Billy Ronan (Graigue-Ballycallan), Adrian Ronan (Graigue-Ballycallan), Michael Galway (Thomastown), Jim Neary (Graigue-Ballycallan), Greg Power (Kilmacow), and John Mulcahy (O'Loughlin/Gaels).

Record take for Graigue-Ballycallan

IN THE third year of the annual awards presented by the Co. Board to outstanding performers on the local Gaelic games scene, there was a record take for the then junior hurling champions, Graigue-Ballycallan.

This famous club won three prizes, which outstripped the previous best of two awards, which were taken by St. Martin's (Ballyfoyle-Coon-Muckalee) and Mullinavat in previous years.

For the second time, St. Martin's won the club of the year award following their all-Ireland success. They won this same honour in 1984, following their first Kilkenny senior hurling championship victory.

Michael Galway took the senior football prize,

which meant it has gone to the Thomastown club each time since the scheme was introduced in 1983.

AWARDS

| | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Club of the year | St. Martin's |
| Club official of the year | Jim Neary (Graigue-Ballycallan) |
| Senior hurler | Ger Fennelly (Shamrocks) |
| Intermediate hurler | John Mulcahy (O'Loughlin-Gaels) |
| Junior hurler | Billy Ronan (Graigue-Ballycallan) |
| Senior footballer | Michael Galway (Thomastown) |
| Junior footballer | Greg Power (St. Patrick's, Kilmacow) |
| Youths player | Adrian Ronan (Graigue-Ballycallan) |

"Struggling with footballers wasn't a penance" — Retiring Secretary

SOME PEOPLE HAVE UNENVIABLE JOBS! BE THEY AN OCCUPATION OR CASUAL POSITION, YOU OFTEN WONDER, WHY WOULD SOMEONE DO SUCH A TASK? WHY BOTHER AT ALL? IS IT REALLY WORTH THE EFFORT?

PATRICK Street publican, Seamus Delaney, is a person with such a job. He is secretary of the Kilkenny Football Board, and has been for the past 17 years. Not exactly a position likely to bring one much appreciation, never mind glory, because the Kilkenny footballers have been bottom of their particular sporting world for years now. Why bother, you ask again?

"It's all about ones love for the game", Seamus says in his soft voice, eyes lifting, not really expecting you to understand. "I enjoyed it immensely at the beginning, but things have gone downhill in recent years".

The beginning for Seamus Delaney with the Football Board was in 1969. Since, he has seen five chairmen take office — Mick Meally (Railyard); Francis O'Brien (Kilmoganny); Mick Meally again, Nicky McGrath (Kilkenny V.S.); Barry Henriques (Coolagh) and Michael O'Neill (St. Senan's). He has seen his last.

The long serving secretary of the Football Board has decided to call it a day. The end has come.

"I will see it out to the end of this year and that is it", Seamus explains. "I will always be available to help out the Board, but I have decided to step down from office".

A lot of water has passed under the bridge since the secretary became actively involved in G.A.A. affairs in the county. With people like Jim Treacy, Jack Walsh, Andy Heffernan and Cyril Keegan he started the Clann na Gael football club. They enjoyed some success, and

following a junior championship win in 1962 they won the senior title in '63 and '64. The first club president was well-known local businessman, Con Shea, who hails from Kerry and has a deep love for the big ball game.

Around that time too, Seamus played a bit of hurling with James Stephens. He finished in 1968.

"The year after 'Stephens won the senior championship", Seamus points out, and laughs loudly, suggesting there was no connection between the two.

But bearing in mind his family background, it was really no surprise Seamus got involved in football, rather than hurling, in Kilkenny. His father, the late James Delaney from Lower Conahy and all belonging to him were interested in the game. His father's uncle, Mike Maher from Kennyswell road kicked the first point at Nowlan Park when playing for Sarsfields (Conahy). That was way back in the twenties.

Away from the Gaelic scene, Seamus did a bit of boxing with the St. Patrick's club. At one time he was beaten at the semi-final stage in the all-Ireland junior middle-weight championship. Around the same time present Smithwick's brewery employee, Peter Gaule was a clubmate and he nearly won an all-Ireland title too.

But Seamus remembers well the day he received his introduction to football in Kilkenny. It was on December 8, 1950, when he was a pupil of St. Patrick's De La Salle. An under-14 team was formed, and with a



Seamus Delaney, who has retired after serving 17 yrs as Kilkenny Football Board Secretary.

lot of help from a Bro. Cyril, two county championships were won. Among the teammates then were George Leahy, the current Offaly hurling coach, and Mick Dunne.

"In my early days with the Board things were an awful lot different than they are now", Seamus points out. "We haven't the same type of people involved. The county team would never be short in those times, simply because the likes of Larry Hayden, Mick Meally, Francis O'Brien, Johnny Tobin and Tom Ryan, plus a few others, would come to every game and bring four or five players with them. The attitude was completely different".

This year an all-time low was hit when Kilkenny were hammered by 43 points (6-25 to no score) by Clare in the National Football League. That happening, and the secretary's decision to retire, are not linked, he assures.

"The attitude to football in Kilkenny in the sixties and early seventies was totally different", Seamus says. "Up to 20 players often trained for games in those days. The bulk came from two or three clubs, maybe eight or so from the Railyard. Around that time I thought we might win a Leinster junior title".

The nearest Kilkenny went was in 1971, when they were beaten by 2-9 to 0-5 in the final by Dublin.

"In my opinion, there is not a great difference between the standard of play in the finals then and now", he reckons. "The difference in approach now is that games are played at the wrong time of year, and in some cases when it suits people. Gradually this change has come about. A huge effort by clubs is the only way to get the game back to the way it was".

"The results of the senior inter-county games are not helping the attitude towards football", he goes on. "It was always a hard slog to be involved in football in Kilkenny, and I can't see that changing dramatically".

Despite all the knocks he and the game has taken down the years, Seamus still has happy memories. He made many friends all over the country, and particularly in Fermanagh and Leitrim, two counties who always welcomed Kilkenny with open arms. There was also the occasion during one Beer Festival in the early seventies when Kerry, the then all-Ireland champions, came to the city to play Kilkenny. Mick O'Connell and Mick O'Dwyer, in all 12 of the all-Ireland team, made that trip.

"You ask me how I stuck it on the sideline all those years watching Kilkenny struggle and I can't tell you", Seamus says. "To me it wasn't a penance. Even after it all I still wouldn't give up on football in Kilkenny. With a change of attitude towards the game a lot of progress can be made."

Meet Tommy Murphy

Full name: Tommy Murphy.

Birthplace: Ballyda, Danesfort, Co. Kilkenny.

Birth date: March 14, 1949.

Occupation: Revenue collector.

Height: 5' 11"

Weight: 14½ st.

Married: August, 1984, to Marian.

Children: Kathryn.

Car: Datsun Cherry.

Hurling hero of Childhood: Ollie Walsh.

Football hero of Childhood: Mick O'Connell (Kerry).

Favourite sport (outside Gaelic games): All field sports.

Other sports person you most admire: Sean Kelly (cycling).

Most memorable match: 1972 all-Ireland hurling final.

Favourite holiday resort: Co. Donegal.

Favourite activity on day off: Reading, gardening.

Favourite TV programme: Yes, Prime Minister.

Which person in the world would you most like to meet: Bob Hope.

Biggest influence on Gaelic career: My family.



Tommy Murphy

Personal ambition: To see Kilkenny win the 1987 all-Ireland senior hurling final.

Previous position held: Secretary Danesfort GAA club; chairman Northern Board.

Honours won: Two vocational school and two Leinster factory league medals.

English signature:

Tommy Murphy

Irish signature:

Tomás Múiré

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Abolishing junior event a mistake— —Chairman

Tommy Murphy
Chairman Kilkenny
County Board



KILKENNY Co. Board chairman, Tommy Murphy, has been a lucky official. He may not realise it, the county may not realise it, but few men serving their first term in the county chair enjoyed the good times he did.

And while some will not consider '86 a particularly good year, the county did win two all-Ireland titles (camogie and junior hurling) as well as the National Hurling League and Leinster senior hurling championship.

"All things considered, it wasn't a bad year, I suppose," the Danesfort official felt. At club level things didn't go too badly either. Danesfort won their first Northern junior hurling title in 42 years. And even if they were unsuccessful in the hurling and football county finals, getting to both was an achievement in itself.

Particularly pleasing for the chairman this season was the all-Ireland victory of the Kilkenny juniors. He sees great merit in this competition, and is all on to have it continue, despite calls to the contrary elsewhere.

"It would be an awful pity of this championship was abolished", he thought. "This could be a great breeding ground for senior players of the future". And he mentioned the names of Michael Walsh, Michael Cleere, Tommy Lennon and Tommy Bawle, all members of this year's junior team, who have already played senior with Kilkenny.

"Junior clubs don't really get the exposure they deserve", Mr. Murphy went on. "For some, particularly the players with struggling clubs, the challenge can go out of playing at that level. If such players had the county team, and by that I mean junior, because for the majority the senior team is out of the question, then there would be a real goal to aim at. Every player needs some motivating factor".

PLAYERS INTERESTED

Locally players for the Kilkenny junior team are picked from the intermediate and junior championships. But it is in the lower grade that he felt the most benefit could be derived.

"I know from being a selector with the Kilkenny junior team that the players are very, very interested", the chairman explained. "There are lots of players who love playing for their county. The majority haven't a hope of ever being handed a senior jersey. They should not be forgotten.

"I feel if the junior inter-county championship is done away with an everything left exclusively to the seniors, then the G.A.A. would only be catering for an elite group of talented players", he said. "Good players could be lost in such a situation".

He said that in the past the county junior team has produced players who later developed into senior stars. And he picked just one junior side, that of 1956, that

threw-up senior stars of future years like Jim 'Link' Walsh, Denis Heaslip and Tom Walsh (Dunnamaggin). Another important point he felt worth remembering was that the junior inter-county team caused little or no disruption at local level.

LEAVE DOOR OPEN

The chairman floated the idea that the powers-that-be might compromise on their decision to finish the junior all-Ireland championship.

"Maybe the door could be left open for the interested counties to continue", he suggested. "Kilkenny would definitely continue, and a few counties I have spoken to, including losing all-Ireland finalists Limerick, would be keen to keep the competition alive also. A fixture problem does exist for the G.A.A., but doing away with a competition that cuts across nothing else won't help the situation."

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Test triumph shouldn't determine future of Aussie tour

THE G.A.A. during 1986 broke new ground. More new friends were made in far-off places, and the long-held wish of the 'Association to forge further international links was brought a step closer.

AN Irish Gaelic football team travelled to Australia, and in a compromise game, played a three-match international Test series. The Irish won the series 2-1, and avenged a win of a couple of years earlier when the Aussies visited this country.

Naturally, there was great jubilation after Ireland's win. It is not every day that an Irish football team travels to far-off places and hammers the opposition. It happened this time, and everyone had every reason to be happy.

Under the cunning leadership of manager Kevin Heffernan (Dublin), the Irish were in superb form. They lost the first test, but the wily Heffernan learned a lot in defeat, and in the two remaining matches the Irish improved each time. Excellent football was played, and the Irish players proved themselves top class athletes, and ambassadors.

The Irish won and everyone was happy, so the series should continue, right? We were all told in our early years in games that winning wasn't everything. That wise old saying came to mind the Friday afternoon Ireland beat the Aussies to clinch the deciding third Test. One had to ask the question — was it worth all the effort?

The compromise game was a mixture of Gaelic football and Australian Rules football. It was hard to determine exactly how much of one was mixed in with the other. The round

Gaelic ball was used, and not the oval (rugby-type) one. The tackle, which caused an awful lot of confusion for both sides, wasn't of the usual Gaelic style. Neither was the method of compiling the scores.

CONCEPT AT VARIANCE

Like myself, most people could only form impressions about the Tests by what we saw on television or read in the newspapers, or both. On arrival back in Ireland the players, and most of the travelling party, seemed enthusiastic about the trip down-under. Off the field the Australians were apparently friendly, accommodating hosts. On it, their players, in the first Test particularly and to a lesser degree in the second, were not so friendly. Particularly in the first match, their concept of what was allowed was at sharp variance with that of their opponents.

Like a clutter of red-faced ambassadors trying to explain away a diplomatic slip, the excuse-makers were out in force the following days pleading — "But we didn't know that." They didn't know you couldn't tackle high, body check, punch or brawl during the games. Some of the Irish didn't go back from the rough stuff, but when the excuses were made, well, they were on the Australians' home ground, so they accepted the apologies, or appeared to.

In the second Test the level of robust play decreased. Still, it wasn't exactly right, and further emphasis was placed on skill in the third Test. In this atmosphere the Irish ran away with the game. They won hands down. Perhaps it was that the Australians had compromised too much, and had led to their own downfall by agreeing to give the most points for a goal. They were unable to score them. The Irish were, and that was a major difference between the teams.

The general feeling in Ireland on the evidence thrown up by the television which, it must be conceded, can often be misleading, was that when the rough and tumble play was taken out of the game, the Australians were lost.

Heavy, physical contact is an important part of their game. The players accept it and cope. The fans like and understand it. Something like bull-fighting in Spain. Some like it, others don't.

Anyway, in Australia when it came down to playing skilful football, the Irish won hands down. Their players appeared more subtle, talented performers — it couldn't all be put down to the round ball — who also had gained a superb level of fitness. Oh sure, the shrewd coaching and team selections of Heffernan made a difference. But to us back home it appeared as if the Australians couldn't cope without the heavy stuff which, after all, is part of their own game.

PROFESSIONALS V. AMATEURS

One remembers watching the first Test and seeing the violent punch-ups and thinking 'why doesn't Heffernan take the players off the pitch.' That feeling

abounded, and some suggested that Ireland should come home, even at that early stage.

Now everything that happened has to be weighed-up. The G.A.A. is interested in establishing international links, but is Australia, with this half-Irish, half-Australian game the place to do it? Can the Australian professionals — they are highly paid to play their own game — be pitted against the Irish amateurs. That is a major question that deserves a lot of analysis.

Going into the third Test Irish people at home feared what was going to happen on the field. Events in the two earlier games suggested the third one was going to be dog-rough, because it was going to be the deciding one. Thankfully it wasn't. Ireland won a generally sporting game easily. But those fears for the well-being of the players prior to that match should not be forgotten on decision day. Just like Ireland's victory in the series should not be the determining factor.

An international outlet for Gaelic football and the players is desirable. Some players from the weaker counties, the ones never considered potential All-Ireland champions, distinguished themselves down-under. Some weeks after the tour one of the players, Pat O'Byrne (Wicklow) played in Kilkenny, and it was a joy to watch him. Wicklow team handlers suggested his game had improved 100% by his involvement with the Irish team. Good for player, county and Ireland.

Bearing such a fact in mind, it must be admitted the Australian tour had its merits. But, really, did the good outweigh the bad? Two out of three games suggested it didn't.

RECORD MAKERS THE STARS



THE ST. KIERAN'S COLLEGE JUVENILE HURLING TEAM
— which won the Leinster Championship for the sixth consecutive year.

Back (l. to r.): Fr. Fergus Farrell (coach), Ger Power, John Shefflin, Liam Hennessy, John Dooley, Michael Holohan, Pat Purcell, Philip Carroll, Barry Power, Canice Brennan, Sean Ryan, Pat Leahy, Seamus Knox (trainer). Middle (l. to r.): Andrew Comerford, Paul Cody, Pat Nolan, Timmy Finlay, Conor Manogue, Paul O'Dowd, Joe Dermody, Philip Larkin. Front (l. to r.): Noel Brennan, Gary Farrell, Larry Mahony, P. J. Delaney, Niall Lahart, Kieran Carey.

SKILFUL young hopefuls from St. Kieran's college were the stars of the schools scene as far as Kilkenny was concerned this year.

In a season that was dominated by Offaly at the higher levels, the dashing juvenile hurlers from St. Kieran's recorded a bit of history.

The all conquering St. Kieran's juvenile hurling team completed the sixth win on-the-trot in the Leinster championship. And the young boys finished on a high note, and hammered great rivals, Kilkenny C.B.S. by 6-11 to 0-4 in the final.

In the past, St. Kieran's put five wins together, even at senior level, but never the half dozen. But the boys of '86 succeeded where a lot of others failed in the past.

There was no living with this exciting St. Kieran's team. They started with a 5-11 to 2-4 win over Good Counsel (New Ross). Believe it or not, they took it easy there after leading by 1-4 to 1-3 at half-time.

The C.B.S., despite the eventual scoreline, mounted stiff opposition in the Leinster final. At half-time the sides were level at 0-3 each, but when wind assisted after the change around, St. Kieran's ran riot. They hammered in the goals, and a particularly memorable one was an

effort from Pat Leahy, following a cross from Kieran Carey. That exciting score epitomised the brilliance of this particular team, which had stars in John Dermody, Conor Manogue, Ger. Power, Pat Purcell, Timmy Finlay, Phil Carroll and P. J. Delaney.

The record making **St. Kieran's** team was: J. Dermody, P. J. Delaney, M. Holohan, B. Power, A. Comerford, P. Purcell, P. Nolan, P. Carroll, T. Finlay (capt), C. Manogue, G. Power, P. Leahy, C. Brennan, J. Dooley, N. Brennan. Sub: K. Carey.

Kilkenny C.B.S.: N. Lacey, G. Murphy, D. Beirne, D. Denieffe, M. Dowling, J. Valentine, F. Cleere, B. Galvin, C. Keegan, N. Butler, S. Gannon, S. Fitzpatrick, B. Delaney, D. O'Neill, D. Doheny. Subs: J. Peters, M. Beattie, M. Culleton.

For the second successive year, St. Kieran's lost the senior hurling Leinster final to Birr Community School, who later went on to win the all-Ireland title. The provincial final was a tough, rugged affair with some nasty pulling at times.

The Noresiders were there with a chance until the three-quarter mark. Then Birr hit a purple patch, and rammed home 3-3 in seven minutes. At the three-quarter stage the score was

2-2 (B) to 0-6, but that scoring burst put the Offaly boys on the way to a 5-6 to 0-6 win.

In the semi-final, St. Kieran's recorded a facile 6-7 to 1-5 win over Good Counsel (New Ross). The most impressive players during the campaign were John Crosby, John Teehan, David Phelan and 'keeper, Richard Cashin.

St. Kieran's players used were — R. Cashin, J. Crosby, A. Smith, D. Carroll, D. Phelan (capt.), J. Teehan, J. Gavin, P. Fahy, E. Mulrooney, P. O'Neill, R. O'Neill, K. Conroy, N. Carrigan, D. Forristal, B. Ryan, J. O'Carroll, S. O'Neill, A. Ronan, D. Bradley.

Kilkenny C.B.S. got off to a flying start in the championship, but failed to get past their first match. They banged home three goals in five minutes in a blistering start against St. Peter's College (Wexford). That was the best of it. At half-time Peter's led by 2-10 to 3-0 and eventually won by 2-12 to 3-5. Those who showed promise for the losers were Richard Manogue, Donal Kennedy and Jimmy Walton.

Kilkenny C.B.S.: O. Walsh, N. Morrissey, D. Kennedy, J. Dalton, R. Manogue, K. McCormack, J. Treacy, M. Kennedy, J. Dermody, S. Moore, L. Byrne, J. Walton, B. Nugent,

V. Bolger. Sub.: P. Brennan.

There was no pot of gold at the end of the road for the Kilkenny county vocational schools senior hurling team either. They lost by 1-6 to 2-6 against Offaly in the Leinster final at rain-lashed Portlaoise.

A 60 second lapse during the first half, when they conceded two goals, more or less killed Kilkenny. They were doing well in the opening period against a strong gale. Then they conceded the two goals and that helped Offaly into an interval lead of 2-6 to no score. The winners failed to add to their total after the break, but the combined Kilkenny efforts came up short, despite great work by Dick Aylward, Aidan Finan, Brian Foskin, Matty Wall and Sean O'Brien.

Kilkenny: S. O'Brien (Thomastown); W. Bolger (Graignamanagh); B. Foskin (Mooncoin); P. J. Grace (Johnstown); M. Wall (Johnstown); A. Aylward (Ballyhale); J. Cullen (Thomastown); A. Finan (Thomastown); D. Aylward (Ballyhale); R. McEvoy (Johnstown); J. Conlon (Thomastown); K. Phelan (Slieverue); D. Murphy (Johnstown); M. Bookle (Thomastown); J. Brennan (Johnstown). Subs: J. Byrne (Thomastown); S. Webster (Johnstown); T. Hughes (Johnstown).

Even after defeat there were a lot of fine moments

KILKENNY hurling fans had a rare experience in the all-Ireland senior championship this year when Galway beat the fancied Noresiders in the semi-final at Thurles. Following a thrilling passage through Leinster, the Marble City boys looked a good bet for a McCarthy Cup success, but the Connacht champions smashed a dream that had begun to take shape as early as the previous March.

It was in the third month of the year that Kilkenny travelled to Cork in the National League needing to win to make the quarter-finals. A display full of fire and desire earned them the success they wanted, and from that day on there was no doubt but Kilkenny would be a force to be reckoned with come championship time.

The subsequent win in the League final only added fuel to this belief, and everything seemed to be falling into the expected pattern when the Noresiders swept through Leinster. There the script ended, because Galway had a few plans of their own, and a particularly good one for the semi-final tied Kilkenny in so many knots the Noresiders didn't know what was happening for much of the time as the Tribesmen pulled off a huge surprise and won by 4-12 to 0-13.

The surprise for Kilkenny wasn't only

that Galway won the day, when they bridged a 33-year gap since they had last beaten the Noresiders in a semi-final. There was also a surprise the way Galway played. They took a man from the full-forward line and operated him anywhere between midfield and their opponents goal, and this mesmerised the Leinster champions. For long stages the Kilkenny players didn't know what was happening, and in truth, they never looked like getting to grips with their opponents tactics.

As mentioned earlier, that Galway victory was a rare experience for Kilkenny fans. The Kilkenny hurling record against Galway is good, and the semi-final one particularly so. But for some strange reason there was uneasy talk on the Noreside during the week prior to the semi-final that went something like this: "They will have to

beat us sometime" or "They will catch us in the championship some day, and this could be it". Perhaps people had an insight into the future?

NO SIMPLE TASK

The last time Galway beat Kilkenny in a championship semi-final was way back in 1953 (3-5 to 1-10). And the last time the Noresiders were beaten in the all-Ireland semi was in 1958 when the then defending champions fell to Tipperary (1-13 to 1-8).

Although the first all-Ireland senior championship was that of 1887, the first semi-final as such was not played until the 1897 series. Kilkenny started their good run against Galway there, and won by 3-4 to no score.

Since, the Tribesmen have scored five semi-final successes over Kilkenny (1923, '25, '29, '53 and 1986).

On the other hand, Kilkenny have beaten the Connacht men on 15 occasions. Perhaps it was that Kilkenny had only beaten Galway in the League final at the same venue on May 11 that had home supporters uneasy. It was going to be no simple task putting two wins in major matches over Galway in the space of only a few weeks. It turned out to be impossible.

The Connacht champions were far from dejected afterwards when they looked back and summed-up the League final. They had only failed there in the closing 10 minutes, so they knew they had a real chance in the championship. They prepared well, and in the weeks leading up to the semi-final all was quiet on the western front, and while most sports commentators concentrated on Kilkenny, the Tribesmen were left to concoct what turned out to be a great match plan.

All the talk was about Kilkenny, and a lot centred around a supposed new physical approach. The way some commentators were putting it you would think Galway were facing a team intent on smashing them up. True,



KILKENNY — THE LEINSTER SENIOR HURLING CHAMPIONS OF 1986

Back row (l. to r.): Christy Heffernan, Paddy Prendergast, Richard Power, Sean Fennelly, Liam Fennelly, Lester Ryan, John Henderson. Front (l. to r.): Kieran Brennan, Joe Hennessy, Harry Ryan, Kevin Fennelly, Frank Holohan, Ger Henderson, Pat Walsh, Ger Fennelly.

Kilkenny were taking no prisoners, but some writers looking for headlines went completely over the top. In one particular case, for example, a Sunday newspaper scribe telephoned Kilkenny centre-back, Ger Henderson, looking for an interview on the so-called "hard men of hurling".

As ever, Ger was willing to help and gave his views, but precious little of what he said was used. When Ger turned the tables and asked the interviewer to name these so-called 'hard men' on the Kilkenny team, the man was stuck for words. Yet the man wrote a hollow article castigating the so-called tough men in the game, and pointed the finger in the direction of Kilkenny.

UNFAIR WRITING

Others took up the theme, in exactly the same fashion as they later ganged together and told everyone the years were catching up on the Kerry footballers before the all-Ireland. How wrong they were there.

But the obstacle this kind of unfair writing put in front of Kilkenny wasn't as

easy overcome as proving to all and sundry that men who had been around a long time could still win all-Irelands, as Kerry proved. No, the talk and advance bad publicity got to some of the Kilkenny players, and a few were inhibited. At least two defenders approached the selectors and asked for guidance. In such circumstances, how could the players take the chance of getting on the wrong side of a referee?

"The things that were said and written were most unfair to Kilkenny hurling, and the players", said a very annoyed Pat Henderson afterwards. "It wasn't that the whole style of Kilkenny hurling had suddenly changed. The emphasis was, as ever, on skill. Some people went over the top".

The trainer-coach wasn't blaming the defeat of Kilkenny on the kind of things that had upset the players. But a lot of supporters felt it was a contributing factor. Let us put it this way, it didn't help their chances any.

On the day Galway were the better team. Their plan was to open out the game, and utilise their speed. The

confusion caused by the unexpected formation often saw Kilkenny players make elementary errors. Some said a man should have been taken from the forward line and used to pack midfield. Others thought Kilkenny should have played the usual team game with each man in his regular position. As it turned out, the latter was the way to counteract the ploy, as Cork proved when Galway tried the same thing in the all-Ireland.

But I don't think the Kilkenny selectors — Johnny Walsh (Shamrocks), Eddie Keher (Rower-Inistioge) and Pat Delaney (Fenians) — could be blamed for not finding the antidote. They were in a high pressure situation, and anyway, the plan worked way beyond the wildest dreams of everyone in the Galway camp.

MAD KEEN

A 7th minute goal from Noel Lane shot the Connacht champions in front, and they were never headed afterwards. At the break the winners led by 2-7 to 0-5, and because of what they had achieved before, I fully expected

GOOD SCORES, BUT NOT ENOUGH

June 1 at Croke Park

Kilkenny 1-21; Wexford 0-18

Scorers: Richard Power, Lester Ryan (0-5); Ger Fennelly (0-5, four frees); John Mulcahy (0-3, one free); Liam Fennelly (1-0); P. Brennan, K. Brennan, C. Heffernan (0-1 each).

June 22 at Croke Park, Leinster semi-final

Kilkenny 3-15; Dublin 1-9

Scorers: Lester Ryan (1-3); Ger Fennelly (1-3, two points frees); Paudie Brennan (1-1); Richard Power, Kieran Brennan (0-2 each); Ger Henderson (0-1, free); Liam Fennelly, Harry Ryan, Christy Heffernan (0-1 each).

July 13 at Croke Park, Leinster Final

Kilkenny 4-10; Offaly 1-11

Scorers: Liam Fennelly (3-1); Ger Fennelly (0-4, three frees); Harry Ryan (1-1); Richard Power, Pat Walsh, Kieran Brennan, Christy Heffernan (0-1 each).

August 8 at Thurles, All-Ireland semi-final:

Galway 4-12; Kilkenny 0-13

Scorers: John Mulcahy (0-4, three frees); Ger Fennelly (0-3, frees); Kieran Brennan, Harry Ryan (0-2 each); Richard Power, Billy Fitzpatrick (0-1 each).

Kilkenny to come back. The players were mad keen after the re-start, but a series of errors — they were made simply because the players were trying too hard — gave Galway another goal, to Joe Cooney this time, and after that the game was always going away from the Leinster champions.

The Galway hurling was truly great, and on occasions they made their opponents look weary. It had taken Kilkenny 10 games to win the League, and immediately there were three tough championships matches in Leinster. So there were a good few miles on the Kilkenny championship clock before they reached Thurles. Too many perhaps?

The first round tie was a real cracker against Wexford, and 24,500 fans enjoyed every glorious minute of the action. Kilkenny hit all the moods — good, bad and indifferent. Six times during the opening 20 minutes the sides were level. Then Wexford hit a purple-patch. They could do no wrong and ran up a half-time lead of 0-14 to 0-7.

The Noreside form was unsteady for the early part of the new half, but with the introduction of John Mulcahy as a flying wing-forward, they took off. One time arrears of 0-15 to 0-7 were erased with unanswered points from Ger Fennelly, Mulcahy (3), Richard Power, Lester Ryan, Paudie Brennan and Kieran Brennan. And there were still 18 minutes left. By the finish the Noresiders

had saved a penalty and still won by 1-21 to 0-18.

It was a memorable victory, and a newspaper man from Wexford commented afterwards: "If you don't win the all-Ireland after that, then the man above simply doesn't want you to this year". Was that it?

DIDN'T WORK OUT

Dublin caused a few problems before being beaten by 3-15 to 1-9 in a tame semi-final, and that win set the scene for a straight fight between the all-Ireland champions, Offaly and the newly crowned League champions.

Nearly 30,000 supporters flocked to Croke Park for what was expected to be a thriller. It didn't work out that way exactly. Kilkenny applied severe pressure from an early stage, got a tight grip on proceedings and won with a bit to spare on the score 4-10 to 1-11. The winners, with goals from Liam Fennelly (2) and Harry Ryan, led at half-time by 3-4 to 0-7.

