

KILKENNY

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Front Cover

Kilkenny People photographer Tom Brett captured what must be an award-winning picture. The fluency and style of hurling is captured beautifully in this fine action shot of Kilkenny defender Joe Hennessy.

editorial



JOHN KNOX, *Editor*

County must be more forceful in future

PERHAPS the most abiding memory of '87 will be of the All Ireland senior hurling final, a game most followers in the county still believe Kilkenny should have won. A small thing could have changed the outcome right enough, but Kilkenny should not wallow in self pity. That game is history. If the self pity remains, the All Ireland handover will linger, needlessly. Thoughts should already have turned to the victories that must surely lie ahead.

True, the county's image took a bit of a battering after what was a physical, sometimes ill-tempered, final. What is wont to happen, the losers took the most stick, were apportioned most blame. For losers to protest their innocence is difficult. Better then to say nothing. The fair-minded know it takes two to tango.

Right now there is a need for strong, constructive leadership in the county. Lost ground must be made up. Kilkenny pride must be restored, and the respect of others for this county won back.

Apart altogether from the All Ireland, the authorities in Kilkenny lost some face over this year's Leinster final affair, when the senior and minor games were put back because of damage to the Croke Park pitch after two rock concerts. Co. Board delegates rightly voiced their annoyance, but the matter wasn't pursued to a definite conclusion. The fight was started, but not finished.

The paying public don't miss, or forget, things like that. Kilkenny should have been more forceful during that episode. When the county failed to get back the additional training expenses claimed because of the extended training, or have early National League games rescheduled, people concluded — rightly or wrongly — that Kilkenny had little or no clout in the G.A.A. That didn't look good.

This county should be big and strong enough to look after itself. Were it not for favourable weather around the time of the various county finals, the Co. Board could have lost out considerably on 'gate' money.

It would have been left up to Kilkenny then to get themselves out of any financial mess that might have followed. That doesn't seem like fair play.

Unless the county enjoys a bit of luck in the remaining Hurling League matches and slips through to the shake-up, another valuable source of income will have been lost. And this situation could be linked with the Leinster final affair, too, because for the early games, and the first in particular, Kilkenny were only able to field below strength teams.

The lessons of '87 should be remembered, and if anything like the provincial final affair arises again, Kilkenny should stand firm.

During a year when a few things went wrong, it was good to see the ladies enjoyed themselves. The Kilkenny camogie ladies completed their second National League-Championship double in three years. That brought to five the number of national titles they collected in that time. The women are certainly showing the men how it should be done these times.

Photos: All colour and main black and white picture content by Tom Brett, Waterford Road, Kilkenny, freelance and official photographer for the *Kilkenny People* newspaper.

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Will I, won't I...

Kilkenny player Pat Walsh (right) seems in two minds as to whether or not he will shake the hand of Dr. Patrick Hillary, President of Ireland, before the All-Ireland senior hurling final. The smiling President seems to understand the big day pressures on the player, and pushes his hand forward. Kilkenny captain Paddy Prendergast (left) seems to be taking it all in his stride, as does Liam Fennelly (centre).

(Pic. Jim Connolly)



Seán cut a distinctive figure during exciting season



Seán Fennelly

WHEN HE first trotted out onto the park, the unsuspecting must have been wondering who or what was this? Protective head gear hid the facial image, but the hurling and running styles gave the game away. It was Seán Fennelly, 1987 style.

The new look for the stylish Shamrocks (Ballyhale) defender had nothing to do with glamour. It was all about self preservation. Complete with distinctive hurling helmet, Seán set a new trend at the top level in the game this season.

"I always wore a helmet, even before these new ones came out", Seán explained. "I wouldn't go to the field, either for training or for a match, without one".

A nasty and very painful mouth injury suffered in the early part of the season finally prompted Seán to acquire the newest of the new hurling helmets. Added to the head protection of the old style helmet, this one has additional protection over the face. A purpose designed frame shields the face from knocks from either a hurley or sliothar.

"I was always nervous of getting a knock in the face, but I don't worry about that any more", Seán said. "I feel much more confident under the dropping ball. I know my face is safe now".

For Seán, who first made his mark on the inter-county scene when he captained the Kilkenny all-Ireland winning minor team of 1977, experienced hardship with an injury this year, and he doesn't want to go through the same painful experience again.