Any one of 10 Kilkenny players could have won the 'man of the match' award that afternoon, as the Noresiders took their first Leinster title in three years. It was a powerful team performance. All the winners first half scores were from play, and overall only three points were scored from frees.

The sheer power of Kilkenny's hurling in that tie, alongside what they had achieved beforehand, made them firm favourites entering the semi-final. From

a Kilkenny point of view, things didn't work out as expected, but supporters were not terribly disappointed. They knew they had been given a good year by the players. Another all-Ireland win would have been terrific, but at least the players gave everyone a good run for their money.

MORE HOPE

There were great championship moments for Kevin Fennelly, Frank Holohan, Ger Henderson, Ger Fennelly and Richard Power as midfielders, Liam Fennelly, who scored a hat-trick in the provincial final, and Lester Ryan, who could do no wrong the day he shot five points from play against Wexford.

Kilkenny left the championship with a lot more hope than they had one year earlier. They left it with two titles to their credit and a lot of fine memories. The big prize got away, but then, there is always next year.

The players used in the championship were: Kevin Fennelly, Paddy Prendergast, John Henderson, Frank Holohan (captain), Joe Hennessy, Ger Henderson, Seán Fennelly, Richard Power, Ger Fennelly, Paudie Brennan, Pat Walsh, Kieran Brennan, Liam Fennelly, Christy Heffernan, Lester Ryan, John Mulcahy, Tom Brennan, Joe O'Hara, Harry Ryan, Ray Heffernan, Liam Walsh and Billy Fitzpatrick. Other players listed for the semi-final were John Brennan and Brian Cody.



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Hurlers on show on Tyneside

A picture of the classy Kilkenny National League and All Ireland senior hurling championship winning side of 1983 holds a place of honour in an Irish centre in England.

The committee of the Tyneside Irish Centre, Newcastle, wrote to Kilkenny Co. Board during the year outlining their plans for decorating their premises. They asked the 'Board for something that was of particular significance to Kilkenny, and the place the county occupied in the history books of the G.A.A.

The 'Board agreed to send a framed picture of the all-conquering 1983 team. The previous year Kilkenny also won the 'double'.



G.A.A. needs vision and imagination

by Diarmuid Healy

Kilkenny People reporter and former Offaly trainer.

THE futility of striving to get all elements within the G.A.A. thinking along the same wavelengths was highlighted during the handling of the recent report of the 'Association's Work Group on fixtures.

AFTER years of complaints from various units of the Association about the scheduling of competitions, this Work Group produced an honest attempt to inject a much needed new lease of life into the promotion of games and fixtures.

For decades that anonymous body generally referred to as 'Croke Park' was the subject of scathing attacks for its failure to 'do something' about streamlining the increasing number of competitions, and re-scheduling fixtures for the Summer months.

And when that body did eventually take that bold initiative in establishing the Work Group to investigate various possibilities, the end result was treated with nothing short of derision.

The sad aspect of all of this is that we still have the ludicrous situation of most GAA county teams not being involved in competition during the Summer months. It's just the one annual championship game sometime in May, and then a long rest over the Summer months until the mud and slush of the National League over the Winter months.

And for the minority of teams that are involved over the Summer months, the situation is equally ludicrous. Having been involved in intense training over these months, they are then faced

with a Winter of competition with practically no closed season.

Such a crazy system was the subject of a two-year investigation by this Work Group, which included former President, Kilkenny's Paddy Buggy. And their report was an imaginative and forward-looking document, as well as being practical and easily implementable.

The most radical and, from a player's point of view, the most appealing proposal was the scheduling of the National Leagues during the March to June period. This would have heralded the end of the playing games in those appalling wintry conditions.

The other proposed changes were:

- * Abandonment of junior and under-21 inter-county competitions.
- * Raising the age limit from 18 to 19 years for minor inter-county competitions.
- * An open draw competition in the Spring, ending with the finals on St. Patrick's Day.
- * The running of the National Leagues on a pure league basis, with semi-finals and a final for a trophy separate from the League.
- * An all Ireland championship as at present in the months of June, July, August and September.
- * Railway Cup competitions on a week-end in early October with the winners

touring with the All-Stars.

- * Inter-club all Ireland championship on an open draw system on five consecutive Sundays in October and November.

- * A short closed season for six weeks from December to mid-January.

Those proposals would have catapulted the GAA into the forefront in the developments of modern sport. Declining attendances would have been reversed, and the games would have evolved in a way that would have retained both player and spectator appeal.

But the most interesting aspect of the report was that you now had a GAA document willing to accept change, radical if necessary, in order to present its games more professionally.

And the men behind that report were not some lofty tower idealists. No, they were very practical, down to earth people who were only too aware of what lies ahead of the GAA. Among them were Paddy Buggy, Limerick's Noel Drumgoole and Jimmy Grey of Dublin, all who have experienced the many sides of the GAA, from player to administrator, to terrace spectator.

Their sole aim was to simply make games more enjoyable for both players and spectators. But many County Boards saw the document as an attempt to herald sinister changes in the

years ahead. Apparently, the Alice Glenss of the political world have now made their way into the ranks of these Co. Boards.

RAPID DECLINE

This fear of change and unwillingness to meet the challenges of today and the decades ahead has resulted in disillusionment for many genuine and hard-working promoters of the games, at both club and county level. These people who are out in the fields encouraging youngsters while their Co. Board colleagues make long-winded and meaningless speeches, are now faced once again with fixture chaos, and mud and slush hurling in the depths of Winter.

The end result at county level is a rapid decline in player interest in the National Leagues, along with a similar dwindling in those going through the turnstiles.

The GAA is at a cross roads — a bleak future seems to be the road it's headed on right now. But there is another road to a glorious future.

However, the way to get there is not through a collective burying of heads in the sand hoping that when the heads reappear all will have safely returned to the early part of this century.

Let's not be afraid of the future. Let's replace the current cowardice and pessimism with courage and optimism.

Club heroes, but county glory eluded them

By Tom Ryall

Central Council Representative and County Board P.R.O.



DOWN through the years there have been many players in Kilkenny who have consistently turned in star performances for their clubs, but never quite made it at inter-county level. On the other hand, there have been moderate club players who have turned in great displays for the county, and have won numerous all-Ireland medals. In this article, we take a look at some of these great club performers.

WHEN Eire Óg were in the height of their glory in the forties, and even into the fifties, one of their greatest players was Joe Gargan. A stylist to his fingertips, he could make the ball do anything he wanted it to. He created endless trouble for the greatest of defenders. He did play one game for Kilkenny in the Leinster championship but his real genius was reserved for the club.

Paddy Johnston, the present trainer of the Clara senior team, was another superb hurler who never quite made it at the top grade. A substitute on the Leinster championship winning team of 1953 was his major distinction. He did figure in League games, but never played in the Leinster championship.

Jim "Sam" Carroll of Bennettsbridge is another player who immediately comes to mind. Like Joe Gargan, he too was a forward with all the tricks of the trade. Game after game he got telling scores for the 'Bridge in vital championship clashes. It was said he was not interested in playing with the county, but he did play against Wexford in the 1954 championship. Many lesser forwards made it into the big time.

DID WELL

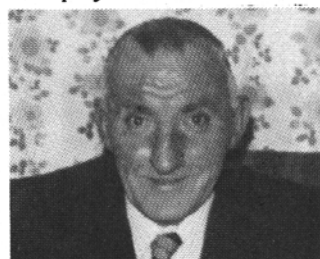
Jimmy Clohosey of Tullaroan was another forward in the Joe Gargan - Sam Carroll mould. A stylish player who always figured high in the club's scoring returns, he was a substitute on the 1945 Kilkenny team which lost the all-Ireland to Tipperary. He played against Laois in the best forgotten Leinster championship of 1951, when Kilkenny lost heavily. Clohosey was one of the few players who did well that day.



Niall Morrissey, he gave great service to James Stephens

He died last year. He was keenly interested in hurling, and an avid follower of Kilkenny teams. Whenever I met him, he would remind me to make sure the *Kilkenny People* would give the clubs of the players when announcing teams in the county junior or minor grades. He loved to follow the careers of the players, and to see where they came from. At this time he was of course living in Dublin.

Paddy Malone was another Tullaroan man who gave his all when playing for his parish. He starred in the winning of county titles in 1948 and 1958, yet never could command a regular county team spot. He did captain Kilkenny when beaten by Laois in the 1949 Leinster senior final. He also played in the 1951 Oireachtas hurling final defeat by Wexford. No better club player could be found.



Joe Gargan . . . a very stylish player in his heyday

Jimmy Dowling of Bennettsbridge usually helped give his side midfield superiority in vital club games. Again he never quite made it at county level. He was a top class performer on the Bennettsbridge team of the fifties, then one of the greatest club sides in the country. His career was cut short by a hand injury received at work. His son, John, later won minor and under-21 all-Ireland medals with Kilkenny.

Alfie Hickey of St. Lactain's (Freshford) was another great club player. He usually lined out at centre half-back, where his solid play saw many attacks flounder. He starred in the winning of the 1961 and 1963 county senior hurling titles. He captained Kilkenny to their National League triumph in 1962, and also figured in that year's Leinster final. He never again made the county panel. In club hurling there were few better players.

A MAN INSPIRED

Martin Dalton from the same club was another wholehearted player who often dominated club games. It made no difference to him whether the opposition was a well-known county star, or just an ordinary player. He always performed like a man inspired once he donned the club jersey.

Tom Hogan (Tullaroan), who has passed away, was also a great club man. He captained Tullaroan to county honours in 1958, and led Kilkenny to a Walsh Cup title the same year. He starred both as a goalkeeper and centre-back, yet county recognition eluded him.

Appearances on the county team were confined to a few outings, however.



Winners Chaplains Cup (All-Army Inter Unit Competition) 1986.

30th Infantry Battalion (Stephens Barracks) has now established an unique record having won the Chaplains Cup Competition seven times in all and six-in-a-row — 1977-1982 and 1986.

Front row: Sgt. S. Kiely, Pte. M. Conlon, Pte. M. Maloney, Lt.-Col. B. O'Donovan, O.C. 30 Inf. Bn., Capt. F. Holohan (Captain); Comdt. R. L. Roche, Cpl. E. Grehan, Capt. G. Freyne, Cpl. T. Prendergast. Back row: Sgt. J. Tobin, Sgt. J. O'Grady, Pte. J. McDonald, Pte. D. Robinson, Pte. P. Phelan, Pte. L. Comerford, Lt. B. Ryan, Cpl. P. Prendergast, Pte. P. Ward, Pte. J. Lennon, Pte. J. Creane, Pte. S. Holden, Comdt. R. McEvoy (unavailable for photograph) Comdt. J. Goulding, Cpl. O. Cullen, Sgt. R. Hogan, Cpl. T. Berry, Pte. P. J. O'Neill, Pte. L. Malone.

From more recent years two players who were always to the fore were Niall Morrissey of James Stephens and Mick Garrett of Fenians (Johnstown). Morrissey was as solid as a rock in the 'Stephens defence when they won the senior hurling championships of 1969, 1975 and 1976. The latter year he was a member of the victorious all-Ireland club side. Right through those years no one gave better service to 'Stephens than the ever dependable Niall. Again county recognition seemed to pass him by.

Mick Garrett was still soldiering away in this year's senior championship, lending his vast experience to a young team that did well enough. Now playing at full-forward, his favourite position was midfield, where he figured in the county final victories of 1970, 1972, 1973, 1974 and 1977. No one could do more for his club, and again county honours seemed to pass him.

Martin Fitzpatrick was another player who turned in some brilliant performances with the Fenians. He figured in all their senior championship victories. He did play in the all-Ireland semi-final of 1974 against Galway, and while he was on the panel for a year, he could not command a regular team place, despite his fine showings with his club.

GOOD ONES

One could go on and on. The list is endless. One would need more than this article to list all the good ones. Others who spring to mind are Paddy Burke of Graigue, one of the toughest corner-backs who ever graced Nowlan Park; Joe Doherty of Galmoy, who played in the Leinster final of 1965; Dick O'Neill, a great minor in 1949 who was a free scoring forward with Carrickshock; Tom Ryan, who won two all-Ireland junior medals in 1951 and 1956, and was a star club player with Carrickshock and with Dunnamaggin juniors when the parish rule was introduced. He later became a well-known trainer and helped Shamrocks (Ballyhale) to their early senior successes. For the past two years he was trainer of the winning Kilkenny all-Ireland senior camogie team. He too missed out on senior inter-county glory.

Eddie O'Dwyer (Slieverue) was another great club player, who was on the fringe of the county team without ever making the breakthrough. Players like John Walsh (Rower-Inistioge), Shem Muldowney (Conahy), Paddy Cahill (Graigue), Johnny Delaney (Thomastown), Milo Carey (John Lockes), Paddy Treacy (Bennettsbridge) and Joe O'Dwyer (Foulkstown) all played at one time or other with the county team without ever commanding a regular spot. Yet Sunday after Sunday they turned in great performances with their clubs.

There are many others dotted throughout the county, like the Fripps of Mooncoin, who were sterling club players. Dick Dunphy from the same club, who came at the wrong time, because Ollie Walsh was then at the height of his glory. Thus Dick was denied the chance of showing his goalkeeping skills.

Mick Moore (James Stephens) and P. J. Ryan (Fenians) were two other goalkeepers who gave wonderful service to

their clubs, but the brilliance of Noel Skehan kept them from performing on a larger stage.

Two other great club players were Simon Cleere and Nicholas Teehan (Graigue). Both gave years of service to their club, and although they were both close to the county team, they could never command regular places.

Simon Cleere played against Dublin in the 1956 championship, while Nicholas Teehan played against Westmeath in the 1960 championship. Simon was called into the panel a few days before the 1957 Leinster final, but did not travel, and thereby lost his chance of all-Ireland glory which came later that year.

Those are just a few names that come to mind instantly. There are others who were as prominent with smaller clubs, and who might have made the grade had they been seen more often. Maybe you, the reader, might like to pick a Kilkenny team from 1950 to the present day with players who never won an all-Ireland senior medal on the field of play. It could be interesting.

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NENAGH: Dublin Rd. **WEXFORD:** Trinity St.

Watch the felling, and start the planting



HURLING HAS BEEN PLAYED IN KILKENNY FOR DECADES NOW, AND NO DOUBT WILL BE FOR DECADES TO COME. THE PEOPLE LOVE, AND UNDERSTAND THE GAME. REALLY, IT IS IN THEIR BLOOD.

YET THERE is an awful lot in the ancient game everyone takes for granted. Equipment for matches is one thing, for example. Some time ago there was a brief period when good quality hurling balls were in short supply. People taking to production in that field, eliminated that problem.

But did you ever think that there might be a shortage of hurleys? Not that the country will suddenly run short of hurley-makers, but what about the raw material — ASH. Will that always be there?

"This is something we in Kilkenny, and the G.A.A. in general, might have a serious look at", commented Co. Board secretary, Ted Carroll when he aired his views on the subject. "We should not sit back and take it for granted that ash will always be there, we should go out and make sure it will be".

His comments are very relevant at the moment. Hurley-makers will tell you that ash is no longer the easy to get or cheap timber it was. There is no real shortage, but neither is there a cheap supply. Some varieties of hardwood, in the past, pricier

than ash, are now taken from the forests cheaper than the timber needed for hurleys. If that trend continues, and if the supply of ash diminishes, what would be the consequences in years to come? A sobering thought.

QUALITY GOODS

"Everyone knows it is essential to have good quality hurleys", said the Board secretary, a former inter-county star himself and winner of all-Ireland senior medals in 1963, '67 and 1969. "Youngsters coming into the game must be able to get decent sticks. In Kilkenny we are lucky, we have a number of good hurley-makers, and if the raw material is there, they will supply the quality goods".

The former Texaco award winner went on: "While there is no immediate problem, there is a danger that some time in the future the supply of ash might run short. I am not altogether sure that stocks are being replenished as quickly as they are being used. And growing ash to the stage where it can be used for making hurleys cannot be done overnight".

The Lisdowney clubman felt the Association itself had the answer to the crux. It

could encourage clubs to grow ash.

"From the Association's point of view very little has been done to promote the growing of ash", he thought. "There are corners of fields, wasteland and scrubs all over the country that are not being used for farm production, and they could be utilised to grow ash.



"There must be at least one little corner in each parish that could be used. From what we are told the best ash can be grown on wet, heavy land. The ash grown on good land is said to be brittle".

Ted said some clubs had

already started to grow their own ash, and he would like to see more following suit.

"It would be an investment for the future", he argued.

GRANTS AVAILABLE

Small ash trees can be acquired from nurseries or through the forestry department. In the region of 1,000 plants could be bought for less than £200. And apparently, Government grants are available for such work.

"Planting trees would be a long term project", the A.C.O.T. adviser pointed out. "You might be talking about a 25 year wait before the trees would be ready to cut for making hurleys. But it is in the interest of everyone involved in the G.A.A. to have ash trees growing in Ireland".

Ted said the trees would not need an awful lot of care. He didn't use the phrase, but it is apt in the circumstances — you plant the trees and watch your investment grow.

"There is a danger that the timber could get scarce at some time", Ted warned. "The neglect of the past 30 years could catch up on us. If just a few clubs planted a couple of hundred trees each year it would help guarantee the future supply".

Captain Paddy came back with a bang

THE man with the liking for the big challenge, and the current Kilkenny senior hurling team captain, Paddy Prendergast, won the B&I G.A.A. Personality of the Month award for May.

Once again the stout-hearted Clara defender showed his liking for the big time when he won his place back on the team, and in his second outing was chosen as the player of the month.

Paddy was picked as the B&I winner following a top class performance in Kilkenny's Ford National League final win over Galway. He had only been brought back onto the team for the semi-final against Cork, and there and in the final he was in unbeatable form.



Following an outstanding performance in the National League final, Paddy Prendergast (centre) was chosen as the B+I player of the month for May. Here he is pictured with his brother, Jimmy (right).



Paddy Prendergast shows the style that has made him a hurling star.

Paddy was the eighth Kilkenny hurler to be honoured in the B&I scheme since the start in February 1975. Those eight have won a total of 11 awards.

Paddy Prendergast was injured in Kilkenny's Leinster championship game against Laois in 1984. Subsequently there were grave fears that he might never play again. He spent a long period in hospital. He was on crutches for almost six months, and at that stage a return to the hurling big-time looked doubtful.



But in typical fighting fashion, Paddy overcame all obstacles and battled back to full fitness. The 28-year-old never gave up hope, and the League final medal was his biggest inter-county honour since.

Paddy's career with Kilkenny began in 1975 when he won an All Ireland minor hurling medal. That year he also helped St. Kieran's college to their win in the All Ireland colleges' senior hurling championship.

In 1977 he won an All Ireland under-21 medal with Kilkenny, and since then he has added three All Ireland senior medals. In 1979 he was full-back, and then in '82 and '83 he was left half-back.

He was a Bank of Ireland All-Star in 1982. He also won three National League medals - 1982, '83 and 1986.

The devoted Clara player realised another ambition this year: he helped his club to an historic first win in the Kilkenny senior hurling championship. And for his loyal and faithful service down through the years, Paddy Prendergast was made the team captain for the year.

Cummins was an amazing athlete

ONLY a week before Kilkenny set out in search of their 24th all-Ireland victory, Frank Cummins announced his retirement.

For 20 years the gentle giant from the Blackrock club (Cork) thrilled hurling followers everywhere with his displays of power and might, and he brought down the curtain on his career after collecting nearly every honour the game had to offer.

"The first day I saw him playing with Belcamp college against St. Kieran's college I knew I was looking at a special player", recalled Monsignor Tommy Maher, the former trainer/coach of the Kilkenny team. "He was big and strong even then, and in the inter-county senior game that same strength was an invaluable asset".

The one award that did slip past Frank Cummins was a minor medal. He never won one of those. Still, he made up for that loss later on, and grabbed eight senior medals, to equal the long standing best total held by John Doyle (Tipperary) and the legendary Christy Ring (Cork). However, the same day Frank collected his eighth medal, his team mate, Noel Skehan (Bennettsbridge) set a new all-time best mark of nine winners medals.

But why did Frank opt out when he did? Was there not one more championship left in him?

"The lads won the league", he explained when he broke the news in mid-May. "They looked good when winning it, and the team was beginning to take on a new shape. I was delighted the way they played in the conclusion of the

PERHAPS the greatest unsung hero who has graced the inter-county game of hurling retired this year.



TAKING ANOTHER AWARD

Frank Cummins won many an honour during a distinguished career. Here he is pictured receiving the B+I award for September, 1983.

League, and I felt the time was right to go. It was a tough decision to make, but I had to make it some day".

A TEAM PLAYER

Satisfied that the county was in tip-top order, Frank informed the selectors of his decision. The way he went

about the final act was typical of the man. Once everything was right for the Kilkenny team, Frank Cummins was happy. He was always a team player.

Frank Cummins was an amazing athlete. He won seven of his eight medals in

the most demanding position of all, as a midfielder. The other medal, for 1967, he won as a substitute.

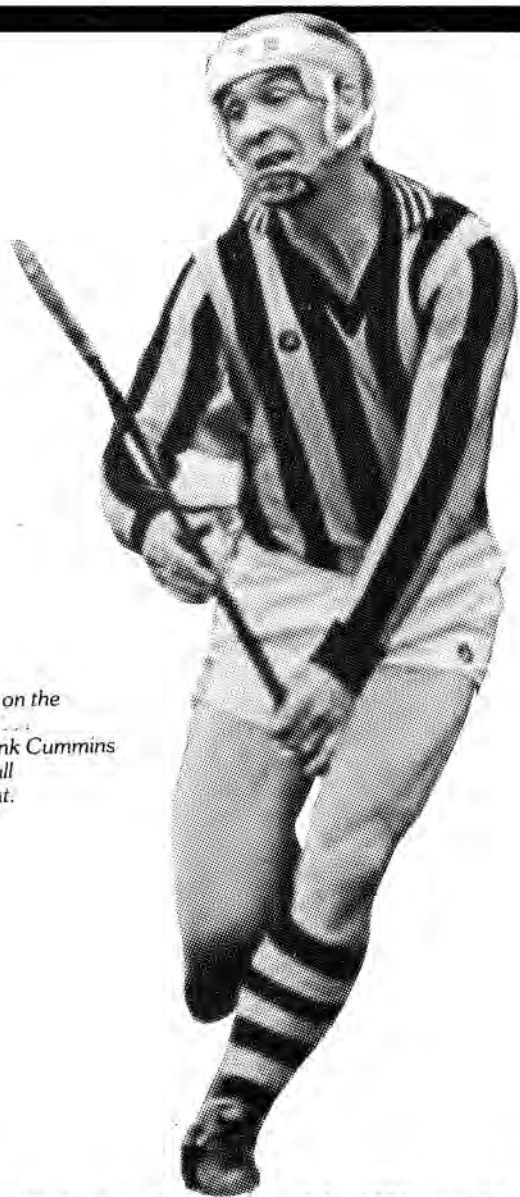
"Late in his career he won the Texaco player of the year award (1983). That was some achievement in itself. It proved that right to the finish Frank was the best", said current Kilkenny trainer-coach, Pat Henderson in tribute to the great man.

Indeed, that Texaco win made people realise just how long the big Blackrock man had been around. He had been there, and had performed his vital duties efficiently year in and year out. You could always rely on Frank. It wasn't until the last few years, mainly during the doubles in 1982 and 1983, that people really realised how important Frank Cummins was to Kilkenny hurling.

His ability to win the aerial duels was without equal. Few could stand up to his shoulder-to-shoulder tackling. His striking was yards longer than anyone else, and his work-rate, well, he probably covered the marathon distance during his hurling day's work.

It was back in December 1966 — two decades ago — that Frank was introduced to the inter-county game. For the Oireachtas final that year, county selectors Paddy Buggy (Slieverue), Johnny McGovern (Bennettsbridge), Nicky Purcell and Tom Ryall (Graigie-Ballycallan) and Tom Nolan (Mooncoin) picked one F. Cummins. He, and the county, never looked back.

That Oireachtas medal was Frank's first major award, and it was in the same tournament that he recorded another notable achievement.



Eye on the Ball...
Frank Cummins
in full
flight.

No one won more than midfielder Frank

THE MOST distinguished* midfielder in 102-year history of the G.A.A. retired last May.

Frank Cummins of Blackrock (Cork) and Kilkenny won more all-Ireland senior medals as a centrefield player than anyone else.

Following Kilkenny's all-Ireland victory in 1983 Frank collected his eighth medal, and his seventh in the one position. This is an achievement that might never be equalled.

"He was truly one of the greats in hurling", commented Kilkenny trainer-coach, Pat Henderson, who won five all-Ireland medals when a team mate of Frank's. "For anyone to win so much, and to play so consistently well for so long, just had to be special".

The second highest total for a midfielder was set by former Taoiseach, Jack Lynch (Cork, who won five in the same position).

COMMITTED

But there was more to the '83 success than that mentioned above.

From a Kilkenny point of view he equalled the 70-year-old record of a player winning his seventh medal on the field of play. This had previously been achieved by Jack Rochford (Threecastles), Sim Walton (Tullaroan) and the Mooncoin pair, Dick Doyle and Dick Walsh in 1913.

While Frank was dedicated and totally committed at all times, he had an understanding and helpful wife in Madeline Cummins. She always encouraged him, and if he had to travel to the end of the earth to play for Kilkenny, Madeline would have understood.

Indeed, for Kilkenny/Cork matches she denounced her county allegiance — she was born in Cork by the way — and stood firmly behind her husband and Kilkenny.

One of Mrs. Cummins' proudest possessions is a bracelet made from Frank's hurling medals. For the 1983 all-Ireland series, their son, Alan, then aged 8, was the proud Kilkenny mascot.

In the Oireachtas final of 1984 he captained Kilkenny to victory. It was his one and only time to lead his county to triumph.

IN FOOTBALL FINAL

Frank started his career with Ballyhale. In 1965 he won a minor hurling championship with his native club. The same year he won a junior medal with Knocktopher (the minor team in the parish was known as Ballyhale).

He was subsequently educated at Belcamp college, and in 1965 he contested the all-Ireland football championship final with his school. He kicked four points that day when they played a draw with St. Columb's (Derry). Before the replay Frank broke an ankle. Belcamp lost the replay.

Frank also kicked football with Kilkenny. He was part

of the 1971 squad that contested the Leinster junior final against Dublin. The Dubs won by 2-9 to 0-5.

In 1967 Frank moved to live in Cork. He was a Garda at the time, but later moved into demolition work. After that move he joined the famous Rockies and helped them win six Cork senior hurling championships, and three all-Ireland club titles.

Oh yes, Frank Cummins has seen and done it all in the hurling world. At all times he was an exemplary player. He played the game fairly. He was always neat and tidy in appearance. He was the type of player who could be held up as a model for all youngsters to follow. Kilkenny followers loved him.

Frank Cummins you did a lot for Kilkenny hurling, and everyone thanks you for it.

WHAT HE WON

Leinster S.H. C. (11) — 1967, '69, 1971, '72, 1973, '74, 1975, '78, 1979, '82 and 1983.

All-Ireland S.H.C. (8) — 1967 (sub), '69, 1972, '74, 1975, '79, 1982, '83.

Railway Cup Hurling (6) — 1971, '72, 1973, '74, 1975, '79.

Cork S.H.C. (6) — 1971, '73, 1975, '78, 1979, 85.

Bank of Ireland All-Star Awards (4) — 1971, '72 (then Carrolls), 1982, '83.

Oireachtas H. Tournaments (4) — 1966, '67, 1969, 1984 (as captain)

All-Ireland club S.H. (3) — 1972, '74, 1979.

National Hurling League (3) — 1976, '82 and 1983.

At the time of writing it had not been decided whether he would get a medal for 1986, although he had played in two games.

Texaco award (hurler of the year) — 1983.

B+I Award (monthly) — September, 1983.

Kilkenny Co. Bord senior hurler of the year — 1983 (inaugural year).

Slow start, but victorious juniors finished well

FROM a humble beginning, a Kilkenny team gained in riches and prowess during the course of the summer, and ended up being crowned hurling kings. The victory of the Kilkenny juniors in the all-Ireland final wasn't a classic rags-to-riches story, but before the happy ending was reached, there were some hard times in between.

THE ever improving juniors collected the county's first Leinster and all-Ireland team titles of the year. The first win raised the hopes of a county with a McCarthy Cup success in mind, and the second brought a measure of consolation after the seniors had gone off the rails and missed the big one.

This was the second success in three years for the Kilkenny junior team, and dedicated trainer-coach, Ollie Walsh (Thomastown), the former goalkeeping great. And it could be the last . . . for everyone. Because the decision makers within the G.A.A., in their wisdom, decided to end the junior hurling and football championships.

Since this championship was brought back into being a couple of years ago the Noresiders have fared well. They hit the jackpot in Centenary Year (1984) and again this season, so the returns have not been bad as far as this county is concerned.

One must concede, and side with the people who agreed to drop the championships, that they added to the congestion in an already over-crowded fixtures list. The championships also failed to grab the imagination of the public, and only small crowds attended games.

But for the players in all the intermediate and junior hurling and football championships up-and-down the country these competitions will be a loss. There are players all over Ireland and particularly in the strong counties, who will never make a senior team. Their entry point to playing involvement on all-Ireland day was the junior championships, and for that reason alone it was a pity the championships had to go.

GREAT FEELINGS

Who knows, a few from the successful Kilkenny junior team this year might eventually make it at senior level. Good luck to them. The majority

will not, but at least all had their hour of on-field glory. And for them the feelings were as great as those enjoyed by the likes of Ger Henderson, Joe Hennessy, Ger Fennelly, Richard Power and all the rest who are good and lucky enough to be able to make it at the highest level.

The Kilkenny junior players and selectors Tommy Murphy (Co. Board chairman), Nicky Teehan (Graigie/Ballycallan), Eddie Blackmore (Piltown), Tom Donovan (John Lockes) and Jack Bolger (Graigie/Ballycallan) had every reason to feel on top of the world after their achievement. They reaped a just harvest after a lot of hard work.

During the trek to success, no fewer than 26 players saw action as the mentors sought the right combination. On August 24 at Thurles the Noresiders got it all right and they swept to a

comfortable enough 1-17 to 0-15 win over fancied Limerick in the all-Ireland final.

That day the Leinster champions took the field without injured duo, John O'Dwyer, a prolific scorer, and hardy defender, Mick Power, both of whom were injured. The selectors brought in Tommy Lennon in attack and John Power at the back, and the pair slotted in beautifully.

There was fine cutting in Kilkenny that day. They did not hang about once the ball was thrown-in, and inside a minute Dick Walsh rammed home a goal and John Meaney pointed. Limerick didn't know what hit them, and thereafter they were always under pressure. At the break the winners were 1-11 to 0-7 clear. The nearest Limerick got to parity was when they reduced the arrears to four points in the 50th minute.

During the closing stages Kilkenny 'man of the match' — he was picked by his own selectors — Kevin Hennessy turned in excellent hurling, and kept things ticking over in the midfield engine room. He got oceans of support from the hard tackling Tommy Lennon, the stylish Tommy Bawle, Eddie Wall, John Meaney and Jimmy Lennon, and their combined efforts meant Limerick went home empty handed.

The scoring road to success

May 21st at O'Toole Park, Leinster semi-final

Kilkenny 1-9
Dublin 1-4

Scorers: John Mulcahy (1-4, goal free, two points frees); John O'Dwyer (0-4, two frees, one '65); Michael Doyle (0-1).

June 8 at Croke Park, Leinster final

Kilkenny 2-18
Westmeath 0-6

Scorers: Liam McCarthy (1-3); Tommy Bawle (1-1); John Meaney (0-4); Michael Doyle (0-3); John O'Dwyer (0-3, two frees); Michael Morrissey (0-2); Paul Cleere (0-1); Michael Cleere (0-1, '65).

July 27, at Nowlan Park, all-Ireland semi-final

Kilkenny 0-18
Galway 2-9

Scorers: P. Cleere (0-4, frees); Tommy Bawle, Liam McCarthy, Denis Carroll (0-3 each); Michael Cleere (0-2, frees); Michael Doyle (0-2); John Meaney (0-1).

August 24 at Thurles, all-Ireland final

Kilkenny 1-17
Limerick 0-15

Scorers: Tommy Bawle (0-8, six frees); Tommy Lennon (0-4); Dick Walsh (1-0); John Meaney (0-2); Michael Morrissey, Denis Carroll, Liam McCarthy (0-1 each).



KILKENNY, JUNIOR HURLING CHAMPIONS OF 1986

Back row (l. to r.): John Meaney, Des Dunne, Denis Carroll, Michael Cleere, John Power, Kevin Hennessy, Liam McCarthy, Tommy Bawle. Front row (l. to r.): Gerry Kenny, Jimmy Lennon, Eddie Wall, Michael Walsh, Michael Morrissey (capt.), Tommy Lennon, Dick Walsh.

FEAR OF SLIPPING

The all-action conclusion was in sharp contrast to the beginning of the championship, when Kilkenny stuttered-and-stumbled to a win over Dublin. This was on a tight O'Toole Park pitch, but bearing the playing area in mind, the winners were unimpressive.

Exactly 12 months earlier Kilkenny had travelled to O'Toole Park as all-Ireland champions. They were beaten. Perhaps it was the fear of slipping-up again that upset the players, but for whatever reason, the 1-9 to 1-4 success didn't suggest much of a future for Kilkenny in the competition.

Believe it or not, the next match was a Leinster final. And the opposition was provided by Westmeath, who had caused a big surprise when sinking Wexford, the 1985 winners of the championship. No one knew what to expect from the midlanders, particularly after the way their seniors performed against Kilkenny in the quarter-final of the National League.

The game was only 20 seconds old when Michael Doyle threw over a casual point for Kilkenny. The trend was set. This was going to be easy. With goals from Liam McCarthy and Tommy Bawle, the winners led by 2-9 to 0-2 at half-time. They finished handsome 18 points winners.

However, Galway in the semi-final were another story. The Tribesmen showed scant regard for their opponents, and slipped 1-3 to 0-1 in front in a matter of minutes. In so doing, they showed up a black spot or two on the Kilkenny team. A few shrewd switches by the selectors changed the trend of proceedings. The Noresiders made the best of every chance that came their way and had levelled 0-9 (K) to 1-6 at the break.

Eighteen minutes further on the sides were still locked together (0-12 to 1-9). Teams to grab long range points came to the fore, and they inched in front. Even a late goal from a penalty failed to rescue the westerners. The home selectors had every reason afterwards to sing the praises of Michael Cleere, who was in great striking form, Michael Morrissey, Eddie Wall, Tommy Bawle, Liam McCarthy and late in the game, Denis Carroll, who produced the goods when most needed. The winners had survived a searching test, just the kind of examination needed entering the all-Ireland.

ONE OUTCOME

The events of that Galway game put the Noresiders into the right frame of mind for Limerick, who were big and physically strong. With a few carefully chosen words from Ollie Walsh,

Kilkenny went out on that Semple Stadium pitch ready to accept just one outcome — victory.

The junior inter-county competitions may never be seen again. But in their time they brought a lot of joy to many a good club hurler or footballer who would just never have made it on the senior scene.

The players used by Kilkenny during the championship were: M. Walsh (Dicksboro); J. Lennon (Bennettsbridge); D. Dunne (Danesfort); E. Wall (Lisdowney); M. Power (John Lockes); M. Cleere (O'Loughlin's); G. Kenny (Piltown); K. Hennessy (Graigie-Ballycallan); M. Morrissey, captain (Graigie/Ballycallan); D. Walsh (Tullaroan); J. Meaney (Graigie/Ballycallan); J. Mulcahy (O'Loughlin's); M. Doyle (Barrow Rangers); J. O'Dwyer (John Lockes); J. Nugent (Danesfort); T. Bawle (Dicksboro); B. McEvoy (Lisdowney); J. Ronan (Graigie-Ballycallan); P. Cleere (O'Loughlin's); L. McCarthy (Piltown); D. Carroll (Blacks and Whites); J. J. Long (Piltown); B. Ronan (Graigie/Ballycallan); J. Power (John Lockes); T. Lennon (Bennettsbridge); L. Cleere (Bennettsbridge). Players listed for the final but not used were: J. Dunphy (Mullinavat); P. Brophy (Piltown); J. J. Long (Piltown); D. McCarthy (Piltown).

Sixth win the last!

THIS year's win was Kilkenny's sixth in the all-Ireland junior hurling championship.

As it has been decided to discontinue this competition, the Noresiders will thus remain third in the overall standing.

Cork head the list of winners with 9 victories, followed by Tipperary (7), Kilkenny (6) and London (5).

The victorious Kilkenny teams were:

1928 (Kilkenny 4-6; Tipperary 4-4) Mick Bergin, Paddy Kelly, Tom Mullins (captain), Jack "Sag" Carroll, John McNamara, Tommy Grace, Paddy Butler, Tim Cronin, Jim Walsh, Denis Duggan, Martin "Wedger" Brennan, Paddy Dowling, Paddy "Skipper" Walsh, John Fitzpatrick, Pierce Dwan.

Subs: J. Phelan, Kieran White, Lotty Fitzpatrick, Paddy "Nully" Walsh, Ker McGrath, Frank Nolan.

1946 (Kilkenny 5-4; London 2-2) Jack Egan, Mark Marnell, Pat "Diamond" Hayden, Paddy O'Connor, Paddy Cahill, Peter Prendergast, Ned Power, Paddy Stapleton (Thomastown), Podge Dack (captain), Ned Doyle, Mick Kenny, Henry Giles, Pakie McEvoy, Din Maher, Bill Cahill. Subs: Ned Purcell, Seán Murray, James O'Donnell, Wattie Ryan, John

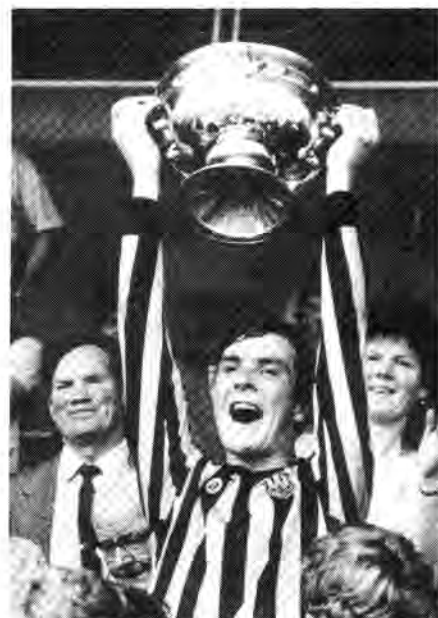
Heffernan, Shem Muldowney and Martin McEvoy who played in earlier rounds but were taken for the senior team were given all-Ireland medals.

1951 (Kilkenny 3-9; London 3-5): Dick Rockett, Jack Lynch, Johnny Hokey (captain), Willie Bolger, Tom Walsh, Paul Fitzgerald, Johnny McGovern, John Sutton, Paddy Stapleton (John Lockes); Paddy Johnston, Paddy Henneberry, Mickey Gardiner, Tom Ryan, Rick Burke, John Barron. Subs: John Doherty, Nicky Healy, Paddy Ryan, John Heffernan, Donal Gorey.

1956 (Kilkenny 5-2; London 2-8) Jack Murphy, Tom Walsh, Jim "Link" Walsh, Seán Tyrrell (captain), Phil Murphy, Roddy O'Neill, Jimmy Burke, Florrie McCarthy, Donal Gorey, Denis Heaslip, Dick Bolger, Jack Dunne, Mick Fleming, Billy Costigan, Dinny Hogan.

Subs: Jimmy Coyne, Peter Fennelly, Dixie Brennan, Paddy Lacey, Tom Ryan.

1984 (Kilkenny 0-13; Galway 2-5) John Brennan (captain), Bill O'Hara, Michael Galway, T. Phelan, C. Power, John Marnell, Michael Cleere, David Hoyne, Seán Tyrrell, Dick Walsh, Pat Walsh, John McDonald, Michael Doyle, John O'Dwyer, Michael Rafter. Subs: John Lawlor, Jim Kinsella.



This Is It Folks A delighted Michael Morrissey, captain of the Kilkenny junior hurling all-Ireland winning team, holds the cup aloft after victory. And in the background (left) a smile of satisfaction on the face of dad, Luke Morrissey.

1986 (Kilkenny 1-17; Limerick 0-15) Michael Walsh, Jimmy Lannon, Des Dunne, Eddie Wall, John Power, Michael Cleere, Gerry Kenny, Michael Morrissey (captain), Kevin Hennessy, Tommy Bawle, Tommy Lannon, Denis Carroll, Dick Walsh, Liam McCarthy, John Meaney. Sub: Larry Cleere.



Le Dea Mhéin ó Chomhairle Laighean C.L.G

M. Ó Dubhsláine
Runaí



Football struggled on without a lucky break

ON the domestic scene the junior championship went without a hitch, and after what must be described as a well contested, well organised championship, Tullogher-Rosbercon beat Danesfort in an entertaining final.

At the time of writing, the replay of the senior championship has to be played. The first day Mooncoin and James Stephens played a draw. The football wasn't the best ever seen, but as it was a final both sides took it very seriously and neither gave an inch without a fight.

When one mentions the inter-county scene everyone immediately thinks about the seniors. Once again they failed to win a match in the National League. They did play one draw with Carlow. Then when expecting to make progress in the Leinster junior championship, the Noresiders flopped.

In the current League, Kilkenny got off to an awful start. For an away match against Clare, only two of the selected team turned up. Frantic efforts were made to get 15 players. With a thrown-together side and one selector playing, Kilkenny were hammered by 43 points (6-25 to no score). The Kilkenny footballers hit the headlines in a big way. Unfortunately, for the wrong reasons, again. At least in the next match against Wicklow there was a big improvement. While defeat was the lot yet again, it had to be conceded the team did well and scored more goals (3) that afternoon than any of the 32 counties in action.

SURPRISED TO WIN

In the last League game the only consoling result was a draw with Carlow — 2-8(K) to 1-11(C). This gave the Nore-

ONCE again there was little to shout about in Kilkenny's struggling football world. St. Kieran's college won a championship. A few other under-age teams fared well here and there, but the big break, the one happening that might push the game out of the hardship zone, just did not come about.

siders great encouragement for the upcoming Leinster junior championship against the same opposition. After all, Kilkenny were entitled to play their best team — the League side — while Carlow could only field junior players. The Noresiders felt victory was theirs for the taking, and travelled to the Eire Óg grounds, Carlow, in high spirits.

Nothing went right for Kilkenny and they lost by 1-8 to 1-7. Carlow were as surprised to win as Kilkenny were to lose. At half-time there was still hope in the visitors' camp. They led by 1-3(K) to 1-2.

That was the best of it. Carlow didn't do anything extraordinary in the closing half, yet they carried the day. Not an usual story for the Kilkenny footballers. The losers had one consolation: they had the best player on view in David Hoyne, who has since emigrated to America, while John Costelloe, Michael Cleere, Eamon Maher and Tom Brennan also did useful work.

The Kilkenny team was: Joe Coyne, T. Brennan, M. Galway, G. Power, M. Walsh, M. Cleere, M. O'Hanlon, J. Costelloe, D. Hoyne, M. Farrell, Jimmy Coyne, E. Maher, G. Walsh, A. Hoyne, S. O'Connor. Subs: M. Kennedy, M. Lane.

Many argue that while Kilkenny club football games are played at the wrong end of the year, the standard will never improve. There is some merit in that, but even if they did

play the junior final in November, Tullogher-Rosbercon and Danesfort produced a lively encounter.



MISSED PENALTY

The Southerners won their fourth title on the score 0-7 to 0-3. They had a slight edge in skill, but still could never relax against a side contesting its second junior final of the season. Danesfort also lost the hurling decider. The half-time score was: 0-3(TR) to 0-1. The losers missed a vital penalty seven minutes from the end when trailing by 0-3 to 0-4.

The winners had a fine footballer in Luke Bird, who had lovely, deft touches. He had good mates in Jimmy, Paddy and Liam Heffernan, Paddy Gaule and Pat Cody. The losers' best were Des Dunne, Pat Davis, Tom O'Neill and Pat Kiely, who had a great first half.

Tullogher-Rosbercon: E. Vereker, P. Cody, J. Walsh, J. Conway, P. Gaule, P. Heffernan, J. Heffernan, Jimmy Heffernan, P. Walsh, T. Morrissey, L. Bird, J. Ryan, D. Lyng, J. Murphy, L. Heffernan. Sub.: G. Walsh.

Danesfort: P. Davis, P. Hayes, T. O'Neill, J. Tierney, G. Woodcock, D. Dunne, G. Doyle, J. Davis, P. Kiely, H. Giles, R. Dunne, J. Nugent,

T. Mullins, C. Barry, P. Hoban. Subs.: E. Marnell, P. Fennelly.

DREAM SHATTERED

The senior final between Mooncoin and James Stephens ended in a 1-6 each draw. Mooncoin, who were seeking their first win as an independent unit, had the title taken from their grasp in the dying moments when county hurler Joe Hennessy kicked a lovely equaliser.

The Southerners played with the wind in the opening half, and worked-up an interval lead of 1-4 to 0-3. They put up a great fight in the second period and Stephens had to wait until the 55th minute before drawing level, thanks to a penalty goal from Jimmy Coyne. Mooncoin showed spirit after this, and fought up the field for a lead point from Michael Corcoran. However, in the end they had their dream of glory shattered by Hennessy.

The football was never wonderful, yet Mooncoin had reason to talk highly about the likes of Dominic Connolly, Eddie Crowley, Michael Walsh, James Grace, Michael Corcoran and Mark Kennedy, while Stephens got the maximum effort from Nicky Cashin, Jimmy Coyne, Brian Cody and Joe Hennessy.

Mooncoin: M. Holden, J. Dunphy, L. Daniels, P. Crowley, J. Mahon, J. Grace, E. Crowley, D. Connolly, M. O'Hanlon, M. Walsh, J. Wall, M. Corcoran, J. Holden, M. Kennedy, N. Dobbryn. Sub.: D. Grace.

James Stephens: A. McCormack, N. Cashin, M. Moore, M. Morrissey, T. Devlin, P. Neary, J. O'Brien, J. Scott, T. Leahy, J. Larkin, J. Coyne, M. Leahy, N. Boyd, B. Cody, D. McBride. Subs.: J. Hennessy, P. Larkin.



Leinster Scór Set Dancing winners and All-Ireland Finalists 1976 and '77

Kilmanagh: Front row (l to r) Joan Meally, Kathleen Malone, Bridget Moroney, Maureen Lynch (nee Cleere), Phil Cahill R.I.P. Back row: Liam Ronan (musician), Jimmy Keogh R.I.P., Paddy Malone, T. D. Purcell, Dick Cleere, John Ronan (musician).

Scór more than just a passing event

SOME people often wonder what purpose the Scór competitions serve. As would only be expected, they give great enjoyment to the people involved, but they also serve another valuable purpose.

For example, when the G.A.A. started the Scór events in 1968 set-dancing had fallen to a very low level here in Kilkenny. Mainly due to the hard work of the late Phil Cahill, a tireless worker for Scór, set-dancing underwent a big revival.

With his own area, Kilmanagh, very much to the fore, Phil managed to revive the interest in set-dancing. Today the old Irish form of dancing is flourishing. There are regular competitions held up-and-down the county, and the future looks bright. Scór scored, and the all-Ireland final appearances of Kilmanagh in 1976 and 1977 gave another little lift to the effort.

Scór provides the platform for people in parishes to display their talents. Each year the standard has been improving,

and the organising committee was thrilled with the overall response this year.

Each club has been encouraged to appoint a Scór organiser. The competitions have a lot to offer everyone.

The winners of the various events this year were:

Scór-na-nÓg

Ceili-dancing: 1. Dicksboro (Lorraine Kavanagh, Gillian Dunne, Brenda Murphy, Caroline Young, Ann Kelsey, Fiona Kelly, Karen Kelly, Elaine Wyse).

Recitation: 1. Elaine Kennedy (Tullogher).

Solo-singing: 1. Natalie Vereker (Slieverue).

Novelty Act: 1. Piltown (Dianne Kearns, Olive Kearns, Michael Kearns, Clodagh Grace).

Question-Time: 1. Tullogher (Seamus Phélan, Nicola Whitty, Derek Lewis).

Instrumental Music: 1. Tullaroan (Paddy Cleere, Paul Hennessy).

Ballad group: 1. O'Loughlins (Shane

Doyle, Fiona Cantwell, Patrick O'Driscoll, Conan Doyle, Sarah Doyle).
Set-Dancing: 1. Dicksboro.

Senior Scór

Ceili-dancing: 1. St. Senan's (Jacinta Ryan, Rosaleen Murphy, Helen Murphy, Faith Mulcahy, Garry Murphy, Robert Duggan, Paddy Walsh, Robert Kennedy).

Recitation: 1. Tullaroan (Dick Holland).

Solo-singing: 1. Slieverue (Brian O'Donoghue).

Novelty Act: 1. Dicksboro (Sean Breathnach, Tomas MacLochlainn).

Instrumental Music: 1. Mooncoin (Eddie Lee, D. O'Shea, Breda Kinsella).

Ballad Group: 1. Carrigeen (Margaret Hawson, Michael Jacob, Finbarr Healy, Ann Walsh, Seamus Carroll).

Set-dancing: 1. Graigue-Ballycallan (Marie Comerford, Mairead Hoyne, Lena Butler, Tina Butler, Betty Brennan, B. Young, Margaret Sheppard, A. Sheppard).

JAMES STEPHENS *the Kilkenny Minor Hurling Champions of 1986*



FRONT ROW (l. to r.): Nicky Comerford, Padraig Larkin, Jimmy Conroy, Keith McCormack (capt.), Paul Brennan, Liam Kerwick, Kevin Conroy.

BACK ROW (l. to r.): Richard Manogue, Joe Dalton, Dominic Bradley, Anthony Smith, Paul Fahy, Tommy Fogarty, Fran Whelan, Declan Forristal. **MASCOT:** Ray Kennedy.



GRAIGNAMANAGH
the defeated minor hurling finalists of 1986

No Minor problem, so big change of attitude needed

COME next summer and championship time, six years will have passed since Kilkenny won a minor hurling all-Ireland. Some might not consider that a very lengthy period, but for a county that prides itself on propagating the hurling faith, it does appear a mite too long a break out of the big time.

IN that period Kilkenny did appear in one all-Ireland, the Centenary Year 1984, only to be beaten by Limerick in a replay. Even that lone appearance in the decider cannot take from the fact the county has lost ground at under-18 level, like it or not.

A comparison with the same period in the seventies shows the county did an awful lot better then. Between '71 and '76 Kilkenny contested all six all-Ireland minor finals. And they won three, 1972, '73 and '75.

A decade has brought about a lot of change, and for the worse it would appear. At the start of the current six year period the Noreiders won the minor championship with players like Ray Heffernan, David Burke, Michael Morrissey, Joe O'Hara, Liam McCarthy, Eddie Wall and David Hoyne on the team. Some of those players went on to greater things, and three figured on the all-Ireland junior winning team of this year.

It doesn't always follow on that success at under-age level will guarantee success later on. But it helps. Some players fall away from the game. Others develop physically in such a way that they lose a major attribute, be it mobility or something else. Some make it through. And while there will be exceptions to the rule of players who come from nowhere to make

it at senior level, the short apprenticeship, if you like, served in under-age inter-county games does no harm at all.

Just look back a couple of years and see such as Billy Fitzpatrick, Joe Hennessy, Brian Cody, Ger Fennelly, Nicky and Kieran Brennan and Dick O'Hara, who were all good minor players. Where will the likes of those players come from in future if the county loses its way at minor level now?

VERY ORDINARY

Even that 1984 team, and that is only a short while ago, has already thrown-up one player who could become a star of the future. Tommy Lennon (Bennettsbridge) has made his way onto the Kilkenny senior side, and with the proper approach and attitude, who knows what he might achieve. And he was a product of a team that was generally regarded as very ordinary. Still, the trickle through of talent has commenced. Others from that team who could possibly make it some day are Frankie Morgan, Larry O'Brien and Declan Mullan who already got a 'run' at senior level. There could be one or two more.

The point is that unless the players are picked out, looked after and brought along properly they might never mature to their full potential. Things cannot be

left to chance. They weren't in the seventies, when Diarmuid Healy, later the successful trainer-coach of two all-Ireland winning Offaly senior hurling teams, coached some of the best crop of senior players of today and the recent past when he worked with them on minor teams.

The moulding of senior players is an on-going process from the schooldays right to the day the men retire. Everyone can always learn a little bit more. But if vital stages in between are missed, the flow of talent through will not be as great as it should be. And it should always be remembered, that if young players are not going to be looked after properly by the G.A.A. in Kilkenny, who have something great to offer youngsters, then they will be catered for elsewhere.



Often I wonder are such things overlooked, cast to the side or forgotten about in Kilkenny. In recent years no one seems to have noticed the slide at minor level. It's no minor slide either, but an erosion of the playing future of the 'Association.

Now and again the matter has been mentioned at Co. Board level, yet no one seems prepared to grasp the nettle. For example, this year a special report came before the Board from Croke Park on the state of under-age Gaelic games in large urban

areas. The simple message was the 'Association was losing out. What did Kilkenny Co. Board do? The matter was discussed, in a very loose, and in some quarters, uninformed manner and left at that. There was no real beginning, and no positive end to the discussion. Perhaps people do not realise that come next Summer six years will have passed since Kilkenny's last all-Ireland success at minor level?

The full explanation is not that the talent well has run dry. Teachers continue to do excellent work at the initial stage, but from there on there is much room for improvement.

TRANSFER CONCERN

Perhaps that improvement started this year, although Kilkenny lost out in the first round. The encouraging thing about the minor team this season was that it fell to Offaly, the eventual all-Ireland champions, and only after a replay.

Further to that, James Stephens retained the minor championship. They won it in 1985 and appointed James Delahunty (chairman Bord na nOg), Brendan O'Sullivan (Thomastown), Paul Kinsella (St. Martin's), Jim Neary (Graigie/Ballycallan) and their own Phil 'Fan' Larkin to look after the team. They are all men who are, and have been for some considerable time, deeply involved in under-age games.

The James Stephens club itself has a deep commitment to under-age games. They have one of the most firmly rooted juvenile structures in the entire county, and one feels they can transfer their concern onto the inter-county scene. Even their idea to name the selectors for the

1987 championship before Christmas — so the selectors could watch colleges and vocational schools games — was a smart one.

This year's team did well to draw 2-8 each with Offaly the first day, before losing the replay by 3-9 to 4-5. After all, Birr Community School and the Offaly vocational county team won their respective all-Ireland schools title, so the pool of good players was there, as was proved, subsequently when Offaly won their first minor inter-county all-Ireland.



No only were the on-field happenings encouraging from a Kilkenny point of view, but the time and energy put into preparing the team by the selectors was also praiseworthy. They recognised the Offaly threat, and very nearly caught a mighty team on the hop. Further good news is that a few of the Nore side players will still be available next season, including the exceptionally talented Adrian Ronan.

In the draw against Offaly, Kilkenny got a second chance thanks to a late point from Pat Hoban (Mullinavat), who had scored a goal that was disallowed the previous year in the Leinster final that would have given his team a win. There was a calm first half in Portlaoise, and a rousing second. With goals from Phil Cullen and James Brennan, the eventual losers retired just 2-0 to 1-4 behind at the break after playing against the breeze.

Twice during the second period Offaly looked to have victory in their grips when they led by 2-6 to 2-2 and later 2-8 to 2-5. Scores from Jimmy Walton, James Brennan and then Hoban forced the issue into a second hour.

NEARLY STOLE SHOW

The replay was a week later at the same venue. The concluding 20 minutes were explosive, and eventually a goal in the dying seconds from Declan Pilkington got

Offaly through. The winners were the better team, without a doubt, but the battling Noreiders nearly stole the show. The winners led by 0-5 to 0-1 at half-time, and for 10 minutes after the interval they gave Kilkenny a hurling lesson and added two points to their total.

Somehow Kilkenny managed to crawl back to equal terms, and then points from Liam Dowling and Jimmy Lawlor looked to have clinched an unexpected victory. However, Pilkington saved the Offaly blushes with his last match winning effort.

The losers had many good performances during these exciting games and the brightest sparks were Liam Drennan, John Teehan, Pat Drea, Donal Kennedy, James Brennan, Liam Dowling, Richard Manogue, David Carroll and Adrian Ronan.

The Kilkenny players used were: T. O'Keeffe (Thomastown); J. Murphy (Mooncoin); D. Kennedy (O'Loughlin's); L. Drennan (Galmoy); J. Teehan (Graigie/Ballycallan); P. Drea (Young Irelands); R. Manogue (James Stephens); J. Brennan (Erin's Own); D. Carroll (Dicksboro); R. O'Neill (Dunnamaggin); P. Hoban (Mullinavat); L. Dowling (St. Martin's); J. Walton (Tullaroan); T. Murphy (Mooncoin); P. Cullen (Bennettsbridge); A. Ronan (Graigie/Ballycallan); J. Lawlor (Shamrocks); P. Grace (Rower-Insitioge); D. Rothwell (Mooncoin).

SCORES, BUT JUST NOT ENOUGH

Saturday, May 25 at Portlaoise (draw)

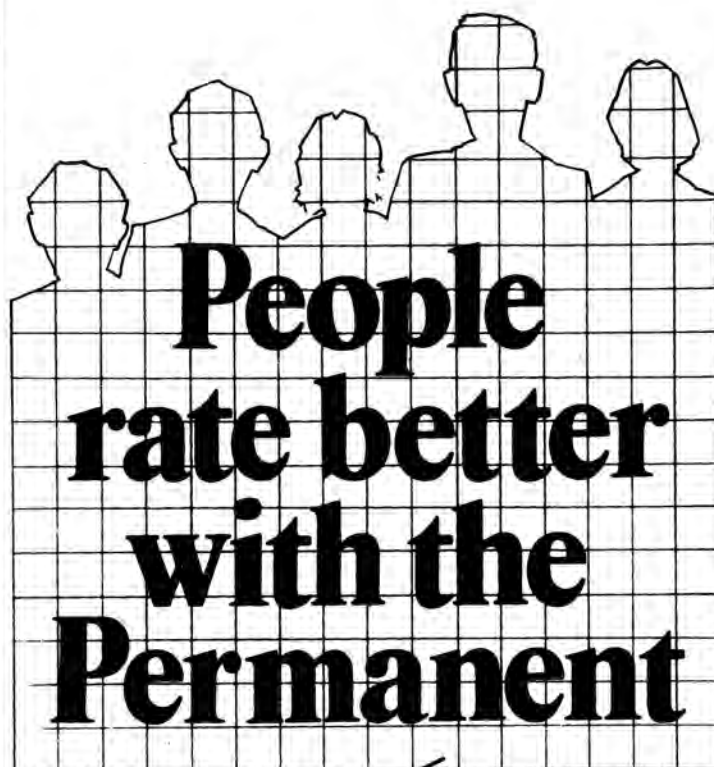
Kilkenny 2-8
Offaly 2-8

Scorers: James Brennan (1-4, goal and three points frees); Phil Cullen (1-0); Pat Hoban (0-2); Jimmy Walton, Jimmy Lawlor (0-1 each).