He took an accidental knock on the lower lip in a senior championship game against Clara. He lost a tooth. The cut was so deep the doctor had difficulty inserting the stitches, both inside and outside the mouth. More trouble was to follow. The cut got infected, and the healing process was delayed considerably.

COULD HAVE BEEN AVOIDED

"That experience was enough for

me", the Kilkenny half-back said. "That injury proved costly, and I went through a lot of needless pain. I was out of work for nearly a week, and I had considerable difficulty eating and drinking. So easily it could all have been avoided".

The next day Seán went out and did what he had been threatening to do for several weeks, he bought the new style hurling helmet with the protective shield over the face. In the all-Ireland final he was the only player who wore this type of helmet.

Of course, Seán grew up in the hurling world with a helmet, and all his hurling brothers, Michael, Ger, Kevin, Liam and Dermot wear the head gear. Sometimes Kevin wears one when playing in goal, but always when doing duty out the field. Seán even wore a helmet in that earlier mentioned all-Ireland of 1977.

"The knock in the face threw me out a bit, but the new helmet helped me regain my confidence", Seán suggested. "Taking knocks is all part of hurling, but I was always particularly concerned about the head and face".

When pressed that there might be a connection between his new found confidence as a result of wearing the helmet, and his great form with Kilkenny this year — it was his best so far — his reply was: "Who knows, but the helmet hasn't done me any harm anyway."

Inter-county players are under so much pressure between club and county matches any sort of an injury could be costly. Is it any wonder the likes of Seán Fennelly are taking every precaution possible?

"I am a committed helmet man", Seán said with conviction. "I wouldn't play a game without one. Even now I would find it hard to go out with the old style helmet without the protection for the face".

Early this year hurling followers wondered who was the Kilkenny man behind the mask. By the end of the senior championship everyone knew. Sure it was Seán Fennelly all the time.



Camogie star's first medal was won with hurling team

KILKENNY senior camogie goalkeeper Marie Fitzpatrick has experienced the opposite extremes in the game she loves. In the early part of her career she couldn't get a break. Now things have changed completely and she can hardly believe her good luck.

DURING the past three years she has won three all-Ireland senior medals. She has played on two National League winning sides. And she is still only 20 years old.

"Things have really turned around for me in recent times, and I hope the good run continues", she said with jollity in her voice. "With this present Kilkenny squad anything is possible".

Before the good times there were many dark days for this young Piltown lady who, strange as it may seem, plays her club camogie with St. Brigid's (Ballycallan). About five years ago the local club in Piltown fell through, and she was forced to seek club involvement elsewhere. She got the opportunity to join St. Brigid's, and jumped at it.

Such an arrangement obviously presents difficulty for training and matches, bearing in mind the distance the two areas are apart, but Marie's obvious love for the game helps her surmount all obstacles.

In Piltown, her Gaelic career started with the local under-11 hurling team. It wasn't a very auspicious beginning. The team played 16 matches and won just one. Still, Marie was presented with a medal for being the best player, so someone recognised her talent with the ash.

Later, better things were to follow. In 1980 she won the camogie skills competition at Féile na nGael, and was runner-up the following year.

AMPLE COMPENSATION

Thereafter followed a series of disappointments with the Kilkenny under-14, 16 and junior teams. They could never manage Dublin, and year after year the girls from the capital downed the Noresiders in every competition.

"I was picked on goal for Kilkenny for the National League final in 1985, and when we beat Dublin I had a particular reason to celebrate", she recalled. "At last I had been on a team



Marie Fitzpatrick

that beat them. Since then we have beaten them in a second League final, and two all-Irelands, so I have received ample compensation over a short few years".

Indeed, there was a little story behind her selection in goal in 1985. Two weeks before the big match Kilkenny still hadn't settled on a 'keeper. Marie was asked to give it a go. She did. The rest is history. She has figured on two double winning teams and the side that completed the all-Ireland treble.

"I had been playing outfield, but I mustn't have been doing that well", Marie said with a tone of amusement in her voice. "I had played in goal before and always liked it. I am happy in the position, and would not change for anything".

Going on her commanding performance in this year's all-Ireland final win over Cork, any would-be contender for the No. 1 jersey will have a job ousting her.

"I was more nervous that day than ever before", she conceded. "I don't know why. I think perhaps it was because there appeared to be more interest than ever in the final. Even at home in Piltown the interest was great, and a bus load of supporters travelled for the game. I think in the back of my mind I was afraid I might let those people down. Thankfully, everything worked out well".