Saturday, May 31 at Portlaoise (replay)

Offaly 3-9
Kilkenny 4-5

Scorers: Tommy Murphy (2-0); Adrian Ronan (2-1); Jimmy Walton (0-1, free); James Brennan (0-1, free); Liam Dowling, Jimmy Lawlor (0-1 each).



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COURAGEOUS CLARA GET JUST REWARDS

Years of hard grafting, patience and perseverance at last gained their just rewards for Kilkenny club, Clara, when this season they put many a disappointment from the past behind them and captured their first county senior hurling title.



The durable Clara men claimed their historic first win, and took home the glittering Tom Walsh Cup, at the end of an unbeaten run through the championship. Yet still, the achievement of the champions of '86 was remarkable in some respects.

Clara arrived in this final four years after winning the intermediate championship (1982). During that time they went close to making the breakthrough once, but lost a 10 point second half lead against Shamrocks (Ballyhale) in a semi-final. It took the club a while to get over that, because even though on paper they had 15

players to match any other outfit, for some strange reason things never slotted into the right positions for them.

As well, when Clara took on the vastly experience reigning champions, Shamrocks, they were doing so in their first final. It was something like all-Ireland final debutants, Tyrone taking on Kerry in the football decider, but in Kilkenny a firm belief in their own ability carried Clara to a thrilling 3-10 (19 points) to 4-5 (17 points) win.

That belief, even confidence or arrogance if you like, was revealed in

Clara's run up to the final. Their cunning coach-trainer, Paddy Johnston, who in the past guided Newpark Sarsfields and Barrow Rangers (Paulstown) to junior hurling successes, geared their training in such a way that all the hard work was done before the semi-final against Glenmore. So in the fortnight between the semi and final the Clara training sessions were mere 'sweat breakers', even times for a bit of unwinding for the players in each others company.

TREATED ROYALLY

On the field the players never had

to accept second best, and considerate club chairman and team selector, Noel Kehoe and his dedicated committee, saw to it that the players were treated royally off it. After each training session the entire panel was treated to a hearty lunch. The attitude was 'hang the expense if the title can be won'.

On Sunday, September 28, Clara arrived at Nowlan Park to take on Shamrocks (Ballyhale) feeling they could win their first title. Over 10,000 spectators (the 'gate' was £18,379) turned out for what was an eventful afternoon of hurling. In the end Clara

won with a late goal that was disputed, but later with the use of video evidence the score was seen to be legitimate.

Four minutes from the end a beautiful left handed point by Brendan Fennelly from an angle to the left of the county end goal pushed Shamrocks 4-5 to 2-10 ahead. Time was ticking away, and it was into injury-time when Harry Ryan burst through at the other end and went for a point, which would have been the equaliser. The effort dropped short in

CONTINUED ▶

CLARA — the Kilkenny Senior Hurling Champions of 1986

BACK ROW (l. to r.): Tom Ryan, Tom Lennon, Stephen Whearty, Brian Barcoe, Paddy Prendergast, Gerry Nolan, Anthony Prendergast, Liam Ryan.

FRONT ROW (l. to r.): Lester Ryan, Harry Ryan, Tom O'Shea (capt.), Johnny Ryan, Kevin Ryan, Tony Byrne, Pat Campion.

'Board was right to put in the boot

THE unruly and ugly events after the controversial finish to the Kilkenny senior hurling final were shameful. The fact that the Co. Board, after recommendations from the Disciplinary Committee, put in the boot afterwards was praiseworthy, but regrettable that such action had to be taken at all.

The 'Board was correct in dishing out warnings, a suspension and fine after looking into the matter, because if such happenings were allowed go unchecked, then they could lead to even worse conduct in future. The rules are there for all to follow and be there luck or misfortune involved for anyone, the laws must be obeyed.

There was a lot of crying about the inconsistent application of certain laws of the game in Kilkenny, and this was warranted, but what went on after the county final just could not be ignored. Some people went way over the top, and the fact Gardai had to be called proves how explosive the atmosphere was at the time.

The Shamrocks (Ballyhale) were the club reproached by the 'Board, and despite all their protests and crying, they can consider themselves lucky to have gotten away so lightly.

Their feelings of resentment started to build-up when they had a man sent off in the semi-final, and following the examination of the referee's report, this man was suspended for a month, which put him out of the county final.

That upset them for a time, but at least they were prepared to get on with the final against Clara. All was well, apart from some of their players harrasing the referee throughout the

match, until a disputed goal decided the issue. Then their feelings of resentment exploded and a lot of ugly incidents ensued.



STERNER PUNISHMENT

A lot of nasty things were done and said afterwards, with the referee and Co. Board officials getting tongue lashings. But in all the talk subsequently one vital point was overlooked... a man who had been sent off in the semi-final, and who was suspended at the time of the final, was in the middle of all the trouble. He was not entitled to be where he was in on the pitch on the day of the final, and for that reason alone, the Shamrocks were very lucky they didn't receive even sterner punishment.

No one wants to see anyone out of hurling or football in Kilkenny, but how could the 'Board stand idly by after seeing a referee manhandled and a Co. Board steward punched? And even worse, a man who was serving a period of suspension very much involved.

The Shamrocks earned the respect and admiration of all hurling followers in Kilkenny, and further afield, for what they have achieved, and the way they did it, since they won the junior championship in 1973. Unfortunately, they

did themselves no good at all the way they reacted after the county final, and even at the Co. Board hearing later, and one must admit, they lost a good few friends. That was a pity, because they were always good ambassadors of Kilkenny sports people.

One hopes that what has happened will be forgotten about quickly. There is no use carrying the torch of torment into another year, because there will be no benefit in that for anyone, least of all Shamrocks, who have some of the finest hurlers in Ireland in their midst.

Apart from the conclusion the senior campaign wasn't particularly great for the Shamrocks. They never really got their game together, although they did in fits-and-starts in the final. As ever, their best players were the Fennelly brothers, while Tommy Phelan made a lot more progress, and Jimmy Lawlor had a good first season in the top flight. They still have a quality group of players, and come the end of next year they won't be too far away when the honours are being dished out.

In the semi-final the Ballyhale boys saw off old rivals, James Stephens, but only by one point. The Larchfield outfit did very well with a young, light and inexperienced crew. They had a great chance in the semi-final because the day suited them, but they missed two late chances of an equaliser. Some of their players still have a bit to learn, but in time they should come good. And one would be talking about the likes of Declan Mullan, Tomás Leahy, Eddie O'Neill, Frank Morgan, Martin Forristal, Billy Ayres and Liam Mullen. They are

definitely headed in the right direction.

MISSED CHRISTY

The other semi-final team was Glenmore, who made it there via a play-off with St. Martin's. The Southerners went into action without their most famous son, Christy Heffernan, who transferred to Blackrock (Cork), and despite some fine showings they missed the big attacker. Their form was up-and-down. On their good days they were really good. Perhaps they can work on this aspect of their game, because they have the makings of something with men like Eddie O'Connor, Ned Aylward, Liam Walsh, Des Ennett, Ray Heffernan and Johnny Murphy to call upon.

A side that went out of the championship early, and just avoided relegation, was Erin's Own (Castlecomer). But watch out for them next season. They were severely hampered by injuries, and at one time had 10 men out of contention. Given an injury free run they could cause a few upsets.

St. Martin's were slow to get into their stride, and when they lost their opening two games the championship was virtually over for them. However, they recovered, and only barely missed a semi-final spot.

The Fenians need an injection of new blood, as do Mooncoin. Thomastown could be in trouble next year if some of their best men who have left these shores in search of work stay away. Graignamanagh were unlucky on occasions, and did better than their lowly position might indicate. The Rower-Inistioge started well and promised a lot, but then faded.

Okay to rock concert did not add up

By PETER HOLOHAN



SURELY it would be hard to imagine anything more incongruous than a rock concert at Croke Park. Yet we had the strange spectacle during the year of a group with the fascinating name of 'Simple Minds' performing in the sacrosanct surroundings of the stadium named in honour of a great churchman who was one of the founding fathers of the GAA.

THERE is nothing intrinsically wrong with rock concerts; there is no law against them; they provide an almost irresistible attraction for teenagers; for the most part the people attending them are well behaved, but there is often a lunatic fringe who take advantage of the occasion to over-indulge in alcohol and drugs and debauchery.

There is no suggestion that anything of this nature took place at the Croke Park concert referred to above. But that is not the point. Traditionally the GAA's commitment to the preservation of our own native culture, our language, our songs and our dances — as well as our games — has been absolute. Are we now witnessing a departure from this stand? Down through the years some of the leading members of the 'Association have been accused of being too insular and too inward-looking because of their complete dedication to these ideals.

The GAA was founded not alone to promote the native games, but the native culture, and it has been left to those who came after the founders to maintain and preserve that distinctive cultural heritage.

Rock music could not by

any stretch of the imagination be regarded as having even the remotest association with our own native culture. One might, therefore, ask what Archbishop Croke would have to say if he were told that an important championship game could not be played at Croke Park because of damage to the pitch resulting from a rock concert.

If there was consensus among the members for the decision, it is unlikely to be found to any great extent in Meath, whose football supporters had to travel to Newbridge for a game that should have been played at Croke Park, and would have been played there but for the damage to the pitch.

DEDICATED PEOPLE

It might be no harm here to reflect on the dedicated work of a number of people throughout the country — people like the late Phil Cahill — who devoted a lot of time and energy promoting Irish music, song and dance on a competitive basis at club, county and provincial level.

Perhaps the worst feature about this whole matter is that it has been left open to people vindictive enough to do so to suggest that as far as the GAA is concerned, if the price is right, our cultural

heritage is a marketable product.

The decision is in stark contrast to the Central Council decision to summarily dismiss recommendations made by a special Work Group which included our own Paddy Buggy. This Work Group gave a lot of time, hard work and thought and came up with eight recommendations which for some strange reason were rejected out of hand (see special story by Diarmuid Healy).

It must have been infuriating for the Work Group to find that not even one of the recommendations was considered worthy of adoption.

Paddy Buggy does not send out warning signals for the fun of it, and he should have been taken seriously when he pointed out that if the 'Association did not match the same type of growth evident in other sports, there would be a bleak future for the GAA.

Sunday racing for

instance, as it develops, is going to make it anything but easy for the GAA to maintain its present level of support.

NOT SO LIBERAL

While the GAA adopted what was for them a very liberal attitude in relation to the rock concert, they were not so liberal when refusing to give visiting European soccer teams access to a GAA ground in Galway. The visiting team had come to play Galway United in a European Cup competition. The decision caused a lot of resentment, not only in Galway, but throughout the country.

It was rather ironic that the game was eventually played in Carraroe, in the heart of the Gaeltacht.

While there is no room for complacency, and despite some strange decisions, it is reasonable to assume that in the safe hands of the ordinary members of the 'Association up and down the country, the well-being of our national games will continue to prevail.

MICHAEL MULLINS

Victualler

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BACK ROW (l. to r.): Watty Phelan, Sean Reid, Michael Fennelly, Liam Fennelly, Kevin Fennelly, Sean Fennelly, Liam Long.

FRONT ROW (l. to r.): Frank Holohan, Paddy Lawlor, Brendan Fennelly, Michael Kelly (capt.), Tommy Phelan, Ger Fennelly, Pat Phelan, Paul Phelan.

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Camogie queens left on their own to win

THE dedicated Kilkenny camogie ladies may have been left to their own devices on their two biggest days in the year, but they didn't care, they went out and got on with their demanding work and once again did the county proud.

WHEN it came to All Ireland senior semi-final and final time the camogie fixtures clashed with important hurling games. The semi was played the day the Kilkenny Junior hurlers won the All Ireland. And the final in opposition to the local senior hurling championship semi-finals.

On both occasions Gaelic games followers were forced to decide between two attractive fixtures, which was a terrible pity. The determined ladies, however, didn't wallow in self pity. Perhaps the way they had been treated by the people in authority spurred them on to even greater efforts, because in the semi-final they put in a remarkable closing five minutes to clinch victory, and then in the final they hammered camogie kingpins, Dublin, into submission in a most convincing manner.

The 1986 success of the senior camogie ladies was the county's second successive one, and the sixth in all. And now the ladies have the delightful prospect ahead of going for the three-in-a-row.

"The girls have been asking each other, well, what do you think?", one player explained. "A couple of players were married, so a decision on whether to continue or not cannot be as simple as it might seem. However, when it comes down to it next year, I think everyone will be there again."

That is good news for Kilkenny, and a warning to the rest to watch out. A possible three-in-a-row is a mighty challenge, but one this experienced bunch of girls and their trainer, Tom Ryan (Dunnamaggin), would surely relish. This year's success was the second time the county put wins back-to-back, but the three together would be something new.

Captain of this year, Liz Neary, a great servant of the game locally, set a new mark when she became the first Kilkenny player to skipper two successful All Ireland sides. She shared in the first win in 1974 and through thick and thin she has soldiered with Bridie McGarry (nee Martin), Angela Browne (nee Downey) and Ann Downey, all of whom have now won six senior medals.

The true meaning of such achievements are not always realised. Imagine a hurler winning six All Ireland medals! It takes as much effort — in some cases even more — for the women to be successful, because the competition for the O'Duffy Cup is as keen as that for the McCarthy Cup.

From the previous year's winning team Kilkenny lost Deirdre Malone and Margaret Farrell and welcomed in former Clare junior star, Claire Jones, and promoted reserve of last year, Rita Wemyss. The team ticked over as smoothly as ever and when the chips were down, the ladies proved they had that little extra that divides the very good from the good.

The Noreiders clashed with Limerick in their first outing. It wasn't a match at all, and the Shannonsiders were hammered to the tune of 6-11 to 1-4. The second half was only on five minutes when star forward Angela Downey was withdrawn. She had scored 4-2, and the fate of the visitors to Nowlan Park was already decided.

The second outing against Cork was a different ball game entirely. On the Leaside team was Margaret Farrell, who had decided to throw in her lot with the county in which she works.

DEEP TROUBLE

The Kilkenny girls came within an inch of surrendering their crown. The Leesiders hadn't their eyes merely set on downing Kilkenny, but on All Ireland victory. With time running out, Cork showed 3-12 to 2-10 in front. They had improved their advantage after leading 2-7 to 2-4 at the interval.

The Noreiders were in deep trouble, and they knew it. But they never gave up hope and they fought and chased to the bitter end. A point from a free by Angela Downey was followed by a quick goal from the same player. All of a sudden the Cork girls were in a panic.

In the nick of time sharp forward Jo Dunne slipped home a goal, and that gave Kilkenny a wonderfully exciting 4-11 to 3-12 win.

The victors had many stars that afternoon. They encountered the sternest opposition, and survived. The girls proved something vital... they had not lost the important desire to succeed, to be the best.

As so often in the past, the Downey twins, Angela (now Mrs. Browne) and Ann, were to the fore. Their play was full of purpose, and their tackling throughout was wholehearted. Claire Jones too stood out. She showed a keen competitive edge and never accepted the possibility of defeat. Goalkeeper Marie Fitzpatrick, Breda Holmes and Jo Dunne also performed way above an average level.

That success in the semi set the scene for a repeat of the '85 decider against Dublin. The girls from the capital had lowered the Kilkenny colours in the National League and Leinster championship. They were convinced they had the measure of their opponents this time.

PAID PENALTY

They didn't bargain on Angela Browne hitting one of those special days. And neither did they bargain on

THREE STEPS TO VICTORY

August 10, at Nowlan Park

Kilkenny 6-11 Limerick 1-4
Scorers: Angela Browne (4-2), Breda Holmes (1-4), Jo Dunne (1-3), Ann Downey, Rita Wemyss (0-1 each).

August 24, at Nowlan Park (All Ireland semi-final)

Kilkenny 4-11 Cork 3-12
Scorers: Angela Browne (1-9), Jo Dunne (2-0), Breda Holmes (1-1), Claire Jones (0-1).

September 14, at Croke Park (All Ireland final)

Kilkenny 2-12 Dublin 2-3
Scorers: Angela Browne (2-4, two points frees), Jo Dunne (0-4), Ann Downey (0-2), Breda Holmes, Rita Wemyss (0-1 each).



KILKENNY — THE ALL-IRELAND SENIOR CAMOGIE CHAMPIONS OF 1986.

Back row (l. to r.): Angela Browne, Ann Downey, Jo Dunne, Breda Holmes, Biddy O'Sullivan, Rita Wemyss. Front (l. to r.): Marie Fitzpatrick, Anna Whelan, Liz Neary (capt.), Ann Kelly, Bridie McGarry, Claire Jones.

the efficient all-round Kilkenny performance that embodied great skill, stamina, character and style. It was another of those days when the Noresiders were just not going to be beaten.

The direction the O'Duffy Cup was going to take wasn't decided at the break when the champions led by 0-5 to 0-2. Dublin applied the pressure early in the new half and reduced the difference to the minimum. They forced their opponents' hand — and paid the penalty.

Angela Browne showed a lot of skill when she drilled home a goal. This knocked back the Dubs, and they were floored 10 minutes later when she repeated the act to push Kilkenny a comfortable 2-11 to 1-3 clear. They eventually won by 2-12 to 2-3.

Again the Downey (one, of course, is Mrs. Browne) twins were out on their own. Between them they scored 2-6 of the winners' total — that said enough for the efforts of both. Liz Neary coaxed and cajoled more and more effort from the players. She must be happy with the response she got. No more could have been given. In this county of fine goalkeepers, Marie Fitzpatrick upheld the tradition, and Jo Dunne and Breda Holmes cause nothing but trouble for the losers.

Because of circumstances, some of which could have been avoided, the Kilkenny ladies didn't always enjoy the support they might have expected. But this proud lot didn't seem to mind. Their great self belief and commitment to the game they love carried them through to another All Ireland win. And who knows, another might be just around the corner.

Ladies who won camogie glory

KILKENNY'S half-a-dozen All Ireland camogie titles were won during the past 12 years. The county's initial success was in 1974, when goalkeeper Teresa O'Neill became the first Kilkenny captain to lift the O'Duffy Cup.

The Noreside girls joined Antrim, who also won six senior titles. Ahead of this pair are Dublin (26) and Cork (14), while Wexford trail behind with three wins to their credit.

The successful Kilkenny All Ireland camogie teams were:

1974 (Kilkenny 3-3, Cork 1-5, replay) — Teresa O'Neill (capt), Ann Carroll, Liz Neary, Bridie Martin, Marie Kavanagh, Helena O'Neill, Peggy Carey, Mary Fennelly, Angela Downey, Mary Conway, Ursula Grace, Carmel Doyle. Subs: Mary Purcell, Mary Kennedy, Ann Downey, Teasie Brennan, Annie Bowden. Mary Kennedy played in drawn game. Marie Kavanagh came on for replay.

1976 (Kilkenny 0-6, Dublin 1-2) — Teresa O'Neill, Liz Neary, Ann Downey, Bridie Martin, Mary Canavan (nee Kennedy), Helena O'Neill, Peggy Carey, Mary Fennelly (capt), Jo Dunne, Carmel Doyle, Angela Downey, Ann Carroll. Subs: Ann Holden, Margaret Cody, Bernie Larkin, Honora Fogarty.

1977 (Kilkenny 3-4, Wexford 1-3) — Teresa O'Neill, Liz Neary, Ann Holden, Bridie Martin, Mary Canavan (nee Kennedy), Helen O'Neill, Ann Downey, Mary Fennelly, Mary Purcell, Carmel Savage (nee Doyle), Angela Downey

(capt), Jo Dunne. Subs: Majella O'Neill, Breda Coonan, Mary Conway, Peggy Muldowney (nee Carey), Margaret Farrell.

1981 (Kilkenny 1-9, Cork 0-7, replay) — Teresa O'Neill, Liz Neary (captain), Ann Downey, Bridie McGarry (nee Martin), Biddy O'Sullivan, Geraldine Sutton, Peggy Muldowney (nee Carey), Margaret Farrell, Helena McCormack (nee O'Neill), Angela Downey, Anna Whelan, Jo Dunne. Subs: Ann Marie Brennan, Ann Holden, Margaret Brennan, Deirdre Malone, Catherine Dalton.

Ann Holden played in drawn game. Geraldine Sutton, who came on as a substitute in drawn game, retained her place for replay. Ann Marie Brennan came on a substitute in drawn game and also in replay.

1985 (Kilkenny 0-13, Dublin 1-2) — Marie Fitzpatrick, Ann Downey, Anne Holden, Bridie McGarry (capt), Biddy O'Sullivan, Liz Neary, Deirdre Malone, Anna Whelan, Margaret Farrell, Angela Downey, Jo Dunne, Breda Holmes. Subs: Ann-Marie Brennan, Rita Wemyss, Siobhan Ryan, Nora Whelan.

1986 (Kilkenny 2-12, Dublin 2-3) — Marie Fitzpatrick, Liz Neary (capt), Anne Holden-Kelly, Bridie McGarry, Biddy O'Sullivan, Anna Whelan, Ann Downey, Claire Jones, Jo Dunne, Rita Wemyss, Angela Browne (nee Downey), Breda Holmes. Named subs. for the final were Deirdre Malone, Siobhan Ryan and Nora Whelan.

Right frame of mind saw Windgap through



WINDGAP, THE KILKENNY JUNIOR HURLING CHAMPIONS OF 1986.

Back row (l. to r.) Christy Cody, Tommy Hearne (player and trainer), Jimmy Walsh, P. J. Egan, Richard Cronin, Mick O'Shea, Tommy Lanigan, James Phelan, Gerard Doyle, Brian Hickey, Val Og Murray, Eamon Cronin, Pat Hayes, Denis Foley, Jim Phelan, Bobby Jackman, Jimmy Purcell, Christy Phelan (assistant trainer). Front (l. to r.) Pat Foley, Matt Doran, Eamon Murray, Pat Walsh, Simon Brophy, Joe O'Shea (capt.), Seamus Power, Brendan Cronin, Paul Doran, Seamus Norris. Sitting (l. to r.) Pat Moore, Alan Hearne (mascot).

EXPERIENCE and what appeared an insatiable will to win were the vital qualities that came very much to the fore when Windgap swept to their second success in the junior hurling championship.

AFTER a final that was rather disappointing, not from a Windgap point of view mind you, the Southerners added to their one previous success, which was recorded in 1970. That initial title was received after a walk-over was given by Graigue-Ballycallan, but this time Windgap made it all happen on the field and destroyed Danesfort on a 1-11 to 2-1 scoreline.

Naturally everyone was delighted with the victory, but there were special words of praise for 'old hands' Bobby Jackman and captain, Joe O'Shea, who have soldiered long and hard with the club. After so many years of faithful service, it was only right that the pair should have played leading rôles in fashioning this latest triumph.

Windgap had experience running right through the middle of their team. That gave them a firm base, but whoever was responsible for getting the attitude on the day right must take a heap of credit.

It was Danesfort who started as if they were going to run away with the Aylward Cup. For the opening 10 minutes they promised a lot, but delivered little, only a single point in fact, which was their lot for 55 minutes. Windgap slowly took charge, and with inter-county star, Pat Walsh, delivering long, intelligent balls to his attackers, from centreback, the

scores were slowly picked-off. At the break the winners had eased 0-7 to 0-1 in front.

THOUGHTS OF VICTORY

Against the wind in the second period the mental tuning of the Windgap players came very much to the fore. They went out at the start with thoughts of victory, and only victory, on their minds. By half-time they must have realised the title was theirs for the taking, because in the new half they contested every ball with such vigour that on occasions you saw their opponents being pushed aside, out of the way nearly.

The performance of full-back, Bobby Jackman, reminded one of the old saying about when 'the going gets tough, the tough get going'. He threw everything into the drive for victory. He went back from nothing. Pat Walsh hurled with all the might and maturity one expects from a hardened inter-county star, which he isn't, but he should be some day. And up front, skipper O'Shea took every chance that came his way, and in all shot seven points. Others who did particularly well on the biggest day of the season were Seamus Power, Eamon Murray and Brendan Cronin.

One cannot over-state the

importance of Windgap's mental attitude on the day. Some of their opponents just did not contest anything during the hour. Windgap didn't stand back and admire anything, they got stuck in.

Perhaps it was their fine run through the Southern championship that hardened them? They got into the winning groove, and apart from a 1-18 to 4-5 loss against John Lockes (Callan) in a preliminary round tie they beat everyone else. Getting into the habit of winning can often be a big plus for a team. Windgap obviously liked the good feeling of winning, and wanted to stick with it.

In the Southern semi-final they nearly came unstuck against Mooncoin. For 20 minutes of the opening half they outplayed their opponents to such a degree that a lot of people must have felt like going home. Suddenly Mooncoin got going, and they were there with a shout until the finish but were beaten by 1-13 to 1-15.

HOT FAVOURITES

The Southern final threw-up the shock of the hurling year on the local scene. Hot favourites for the title, John Lockes were upended by the cunning Windgap boys, who were only too willing to play down their chances before

the match. Windgap had the last laugh, and won by 2-12 to 2-10.

Even without adding the county title to the divisional one, Windgap were still entitled to talk about a good year. A few of their players have left these shores in recent years in search of work. That did not help. Still, they made the very best use of their combined talents, and had every reason to feel proud of their hurling work during 1986.

The *Windgap* team in the final was: Denis Foley, Simon Brophy, Bobby Jackman, Jim Phelan, Seamus Power, Pat Walsh, Eamon Murray, Paul Doran, Jimmy Purcell, Brendan Croftin, Joe O'Shea (captain), Pat Foley, Matt Doran, Eamon Cronin, Brian Hickey. Subs: Jimmy Walsh, Pat Hayes (used), Pat Moore, Mick O'Shea, Tommy Hearne, Tommy Lanigan, P. J. Egan, Seamus Norris, Christy Cody, Val Óg Murray, Richard Cronin, Dan Cronin,

James Phelan, Ger Doyle, Dermot Holohan.

Danesfort: Pat Davis, Tom O'Neill, Pat Hayes, Joe Tierney, Gerry Doyle, Des Dunne, Paddy Fennelly, Pat Kiely, John Davis, Jim Nugent, Anthony Dunne, Michael Kiely, Pat Hoban, Richie Dunne, Ger Woodcock. Subs: Henry Giles (used), Robert Woodcock, John Costigan, Tom Hayes, Finbarr Kiely.

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What a Family!

ONE lucky clan claimed the three major hurling championships in Kilkenny this year — the junior, intermediate and senior.

In each case, a member of the O'Shea family captained the winning team.

Tom O'Shea was skipper when Clara hit the top and won their first senior title by beating Shamrocks in the final.

Not to be outdone, Geoff O'Shea captained Conahy Shamrocks to their interme-



Joe O'Shea
(Windgap)

mediate final success over Piltown.

And the impressive hat-trick was completed by Joe O'Shea with Windgap, who was captain in their fifth victory over Danesfort.

Further to that, Tom and Geoff O'Shea are second cousins. Tom O'Shea is brother of former Galway player, Martin O'Shea, who figured in the All Ireland club hurling final with Castlegar (Galway) against St. Martin's (Muckalee-Ballyfoyle Rangers) in 1985.

Not a bad year for any family! Not bad at all.



Geoff O'Shea
(Conahy Shamrocks)



Tom O'Shea
(Clara)

Good one Graig

THE Graignamanagh club showed fine initiative this year, and G.A.A. followers benefitted.

The club sought, and received permission to

publish programmes for their own senior hurling championship matches, and a number of others in the South.

The programmes contain-

ed the lineouts of the teams involved, as well as interesting articles, poems and general pieces on Gaelic issues.

The programmes were

not just thrown together, but were the result of a lot of hard work by a dedicated bunch of people. A good idea. Hopefully it will be continued.

Kieran's and 'Comer take first titles

BOTH SIDES scored big wins in their respective finals. Kieran's beat Portumna college (Galway) by a massive 7-15 to 1-5, while the 'Comer lads beat Cross and Passion school, Ballycastle (Antrim) by 4-12 to 2-2.

This year the Colleges Council decided to extend the junior championships beyond provincial level. Unfortunately, Munster decided against taking part, but the way the finals went, it's hard to know whether or not it would have made any difference.

Kieran's were beyond description in the final. The team oozed skill. The determination was exemplary, and all that could be said was it would have taken a mighty, mighty team to beat them. Absolutely brilliant was Pat O'Neill, who scored 2-9 in the decider. He had all the shots. Few men have been as outstanding in an all-Ireland final. Padraig McCluskey was unbeatable, and showed the signs of a special player when doing best at the height of the storm. Paul Brennan was dominant at midfield, and in attack Billy Whelan and D. J.

TWO hurling all-Irelands introduced this year were captured by Kilkenny schools. The famous stronghold of the game, St. Kieran's college put in a super show to win the all-Ireland colleges Roinn A Junior Championship. And not to be out-done, the courageous boys from the Presentation convent, Castle-comer, took the Roinn B honours.

Carey showed flashes of brilliance that suggested in time they could become senior stars.

SIXTH WIN

Kieran's led by 3-9 to 0-2 at half-time, and at that stage the issue was decided. In Leinster, the Kilkenny boys beat old rivals, Kilkenny C.B.S. and Birr Community School in the provincial final. That provincial win was the sixth on-the-trot.