"I was pleased with my all-Ireland performance. It was probably my best game ever".

Now what about the future?

"There is definitely another all-Ireland in this Kilkenny team", Marie assured. "Right now Angela and Ann Downey, Bridie McGarry and Liz Neary have seven all-Irelands each, and the best record of modern times is the eight held by Marie McCarthy (Cork). It would be great for our girls to be ranked up there with the best. They deserve to be".

NOW A TRAINER

She said when she was growing up she always wanted to play senior camogie for Kilkenny. After the all-Ireland win she brought the O'Duffy Cup to the local national school at Templeorum and there was such enthusiasm she felt sure there must be girls there who have similar ambitions.

"The standard of camogie at club level is very good at the moment", she thought. "The successful run of the county team has helped a lot".

Indeed, Marie's own exploits would seem to have rubbed off and encouraged youngsters in Piltown. An under-14 team was fielded in the Roinn C camogie championship this year, and it carried off the title. Marie was the team trainer.

From the time she was four years old — so she was told — her father, Michael who, incidentally, played a lot of his club hurling with Graigue-Ballycallan although not from the area, always helped and encouraged her to play camogie. There was nothing but help and assistance forthcoming from the people of the Piltown club and parish.

"A lot of people have given me help down the years, including Kilkenny trainer Tom Ryan", she said. "I hope I can continue to do well, for these people, and for myself also".

Liam wondered - maybe he should be a sprinter

IT WAS not easily done, but after just nine senior inter-county games, Liam Walsh has earned the approval of demanding Kilkenny fans, and is now classed as a 'regular' on the county hurling team.

IN JUNE of this year he was just another young hopeful when Kilkenny opened in the Leinster championship against Westmeath. When the county struggled in the National League that preceded the championship, one L. Walsh was picked just once. It didn't look good for him. Neither did it look good when he was taken off against Westmeath, in a match his team was winning at half pace.

"I suppose you could say that was the first time I was really on the team, and I ended up being taken off", the soft spoken Glenmore defender recalled. "I nearly cried after that. It was an awful feeling walking off the pitch. To make things worse, I didn't think I was doing too badly".

That was the worst part of a season that suddenly took off for this talented wing-back. In the following championship matches against Wexford, Offaly, Antrim and Galway, he not only survived but twice earned star ratings.

It was funny listening to him relating the story. Helpful team officials and players tried to mark his card. Against Wexford he would be on Seamus Fitzhenry, a recognised speed-merchant. He got over that one. Then he was told that Offaly's Mark Corrigan was faster again. No problem, he coped, and very well indeed. But when it came to the all-Ireland final, he was told 'his man', Martin McNaughton was the fastest of them all.

SURVIVED

"I was wondering where it was all going to end", Liam recalled with a broad smile on his face. "I was wondering should I have been a sprinter instead of a hurler".

He survived because he is a hurler and maybe a bit of a sprinter as well, but he was not happy with his game in the all-Ireland final, even though the Kilkenny defence as a whole was considered to have done very well in holding the Galway forwards to 1-12.

"I wasn't pleased with my own performance", he conceded. "To be honest, I was disappointed with it. I



Liam Walsh

could have given an awful lot more. The whole thing just made me more determined to do better in future".

That was Liam's baptism of fire, and but for the fact he is made of the 'right stuff', he could have been shell-shocked in the opening minutes. A lot of what would be termed 'sorting out' went on in the early stages, and Liam and his man were booked within three minutes of the start. The way he looked after himself in that particular episode, in his first senior all-Ireland, was possibly the

real starting point of his career. Long time followers of the game were convinced he had 'it' after the way he responded in that off the ball incident.

"After this year I hope I can get an awful lot better", he said. "My game, and my approach to it, has improved. When I came onto the team I felt a bit inhibited by the likes of Ger Henderson and Fennelly and Joe Hennessy and a few more, who were big stars. It didn't seem right for the likes of me to be calling for a pass from one of them.

"I was just trying to hold my own, and was saying nothing. The thing to do was to stick with my man all the time. Now my whole concentration wouldn't be on my man, and the negative side of the game of trying to stop him playing. I try and pick up the breaking ball, and am not afraid of my life of making a mistake".

"Confidence has a lot to do with it all", he supposed. "I feel a real part of it all now. The rest of the players were great, because they understood the problem I had trying to break into the team."