The talented St. Kieran's college panel was: Jimmy Conroy, Sean Morrissey, Declan Dundon, Padraig McCluskey, Tadgh Donoghue, John Holohan, Paul Brennan, Dick Dooley, Pat O'Neill, Tommy Shefflin, D. J. Carey, Stephen Lawlor, Charles

Carter, Billy Whelan, Timmy Finlay, Brendan McEvoy, Robert Cody, John Dowling, Tom Nolan, Tom Lawlor.

The 'Comer boys had a much longer trek through Leinster. To take the honours they had to beat Callan C.B.S., Enniscorthy C.B.S., St. David's (Artane) and Good Counsel (New Ross). In the all-Ireland semi-final they saw off Ballymena grammar school.

They had different stars in different games, but overall their best were Pat Brophy, a richly talented performer, and great prospect, Paul O'Neill, John Buggy, Joe Maher, Pat Morrissey and Aidan Ryan.

They had the good fortune to play their all-Ireland final at

Croke Park, and that in itself was something for the players. The 'Comer boys attacked from the start, but conceded a 5th. minute goal. They put that setback behind them, and by half-time had taken control, and had a good lead of 4-6 to 2-0. They never looked like being overhauled.

The Presentation have only a short history of involvement in colleges hurling. But already they have enjoyed considerable success. In 1985 they took the Roinn B Leinster crown. And in '83 they won their one and only Roinn B senior title. Not bad going.

The youngsters who grabbed the glory this year were Diarmuid Comerford, Caleb Daly, Paul O'Neill, Tommy Kehoe, Noel Shortall, Pat Brophy, Aidan Morrissey, John Buggy, Joe Maher, Jimmy Farrell, Pat Morrissey, Michael Healy, Sean Kelly, Aidan Ryan, Dermot Lawlor, Conor Malone, Aidan Lawlor, Martin O'Shea, Martin Morrissey, Pat Nolan, Eddie Kirwan, John Kavanagh, Colm Maher, Michael Maher, Anthony McDonald, Ken O'Loughlin.



For the first time this year, the colleges junior-hurling championship went beyond provincial level, and an all-Ireland championship was held. The impressive winners were St. Kieran's college. Back row (l. to r.) Nicky Cashin (trainer), Robert Dillon, John Dowling, Pat O'Neill, Mark O'Brien, Tom Lawlor, John Holohan, Stephen Lawlor, Seamus Knox (coach). Seated: Brendan McEvoy, Toss Nolan, Barry Whelan, Tommy Shefflin, Jim Cashin, Padraig McCluskey (capt.), Tadgh Donoghue, Paul Brennan, Declan Dundon, Jimmy Conroy, Seam Morrissey. Front: Timmy Finlay, D. J. Carey, Dick Dooley, Charles Carter.



PRESENTATION CONVENT, CASTLECOMER ALL-IRELAND JUNIOR UNDER-16½ HURLING CHAMPIONSHIP (ROINN B) OF 1986.

Back row (l. to r.) Aidan Lawlor, Pat Brophy, Paul O'Neill, Aidan Ryan, Jimmy Farrell, Conor Maloney, Pat Morrissey, Michael Healy, Edward Kirwan, Caleb Daly. Middle (l. to r.) Noel Shortall, Joe Meagher, Diarmuid Lawlor, Diarmuid Comerford, John Buggy (capt.), Sean Kelly, Aidan Morrissey, Tommy Kehoe, Anthony McDonald. Front (l. to r.) Martin Patterson, John Kavanagh, Colm Meagher, Michael Meagher, Sean Meally, Ken Loughlin, Martin O'Shea, Pat Nolan.

'Fort and 'Lockes could have consoled each other



DANESFORT, THE DEFEATED JUNIOR HURLING FINALISTS

Back row (l. to r.) Henry Giles, John Davis, Tom Hayes, Mick Kiely, Richard Dunne, Pat Davis, Tom O'Neill, Ger. Woodcock, Pat Kiely, Bobby Woodcock, Joe Tierney, John Costigan. Front (l. to r.) Ber Butler (chairman), Pat Hayes, Gerry Doyle, Paddy Fennelly, Anthony Dunne (capt), Pat Hoban, Des Dunne, Jim Nugent, Finbarr Kelly. Mascot - J. Tierney.

TWO clubs had reason to think about what might have been when they saw Windgap celebrating with the Aylward Cup following their fine victory in the junior hurling championship.

Defeated county finalists, Danesfort and John Lockes (Callan) who lost the Southern final, could have consoled each other. The pair fell to Windgap in the conclusion of the championship, and both felt afterwards they could have done an awful lot better on another day.

Apart from a short, impressive burst at the start, Danesfort never really troubled the eventual champions. After 55 minutes of play they had just 0-1 on the scoreboard. Two late goals took the bad look off things. Afterwards they were more disappointed with their performance, than losing the actual final. They had every reason to feel that way.

Someone remarked afterwards 'they couldn't be that bad after winning the Northern title'. Never was a truer word spoken. But on county final day Danesfort had some players who did not

want to know about tackling, chasing or being part of a unified effort. Others were asked to do too much. That sort of mix never pays off.

At least they had consolation in that they won their first Northern title in 42 years. That was something. Pity about the county final showing. Their best players throughout the season were Des Dunne, Paddy Fennelly, Richie Dunne, Pat Hayes, Tom O'Neill and free-taker, Michael Kiely.

There was little to console John Lockes, who entered the season mad keen to make up for the county final defeat the previous year. For a long time they looked capable of doing that. An injury to star forward, John O'Dwyer, did not help their lot.

HAVE ABILITY

They were less than satisfied with themselves after the Southern final defeat by Windgap. With good players like O'Dwyer, John and Mick Power, Bosco Bryan, Michael Wall, Liam Egan and John McCormack they have the

ability to go places and they should not stop believing that.

In the North the Blacks and Whites looked like making the big breakthrough. Then in the divisional final they collapsed. In the semi-final they looked a team of all the talents when they sent St. Martin's packing. The play of such as Denis Carroll, Paddy Carroll, Andy Barcoe, Mick Kelly, Martin O'Grady and William Delaney earned them a magnificent 2-12 to 0-6 win. They looked set to go on to greater things.

In the other semi, Lisdowney, who had already beaten Danesfort, had a fine chance to do it again. They blew it after getting 1-2 to 0-1 in front after just seven minutes. They gave their opponents score-after-score from frees, and finished at the wrong end of a 2-11 to 1-8 scoreline.

The defeated semi-finalists in the South were Mooncoin and St. Senan's. The former had a good chance of stopping the eventual champions, but Senan's were no match for John Lockes and lost by 5-15 to 1-3.

Conahy better prepared this time for senior grade

IT wasn't that Conahy had won a breath-taking county final or anything like that, and set the whole world talking about them. No, the reason was more down to earth than that. It was because their team this time was far better prepared for the rigours and trials that lay ahead in the senior championship than the one that went into the highest grade of Kilkenny hurling in 1978.

That Conahy side of the late seventies was a good one no doubt, and it won a smashing intermediate final against Dicksboro. It included a number of players who had given long and faithful service to the club, but by the time the adjustment period in the senior grade was over, those same men had, unfortunately, seen their best years. No fault in that, the men did their bit and did the parish proud in their time.

The intermediate champions of this year didn't win a magnificent final. By any

NINE years ago Conahy Shamrocks won the Kilkenny intermediate hurling championship! They repeated that none too easy feat this season, but this time the satisfaction after the successful job was far greater.

yardstick, it was an average win over a Piltown team that only got into its stride during the closing 10 minutes or so. However, during the first half Conahy Shamrocks produced a level of hurling while playing against a stiff breeze that would have done justice to any senior side.

That was one encouraging thing to emerge from the intermediate victory for Conahy Shamrocks. The other was the way up-and-coming youngsters like John Feehan, Tommy Mahony, Gearoid Brennan, Seanie Mahony, Larry Carroll, John Brennan and captain, Geoff O'Shea performed in a pressure situation.

MAJOR POWER

All those mentioned are still in their early twenties. All have the potential to improve an awful lot more, and they did exactly that since last year. And all this means that given a reasonable adjustment period in the top flight, then Conahy Shamrocks could become a major power. Bearing in mind the form in 1985, and seeing how a couple of the younger men have 'grown up', one could only be optimistic about the Northerners prospects.

Backing up those young lions will be Nickey Brennan, what a county final he played, Kieran and Paudie Brennan, all men with inter-county

experience, Kevin Mulhall and the lively Marty Buggy, so Conahy have every reason to be hopeful about their prospects this time. From the county final team one left out Nickey Feehan, Pat Gunner and Eamon Delaney, but they too are good enough to share in, and make valuable contributions to, the forward march of the club.

Twelve months ago Conahy were unlucky losers in the intermediate semi-final against Piltown. A lucky point in the dying minutes sank them. Such a defeat could have cheesed-off a number of sides. They might have needed time to get that one out of their systems, to get over it, if you like. Really a period of self pity. That was not the way with Conahy. They showed real character, and raced into this season determined to grab the prize they felt was cruelly taken from them the previous season.

From the point of view of incentive in the final, perhaps it was good for them that they



CONAHY SHAMROCKS — THE INTERMEDIATE HURLING CHAMPIONS OF 1986

Back row (l. to r.): Gearoid Brennan, Seanie O'Mahony, Kieran Brennan, Nickey Brennan, Paddy Delaney, Paschal Brennan, Marty Buggy. Middle (l. to r.): Martin Coogan (trainer-coach), John Feehan, Kevin Mulhall, Paudie Brennan, —, Sean Cahill, Larry Carroll, Pat Gunner, Larry Butler (selector), Patsy Lacey (selector). Front (l. to r.): Martin O'Shea, Shem Muldowney, Liam Murphy, Eamon Delaney, Geoff O'Shea (capt.) Tommy O'Mahony, Nicky Feehan, Mick O'Regan, Declan Downey.

faced Piltown. Here was a chance for revenge, against a side that had lost the decider to Graignamanagh in '85.

GOOD, FAST MOVEMENT

The winners did all their best work in the first half against the elements, and then three second half scores were enough to give them possession of the Hanrahan Cup. There was plenty of good, fast movement in their game. A goal near mid-half by John Brennan helped them into an interval lead of 1-7 to 0-5. The second half scores were grabbed by Paudie Brennan, Marty Buggy and the ever dangerous John Feehan to give Conahy the title on a 1-10 to 1-7 scoreline.

In the closing stages Piltown threw everything at their opponents in a bid to save the match, but the

higher they rose their challenge, the higher Conahy rose theirs.

The intermediate championship was never an easy one to win, but because of the way it was run this year, it was doubly so. When Conahy scored a 2-6 to 1-8 semi-final victory over Bennettsbridge they had gone weeks without a competitive match. They had to await the outcome of a drawn out play-off before learning their semi-final opponents, and that gave the opposition the edge in match practice.

As it turned out things went Conahy's way, but they didn't do themselves justice. And you know, I think if there was another match after the final they would have shown further improvement. Their season was stopped in the middle, and it wasn't too easy

get the rhythm going properly again.

Had Conahy's season run straight through from start to finish — they would have lost the services of the injured Paudie Brennan — it might have suited them even better. They didn't mind the way things finished up, but selectors Shem Muldowney, Larry Butler, Pasty Lacey, Ned Mulhall and good humoured coach, Martin Coogan, deserve great credit for the way they handled things in difficult circumstances. This year's was their fourth success in the championship (1930, '32, 1977, '86) and that left them at the top of the overall winners list.

The Conahy team in the final was: Tommy Mahony, Nickey Brennan, Pat Gunner, Gearoid Brennan, Geoff O'Shea (captain),

Eamon Delaney, Larry Carroll, Kevin Mulhall, Seanie Mahony, Kieran Brennan, John Feehan, John Brennan, Paudie Brennan, Marty Buggy. Subs: Shem Muldowney (used), Paddy Delaney, Paudie Mulhall, Liam Murphy, Mickey O'Regan, Paul Brennan, Seamus Dooley, Martin O'Shea, Declan Downey, Paschal Brennan, Seanie Cahill, Mick Feehan.

Piltown: James Power, Pat Brophy, Eugene Brennan, Mick Birchill, Mick Long, Gerry Kenny, Seán Norris, Jim Norris, John Joe Long, Liam McCarthy, Nickey Culleton, Pa Dunne, Tony O'Shea, Jim Power, Denis McCarthy. Subs: Jim Walsh, Denis Power (used), Jim Fitzgerald, Patrick Dunne, Joe O'Sullivan, Jimmy Brophy, Peter Brophy, John Phelan, Philip Kenny.

Small thing could change Piltown's luck

FOLLOWING their second successive defeat in the intermediate hurling championship final, Piltown must be wondering what they must do to cross the bridge to get into the senior grade.

Last year they did very well in the final against Graignamanagh, before being swallowed by an incredible late burst from their opponents. This time they only got into their stride entering the closing stages, and by that time their opponents confidence was sky high and there was no way they were going to be overtaken.

Were Piltown to take that final in isolation and measure their future prospects by it, then they would be foolish. To have even qualified for the county final suggests they have something to offer, and for that reason they should stick close to the procedures they followed this season.

Piltown had the most trying season of any club in Kilkenny, in terms of the way it ran. Between the time they

qualified for the semi-finals and that game against Tullaroan was actually played, 12 weeks passed. They did well to get over that unusually long break and beat Tullaroan by 2-14 to 1-8.

In that semi Piltown, at times, produced some of the most attractive open hurling of any side operating in the local championships. They also looked very good in an earlier match, although beaten by Bennettsbridge. That evening in Hugginstown the players were striving to piece together a game plan.

This season Piltown played more good games than bad. The likes of Nickey Culleton, Denis McCarthy, Tony O'Shea, Liam McCarthy, Eugene Brennan and Jim Norris are good players by any standard. A small thing could make all the difference for Piltown and that intermediate title may not be as far away as some might think.

RIGHT FORMULA

Another team that must be wondering what the future holds is Bennettsbridge. They have some excellent players like Seanie and

Larry Cleere, Jimmy and Tom Lennon, Richard McCarthy and John Brennan but for some reason they cannot mesh the combined talents of their 15 players together. If they ever get the right formula, they will take stopping.



A semi-final appearance marked progress for Tullaroan this season. They were way down the field last term, and on occasions this time looked capable of going all the way. With bright young performers like Bill Hennessy, Liam Keoghane and Jimmy Walton they can only improve. They badly missed the injured Willie Maher in the semi-final. If they build on the progress they made this time, they could be booking a place back in the top flight.

For a long time

O'Loughlin's, with John Mulcahy and Mick Cleere always to the fore, looked capable of great things. They fell away, and threw away a second chance of making it when involved in a play-off. They have ability, but they have yet to prove really how much yet.

For Dicksboro and St. Patrick's (Ballyragget) the season was confined to causing the odd upset, little more. Graigue/Ballycallan found the adjustment from the junior grade was not as easily made as some might have thought. Injuries did not help them, but they should be better next time.

Southern pair, Mullinavat and Carrickshock had their ups-and-downs. The 'Vat improved on the previous year, and a similar advance next year would bring them places. Carrickshock were too inconsistent for their own good.

The relegation fight, and with the losers going back junior, was between Young Irelands (Gowran) and Galmoy. After a 20 year run out of the junior section, Galmoy slipped back there.

Tribute to the great men of '39

IF YOU are hitting the sixty mark, or if you are older, you will remember the day and the year well — Sunday, September 3, 1939. If you are younger, well then you will have read about it, a day that changed the pattern of our lives and the history of Europe at the time. It was the last day of peace, and the first day of World War Two.

As if to mark the occasion, the day dawned brightly with a promising morning. Then, as the German armies prepared for their bloody charge across the mainland of Europe, the day changed, became sultry and humid. In the distance the dark storm clouds gathered.

For hurling folk, and for Kilkenny supporters in particular, it was a memorable occasion. It was all-Ireland hurling final day. Set for this battle were the great and traditional rivals, Cork and Kilkenny, the greatest exponents and stylists in Gaelic games.

It is hoped this article will refresh the memories of those who heard about, or saw this great final, and educate in some small way younger generations about the hurlers of 1939. This was a great team.

The final was the eighth occasion the two counties clashed on all-Ireland day. Victories stood 4-3 in favour of Kilkenny:

1893: Cork 6-8, Kilkenny 0-2; 1904: Kilkenny 1-9, Cork 1-8; 1905: Kilkenny 7-7, Cork 2-9; 1907: Kilkenny 3-12, Cork 4-8; 1912: Kilkenny 2-1, Cork 1-3; 1926: Cork 4-6; Kilkenny 2-0; 1931: Cork 5-8; Kilkenny 3-4 (after second replay).

While the Noreiders had the distinction of being the first county to beat Cork in a final, they hadn't beaten the Leesiders in the decider for 27 years. The defeat in 1931 after a second replay, the series of games that boosted the G.A.A. and established all-Ireland hurling final day as a great national occasion, left Kilkenny hurlers and supporters with the feeling that they had a score to settle. The 1938 champions, Dublin, and finalists Waterford had fallen in the provincial championships. In Leinster, Kilkenny accounted for Laois at Nowlan Park, and in a tremendously exciting Leinster final at Portlaoise beat Dublin, the League and all-Ireland champions. The score was 2-12 to 4-3. Kilkenny comfortably beat Galway at Roscrea in the semi-final.

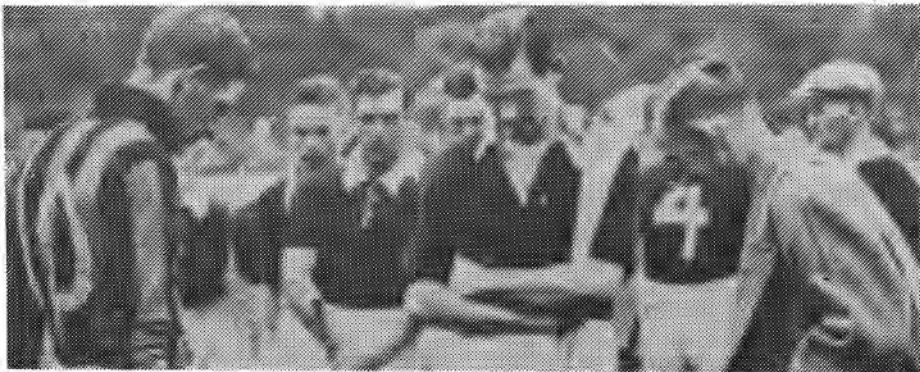
The sun shone brightly as the trains thundered into Dublin, and there were dapples of sunshine on the river Liffey as the crowds — 39,302 attended the game — swarmed happily along the Quays.

BLOOD AND BANDAGES

Cork got the tonic of a great minor final victory as the senior teams took the field. For Cork "Micka Brennan", the Kilkenny man playing with the old enemy, was 52

By **PADDY BUGGY**
Former President of the G.A.A.

easily discernible in his black knicks. What problem he would have been for today's television producers! Billy Murphy of the long puck was loosening up, the fair-headed Jim Young, John Quirke, the Kerry man living in Cork, young Jack Lynch of the Glen, who everyone was talking about, Batt Thornhill, Ted O'Sullivan, Bobby Ring, Billy Cambell and Jack Barrett. Yes, Cork, affectionately known to their supporters because of their vivid red and white colours as blood and bandages, were all to be seen.



Jack Lynch (right) and the Kilkenny captain, Jimmy Walsh await the toss of the coin before the first round of the National League at the Athletic Grounds in October, 1939. Looking on apprehensively (behind Billy Campbell) is a youthful Christy Ring about to play his first league game for Cork.

For Kilkenny, five of the last successful team from 1935 were there. They were captain Jimmy Walsh, the stylish, effortless Paddy Whelan, the tall goalkeeper Jimmy O'Connell, Paddy Larkin with the cap, and the unmistakable Peter Blanchfield. Billy Burke was there since '37. Jimmy Kelly of Carrickshock, the dark-haired stylist Jimmy Langton, the wavy haired, well built Paddy Grace, Bobby Hinks from Slieverue, Jack Mulcahy, Jack Gargan and Jimmy Phelan were all newcomers to Croke Park on all-Ireland final day.

By now the day had dulled. The atmosphere was humid. The wind had died to a whisper, and the clouds were gathering low and looked angry as a hush came over the crowd as starting time approached. From the first whistle from referee M.J. Flaherty (Tullamore), it was the same as always on all-Ireland day — nothing else mattered but this hour.

The game was a memory to treasure. A point in the dying moments gave Kilkenny a 2-7 to 3-3 victory in a game that produced one of the greatest tests of endurance and stamina ever witnessed at Croke Park. Kilkenny were first to score, despite, to the present-day belief, that they were always

slow to settle. They were in their stride early and had built up a lead of 2-4 to 1-1 at half-time. Cork, as if to match the weather conditions, stormed back. They levelled in the closing stages. However, Kilkenny were equal to the challenge. They weathered the red and white and scored the winning point in the dying seconds.

Cork had first use of the light breeze, but it was the Noremen who scored first when Jimmy Kelly pointed. A Cork onslaught followed. Kilkenny's defence stood firm, and the finishing was weak. Then, following a good centre from Paddy Phelan, newcomer Jimmy Phelan slipped his marker and shot to the net. Kilkenny again worked back for the diminutive

Seanie O'Brien to point and increase the winners' lead to five points with Cork yet to score. Jack Lynch then had a point. The hurling was fast and furious. The Noremen kept up the pressure and were rewarded with a point from a Langton free.

MIDFIELD TOUGH

Kilkenny continued to have the better of the exchanges, and a Jimmy Walsh centre put them on the move again. A Gargan cross was shot hard goalwards by O'Brien, only for Buttimer to again save Cork. Larkin was great in Kilkenny's defence as Cork sent wide. In desperation the Rebel County again pressed forward from a Young cut-in, and Brennan missed narrowly. The Kilkenny posts had another close shave following a line ball by Barrett. Cork again battled back from the puck-out for Ted O'Sullivan to goal, leaving only a point in it. Each side then attacked in turn before Jimmy Walsh sent wide. A further free led to another attack, but Cork's defence had now settled. A beautifully struck line ball by Bobby Hinks led to Kilkenny's next score — a point by Langton.

Another Cork attack was beaten out, and when Young fouled Leahy, Langton



The Kilkenny senior hurling team that played in the 1939 all-Ireland final. Back row (l. to r.): Peter Blanchfield, Paddy Phelan, Paddy Grace, Paddy Larkin, Terry Leahy, Jimmy Walsh (capt), Billy Burke, Jimmy Kelly. Centre (l. to r.): Mick Dalton, Jimmy O'Connell, Jack Gargan, Seanie O'Brien, Jimmy Phelan, Bobby Hinks, Mick Oakes. Front (l. to r.) Jim Langton, Jack Mulcahy.

pointed the free. Up and down play followed, and the action swung from end to end, with O'Connell being well tested in the Kilkenny goal. The duels at midfield were tough. Hinks then struck another beauty of a line ball that was fastened onto by Jimmy Phelan, who finished to the net for his, and Kilkenny's second goal. Brennan and Ring were prominent in the Cork attack, but Grace and Phelan cleared in turn. Gargan retired injured and he was replaced by Bobby Brannigan before the last attack of the first half when Cork had another wide. Half-time score: Kilkenny 2-4, Cork 1-1.



Paddy Phelan, one of the all-time greats.

On the resumption, Langton sent wide for Kilkenny, and two seventies by Phelan were beaten away by the Cork defence. The exchanges were hectic as Kilkenny continued to attack and Terry Leahy

pointed. Cork's great rally now began in earnest, but their shooting was off. Yet another attack led to a goal by Jack Lynch, following Dineen's centre. Then came the sudden split-second glare of the lightning, and simultaneously there was a deafening roll of thunder. The rain came lashing down. There was no let-up in the pace and vigour of the game. Yes, this will always be remembered as the thunder and lightning final.

STRUGGLED HARDER

O'Sullivan had a point for Cork as the rain poured down. Still the game went on. Jimmy Phelan, who was having an excellent game, pointed for Kilkenny to give them a 2-6 to 2-2 lead. Continuous Cork pressure earned them a point by Jack Lynch. The rain continued to pour down as the sides struggled harder than ever. The Kilkenny defence reached great heights as Cork battled for the equaliser. Then as full-time was approaching, a free by Cambell from midfield fell through a cluster of backs and forwards to the Kilkenny net. The sides were level. Shades of 1931. Cork supporters now had hopes of another draw and another day. But it was not to be. The Kilkenny forwards stormed around the Cork goal like a swarm of bees. They forced a '70'. It was taken by Phelan and was cleared. As one scribe reported: "Then through the wall of rain came Jimmy Kelly and he had the ball — a sudden flick and it was over the bar". Kilkenny were all-Ireland champions of 1939- They won the title for the 12th time, and revenge had been extracted for 1931.

Kilkenny were deserving winners. Cork were worthy finalists. Both teams deserved

plaudits for serving up brilliant fare in the worst possible conditions. The Kilkenny half-back line of Hinks, Burks and Paddy Phelan played a major part in the success. At full-back, Larkin was a stumbling block for Cork forwards. He was well supported by Grace and Blachfield, while behind them Jimmy O'Connell made some grand saves.



Clubmates Walsh and Kelly again struck up a useful combination at midfield. They had some rare trussles with Barrett and Buckley. In attack Jimmy Phelan was the surprise packet. He finished top scorer. His two goals were the highlights of the game. Gargan did well on the half line of attack until injury forced his retirement, and Langton, O'Brien, Terry Leahy and Jack Mulcahy contributed generously to the victory.

Cork had performed well. It was difficult to pinpoint a weakness in their team. They battled as only those in the famed red jersey can. They retired from Croke Park knowing that they would be back again.



The Presentation, Castlecomer, juvenile hurling team who won the Leinster championship (Roinn B).



Johnstown, the under-12 (Roinn B) hurling championship winners.



Slieverue who were defeated by Young Irelands in the minor hurling championship (Roinn B).

Man of vision helped 'Stephens

A TRUE blue from the old brigade stepped into retirement and handed over the reins of one of Kilkenny's most progressive GAA clubs.

Mr. William Cody, or Bill as he was known far and wide, stood down after serving 17 eventful years as chairman of the James Stephens' club.

He was first elected in 1968 and since led 'Stephens through probably their greatest period in the history of the club. On the field and off it 'Stephens made terrific strides forward, and all the time Bill Cody provided steady leadership.

During his time the Larchfield outfit won All Ireland, County (at all levels)



Bill Cody, first elected chairman of the James Stephens Club in 1968.

and provincial hurling honours. They transformed meagre club facilities into some of the most modern in the country, and established themselves as one of the premier outfits in Ireland.

James Stephens' players have made significant contributions to county teams at all levels, and Mr. Cody's son, Brian, became the first man from the club to captain a Kilkenny senior All Ireland hurling team to victory. This he did in 1982.

Bill Cody's shrewd leadership helped bring James Stephens a long way. He left behind a club well equipped to tackle what should be a bright future.

NO BEATING TALENTED YOUNGSTERS

THE North Kilkenny under-16 hurling team retained the Leinster blitz when they overcame North Wexford, Offaly twice and Dublin North in the final. This year's competition was held in Portlaoise.

Their first match was against North Wexford, where a late goal gave the Noresiders a six points' winning margin. Offaly were tough opponents in the second round. The black and amber boys came out on top wit two points to spare.

Offaly got through to the semi-finals as the losers with the highest average score. Again the Noresiders beat them by two points to qualify for the final. North Kilkenny won the final on a 4-5 to 1-2 scoreline.

A brilliant display by Adrian Ronan was the feature of the decider. He scored 4-2 and the other points came

from D.J. Carey. Pat O'Neill was a commanding centre-back. Aidan Ryan was solid all through. Jimmy Coyne made some vital saves in goal. Pdraig McCluskey, Fran Whelan, Joe Norton and John Dermody all defended well and made the opposition work hard for scores.

Dominic Bradley and Pat O'Grady were a strong midfield partnership. In addition to Adrian Ronan and D.J. Carey, the other forwards — Ger Dunne, Ger Brennan, John Buggy and John Conlan — worked hard. Edward Teehan scored a vital goal against North Wexford, but an ankle injury sustained in that game put him out of action. Shane Prendergast, John Gavin, Brian Ryan and Thomas Curran all figured at some stage of the competition.

For the second year in succession, the selectors were: Paddy Mullen

(James Stephens), John Comerford (Young Irelands) and Sean O'Mahoney (Conahy Shamrocks).

The victorious team was: Jimmy Conroy (James Stephens), John Dermody (St. Lactain's), Aidan Ryan (St. Martin's), Fran Whelan (James Stephens); Pdraig McCluskey (Graigie-Ballycallan), Pat O'Neill (Young Irelands), Joe Norton (Tullaroan), Dominic Bradley (James Stephens), Pat O'Grady (Blacks and Whites), John Conlon (Bennettsbridge), Ger Dunne (Tullaroan), John Buggy (Erin's Own), Ger Brennan (Fenians), Adrian Ronan (Graigie-Ballycallan); D.J. Carey (Young Irelands). Subs: Edward Teehan (Graigie-Ballycallan), Shane Prendergast (Dicksboro), Thomas Curran (Young Irelands), Brian Ryan (Fenians), John Gavin (Goresbridge-Paulstown).



Cumann

Luthchleas Gael

Coisde Cill Chainnigh

KILKENNY COUNTY BOARD

would like to express its thanks to its members, club members and supporters for their help and patronage during 1986.

Eamonn Ó Cearbhaill

Runaí

More expected from Under-21 team and selectors

IT didn't add up on the night the Marble City boys were sent packing by a spirited if not brilliant Wexford, and even on reflection at this late stage, it still doesn't add up. Eight of the losing all-Ireland team of the previous year saw action against the Slaneysiders, but for a variety of reasons things just didn't happen on the field.