VALID POINT

And in Kilkenny that is not an easy job, he reckoned, even when the county is doing badly. Some supporters will accept a mistake by an established player because they know what he is capable of doing, but the understanding for a new man is not always that forthcoming. A valid point!

"I always thought I could make the team", Liam said. "Now I want to stay on it".

Incidentally, Liam Walsh did not play at minor level with Kilkenny, but he did win an under-21 all-Ireland medal against Tipperary in 1984. The following year he went to work in England, and helped London to a junior all-Ireland victory.

This year he collected another valuable prize — a Kilkenny senior hurling championship medal with Glenmore.

"That win capped off what has been a memorable year for me", he concluded.



KILMANAGH — Under-12 Roinn A Hurling Champions

Back row (l. to r.): James Young, Dermot Ronan, Adrian Walsh, Kieran O'Halloran, Nicholas Teehan, Pat Comerford, Damien Cleere, Alan Hoyne, Eamon Marnell, P. J. Hogan, Ian Mullan. Front row (l. to r.): Eddie O'Dwyer, John Manogue, Michael Byrne, Philip Cody, Denis Byrne, Sean Dermody, John Hoyne, Philip Butler, Niall Carroll, Thomas Dermody.



ERIN'S OWN (CASTLECOMER) — Runners-up in the Roinn B Under-12 Hurling Championship.



GRAIGNAMANAGH — Runners-up in the Roinn A Under-12 Hurling Championship

Unlucky 13 how are you, how about No. 6?

By Paddy Buggy, former President of the G.A.A.

THE 1987 all-Ireland senior final will be remembered by Kilkenny hurling supporters as 'the one that got away', 'the one we should have won', 'a game of missed opportunities'. While Galway were worthy champions, this was certainly a game Kilkenny could have won.

There are others, the more superstitious amongst us, who would claim Kilkenny couldn't win any case, seeing that the game was played on Sunday, September 6. Statistics would seem to indicate that fate is unkind to Kilkenny whenever an all-Ireland final is played on Sunday, September 6, and, in addition, in a year which ends in 6.

Kilkenny have won 23 all-Ireland senior hurling titles. Not one of them was won in a year which ended in 6. Furthermore, since 1925, about the time when the all-Ireland championships began to be completed in the month of September, Kilkenny failed to win a title in any of the 10 finals, including 1987, which were played on Sunday, September 6!

In addition, Sunday, September 6 is sometimes referred to as a "Year for a draw" when the final is played on that date. There have been only four draws in hurling finals in all. Two of them, 1931 and 1959, were played on Sunday, September 6. Kilkenny figured in both. They lost to Cork after a second replay in 1931, and to Waterford in a replay in 1959. Tipperary and Dublin played draws in 1908 and 1934, and Tipperary won the replays.

The following is a list of the 10 finals played on Sunday, September 6, together with a short summary of the games themselves, or the matches leading up to the final, from a Kilkenny point of view:

1925: September 6 — Tipperary 5-6, Galway 1-5.

1931: September 6 — Cork 1-6, Kilkenny 1-6; October 11 — Cork 2-5, Kilkenny 2-5; November 1 — Cork 5-8, Kilkenny 3-4.

1936: September 6 — Limerick 5-6, Kilkenny 1-5.

1942: September 6 — Cork 2-14, Dublin 3-4.

1953: September 6 — Cork 3-3, Galway 0-8.

1959: September 6 — Waterford 1-17, Kilkenny 5-5; October 4 — Waterford 3-12, Kilkenny 1-10.

1964: September 6 — Tipperary 5-13, Kilkenny 2-8.

1970: September 6 — Cork 6-21, Wexford 5-10.

1981: September 6 — Offaly 2-12, Galway 0-15.

1987: September 6 — Galway 1-12, Kilkenny 0-5.



1925 — Dublin beat Kilkenny in the Leinster final, but following an objection by Kilkenny, which was upheld on two points: the playing of an illegal player and failing to submit a players' list to the referee, the match was awarded to Kilkenny. Kilkenny recalled John T. Power (Piltown) to play on goal even though he was 43 and had been out of hurling for a few years, and were well beaten by Galway in the semi-final.

1931 — Kilkenny were very badly hit by injuries for the third game, and were without their star and captain, Lory Meagher, Dick Morrissey, who was very seriously injured in the first game, and Billy Dalton and Martin White.