In the Leinster championship of '85 Kilkenny surged to a massive 4-18 to 1-4 provincial final victory over Wexford. With eight of the side that later did so well in the all-Ireland final, Kilkenny couldn't cope with the Slaneyside challenge this time. Was it that Wexford improved that much in the meantime? Or was it that Kilkenny went back that far?

Somewhere between both lies the real truth. But a lot more than one hour's mediocre hurling was expected from this year's under-21 team. The panel was put through a rigorous build-up for the Wexford Park clash, but on the evening it all mattered some players just didn't want to know. A few gave it all they had, but others didn't appear to want to hurt themselves — one does not mean in the crude sense — and just plodded through the game.

Apart from the players, the selectors didn't exactly cover themselves in glory either. They were hampered by the late withdrawal of dynamic Bennettsbridge player, Tommy Lennon. Even besides that, they did some unusual things.

A 'FORM' PLAYER

Like for instance the holding of Michael Phelan as a reserve. He was put in during the last quarter. He scored 1-2 in that time, and

PLAYERS and selectors alike hit an off day for a Kilkenny team and a Leinster title, and possibly more, was thrown away. A fine Tipperary team enjoyed a bit of luck before snatching the all-Ireland under-21 hurling title of 1985 from Kilkenny, but with the greater part of that losing side the Noresiders were not good enough to get past the first match this year.

was the losers joint top marksman. Those efforts must have embarrassed some people. Anyone who had seen the Glenmore lad in action in the senior championship saw he was a 'form' player. In the early part of the year he was one of the brightest prospects around, and later caught the eye of the senior selectors.

Then there was the case of the more than useful John Power, who by the end of the year had an all-Ireland junior medal to his credit. He was started at midfield, and when things didn't work out he was shifted. His last move was to the sideline. While at midfield he was doing his bit, but the team handlers managed somehow to take him out of the match before they ever took him off. A terrible mistake.

And then there was the case of Paul Phelan at centre-back. He did not do anything wrong, but he was so intent on avoiding errors that he sacrificed his usual flair. As the pivotal defender he was like a competitor wrongly entered in a handicap event.

In the end Wexford won by 2-10 to 1-9. Their victory was more emphatic than the scoreline would suggest, because Kilkenny hit 1-1 in the closing minutes.

The winners were really anxious to succeed, but some of their opponents were lukewarm, at best. And after this Wexford went on to take the Leinster title, after a replay against Offaly. In the all-Ireland final they fell to Galway.

Kilkenny could easily have been involved in that run to the finish. And who knows what might have happened in a Galway/-Kilkenny final. After this particular championship, Nore side supporters had every reason to wonder about what might have been.



MADE DIFFERENCE

Goals early in both halves helped Wexford settle, but there wasn't enough fight in their opponents. At the break the winners led by 1-5 to 0-5 after playing against the light breeze. By the

three-quarter mark the winners were 2-8 to 0-7 clear, and looking winners all the way.

When Michael Phelan joined the action for Kilkenny he added strength and penetration to a meek attack. Later Tommy Lennon showed real commitment by taking the field, only days after receiving 10 stitches in a serious hand injury. The pair made a difference, but not enough to undo all the harm that had been done before.

The losers had one player who stood out. He was James Stephens defender, John Scott. Days later the stylish Scott damaged his shoulder, and missed practically the rest of the season. At least he had one gem to remember in '86. John Power too tried his very best, until he fell victim to the failings of others. Pat Barron and P. J. Greene, who benefitted when Wexford took a good opponent off him, also had reason to hold their heads high afterwards.

Kilkenny scorers: Michael Phelan (1-2); Eamon Morrissey (0-5, four frees); John Power, Seán O'Mahony (0-1 each).

Kilkenny: R. Dunne (Graignamanagh); P. O'Dwyer (Carrickshock); S. Cleere (Bennettsbridge); P. J. Greene (Tullagher - Rosbercon); L. O'Brien (Slieverue); P. Phelan (Shamrocks); J. Scott (James Stephens); R. Moran, capt. (Bennettsbridge); J. Power (John Lockes); P. Barron (Glenmore); J. Bergin (Galmoy); E. Morrissey (St. Martin's); S. O'Mahony (Conahy Shamrocks); D. McCarthy (Piltown); M. Dunne (Graignamanagh). **Subs:** T. Lennon (Bennettsbridge); J. Walsh (Mullinavat); M. Phelan (Glenmore).

'Glen and 'Yard shared in glory

DEFEATED hurling finalists of last year, Glenmore, and those big football winners of years past, Railyard, got among the major honours this season.

The Southerners produced probably their best 30 minutes of hurling during the entire year when they came from behind during the second period and beat James Stephens in the Byrne Cup open draw tournament final.

In the corresponding football competition, for the Moremiles Cup, the Railyard had a tough struggle for most of the first half, but then exerted their authority and beat Lisdowney in an entertaining final.

The clash of Glenmore and 'Stephens turned out to be between the losing championship semi-finalists. The losers called all the shots in the first half, and after just 14 minutes were 0-6 to 0-2 in front. They

continued to pile-up the score, and at the break were 1-10 to 0-5 clear.

The second half was a whole new ball game. Glenmore burst into exciting action, and with superb performances from Liam Walsh and Ray Heffernan, they hauled back the arrears, and ended remarkable 2-16 to 1-12 winners.

A win of that size was remarkable when it's considered Glenmore were a point behind in the 54th minute. Then Dick Hennessy slipped through for a goal. Michael Phelan and Ray Heffernan shot points, before Phelan netted to earn a nice win.

The might of Glenmore that evening suggested they would do great things in the championship proper.

The **Glenmore** team was: M. Deady, S. Boyle, E. O'Connor, P. Murphy, L. Walsh, E. Aylward, D. Ennett, P. Barron, R.

Heffernan, P. O'Connor, M. Phelan, B. Doherty, J. Heffernan, F. Ennett, J. Flynn. Subs: D. Heffernan, D. Hennessy.

James Stephens: M. Moore, T. Hogan, P. Neary, E. O'Neill, L. Hennessy, M. Hennessy, J. O'Brien, D. Mullen, J. Scott, M. Forristal, N. Kelly, T. Leahy, L. Mullen, B. Cody, A. Egan. Subs: B. Walton, F. Morgan.

Seventeen times winners of the senior football championship, Railyard had tradition firmly on their side against Lisdowney. The hopeful losers were doing well until they were unlucky to have a man sent off. Only then did the Railyard dominate, and at half-time were 1-5 to 1-0 in front.

In the opening 10 minutes of the second moiety Lisdowney put in a big effort. Unfortunately for them they missed a few scores, and as the half wore on, their enthusiasm waned. When the

Railyard got back in control they went on to score a 1-11 to 1-3 win, their first since this championship was introduced in 1984.

More skilful performers for the winners were Tom Brennan, M. Buggy, M. Delaney, B. Smith, Martin Buggy and Paddy O'Dowd, while J. Walsh, Eddie Wall, Tony Thornton, M. Carroll and Billy McEvoy never gave up hope for the losers.

Railyard: N. Kerr, A. Daly, M. Rowe, T. Brennan, M. O'Dowd, Michael O'Dowd, M. Buggy, N. Geoghegan, M. Delaney, Martin Buggy, B. Smith, J. Bolger, P. Brown, M. Fitzgerald, P. O'Dowd.

Lisdowney: J. Walsh, L. Healy, T. Hogan, T. Brennan, E. Wall, T. Thornton, M. Campion, L. McEvoy, L. Maher, M. Carroll, R. Kearney, M. Walsh, L. Downey, B. McEvoy, L. Kenny. Subs: G. Henderson, J. Skehan.

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WEEKLY MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENT IN ROSE HILL BAR

HANDBALL

'Ducksie' the star of stars

HANDBALL'S finest player, Michael 'Ducksie' Walsh once more dominated local and national scene, and even at international level. He was not the only Kilkennyman who sparkled however, because Michael Reade, Billy Bourke, Willie Pratt, Johnny Brennan, Pierce O'Keeffe, Jimmy Pratt, David Clifford and Graham O'Brien all made an impact at national level.

HOWEVER, the headlines were dominated by the deft touches and giant-killing skills of Michael Walsh. He began by travelling to the U.S.A. and took on their best 19 and under players. He got a tough time, but he got through to become only the second player in the history of handball in any country to win all three USHA titles — under-15, 17 and 19.

For this he became one of the few handball players to be named Irish Independent *Sports star of the week*. He got another honour in January when he won the B+I handballer of the year, and then the Sunday Independent/Irish Nationwide honoured him as *Young player of the year*.

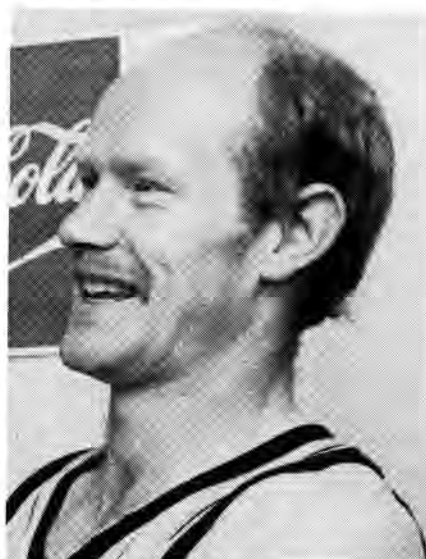
Undeterred by 12 months of non-stop training and competition Walsh prepared assiduously for the Leinster and all-Ireland 40x20 championships, where he was a newcomer to senior ranks. He also gained a new partner, Michael Reade.

He had some extremely tough games in the singles campaign. One remembers in particular a mammoth game against outgoing champion, Martin Hennegan (Mayo) when Walsh was very much the underdog. But a great exhibition in the first game and in the tie-breaker against Tony Ryan in the final saw him win the title and become holder of two senior singles titles, a very rare occurrence indeed.

Meanwhile, Michael Reade was proving a perfect partner for the all-conquering Walsh. Top singles players have rarely been equally good at doubles, but Reade got the best out of Walsh in some exhilarating games.

MICHAEL READE

Reade, who won junior honours with Billy Bourke just a year before, showed a fine combination of hard-hitting and delicate touches to be an invaluable partner.



Eugene Downey

He and Walsh first met 1985 junior champions, Dublin and beat them after a tough game. The following morning they, travelled to Windgap to face three times champions, Wexford. Kilkenny duly won through and Reade was the star.

Now it was the best that a very competitive Connacht could throw at them. A very evenly balanced game saw Kilkenny through to the final against Tipperary, and a first all-Ireland senior medal for Michael Reade.

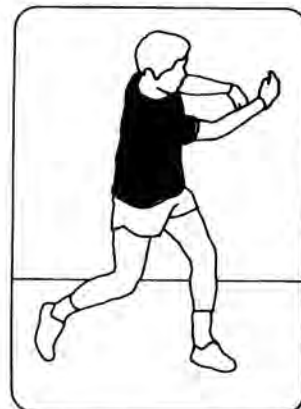
WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

Walsh was not finished training, or winning. He got through a tough series to win the right to represent Ireland in the World singles championship. He travelled to Canada and won through to the semi-finals, where he opposed the 1984 champion, Canada's Merv Deckert. Deckert was a 'toughie, but Walsh beat him in the tie-breaker.

Now it was a crack at the senior world championship. The skills and superior fitness of professional, Vern Roberts, were too much, and the US player won.

Back home and the preparations continued abated for the Coca Cola season. In this, Ducksie is almost unbeatable in singles. So it proved. He starred on one of RTE's rare days to being their cameras to a handball court. Michael Walsh beat his Roscommon namesake to retain the senior singles title to become the first player since Pat Kirby to do this.

He also campaigned in senior doubles with Eugene Downey. This duo won the title in 1985, and were hopeful. But the great talent and strength of John and Tom Quish proved too much, and the Limerickmen regained the title.



Walsh was now more than 23 months in non-stop training, and it came as no surprise when he decided to ease off for the Winter. Even so, he won Belfast's Golden Gloves tournament and the Conna tournament against top opposition.

BILLY BOURKE

For Billy Bourke, 1986 saw the realisation of at least one of his handball dreams. He won a senior all-Ireland singles title. Not alone did he win, he regained for Kilkenny a title they last won in 1947, when the legendary John Joe Gilmartin was still unbeatable.

Bourke had won handball titles at minor and junior level. He won through



Gaelic Games stars for 1986 who received their awards at the Kilkenny Sports Stars annual dinner in Springhill Hotel, pictured with Mr. Garry McShane, Managing Director, Smithwick's Brewery (sponsors). They are (from left): Michael "Ducksie" Walsh (handball), Kevin Fennelly (hurling), Angela Downey (camogie) and Michael Reade (handball).

handsomely in all games, none more so than the final when he beat the player who was subsequently to lose the softball final to Bourke's first cousin, Michael Walsh (Roscommon).

Billy teamed up with Willie Pratt in senior handball doubles, and here was the most heart-breaking handball story of the year. They won their way over vaunted opposition to reach the all-Ireland semi-final against the 1982 champions, Matt Purcell and Pius Winders (Kildare). Although their opponents were away it was still presumed the great combination and skill of Bourke and Pratt would see them through.

Then tragedy and controversy struck. Kilkenny officials are adamant that they never received notice of this game. Croke Park are equally adamant that notice was sent. Officials in Kilkenny and Croke Park, are highly efficient and trustworthy. However, that was irrelevant to Bourke and Pratt. They only learned of their 'failure' to appear at their semi-final venue some weeks later, and by then it was too late to appeal, despite valiant efforts by Kilkenny handball secretary, Con Moore.

O'KEEFFE, SENIOR AND JUNIOR

The O'Keeffe family has looked to the father of the family, Pat, to bring home

the handball honours in recent years. He did that once more this year by winning his usual quota of Leinster titles, although failing to win all-Ireland honours.

This was more than compensated for by a brilliant under-21 trail blazed by his son, Pierce. The early stages of his campaign were quiet enough. At Leinster final level he faced Offaly away and won without fuss. His all-Ireland semi-final victory over Connacht gave the home fans an insight into some of his skills.

Tipperary's John O'Donoghue was the recognised kingpin of under-21 handball, and the final was certain to be a victory for him. The first game gave further strength to this opinion, and Kilkenny followers quietly accepted defeat.

Then the skills which had been partially shown in the all-Ireland semi-final began to show. Superb kills from all over the court had the Tipp. man reeling. O'Keeffe kept up the pressure and levelled easily.

Both players suffered injury in the third game. It was to prove the most thrilling game of the all-Ireland final night. O'Keeffe was well on top, then fell back into his old ways, and almost lost the lead. But a final fling saw him win through to the all-Ireland. He was outsider in the final but ended a most deserving winner.

JUVENILES

After tremendous success from 1969 until recent years, Kilkenny's lack of all-Ireland success at juvenile level had become to get noticed! People like Doc Hennessy, Sean Kennedy and Bobby Falsey took the matter in hand, and they got just reward for their efforts when three of our juveniles won all-Irelands. They bridged the gap by winning titles the county never won.

Jimmy Pratt, son of star of many tough campaigns, Willie, teamed up with David Clifford, another name not unknown in handball circles, to win the under-15 doubles, while Mullinavat began to regain some of their glory of former years when Graham O'Brien won the under-15 singles.

JOHNNY BRENNAN

Johnny Brennan, better known as a hurler made a great impact on the handball scene, by winning through a really tough Leinster junior championship with 64 entries. He beat the brilliant John Rossiter to win the Leinster title when all seemed lost.

He had home venue for the all-Ireland semi-final against Galway's Paddy Delaney. He also turned the tables on the experienced Galway player. He failed to stop Delaney — who went on to win the all-Ireland title — but it was a memorable campaign for the Mothel player.

Out steps Mick and in steps Tommy



In recognition of his 17 years' service as chairman of Kilkenny Co. Board, Michael O'Neill was presented with a Kilkenny crystal lamp, decanter and glasses by the 'Board and clubs. Picture taken at the presentation in O'Loughlin's GAA club shows: Seated (from left) - Joe Walsh (secretary, Southern Board), Ted Carroll (county secretary), Tom Murphy (county chairman), Mick O'Neill, Eileen O'Neill. Behind - Joe Mackey (Southern Board chairman), Seamus Delaney (secretary Football Board), Ned Moran (Northern Board chairman), Eamonn Hennessy (County Registrar), John Lyng (secretary Northern Board), Paul Kinsella (Hurling Officer), Tom Ryall (Leinster Council representative).

THE 17th chairman of Kilkenny Co. Board was elected at annual Convention in the massive O'Loughlin-Gaels complex, in January.

Tommy Murphy from Danesfort swept into office after a contest involving John Healy (Tullogher-Rosbercon) and James Walsh (Slieverue).

One week earlier Mr. Murphy had been re-elected chairman of the Northern Board, a position he first took over only 12 months earlier. He stood down from his position in the North, and his place was filled by Ned Moran (Blacks and Whites).

Mr. Murphy followed in the footsteps of Co. Board secretary, Ted Carroll, who also served as Northern chairman before his elevation.

The new chairman became the second man from the parish of Danesfort to hold the highest G.A.A. office in the county. Denis J. Gorey (Burnchurch) was the first. He served in 1915.

Mr. Murphy's election wasn't without a hitch. Before the crucial vote the secretary pointed out 360 delegates were entitled to vote. The tally afterwards indicated 20 extra votes had been cast. However, when the figures were revised it was learned that in all 424 delegates were eligible to vote.

The new chairman took over from Michael O'Neill, who had held office since 1969.

On the money front, there was good news for the 'Board. Nearly £23,500 was in the bank at the end of the year.

Co. Board officers: T. Murphy Danes-

fort (chairman); Ted Carroll, Lisdowney (secretary); Jim Brophy, Piltown, and Jim Rice, O'Loughlin's (trustees); Ray Anthony (auditor); Eamon Hennessy (development officer and registrar); Eamon Doyle, O'Loughlin's (youth officer); Tom Ryall, Graigue-Ballycallan (PRO and Central Council rep.); Paul Kinsella, St. Martin's (Bord Iomana); Tom Waldron, St. Lactain's (Gaelic officer); Michael O'Neill, St. Senan's, and George Leahy, James Stephens (Leinster Council reps); T. Carroll, Seamus Delaney, John Healy, T. Murphy, Fr. T. Murphy and Eddie Keher (delegates to Leinster Convention); T. Carroll, S. Delaney, J. Healy, T. Murphy, M. O'Neill, E. Keher (Delegates to Congress).

Handball Board — Eamon Hanrahan, Kilfane (chairman); Seamus Reade, Talbot's Inch (vice-chairman); Con Moore, O'Loughlin's (secretary, treasurer); Tommy O'Brien, C. Moore (PROs), Michael Reidy, T. O'Brien, Pat O'Keefe (selectors).

Southern Board — Joe Mackey, Dunnamaggin (chairman); Andy Aylward, Mullinavat (vice-chairman); Joseph Walsh, Thomastown (secretary-treasurer); J. Mackey, Ned Conway, Mullinavat (Fixtures Committee reps); James Brophy, Piltown; John Healy, Tullogher-Rosbercon; P.J. Roughan, Carrickshock; N. Conway (Co. Board reps); John Gahan, Graignamanagh; Jim Conway, Mullinavat; Tom Ryan, Glenmore; Andy Aylward (Reps. to Referees' Sub-committee).

Northern Board — Tommy Murphy, Danesfort (chairman); Ned Moran, Blacks and Whites (vice-chairman); John Lyng, Emeralds (secretary); N. Moran, J. Lyng, Jim McGrath, Danesfort; Nicky Grace, Threecastles (Co. Board reps.). Subsequently when Tommy Murphy became chairman of the Co. Board, Ned Moran took over the chair in the North. Jim Rice (O'Loughlin-Gaels) became the new vice-chairman in the North.

Football Board — Michael O'Neill, St. Senan's (chairman); Jim McGrath, Danesfort (vice-chairman); Seamus Delaney (secretary); S. Delaney, Tom Ryan, Glenmore; Tommy Duggan, Bigwood; Teddy Holden, Graignamanagh (Co. Board reps.).

Primary Schools' Board — Joe Dunphy, Ballyhale (chairman); Bro. Healy, Kilkenny C.B.S. (vice-chairman); Paul Kinsella, St. Patrick's (secretary); John Knox, Gowran (secretary and PRO); G. O'Neill, Coon-Muckalee (registrar); J. Knox (Co. Board rep.).

Bord na nÓg — James Delahunty, Mooncoin (chairman); Eddie Blackmore, Piltown (vice-chairman); Tom Ryall, Graigue-Ballycallan (secretary); Pat Dunphy, Rower-Inistioge (delegate to Co. Board).

CAMOGIE BOARD — Carmel Savage, St. Paul's (chairperson); Breda Holmes, St. Paul's (secretary); Annette Stapleton, St. Paul's (treasurer); John Phelan, Lisdowney (vice-chairman); Phil Cashin, St. Brigid's (PRO); Angela Downey (registrar).

COURAGEOUS CLARA

CONTINUED

the middle of the Shamrocks goal. As Shamrocks' keeper, Kevin Fennelly stayed on his line, Clara reserve, Joe Casey dashed in, and while still airborne scrambled the ball into the net.

Immediately there were protests and calls for a free out by Shamrocks players. Referee, Dinny Butler, consulted with his umpires, and the goal was allowed. That disputed score decided the Kilkenny final of '86.

As expected, Clara celebrations started immediately, but Shamrocks continued to argue the issue, and before things died down a Co. Board steward was struck, the referee was man-handled and abused and damage was done to the dethroned champions dressing-room. Following an inquiry subsequently, the Shamrocks club was fined £300 for the damage done and the abusive behaviour of their officials and supporters, one of their players was suspended for 12 months for striking the steward and three others were warned as to their future conduct.

THRILLING START

Pity that the conclusion had to be so, because the general body of the final was most entertaining, with fortunes swaying to-and-fro. There was a thrilling start to proceedings when Liam Fennelly had a powerful shot blocked, only for Michael Kelly to nip in and finish to the net. A penalty goal from Anthony Prendergast cancelled that, but within minutes scores from Liam Fennelly and Michael Kelly left the Shamrocks 3-0 to 1-0 ahead.

From there to the break Clara did very well, and managed to get back level at 3-1 (S) to 1-7. Four times afterwards the lead changed hands, and when Brendan Fennelly hit that

earlier mentioned point it looked as if Shamrocks had done it again. But Clara, just as they had done all afternoon, continued to battle away and their efforts were rewarded when Joe Casey became the hero of the hour when he netted. Against all the odds, Clara had done it.

"The likes of the celebrations were never seen in the parish before", enthused delighted chairman, Noel Kehoe, afterwards. "The excitement was beyond belief. I never imagined the thrill of victory could be so wonderful."

While Casey hit that all important last score, and will forever be remembered in the parish for it, there were a few other classy performers besides. Lester Ryan, who established himself as a county player this season, was in top form. He is a player of beautiful balance, and his daring bursts had the Shamrocks defence in all sorts of bother. Another Ryan, this time wing-back Tom, turned in a sparkling display, even as good as his 'man of the match' effort in the semi-final. Kevin Ryan epitomised the spirit of the team, and never gave up. Harry Ryan was never afraid to venture where most would not, and Johnny Ryan, Stephen Whearty, Paddy Prendergast and Anthony Prendergast also made handsome contributions to a team effort that delighted thousands.

HAPPY MARRIAGE

When Paddy Johnston joined Clara at the beginning of the year he told the players at their first meeting that he would bring them to the county final, but they would have to win it themselves. Paddy did his bit, and as ever, the players were not found wanting. It was a happy marriage, and the team selectors,

Noel Kehoe and Liam Nolan, were two astute accomplices in the plot.

The final win was Clara's second in the season over Shamrocks. In the preliminary round, a late goal from Lester Ryan decided an all action encounter. The champions had another daring run against Fenians (Johnstown), but they got through. No one managed to lower the colours of Clara during a memorable campaign.

While the year was a thrilling one for the Clara club, there was a dark side to it also. During the campaign, senior selector Dick Cassin died after a match, and then after the county final a former chairman, John Knox, was killed in a tragic road accident. Both had made enormous contributions to the growth of Clara G.A.A. club, and in the years to come their efforts should continue to bear fruit. May they rest in peace.

The Clara winning team was: Liam Ryan, Tom Lennon, Paddy Prendergast, Tom O'Shea (capt.), Kevin Ryan, Johnny Ryan, Tom Ryan, Brian Barcoe, Eugene Byrne, Pat Campion, Stephen Whearty, Lester Ryan, Anthony Prendergast, Gerry Nolan, Harry Ryan. *Subs:* Joe Casey (used); Tony Byrne, Coleman Ryan, Paschal Connolly, Dermot Langton, Jim Connolly, Ross Kehoe, John Nolan, Mick Murphy, Nicholas Carrigan.

Shamrocks: Kevin Fennelly, Paul Phelan, Frank Holohan, Watty Phelan, Tommy Phelan, Liam Long, Sean Fennelly, Ger Fennelly, Pat Phelan, Jimmy Lawlor, Michael Fennelly, Sean Reid, Brendan Fennelly, Liam Fennelly, Michael Kelly (capt.). *Subs:* Seamus Grace, Michael Dempsey (used), Declan Connolly, Johnny Phelan, Richard Walsh, Sean Phelan, Mikey Kearney, Paddy Harhan, Dermot Fennelly.

Won medals in Dublin

KILKENNY players showed their hurling prowess in more places than on the local club scene.

In Dublin, for example, a number of Kilkenny boys played a big part in helping Faughs to another senior

hurling championship victory.

In all, seven Kilkenny men were involved in the 1-7 to 1-4 win over Erin's Isle.

Former county star Richard Reid, formerly of Shamrocks (Ballyhale), gave a great display at corner-back. Later he was picked on the Dublin

team for the National League.

Others on the team were Jimmy Prendergast, Clara (centre forward), M. J. Ryan, Galmoy (right half-forward), Jim Lyng, Rower-Inistioge (Centre-back), and Sean McGarry, Dicksboro, who was introduced as a substitute.

Reserves were Sean Walsh, who has Ballyhale connections, and Padraig Purcell from Tullaroan.

As a matter of interest, M.J. Ryan played for Dublin against Kilkenny in the Leinster championship semi-final.

Angela and 'Ducksie' out on their own

TWO peerless Kilkenny athletes swept the B + I annual awards for 1985. Angela Browne (nee Downey) carried off the 'camogie player of the year' award, and not to be outdone, Michael 'Ducksie' Walsh took the corresponding prize for handball.

The wins by Angela and 'Ducksie' gave Kilkenny players the distinction of being recognised in 10 of the 11 years since the B + I Line awards were introduced.

Kilkenny B + I winners in the past were: 1975: Liam O'Brien (September); 1976: Eddie Keher (February); Mick Brennan (June); Noel Skehan (November); Bridie Martin (camogie); 1977: Angela Downey (camogie); 1978 Joe Hennessy (August); 1979: Ger Henderson (September); 1980 Billy Burke (handball); 1981 Liz Neary (camogie); 1982: Noel Skehan (April and September); 1983: Ger Henderson (July); Frank Cummins (September); 1985 Angela Downey (camogie) and Michael Walsh (handball). In May of 1986 Paddy Prendergast (Clara) was chosen as the 'personality of the month'.

Angela Browne (nee Downey)

WHEN this latest honour was bestowed on Angela she became the first camogie player to win the B + I award twice. She was also honoured in 1977. Her selection was Kilkenny's fourth in the scheme. As well as Angela's two successes, Bridie Martin (1976) and Liz Neary (1981) were also chosen.

Angela and her twin sister, Ann come from one of Kilkenny's famous sporting families. They are daughters of legendary hurler, Shem Downey, who won an all-Ireland senior medal in the famous 1947 final.

Angela had a remarkably successful year in 1985. The run of successes began with a National League victory in June. A month later she gave an extraordinary display when retaining her national title in Gradam Tailteann. She was the first girl to take this title twice.

In the all-Ireland senior final against the defending champions, Dublin, in September she had a superb second half. Later she was outstanding in Leinster's win in the Gael Linn inter-provincial championship.

Angela is regarded as the most accomplished camogie forward of all time. She won

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Camogie star, Angela Downey won the Hotel Kilkenny/Kilkenny People monthly award for September 1986 and she is pictured receiving a Callan crystal rose-bowl from Mrs. Anna Curtin, director, Hotel Kilkenny.

her first all-Ireland senior medal with Kilkenny in 1974, which was also the county's first, and this year (1986) collected her sixth.

In 1977 Angela captained Kilkenny to an all-Ireland

win. That year she won her first B+I award. She also holds three National League medals (1980, '82 and 1985) and with her club St. Paul's she won all-Ireland honours in 1975 and 1977.

Michael 'Ducksie' Walsh

MICHAEL Walsh was chosen as the 'handballer of the year' following a string of major wins, and for qualifying for the World championships in British Columbia, Canada. In the World finals he finished runner-up to a professional player, Vern Roberts.

Michael became the second Kilkenny player to be chosen in the B+I scheme. The other winner was his first cousin, Billy Burke (1980), so they kept things in the family.

'Ducksie' has been winning all-Ireland titles since he was 10, that was in 1977. Not only has he won titles at national level, he has scored World victories at under-15, 17 and 19, and all in America. He is one of only two players who have won all three American championships.

Michael began 1985 by winning the all-Ireland junior 40 x 20 singles title. He then became the first, and also the youngest, player to win both Coca-Cola titles in the one year. He also, of course, took the U.S. under-19 crown. In '86 he retained the Coca-Cola senior singles championship.