1936 — The year of the Locky Byrne controversy. Locky, who was native of Sallypark, Ferrybank, an area ceded to Waterford from Kilkenny a few years previously, was suspended by the Waterford Co. Board because he was not prepared to play with them in the championship against Clare. The decision was appealed, Kilkenny won the appeal, because Locky Byrne, at the time, was working in Kilkenny with W.K. Cleere. He later played in the final with Kilkenny, who were beaten by Limerick.

1942 — The year following the outbreak of foot and mouth disease when Kilkenny hurling was completely disorganised. Dublin beat them by 4-8 to 1-4. The game marked the last appearance of Paddy Phelan for Kilkenny. He started in goal and later moved outfield.

1953 — Galway beat Kilkenny in the semi-final. Again a game of missed opportunities. Kilkenny had a great chance of levelling with a free, but failed. The referee blew for full-time as Jimmy Heffernan sent the ball over the bar for what would have been the equaliser. Cork defeated Galway in the final.

1959 — Kilkenny were well beaten in the replay by Waterford. They were unlucky to be held to a draw the first day. They led by a goal in the closing stages, and missed a number of reasonable opportunities for the insurance point. Seamus Power's shot from near midfield was deflected to the Kilkenny net for the equaliser.

1964 — The Noresiders were eventually well beaten by Tipperary in the final. Martin Coogan retired injured and was a serious loss. Sean Buckley was moved from centrefield to left half-back, and W. Murphy was introduced as substitute at midfield. In addition, Seamie Cleere, one of the greatest half backs to play for Kilkenny, lined out at right half-forward.

1970 — Kilkenny were beaten in the Leinster semi-final by Wexford. Eddie Keher was unable to play because of illness. Mick Lawlor had to leave the field injured after 15 minutes.

1981 — Again Kilkenny were beaten in the Leinster semi-final by Wexford. The team selected was a very controversial one. Critics had a field day after the match.

1987 — While Galway were worthy winners, Kilkenny had sufficient opportunities that would win most games.

Statistics can be used to prove almost anything, still, this all leaves Kilkenny with another objective, to win the all Ireland when next the first Sunday of September falls on the 6th, or an all-Ireland in a year ending in 6. Could we be talking about 1996?

'King Billy' abdicated

KILKENNY were different in the senior hurling championship this year. Time took an old favourite away. The circus rolled on. New stars emerged. Others stepped-down.

For the first time in 13 years one of the sweetest hurlers ever to emerge from the county was missing from the panel. Perhaps the 13 was significant. It brought little luck. It was the end of the inter-county road for Billy Fitzpatrick.

THE Fenians (Johnstown) artist, for that he truly was, won a special place in the hearts of Kilkenny hurling folk in those glory years from the mid-seventies to the early eighties. Without a coronation he won the title of 'King Billy' from admiring Kilkenny fans, who recognise regal qualities in a hurler.

The Leinster final of 1986 was Billy Fitzpatrick's last appearance on the inter-county stage. He went on as a late substitute in the provincial final defeat of then all-Ireland champions, Offaly. Twice that day half chances of scores came his way. You could practically reach out and touch the atmosphere as followers wished him to score. It didn't happen.

"That was the way it was for me last year, my form came and went", Billy explained. "I just couldn't get back whatever it was that helped me get scores down through the years. There were even times this year when I hoped it might come back. It didn't. I fear it has gone for ever now, for that level of hurling anyway".

"Whatever it was", as he put it, singled out Billy Fitzpatrick as a hurler from way back.

In the 1971 all-Ireland colleges senior hurling final against St. Finbarr's (Farrenferris), he blasted home five goals for St. Kieran's college. That was in the days of the 13-a-side final.

MAJOR SURPRISE

The following year, under the captaincy of Brian Cody, Kilkenny annexed the minor all-Ireland championship. The 8-7 to 3-9 defeat of Cork was a major surprise. One B. Fitzpatrick crashed home 3-4.

He lived up to all that early promise

when he reached the senior scene. He finished with five all-Ireland senior medals in his collection, and a man of the match award from one of those finals too.



"I was lucky", he said modestly. "I was with a good college team at the start, and we had a good trainer in Dermot Healy. My club team was great, probably one of the best ever in Kilkenny, when I was learning the game. Then I moved onto a great Kilkenny team. At the beginning (it was the League of '73 and championship of '74) anyone would have fitted in where I fitted in. Anyone could probably have done the job I did with the fabulous men who were around me".