His list of honours since 1977 reads: 1977 Willwood



Winner of the supreme award in the Hotel Kilkenny/Kilkenny People "Sports Personality Awards 1986" was handballer Michael "Ducksie" Walsh - a member of the Talbot's Inch Club in Kilkenny. Michael was runner-up at the World Open Handball Championships in Canada this year. He is the American open singles champion and holder of the All-Ireland senior singles championships on both sized courts. He is pictured receiving his beautiful silver and black marble trophy at the awards dinner in Hotel Kilkenny from John Kerry Keane, Editor, Kilkenny People (centre) and Liam Griffin, Managing Director, Hotel Kilkenny (right).

Tailteann 60 x 30 under-12 doubles with Joe Walsh; 1978 the same singles competition; 1979 Willwood Tailteann 60 x 30 under-14 doubles with Joe Walsh; 1980 Willwood Tailteann 40 x 20 under-16 singles and 40 x 20 under-14 singles; 1981

Willwood Tailteann 40 x 20 under-15 doubles with Joe Walsh; 1982 minor 60 x 30 softball singles and doubles with Liam Law, Willwood 60 x 30 singles, Willwood 40 x 20 under-16 singles and American under-15 title; 1983 minor 60 x 30 softball singles,

and doubles with Joe Walsh, minor 40 x 20 singles, junior 60 x 30 doubles with Eugene Downey; 1984 minor 60 x 30 softball and hardball doubles with Pat O'Keeffe, minor 40 x 20 singles and doubles with Pat O'Keeffe, American under-17 title, all-Ireland 60 x

30 open inter-club medal with Talbot's Inch, special junior singles; 1985 Coca Cola singles and doubles junior 40 x 20 singles, international trial for World championships 1986, American under-19 title; 1986 Coca Cola singles title.

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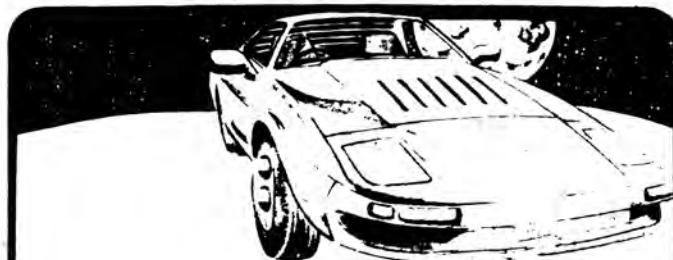
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More camogie than ever, so future must be bright

CAMOGIE has never been so popular in the county. Five new county championships were played in 1986. They were under-21, junior Roinn B, under-14 Roinn B and C and Primary Schools Roinn C. Camogie was played from April to the last weekend of October. New teams got among the honours, which was good

KILKENNY'S FUTURE as a camogie force was boosted by the third victory of the under-14 team in the Leinster championship. The county won the title for the second successive year. They won the first in 1982. The Leinster championship was played on a home and away basis, against Kildare and Dublin. The Dubs beat Kilkenny by 2-3 to 1-3 in Callan. The Kilkenny girls reversed the result in Clondalkin (0-4 to 0-2). This forced a play-off at St. Finian's college, Mullingar. Kilkenny recorded a seven point victory 2-6 to 0-5.

They then travelled to Rathnure to take on Wexford in the semi-final. After playing brilliantly, the Noresiders won by 4-8 to 1-1. The Leinster final was in Rath (Offaly). Against the home girls Kilkenny won by 7-6 to 1-0. Scorers for the winners were Brigid Mullally (3-5), Geraldine Ryan, Lorraine Barden, Michelle Howe, Mary McGrath (1-0 each), Siobhán Dermody 0-1. The winning team was Veronica Wall (Lisdowney), Deirdre Lannon (Thomastown), Mary Claire Hickey (St. Lactain's), Esther Kennedy, captain (St. Lactain's), Margaret Dalton (St. Brigid's), Brigid Wall (Lisdowney), Geraldine Ryan (Castlecomer), Orla Ryall (St. Brigid's), Brigid Mullally

(Tullogher), Lorraine Barden (Danesfort), Siobhán Dermody (St. Lactain's), Michelle Howe (St. Paul's). Subs: Mary McGrath (St. Brigid's), Tracy Millea (St. Brigid's), Sinead Millea (St. Brigid's).

CLUB OF THE YEAR

Although St. Paul's took the senior title on the local scene, and progressed to the all-Ireland club final where they failed to Glen Rovers (Cork), St. Brigid's (Ballycallan) was the club of the year. They qualified for six county finals, and won four. The senior championship was a one-horse race, with St. Paul's strolling to victory. St. Brigid's worked their way through to the final with a very young team. Brigid's conceded a walk-over to St. Paul's, feeling that their team would stand no chance against all-star opponents. A dispute between the clubs earlier in the year over the transfer of the Holmes sisters to St. Paul's from St. Brigid's was also a factor here.

The junior championship honours went to Thomastown, who atoned for their defeat the previous year by Black and Whites. Thomastown and Lisdowney played a thrilling semi-final, with the Southerners getting through by 0-5 to 1-1. Mooncoin scored an easy 5-7

to 2-0 victory over St. Brigid's in the second semi-final. Thomastown took the title for the second time (their previous victory was in 1977) when they beat Mooncoin by 2-4 to 0-2.

The junior B final was played for the first time. Kilmacow and Galmoy played an exciting draw at Nowlan Park. The score was Kilmacow 3-0; Galmoy 2-3. Extra time was played and Kilmacow dominated to win their first county final on a 6-1 to 2-5 scoreline.

NEW COMPETITION

The under-21 championship was also a new competition. It brought St. Brigid's and Black and Whites into opposition. Brigid's won by 2-5 to 1-1 after they led by 1-3 to 0-1 at the interval. Great goalkeeping by county star, Marie Fitzpatrick saved Brigid's in the second half. Good displays were also turned in by Deirdre Malone, another county senior panelist, Marie Egan, Ann Hennessy, Breda Cahill and Angela Cleere. County senior panelist, Nora Whelan, her sister Lizzie, Sheila Crean, Margaret Nolan and Claire Kelly did best for the losers.

Scorers for St. Brigid's: Breda Cahill (0-4), Ailish Dillon, Kay Dunphy (1-0 each), Angela Cleere (0-1), Lizzie Whelan (0-1).



KILKENNY — THE LEINSTER UNDER-14 CAMOGIE CHAMPIONS 1986

Back row (l. to r.): Margaret Ireland, Mary Claire Hickey, Margaret Dalton, Gillian Dillon, Siobhán Dermody, Brigid Mullally, Mary Ryall, Michelle Howe, Deirdre Lannon, Geraldine Ryan. Front row (l. to r.): Lorraine Barden, Fiona Dalton, Brigid Wall, Veronica Wall, Orla Ryall, Esther Kennedy (capt.), Ciara Butler, Mary McGrath, Sinead Millea, Tracy Millea, Angela Ireland.



ST. BRIGID'S (BALLYCALLAN) — UNDER-14 CAMOGIE CHAMPIONS 1986

They reached the semi-finals of Feile na nGael where they were beaten by eventual champions, Mullagh (Galway) by 1-4 to 0-2. Back row (l. to r.): Margaret Dalton, Mary Ryall, Catherine Butler, Rita Ronan, Nicola Teehan (capt.), Fiona Dalton, Mary Young, Patricia Cleere, Ciara Butler, Orla Ryall, Maeve Bryan. Front row (l. to r.): Miriam O'Connor, Tracy Millea, Mary McGrath, Sinead Millea, Margaret Quirke, Melissa Quirke, Marie Byrne, Deirdre Muldowney. Mascot: Aisling Byrne.

The teams were: *St. Brigid's*: Marie Fitzpatrick, Ann Hennessy, Marie Egan, Deirdre Malone, Kay Dunphy (Captain), Breda Teehan, Karen Dermody, Angela Cleere, Ann-Marie Hughes, Breda Cahill, Ailish Dillon, Cindy Hennessy.

Black and Whites: Catriona Savage, Breda Aylward, Ann Carroll, Sheila Crean, Margaret Nolan, Sheila Farrell, Lizzie Whelan, Nora Whelan, Mary Lyng, Claire Kelly, Stella Nolan, Helen Morgan. *Sub*: Margaret Whelan.

St. Brigid's also took the under-18 crown. Two late points against Thomastown gave them victory by 1-6 to 2-1. The winners best players were Anna Delaney, who had a great game, Catriona O'Sullivan, Angela Cleere, Sinead Millea, Marie Egan and Breda Cahill.

Thomastown had fine players in Miriam Walsh, Ann Ryan, Michelle O'Neill, Bernie Lanigan and Deirdre Lannon.

Scorers: *St. Brigid's*: Breda Cahill (0-4), Geraldine Brennan (1-0), Frances Hennessy, Angela Cleere (0-1 each). *Thomastown*: Ann Tyrrell (1-0), Deirdre Lannon (1-1).

St. Brigid's: Sinead Millea, Breda Dalton, Catherine Butler, Marie Egan (captain), Abigail Sheppard, Anna Delaney, Angela Cleere, Catriona O'Sullivan, Mary Teehan, Breda Cahill, Mary McGrath, Geraldine Brennan. *Sub*: Frances Hennessy.

Thomastown: Miriam Walsh, Ann Ryan, Patricia Kelly, Michelle O'Neill, Catherine Dalton, Brid Donnelly, Bernie Lanigan, Philomena Middleton, Ann Tyrrell, Siobhán Delaney, Deirdre Lannon, Josephine Dalton. *Sub*: Ursula Whelan.

WON FIRST TITLE

Black and Whites took the minor title for the first time when they beat St. Brigid's by 2-4 to 0-7 in a great final. The winners led by 1-3 to 0-2 at the interval. A great goal by Stella Nolan in the early

stages of the second half was decisive. Black and Whites best players were Lizzie Whelan, Catriona Savage, Miriam Ryan, Stella Nolan, Elaine McDonald and Claire Kelly. The losers best were Breda Cahill, Angela Cleere, Breda Dalton and Francis Hennessy.

Black and Whites: Catriona Savage, Eva McDonald, Teresa Aylward, Ann Carroll, Miriam Ryan, Mary Lyng, Lizzie Whelan (captain) (0-3), Claire Kelly (0-1), Myra Crean, Stella Nolan (1-0), Elaine McDonald (1-0), Majella Hickey.

St. Brigid's: Sinead Millea, Breda Dalton, Catherine Ryall, Frances Hennessy, Abigail Sheppard, Breda Cahill (0-7), Angela Cleere, Geraldine Brennan, Mary Teehan, Catriona O'Sullivan, Rita Ronan, Nicola Teehan. *Subs*: Mary McGrath, Orla Ryall.

Tullagher took their second championship of the year when they won the minor B crown. Mooncoin gave them a hard game, and just one point separated the sides. The final score was Tullagher 4-1; Mooncoin 3-3.

St. Brigid's won the under-14 (Roinn A) title and qualified to represent the county in Feile na nGael. They did the county proud. They beat Inagh (Clare) and Bunclody (Wexford) to qualify for the semi-finals, but lost to the eventual winners, Mullagh (Galway) by 1-4 to 0-2. In the county final they beat Thomastown by 4-0 to no score.

Brigid's team and scorers were Sinead Millea (0-1), Rita Ronan, Mary Ryall, Margaret Dalton, Ciara Butler, Orla Ryall, Patricia Cleere, Catherine Butler, Mary McGrath, Margaret Quirke (1-0), Miriam O'Connor, Nicola Teehan, captain (3-0). *Sub*: Fiona Dalton.

Thomastown: Rynagh Bookle, Elizabeth Carroll, Deirdre Lennon, Martina Roche, Joan Whelan, Philomena Middleton, Kathleen Malone, Teresa McGrath, Siobhán Grace, Bridget Morrissey, Annette White, Aisling Cullen. *Subs*: Mary Teresa O'Leary, Patricia O'Keeffe.

BRIGID A STAR

Brigid Mullally was the star of Tullagher's 2-7 to 0-0 win over Mooncoin in the new under-14 Roinn B final. In the Roinn C under-14 final, Carrickshock took the honours by beating Kilmacow by 5-0 to 1-0.

The primary schools Roinn A final was won by Kilmanagh, who beat St. Lactain's by 4-6 to 0-1 in the final. Sinead Millea, who played in four county finals although still only 11 years old, was the main difference between the sides.

Kilmanagh: Aine Comerford, Fiona Dalton, Roisín Cleere, Tracy Millea (captain), Nicola Sheppard, Orla Ryall, Miriam O'Connor, Marie Byrne, Catherine Dillon, Sinead Millea (1-6), Deirdre Muldowney (3-0), Ann Nugent. *Subs*: Brigid Dermody, Celine O'Halloran, Olivia Maher.

St. Lactain's: Eva Bennett, Paula McKillen, Deirdre Ryan, Margaret Hickey, Anita Bergin, Imelda Kennedy, Paula Dowling, Karen Ronan, Kathleen Dooley, Siobhán Dermody, Elizabeth Dermody, Adie Moriarty. *Subs*: S. Hughes, M. O'Connor, B. Webster.

Carrickshock took a second title. They also won the Roinn B primary schools competition. They beat Lisdowney by 3-0 to 1-2. Lisdowney had a very unlucky year. They lost in under-14 to St. Brigid's (3-1 to 3-0), while they suffered a one point defeat in the junior semi-final.

In the primary schools Roinn C final, Mooncoin took the honours. They played a scoreless draw with Danesfort at Nowlan Park. The replay in Hugginstown was won by 2-1 to no score. Yes, a great year of camogie which should help Kilkenny stay at the top in the years ahead.

Players to keep an eye on in future are Deirdre Lannon (Thomastown), Geraldine Ryan (Castlecomer), Lizzie Whelan (Black and Whites), Brigid Mullally (Tullagher) and Sinead Millea (St. Brigid's).

Lady Luck deserted Paul's



ST. PAUL'S — DEFEATED FINALISTS IN THE ALL-IRELAND SENIOR CAMOGIE CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP.

Back row (l. to r.): Caroline Holmes, Helen Holmes, Ann Downey, Breda Holmes, Bridie McGarry, Liz Neary.

Front row (l. to r.): Claire Jones, Mary Canavan, Angela Downey, Breda Ryan (capt.), Marie Lawlor, Annette Stapleton. Mascot: Ciara Ryan.

LUCK, that vital ingredient needed by any team hoping to reach the top, deserted a Kilkenny team at the last moment and robbed them of a possible all-Ireland title.

IN OCTOBER the St. Paul's (Kilkenny) senior camogie team, powered by six of the successful all-Ireland winning side, contested the all-Ireland club final on Glen Rovers own grounds in Cork.

The final was a gripping affair. It was tough, uncompromising, and the closeness of the scores throughout had the 3,000 attendance roaring themselves hoarse urging on their favourites.

Nearing the end that star of stars, Angela Downey who

had already scored 4-4, received a nasty stroke across the face. She was so badly injured she had to leave the field. With her went St. Paul's last chance of pulling the game out of the fire and they lost by the margin that was in it when Angela departed — 4-11 (23) to 5-7 (22).

"With Angela on the field we would have got a draw", a St. Paul's official assured afterwards. "We might even have done better than that".

That cruel piece of misfortune took the driving

force from St. Paul's. The woman who turned the team from a useful into lethal one stood on the sideline helpless as her momentarily stunned team mates limped to a most unlucky defeat. Out the window went St. Paul's hopes of a sixth all-Ireland club success, and a seventh for Kilkenny captain, Liz Neary, who had won an extra one with Austin Stacks (Dublin).

The lead changed hands on several occasions, and at the interval the winners led by 3-3 to 2-4. A goal from Angela Downey early in the new half got the Noresiders in front, and with the confident play of such as Angela, Bridie McGarry, Breda Holmes, Claire Jones and Ann Downey, the Leesiders looked as though they were at their best to cope. In the end

Rovers hung on, but at the finish they conceded they had been lucky.

St. Paul's captain, Breda Ryan, has every reason to be proud of her players. They did themselves and the county proud, and in earlier victories over Buffers Alley (Wexford), Crumlin — an excellent 3-6 to 1-7 Leinster Final win over the then all-Ireland champions — and Eglis (Tyrone) they produced play full of grace and style. In the end lady luck just deserted them.

The St. Paul's team in the final was: Marie Lawlor, Annette Stapleton, Bridie McGarry, Helen Holmes, Caroline Holmes, Ann Downey, Claire Jones, Breda Ryan, Breda Holmes, Angela Downey, Mary Cavanagh. Sub. — Catherine Neary.



DICKSBORO — WINNERS OF THE UNDER-21 HURLING CHAMPIONSHIP (ROINN A)

Back Row (l. to r.): Michael Maher, Seamus Nicholson, Tony Bourke, Liam Scott, Niall Morrissey, Sean Kennedy, Simon Walton, Sean Moore, Donal Carroll, Tim Butler, Enda Morrissey, Michael Kennedy.

Front (l. to r.): Pat Carroll, Liam Morrissey, Martin Treacy, Robbie Dalton, Richard Mulrooney, Martin Marnell (capt), Richard Hogan, John Treacy, Terry Walsh.



KILMANAGH, ROINN A UNDER-12 HURLING LEAGUE CHAMPIONS

Back Row (l. to r.): Eamon Marnell, Kieran O'Halloran, Stephen Hennessy, Michael Brennan, Denis Byrne, Denis Kenny, Tom Doran, Dermot Ronan, Nicholas Teehan, Thomas Darmody, Paul Dunne.

Front (l. to r.): John Manogue, Gerry Ronan, James Young, John Butler, Eddie O'Dwyer (capt), Pat Campion, Philip Cody, Philip Butler, Damien Cleere, Michael Byrne, Sean Dermody. Mascot: Declan Byrne.



GRAIGNAMANAGH, THE UNDER-12 HURLING CHAMPIONSHIP (ROINN A) RUNNERS-UP

Back Row (l. to r.): Tommy Treacy, John Flood, Christopher Walsh, Eamon Lennon (teacher), Niall Farrell, Francis Doyle, Henry Roberts, Paul Kielty, M. J. Moloney, Leo Bolger, James Kinsella, Niall Kelly, Pat Phelan, Edward Holden, Alan Morrissey, John O'Carroll, Patrick Hayden, Noel Dunne, Fred Randle.

Front (l. to r.): John Brett, Shane Byrne, Alan Bolger, Ger Walsh, Liam Fogarty, Ivan Morrissey, Stephen Byrne, Fergal Fenlon, Michael Ryan, Nicky O'Carroll, Patrick Ryan, Ivan Doherty, Murt Broaders, Barry Ryan, Jarleth Bolger.

'Stephens, Graigue and Martin's dominated

THE under-16 competitions in 1986 were dominated by three clubs. James Stephens won all four Roinn A titles, to repeat their achievement of 1983. Graigue-Ballycallan won three of the four Roinn B championships. St. Martin's took the two crowns in Roinn C. The only other club to take a title was Gowran, who won the Roinn B hurling league.

JAMES Stephens won the Roinn A hurling championship when they beat Thomastown by 2-7 to 1-5. It was a poor final. Stephens made heavy work of winning. They were on top, except in the early stages. The winners laid the foundations of victory with a great display by their half back line of Jim Coyne, Dominic Bradley and Tadgh O'Donoghue. Others who played well were Fran Whelan, Liam Kerwick, Paul Brennan and Derek McCormack. The losers best were Robert Bolger, Colm Mullins, Matty Grace, Joe Bookle, Richard Comerford and Willie O'Keeffe.

The teams and scorers were *James Stephens*: Jimmy Conroy, Seán Morrissey, Fran Whelan, Robert Cody, Jim Coyne, Dominic Bradley, Tadgh O'Donoghue, Liam Kerwick (1-3), Paul Brennan, Billy Whelan, Niall Mullen, Jim Cashin, Noel Brennan (0-1), Derek McCormack (1-2), Shane Lanigan (0-1).

Thomastown: Robert Bolger, M. Butler, Colm Mullins, D. Lennon, M. Allen, Matty Grace, Owen Comerford, Joe Bookle, Kevin Maher, Willie O'Keeffe, Martin Donnelly, P. Treacy, R. Challoner, W. Holden, Robert Finan.

Stephens won the hurling league when they beat Piltown by 5-9 to 3-2. The city side led by 2-1 to 1-1 at the interval. The half-back line starred again. Derek McCormack and Shane Lanigan did best in attack. Good for the losers were D. Cummins, Owen Meade, Pat Butler and S. Reid.

The teams and scorers were *James Stephens*: J. Conroy, S. Morrissey, F. Whelan, R. Cody, J. Coyne, D. Bradley, T. O'Donoghue, L. Kerwick (1-2), P. Brennan (1-2), Brian McGrath, B. Whelan (0-1), J. Cashin (0-2), N. Mullen, D. McCormack (2-2), S. Lanigan (2-0). Sub: K. Conroy.

Piltown: P. O'Shea, B. Murphy, D. Cummins, D. Lynch, G. Walsh, Owen Meade, Colin Knox, Pat Butler (2-0), D. O'Dea, Ger Giles, T. Anthony, Stephen Reid (0-1), G. O'Brien (1-0), T. Reid, Tom Cuddihy (0-1).

WHELAN GOAL VITAL

Piltown were again victims of Stephens in the under-16 football championship.

Last year's Roinn B champions stayed in the game for three quarters of an hour. Then a Billy Whelan goal sent Stephens on their way to a 2-15 to 1-3 victory. The city side led by 0-6 to 1-2 at the interval. The Piltown goal was scored by Tommy Cuddihy. Prominent for the winners were Fran Whelan, Dominic Bradley, Jim Coyne, Jimmy Conroy, Liam Kerwick and Billy Whelan. Piltown's best were Tommy Cuddihy, Stephen Reid, Ger Giles, and Colin Knox.

The teams and scorers were: *James Stephens*: B. McGrath, S. Morrissey, F. Whelan, T. O'Donoghue, P. Brennan, D. Bradley, J. Coyne (0-2), J. Conroy, L. Kerwick (0-6), K. Conroy (0-1), B. Whelan (1-3), O. Hennessy (0-1), J. Cashin, D. McCormack (0-1), B. Cody (0-1). Subs: L. Hennessy, D. Power (1-0).

Piltown: P. O'Shea, T. Reid, Owen Meade, B. Murphy, Pat Butler, Colin Knox, G. Clark, T. Anthony, Stephen Reid, Ger Giles, D. O'Dea, N. Coffey, L. Kenny (0-1), D. Cummins, Tommy Cuddihy (1-2).

James Stephens completed the grand slam when they beat Thomastown in the league football final (3-17 to 1-3). The match was a one-sided affair.

Graigue-Ballycallan won the Roinn B hurling championship when they beat Graignamanagh by 3-8 to 1-11 in a rip-roaring final. This was easily the best under-16 game of the year. It had everything. It was a personal triumph for Adrian Ronan, the winners' midfielder, who is one of the brightest prospects on the scene. He scored 2-8. Still, the title would not have been won without a brilliant last minute save by goalie Conor Minogue. Other stars for the winners were Michael Comerford, Pat Purcell, Mark O'Brien, Pádraig McCluskey, Joe Brennan, Edward Teehan and Noel Maher. T. P. Grace was a star player for the losers. Their other heroes were goalie Ken O'Shea, Conor Bolger, Kevin Corbett, Philip Gahan. P. J. Murphy, who came on as a sub, Jimmy Conran and Eugene McDonald.

Teams and scorers: *Graigue/Ballycallan*: Conor Minogue, Michael Comerford, Mark O'Brien, Pat Purcell, Pat Neary, Pádraig McCluskey, Stephen

Kelly, Adrian Ronan (2-8), Joe Delaney, Maurice Ronan, Edward Teehan, Noel Maher, Joe Brennan, Mick Lanigan (1-0), Tom McGrath.

Graignamanagh: Ken O'Shea, Alan Delaney, Kevin Corbett, Matt Blanchfield, Jimmy Bolger, Conor Bolger, Noel Fogarty, Philip Gahan, Eugene McDonald, T. P. Grace (0-10), Colin Foley, Jimmy Conran, Nigel Bolger, Benny Dunne, Paul Reddy. Sub: P. J. Murphy.

Graigue/Ballycallan completed the championship double when they beat Tullogher-Rosbercon by 4-3 to no score in the Roinn B football final. It took the winners a while to exert their superiority, but following goals by Edward Teehan and Adrian Ronan there was never a doubt about the result. Best for the winners were Pádraig McCluskey and Noel Maher, who were two stars. Others who played well were Mark O'Brien, Conor Minogue, Adrian Ronan and Edward Teehan. The losers best were Don Doolin, Luke Doyle, Tim Roche, John Murphy (Brownsford), John Murphy (Ballyfoyle) and Joe Murphy.

The line out and scorers were: *Graigue/Ballycallan*: M. Ronan, M. Comerford, M. O'Brien, J. Butler, S. Kelly, P. McCluskey, T. McGrath, P. Neary, J. Delaney, C. Minogue (1-1), A. Ronan (2-0), N. Maher, J. Brennan (0-1), E. Teehan (1-0), M. Lanigan (0-1). Subs: J. Doran, E. Hally, T. Comerford.

Tullogher/Rosbercon: Luke Doyle, Eamon Mullally, T. Roche, R. Hennessy, R. Barron, Don Doolin, T. Doherty, S. Cummins, J. O'Driscoll, E. Bookle, John Murphy (Ballyfoyle), John Murphy (Brownsford), Joe Murphy, T. Mullally, Tom Murphy.

HAD THE LUCK

Graigue-Ballycallan enjoyed all the luck when they beat Moneenroe in the Roinn B league football final by 1-4 to 0-5. The North Kilkenny side controlled the game for long periods, but their shooting let them down. As well, they drove a penalty wide in the 48th minute, which proved costly. Mark O'Brien was the outstanding player for the winners. He got most help from Maurice Ronan, an alert goalkeeper, Michael Comerford, Pat Neary, Adrian Ronan and Edward Teehan. Moneenroe had fine performers in John Delaney, Richard Brennan, Larry Buggy, Jason Walsh and Tom O'Dwyer, a quick-silver forward.

Teams and scorers: *Graigue/Ballycallan*: M. Ronan, M. Comerford, M. O'Brien, S. Kelly, P. Neary, P. McCluskey, T. McGrath, J. Delaney, M. Lanigan, C. Minogue, A. Ronan (1-4), N. Maher, P. Sheppard, J. Doran, E. Teehan.



THE GRAIGUE-BALLYCALLAN UNDER-16 PANEL WHO WON THE UNDER-16 HURLING AND FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS (ROINN B) AND UNDER-16 FOOTBALL LEAGUE (ROINN B)

Back row (l. to r.): James Butler, Philip Sheppard, Edward Teehan, Mark O'Brien, Pat Purcell, Joe Delaney, Pádraig McCluskey, Michael Lanigan, Pat Neary, Michael Comerford, Jeffrey Gormley. Middle (l. to r.): William Egan, Michael Power, Tom McGrath, Noel Maher, Conor Minogue, Adrian Ronan, Maurice Ronan, Joe Brennan, Stephen Kelly, Edmund Hally. Front: Tomás Comerford, Michael Marnell.

Moneenroe: Gerry Taylor, Anthony Campion, Liam Buggy, P. J. McGrath, Jason Walsh, John Delaney, Nigel O'Dowd, Richard Brennan, Larry Buggy, Pat Lawlor, Tom O'Dwyer, Brendan Brennan, Pat McGuire, Paul Farnan, David Brown.

St. Martin's scored an under-16 double when they won the championship and league Roinn C. In the championship final they beat Glenmore by 4-6 to 0-5. Martin's, favoured by the breeze, led by 2-6 to 0-1 at the interval. Glenmore had a lot of the play in the second half, but their forwards could not break down the winners defence, in which Aidan Ryan was a tower of strength. Others who showed up for the winners were Paul Stapleton, Thomas Farrell, Seán Kelly, Dick Dooley and Aidan Lawlor.

Glenmore had fine performers in Tom Shine, Seán Doherty, P. J. O'Connor, Jimmy Walsh and Pádraig Hanrahan.

Teams and scorers: **St. Martin's:** Dermot Comerford, Caleb Daly, Aidan Ryan, Ivan Lawlor, Paddy Stapleton, Paul O'Neill, Shem O'Hanlon, Shem Dooley, Thomas Farrell, Dick Dooley (0-2), Paddy Kehoe (0-1), Aidan Lawlor (1-1), Seán Kelly (1-1), P. J. Shore, John Dooley (2-1). Sub: Dermot Lawlor.

Glenmore: Tom Shine, D. Hartley, Seamus O'Connor, John Doherty, Paul Mullally, Seán Doherty, P. J. O'Connor (0-1), Jimmy Walsh (0-2), S. Vereker, John Long, Pádraig Hanrahan, P. J. Griffin (0-1), Liam Hennessy (0-1), Dan Murphy, M. Murphy. Sub: T. Walsh.

BIG CROWD

The biggest attendance at any Bórd na nÓg match was at the St. Martin's — Tullaroan Roinn C hurling league final. Two early goals by P. J. Shore and Seán Kelly gave Martin's a tonic start, and they ran out winners by 6-7 to 1-6. Martin's best

players were Dick Dooley, who gave a stylish display, Paul O'Neill, Aidan Ryan, Thomas Farrell, Seán Kelly, an illusive corner forward and Shem Dooley. Tullaroan's best players were Laurence Cummins, Joe Norton, Paddy Cleere, Ger Dunne and Tom Hennessy.

Teams and scorers: **St. Martin's:** Dermot Comerford, Caleb Daly, Aidan Ryan, Ivan Lawlor, Paddy Stapleton, Paul O'Neill, Shem O'Hanlon, Thomas Farrell (0-1), Shem Dooley, Dick Dooley (1-4), Paddy Kehoe, Aidan Lawlor (0-1), Seán Kelly (2-1), P. J. Shore (1-0), John Dooley (2-0). Subs: Paul Doyle, Richard Healy, Nicky Purcell.

Tullaroan: M. Dooley, Laurence Cummins, Paddy Cleere, B. Cuddihy, P. Doherty, Joe Norton, Raymond Keogh, P. Hennessy, S. Butler, Tom Hennessy, Ger Dunne, John Delaney, P. Norton, T. O'Shea, Noel Treacy.

Gowran captured the under-16 (Roinn B) hurling title when they beat Graignamanagh by 1-10 to 1-5. The result was in doubt until three minutes from time when a Charlie Carter goal wrapped up victory for Gowran. The winners had a brilliant defender in Pat O'Neill, who was unbeatable at centre-back. Others who distinguished themselves were D. J. Carey, a brilliant goalie, Ciarán Phelan, James Bryan, Thomas Curran and free scoring Charlie Carter. Graig had fine displays from Conor Bolger, outstanding in defence, Eugene McDonald, Kevin Corbett, Jimmy Bolger and T. P. Grace. This was the second best under-16 game seen during the year.

Team and scorers: **Gowran:** D. J. Carey, Tom Fenlon, Ciarán Phelan, James Bryan, J. Carey, Pat O'Neill (0-1), Tom Hickey, Robert Middleton, Tomás Curran, James McDermott, Thomas Dree, Charlie Carter (1-6), Pat Horgan, Cathal Fitzgerald (0-1), Dave O'Neill (0-1). Subs: Joe Walsh, Aidan Roche.

Graignamanagh: Ken O'Shea, Jimmy Bolger, Kevin Corbett, Matt Blanchfield, Nigel Bolger (0-1), Conor Bolger, Eugene McDonald, Jimmy Conran, Philip Gahan (0-2), Paul Reddy, Alan Delaney (0-1), T. P. Grace (0-1), Benny Dunne, Colin Foley, Mick Dowling (1-0). Sub: D. Barron.

League money was good

KILKENNY scored in more ways than one when they won the Ford National Hurling League.

The county's share of the League kitty was a fabulous £43,101.

As winners, Kilkenny received £6,000 from the sponsors, Ford. Their ordinary share of the 'gate' receipts was £12,368, and on top of that they got £24,733 from the concluding stages.

On top of that the county received £6,131 for participating in Division III south of the National Football League.

In all, Kilkenny made up against £50,000 from both competitions. Not bad pickings by any standards.

Iomáint Báire Camánacht Hurling

CAITHMÍD bheith an-bhuíoch de na scoláirí agus de na stairithe a chuir ar ár suilibh dúinn seandacht agus árasíocht ár gcluiche dúchais óir is iontach go deo an oiread san staire agus seanchair a ghabhann leis.

Scríobhadh Leabhar na hUidhre agus an Leabhar Laighneach sa dara h-aois déag agus is iontu san a thagaimid ar "Iomáint" agus ar "Báire". "Ro teilg (án liathróit) dá chamán" go 1. do chaith séile fuinneamh. Is ó "iomáint(t)" a tháinig "thiomáin" a mbáinimid feidhm as le cárranna agus ainmhithe a "thiomáint". Mar an gcéanna le "báire"; focal a chiallaíonn "comórtas", "coimhlint spórtúil". "I dtús báire", "i ndeire báire" fo-abairtí a thagann uaidh agus cúlbáire, ar ndó.

Le data cam. 1. camán a h-imríti agus a h-imrítear é agus uaidh a thagann ainm eile ar an gcluiche, "Camán(d)acht". Ach ní chloistear ach in Albain é cé go n-úsáití é i dTuaisceart na hÉireann chomh maith. Ní úsáidtear é ins na seanleabhra ach an oiread.

San leabhar bunúsach san "Canán" a scríobh Art Ó Maolfabhail sa bhliain 1973, deir sé go bhfuil difir bheag chéille idir iomáint agus camánacht. B'é tuiglé le h-"iomáint" ná an cluiche mar cleactaí é i gCúige Laighean (agus sa Mhumhain), cluiche Samhraidh ina mbuailtí an sliotar fan an talaimh, san aer (agus as an láimh?). Séard a bhí sa chamánacht ná cluiche geimhridh fan an talaimh, a gheobhfaí a imirt le cromóga nó le cromáin. 1. shinty an lae inniu.

I gCinnlae Amhlaoibh Uí Shúilleabháin scríobh sé faoi Dhomhnach Cásca, 6 Aibreán 1828, go raibh buachaillí Calainn go gnóthach ag Droichead na nGabhar "le camáin's le cromáin". Má úsáití cromáin, agus d'úsáití, saghas meascáin idir iomáint agus camánacht a bhí ann. Tá fianaise ann ó'n Choimisiún le Béaloideas go n-úsáití cromáin go foirleathan san imirt i dTulach Ruáin timpeall 1880. Ní h-ionadh go gcloistear seandaoine na linne seo ag clamhsán go bhfuil an iomáint fan an talaimh imithe. Tá bas an chamáin tar-éis dul i leithne le n-ochtó bliain anuas ionas gur cosúil le friochtán bas camáin cúlbáire an lae inniu.

Ach conas a tharla gur báthadh na h-ainmneacha Gaeilge, nár tharla cónascadh ná truailliú Béarlachais orthu ach gur glacadh le focal Béarla (nó Fraincise, nó Breatanaise, nó Gearmáinise) mar ainm ar an gcluiche. Bímid ag imirt "hurling", le "hurley" ag an "hurling match" "Roteilg (an

*le Tomás de Bháldraithe
Oifigeach Gaeilge C.L.C.G.*

liathróit) dá chamán" adeir an Leabhar sa bhliain 1180. Teilgtear ga, nó sleá, nó cloch as cranntabhaill. 1. caittear é le fuinneamh. Is comhneartmhar "teilg" agus "hurl": tá na bréithre "bhual" agus "thiomáin" lag go leor gcomparáid leo.

An chéad uair a leagaimid súil ar an bhfocal "hurling" stair na tíre seo. is i Reachta Cill Chainnigh 1366 a chmíod é. Ritheadh na dlíthe sin do na Normannaigh amháin. Scríobhadh iad san bhFraincís Normannach agus bhain ceann acu le h-iomáint. Dá réir, bhí ar an Normannaigh staonadh ó bheith ag imirt "les jeux que homes appelle horlingues one grounds bastons a pillot sur le terre" (na cluichí

ar a dtugann fir horlingues le bataí móra ar liathróid ar an dtalamh). Ritheadh a chomhshamhail de dhlí, "Reacht na Gaillimhe", sa bhliain 1527 agus léimíod an focal arís: Coiscítear "the horlinge of the litill ball with sticks or staves". Ní thagfar ar an bhfocal arís go dtí an seachtú aois déag. Nuair a thosnaigh na nuachtáin ag teacht fairsing, san ochtú aois déag ní bhíodh in úsáid acu ach "hurling", "hurley", "hurling match" faoi mar atá i láthair na h-uaire.

Faiche mór iomána a bhí in Áth na nUrlann, d'imríti cluichí ann idir Cill Chainnigh agus Tiobraid Árann, idir Mumhain agus Laighin. Ní thugadh na seandaoine ar an mbaile ariamh ach Hurlingford. Ba mhinic a rith sé liom go raibh ceangal idir Hurlingford agus Áth na nUrlann, go mb'féidir gur Gaeilíodh an focal Béarla.



Aussies rule hurling is great fun



Photo shows (back row - l to r) Mossy Doody, Limerick; Liam Daly, Cork; Jack Mahony, Limerick; Andrew Cleere, Threecastles; James Walsh, Mooncoin; Patsy Doheny, Threecastles; Seamus Delahunty, Mooncoin; Eamon Morrissey, James Stephens; Jim Ryan, Wexford; Mick O'Neill, Danesfort; Pierce Dalton, Threecastles; Pat Fleming, Carlow; Tim Garvey, Limerick. Front row (l to r): Paddy Murphy, Enniscorthy; Steve Carey, Cork; Peter Murphy, The Rower; Larry Delahunty, Mooncoin (captain); Mick Dunphy, Carrickshock; Tom Mahoney, Limerick; Joe Murphy, Danesfort; Jim Bambrick, Paulstown; Tom Bowden, Gathabawn (manager). Their mascot is Patrick Bowden, Tom's son. Not in the picture is Mick Wymss, Bennettsbridge. Also in Australia are Larry Delahunty's girlfriend, Noreen Holden, whose sister is married to Dick O'Hara, Wally Crowley, Mooncoin; normally plays, but he was injured for this match.

AUSTRALIA may be far, far away, but an energetic group of Kilkenny people are very much at home there and regularly they indulge in their favourite sporting activity... hurling.

The thousands of miles from the old green sod doesn't matter to these members of the Central Coast athletic club, who take on all-comers.

Kilkenny's most distant group of hurlers were formed into a club three

years ago by Peter Murphy, who hails from the Rower. The name chosen for the club was O'Rahilly's.

Of course, being down under means they do things in reverse to us here. Their main hurling season is during their Winter, which is just as warm as our summer.

As can be imagined, hurleys are always a bit of a problem. But just a word to Kilkenny hurley-maker, Ramie Dowling, and the sticks will be dispatched

somehow to Australia. This year Mr. Mick O'Neill from Danesfort spent some time 'down under', and when he returned the orders were placed with Ramie.

Word from Aussie land is that O'Rahillys have been doing nicely in competitive games. During the year they won the New South Wales hurling league. To the fore were the Delahunty brothers from Mooncoin and Jim Ryan, who shot home four goals as a massive 17-point win was

recorded.

The hurling rules in Australia are not as we know them here. You could say they have been adopted to the local needs. For example, they have a 'sin bin' in operation where a player could be sent for 10 minutes during a game to cool down.

The Kilkenny hurlers in Australia may not play it strictly according to the Official GAA Guide, but that doesn't stop them having great fun.

Ned — a rugby and hurling star

AFORMER Kilkenny hurling star, and former Irish rugby international recorded another major sporting achievement during the year.

Ned Byrne, former James Stephens' and Kilkenny hurling star, helped the Kilkenny Firsts' rugby team to their first win in 27 years in the Provincial Towns Cup final.

Prop-forward Ned was one of the stars of the historic win. His vast experience made him an

influential pack leader, as Kilkenny raced to a handsome 10-nil win over the Curragh in the final played in Drogheda. This was Kilkenny's third win in the competition.

Ned, now 38, won a senior hurling championship with Stephens in 1969, and an all-Ireland senior medal with Kilkenny in 1972 when they beat Cork by 3-24 to 5-11.

In 1972, also, Ned Byrne played on a losing Kilkenny



Ned Byrne, hurling and rugby star.

team in the Provincial Towns' cup final. After that

he joined Blackrock College (Dublin). With his new club he won the Leinster senior cup, and three senior league medals. For five seasons he played interpro with Leinster and in all was capped seven times at senior level by Ireland.

In 1979 he toured Australia with Ireland. There he was the unlucky victim of a hit-and-run driver, and his injuries were so bad he was unable to play at international level again.

Schools games grow and grow

THE annual meeting of the Kilkenny Primary Schools Board proved one of the most innovative in years. Among the changes made were the raising of the under-12 limit for the hurling league championship by six months; the unlimited use of substitutes in all games; the withdrawal of the Board from all inter-county fixtures and the handing over of the under-14 championship to Bord na nÓg.

By raising the age limit to 12½, meant almost all pupils in 6th class are now catered for by the Board. The handing over of the under-14 competition was inevitable because of changes at schools level. When the Board was originally founded, the under-14 championship catered for the pupils at national school, but nowadays the bulk of players involved attend secondary schools, so the competition had little relevance to the Board.

A joint committee from Bord na nÓg and the Schools' Board, under the chairmanship of Eamon Doyle (Youth Officer) ran this year's under-14 championship. The committee re-structured the series by reducing the number of divisions to three. This resulted in some of the most exciting finals in recent years, with the Roinn A decider going to a second replay, and the Roinn B one also needing a replay.

Under-12

KILMANAGH BREAK

It was third time lucky for Kilmanagh when they captured the Roinn A under-12 title for the first time. The score was Kilmanagh 5-8; Graignamanagh 1-5. This was their third appearance in-a-row in the final. In 1984 they lost to Kilkenny C.B.S. and in 1985 to St. Patrick's De La Salle. In 1976 they won the Roinn C title; the Roinn B titles in 1979 and 1981. The first half was close and at the interval Kilmanagh led by 2-5 to 1-4. Within minutes of the restart Denis Byrne for whom the game was a personal triumph scored two goals. Graignamanagh battled gamely, but could not save the day.

JOHNSTOWN RETURN

Johnstown, who won the Roinn B title in 1984, were relegated from Roinn A in 1985. This year they won the Roinn B under-12 final by beating Galmoy by 1-6 to 1-4. This was one of the most exciting finals this year. There was never more than a point between the sides in the first half. The interval score was Johnstown 0-4; Galmoy 0-3. The losers took the lead with a goal from Alan Gray and a point from Michael Ryan. Brendan Ryan and Paul Phelan narrowed the gap for Johnstown, and with time running out David Reid had a goal to gain victory. On the run of play Johnstown just about deserved to win.

In Roinn C, Kilmacow continued to build on their success of 1985 when they won the final. They outclassed Conahy on a score line of 5-8 to 1-5.

Kilmacow: David Long, Kevin Dollard, Donla Laffan, Brendan Egan, Niall Walsh, Peter Ryan, Eoin Reddy, Patrick Gahan, Thomas Ahearne, Gerard O'Neill, Ian O'Callaghan, Brian O'Callaghan, Thomas Reddy, Dermot Tierney, Eamon Gahan. **Subs:** David Drennan, Richard Walsh, Derek Egan, Brian Walsh, Stephen Flynn.

Clara won the Roinn D title when they beat

Tullaroan by 4-3 to 1-3, to bring the Liam Ryan memorial cup back to the parish for the first time.

Clara: M. Malone, S. Casey, T. Murphy, M. Dowling, M. Fitzgerald, J. Hanrahan, A. Murphy, M. Galvin, S. Byrne, A. Darcy, L. Corr, D. Drennan, O. Nolan, J. Langton, B. Nolan, P. Brennan, D. Maloney, N. Brennan, C. Shortall, J. Nolan, D. Byrne, M. Corr, N. Nolan, M. Meaney, T. Carrigan, M. Carrigan, N. O'Keefe.

Under-12 Roinn A winners:

Kilmanagh: Philip Butler, Damien Cleere, Michael Brennan, Denis Kenny, Nicholas Teehan, Johnny Butler, Thomas Doran, Ger Ronan (0-2), Eddie O'Dwyer (0-1), James Young, Jack Gormley, Eamon Marnell, Thomas Dermody, Denis Byrne (5-5), Pat Comerford. **Subs:** Stephen Hennessy, Michael Byrne, Seán Dermody, John Manogue.

Graignamanagh: Paul Kielthy, Stephen Byrne, James Kinsella (0-3), Jarlath Bolger, Ivan Morrissey, Alan Morrissey, Henry Roberts, Ger Walsh (2-1), Pat Phelan, Fergal Fenlon, Noel Dunne (0-1), Liam Fogarty, Leo Bolger, M. J. Moloney (0-1), Michael Ryan. **Sub:** Niall Kelly (0-1).

Roinn B champions, Johnstown: V. O'Brien, L. McEvoy, S. Lupton, T. Walsh, R. Behan, F. Delaney, T. Garrett, P. Phelan (0-2), J. Dowling, R. Purcell, K. Behan, P. Ryan, B. Ryan (0-4), D. Reid (1-0), T. Hanrahan.

Losers Galmoy: P. Brennan, J. Phelan, J. Doherty, R. Rafferty, B. Loneran, M. Campion, N. Campion, L. Corcoran (0-3), B. Seagram, D. Fitzpatrick, P. Butler, J. Delaney, K. Loneran, A. Gray (1-0), M. Ryan (0-1).

Where the titles went

Roinn A under-12 H.C. (Castle Hurley Cup)

Kilmanagh 5-8; Graignamanagh 1-5

Roinn B under-12 H.C. (Hennessy Cup)

Johnstown 1-6; Galmoy 1-4

Roinn C under-12 (Ulster Bank Cup)

Kilmacow 5-7; Conahy 2-2

Roinn D under-12 H.C. (Liam Ryan Cup)

Clara 4-3; Tullaroan 1-3

Roinn A under-14 H.C.

Graignamanagh 2-3; Johnstown 1-6; Graignamanagh 4-2; Johnstown 2-8; Graignamanagh 4-15; Johnstown 6-4.

Roinn B under-14 H.C.

Dunnamaggin 2-5; Callan 2-5; Dunnamaggin 2-8; Callan 1-2.

Roinn C under-14 H.C.

Kilmacow 6-17; Clara 0-1

Under-14

The Roinn A under-14 final proved one of the most interesting of the year. It took three matches to reach a decision. In the first one Graignamanagh had the better of the first half and led by 2-2 to no score after 15 minutes. Johnstown fought back, but the Southerners still led by 2-3 to 0-1 at half-time. The Northerners took control in the second half, and with 10 minutes remaining

narrowed the gap to a point (2-3 to 1-5). P. J. Delaney levelled near the end.

In the replay Graig led at the interval by 2-1 to 0-5. Johnstown got back into the game, and were leading with 8 minutes left (2-8 to 3-1). Graig equalised with a goal from Peter Byrne and a point from John Canning. It was another draw at 2-8 (J) to 4-2.

The second replay was another thriller. The experience of Graignamanagh just edged them through by 4-15 to 6-4 to end the longest running final. This was Johnstown's first Roinn A final in years and they gave all they had.

The under-14 B championship decider went to a replay also. Local rivals Callan and Dunnamaggin played a 2-5 each draw. The replay was a close affair, with Dunnamaggin leading by 2-2 to 1-2 at half-time. The winners midfielders John Ryan and Eddie Kennedy, laid the foundations for a 2-9 to 1-2 victory.

Kilmacow won the under-14 hurling championship Roinn D in 1984 and captured the Roinn C crown this time. They proved much too strong for Clara and won by 6-14 to 0-1.

Under-14 Roinn A champions.

Graignamanagh: P. Kielthy, I. Morrissey, R. Bolger, J. McDonald, P. Whelan, J. Kinsella, D. Reddy, C. Byrne, D. Murphy, J. Canning, P. Byrne, T. Farrell, A. Byrne, J. O'Shea, N. Dunne, L. Bolger.

Runners-up: Johnstown: A. Behan, T. Garrett, D. Behan, L. McEvoy, J. Carroll, M. Sharkey, A. McEvoy, A. Behan, J. Dowling, P. J. Delaney, P. J. Delaney, P. Phelan, F. Delaney, P. Phelan, F. Delaney, K. Behan, B. Ryan.

Roinn B champions Dunnamaggin:

D. Meaney, B. Doherty, B. Crowley, S. Kerwin, S. Kenny, B. Mackey, P. Holden, G. Ryan (1-2), E. Kennedy (0-5), S. Hickey (0-1), S. Doherty, D. Reid, L. Comerford, P. Fleming, P. Whelan (1-1). **Sub:** M. O'Shea.

Losers, Callan: R. Grace, P. O'Brien, R. Dawson, C. Nolan, N. Roche, J. Donovan, D. O'Sullivan, P. Kearney, J. Dunne, A. O'Sullivan, M. Brennan (0-1), D. Lynch (0-1), D. Maher, B. Power (1-0), S. Donovan, P. Saunders, S. Quigley.

Roinn C Champions, Kilmacow:

D. Long, Johnny J. Phelan, John Phelan, R. Dalton, F. Walsh (0-1), S. Tobin, D. Scully, P. Long (1-3), J. Phelan, T. O'Neill (0-4), J. Walsh (0-2), D. Gahan (0-1), J. Connolly (4-1), I. O'Callaghan (1-0), P. Gahan (0-2). **Subs:** S. Raggett, C. Morrissey.

Runners-up Clara: M. Malone, S. Casey, P. Dowling, J. Hanrahan, V. Dowling, R. Kealy, M. Fitzgerald, M. Galvin, B. Barcoe, A. Darcy, B. Hanrahan, P. Manning, O. Nolan, M. Langton, R. Shortall. **Subs:** S. Byrne, M. Carrigan.

Feile

Piltown represented Kilkenny in the Feile na nGael tournament in Clare. In the local final they defeated Gowran, the Kilkenny representatives in 1985. Piltown defeated the local side, Doorra Barefield, St. Vincent's (Dublin) and Kilmaley (Clare) on their way to the semi-final. They had an easy win here against Tipperary champions, Knockavilla Kickhams (2-4 to 0-2).



THE KILKENNY C.B.S. TEAM

WHICH WON THE UNDER-14 (ROINN A) FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP BY DEFEATING PILTOWN.

Back row (l. to r.): Bro. Healy, Robert Shortall, Mark Dowling, Shane Gannon, Sean Fitzpatrick, David Beirne, Thomas Bergin, Cyril Keegan, John O'Dwyer, Owen Begley, Brian White, Mark Galvin. Front row (l. to r): Corabh Wise, Sam Morrissey, Vincent Byrne, John Peters, Anthony Teehan, Niall Lacey (captain), Eddie Morrissey, Pat Murphy, Derek Kenny, Tom Henderson, Paul Kerwick.



GALMOY — RUNNERS-UP IN THE UNDER-12 (ROINN B) HURLING CHAMPIONSHIP

The Noresiders played a very poor first half in the final against Wolfe Tones. They were 2-5 to 0-1 down at half-time. Within 12 minutes of the restart they were just a point behind thanks to goals from Ciarán O'Brien and Liam Kenny. Wolfe Tones finished the better and had 10 points to spare at the finish 5-6 to 3-2.

► Piltown did the county proud on their first visit to Feile, and joined the elite band of parishes who represented Kilkenny.

Piltown: B. Cummins, E. Kenny, T. Butler, D. Healy, M. Reid, N. Delahunty, B. O'Driscoll, J. Burke, J. Giles, P. Cunningham, B. Bartley, N. O'Brien, C. O'Brien, L. Kenny, R. Cuddihy. Subs: M. Walsh, K. O'Shea.

Coaching

The annual coaching course for national school teachers was held in St. Kieran's

college. This was the tenth such course. This year's coaches were Ned Power (Waterford), Mick Kinsella (Wexford), and football Liam Fardy and handball Enda Timonny.

Long Kick

This year the I.N.T.O. in conjunction with the G.A.A., organised a national long kick competition. The Kilkenny champion was Michael Phelan (Gowran), who qualified for the Leinster final.

In the Feile na nGael long puck competition, James McDermott (Gowran) was the Kilkenny representative. He dropped out at the Leinster final stage.

Under-14 Football

The Kilkenny C.B.S. defeated Piltown by

2-7 to 1-2 in the Roinn A under-14 football final. The southerners took an early lead and led by 1-2 to 0-4 at half-time. The city boys dominated the second half and were worthy winners.

In the Roinn B football final, Ballyhale met Conahy. In the Roinn A under-13 football championship, Kilmanagh meet C.B.S. while Dunamaginn meet Mooncoin.

Kilkenny C.B.S. — A. Teehan, E. Begley, D. Beirne, V. Byrne, J. Peters, S. Fitzpatrick (0-1), R. Shortall (1-0), C. Keegan (0-2), S. Gannon, J. O'Dwyer (0-2), T. Bergin (0-1), D. Kenny, S. Morrissey, N. Lacey (capt), M. Dowling (1-1), C. Wise, B. Whyte.

Piltown: K. O'Brien, A. Kennedy, J. Butler, E. Kenny, B. Donovan, M. Walsh, D. Healy, B. Bartley, N. O'Brien, B. Cummins, D. Giles (0-1), R. Cuddihy, L. Kennedy (1-0), A. Carroll, D. McSweeney.

Avonmore and Suir Electric took local honours



Suir Electric — Dawn Meats (Kilkenny) the Inter-firm junior hurling champions of 1986

Back row (l to r) Gerald O'Shea, John Carroll, Ger Foran, John Kearns, Tom Kearns, Eddie Crowley (captain), Jim Foskin, Tommy Murphy, Willie O'Connor, Mick Conway. Front row (l to r) Mick O'Connor, Joe Wall, Joe Murphy, Jim Dunphy, Paddy Crowley, Wattie Phelan, Jimmy Holden, Liam Dowling, Pat Hoban.

THE Kilkenny inter-firm competitions have again been brought to a successful conclusion. Avonmore Creameries won the senior title. They have now taken this title eight times from 11 successive finals' appearances. They won the football for the third year in succession. A team taking part in the junior championship for the first time, Suir Electric — Dawn Meats (Mooncoin), took the junior hurling crown.

The senior hurling final was a clash of champions. Avonmore were the reigning all-Ireland champions, while their opponents, P.N. Construction, were the all-Ireland junior champions. For three-quarters of the game the challengers were in contention. Eventually the experience of Avonmore brought them through (3-17 to 1-13).

The winners had good players in Donal Dunne, Bill Hennessy, Nicky Brennan, Johnny Brennan, Christy Walsh, Billy Fitzpatrick and Mick Walsh. The losers' best were Jack Lennon, Tommy Lennon, Larry Cleere, Billy Ronan, Johnny Ronan and Richard McCarthy.

Avonmore Creameries: Morgan Kelly, Joe Tierney, Donal Dunne, Bill Hennessy, Jimmy Ruth, Nicky Brennan, Jimmy O'Brien, Johnny Brennan (0-2), John Mulcahy (0-7), Dick Walsh (0-2), Christy Walsh (1-2), Michael Lanigan, Billy Fitzpatrick (2-1), Kevin Mulhall, Mick Walsh (0-3).

P.N. Construction: Pat Davis, Jack Lennon, Martin Burke, Liam Long, Tommy Lennon, Larry Cleere (0-2), Eddie O'Neill, Billy Ronan (0-2), Pat Kiely, Liam Mullen, James O'Connor (0-1), Johnny Ronan (1-5), Richard McCarthy (0-3), Andy Egan, Jackie Bolger.

IMPRESSIVE DISPLAY

Avonmore beat Public Services, P.N. Construction, Hoynes—Comerfords and St. Canice's hospital to qualify for

the football final. Their opponents here were Public Services. The North Kilkenny based side gave an impressive display as they overwhelmed their opponents. The creamery boys won by 3-14 to 2-4. The losers' two goals only came in the closing stages when Avonmore had eased off.

Paddy Kavanagh, Jimmy Ruth, Liam Phelan, Christy Walsh, Pat Brennan, Johnny Brennan, Mick Walsh and Morgan Kelly were best for the winners. The losers' best were Pat O'Hanlon, Noel Tuohy, Brian Murphy, Luke Kelly, Martin Hendrick and Liam Maher.

Avonmore: Paddy Kavanagh, Ciarán Leonard, Vincent Cleere, Liam Phelan, Gary Luttrell, Jimmy Ruth, Philip Monnelly, Christy Walsh (0-1), Pat Brennan (0-1), Johnny Brennan (1-2), Derry Dineen (0-1), Joe Casey (0-2), Tom Brennan (0-1), Mick Walsh (0-4), Morgan Kelly (2-2). Subs: Padraig Keegan, Dan Twomey.

Public Services: Pat Cullinane, Pat O'Hanlon, John Bracken, John Dineen, Noel Tuohy, Brian Murphy, Paddy Neary, Tom Leahy, P. J. Whelan, Liam Maher, Padraig Hughes, Martin Hendrick, Vincent Brannelly, Mick Lane, Mick O'Donovan. Subs.: Luke Kelly, Pat Starr.

Avonmore won the first round of the Leinster championship when they beat St. Peter's (Laois) by 0-9 to 0-4 after leading at the interval by 0-6 to 0-3. Scorers for Avonmore were: Christy

Walsh (0-5), Johnny Brennan (0-3), Derry Dineen (0-1).

The Noresiders bowed out to Lapple (Carlow) in the semi-final on a 1-6 to 0-6 scoreline. Avonmore applied a lot of pressure in the second half, but could not get the all-important goal. As well, their free-taking was off target.

A big loss to Avonmore in the Leinster championship was midfielder Pat Brennan, who was injured. Lapple went on to win the Leinster final.

Suir Electric—Dawn Meats qualified for the junior hurling final by beating St. Canice's hospital in the first round (2-10 to 2-6) and then Tallis Bros. They got a walk-over from Mahon & McPhillips. In the final they beat St. Canice's — Smithwicks by 1-19 to 2-9.

The winners' best were Wattie Phelan, Jimmy Holden, Willie Pat Hoban, Eddie Crowley and John Carroll. A highlight of the game was the clash of former Kilkenny players, Joe Wall and John Marnell for the losers. Honours were divided.

The losers' captain, Eddie Crowley, has the distinction of never failing in a final in which he was skipper.

Suir Electric-Dawn Meats: Liam Dowling, Jimmy Dunphy, Wattie Phelan, Paddy Crowley, Joe Murphy, Jimmy Holden, Willie O'Connor, Tom Murphy, Tomás Kearns, John Kearns, John Carroll, Eddie Crowley, Michael O'Connor, Joe Wall, Michael Conway. Subs.: Jim Foskin, Pat Hoban (both used). Other subs were Michael Burchell, Gerald O'Shea, Ger Foran.

In the first round of the Leinster championship the Kilkenny champions beat Meadow Meats (Rathdowney) by 3-11 to 0-3. Outstanding were Pat Hoban, who scored five lovely points; Joe Wall, Willie O'Connor and John Carroll.