When that era passed and good ones like Keher, Delaney, Crotty, Purcell and Brennan had departed from the front line, the Fenians attacked continued to produce the goods. And his last all-Ireland in 1983 was his crowning glory. He scored 0-10 in the 2-14 to 2-12 defeat of Cork, and earned the R. T. E. man of the match award.

"That was my best game for the county", the 33-year-old conceded. "I felt I played a few good ones in the Leinster championship down the years, but that was the best of the lot.

"In some ways I probably needed that all-Ireland. There was a bit of pressure in the all-Ireland of 1982 because I knew I wasn't after playing well in the finals of '74 or '75. Anyone could have done what I did on those teams. In 1979 I thought I might have had a better all-Ireland because I was going well in the Leinster championship. I wasn't great in that all-Ireland either.

RELIEVED AND HAPPY

"Then came 1982 and '83 and if I hadn't played well in one of those it could always be said that I could play well alright, but I was never much in an all-Ireland. I was relieved, and happy after the '83 final. I had proved what I knew myself, that I could do it on the big day".

He mentioned something about being his own worst critic. He wasn't out for self satisfaction but to get the maximum from himself for the team. He achieved that in 1983.

He captained the victorious Kilkenny all-Ireland team of 1975 against Galway. Some said he was the youngest captain ever. He never went into that aspect of it. Others could do that. But what were his thoughts on that one?

"When I look back on it I get more satisfaction out of it than I think I did at the time", he suggested. "I suppose I was a bit young then, and I didn't appreciate it as much as if it had happened later in my career. It was a great honour, but had I been given the choice, I would like to have done it later in my career.



BILLY ON THE BALL . . . with the sliothar practically stuck to his camán, Billy Fitzpatrick races away on a solo run.

His major honours

Leinster inter-firm S.H.C. (9) — 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1981, 1983, 1985, 1986, 1987.

All-Ireland inter-firm S.H.C. (7) — 1976, '77, 1978, '79, 1983, '85 and 1986.

Leinster S.H.C. (7) — 1974, '75, 1978, '79, 1982, '83 and 1986.

All-Ireland S.H.C. (5) — 1974, '75, 1979, '82 and 1983.

Kilkenny S.H.C. (4) — 1973, '74 and 1977.

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

Bank of Ireland All-Stars (2) — 1982 and '83.

All-Ireland under-21 H.C. (2) — 1974 and '75.

All-Ireland M.H.C. (1) — 1972.

All-Ireland colleges S.H.C. (1) — 1971.

Oireachtas S.H. tourney (1) — 1984.

Railway Cup hurling (1) — 1979.

Gaelic Star of Year (1) — 1983 (this is jointly sponsored by O'Neill and Gaelic Star Yearbook and is administered on an individual county basis).

"It was the same with the all-Ireland wins of '82 and '83, I got more satisfaction out of them because I felt I had to put more into winning those. There was more responsibility on me. In the other years, while it was great to win, my part in the thing was small".

Heavy on the self analysis again, but that was the way he was. He put a lot of thought into his game. He made sure hurley-maker, Mick Neary had him well stocked with made to measure sticks. Sometimes nearly half-a-dozen on stand-by. He even made himself into a free-taker when the team needed one in the early eighties. Lonely hours were spent in the Ballyragget pitch learning that particular art. He eventually mastered it.

"I was lucky, the game came naturally to me", the Avonmore Creameries employee said. "That doesn't mean I didn't have to train hard. The way I looked at it was, if you were handy at something, you could get better if you worked at it. I tried to do that. In the end there was nothing I didn't get out of hurling, and I will miss it".

A GOOD ONE

His first senior appearance was in a League match against Cork in 1973. He went in against Con Roche. His memory: "I didn't score much off him anyway. He was a good one". The following year he was put in as a sub in the championship against Wexford, and retained his place right through the all-Ireland series.

The best he came up against along the way were Con Roche and Denis Coughlan (Cork), the latter he described as brilliant. "He could make you look terrible, and could dash up the field and score a point from 80 yards". Then there was Mick Jacob (Wexford) and Iggy Clarke (Galway), to name but a few. On the local scene Pat Lawlor (Bennettsbridge) was "a hard one to lose". He played with too many good Kilkenny players, so that question was superfluous.

He always felt the League was a drag, and not because it didn't produce his type of game, which was "with the ball coming fast and lively".

"It was always fun in the summer", he said. "I don't think hurling is meant to be anything but a summer game".

In Kilkenny, and no doubt further afield Billy Fitzpatrick had legions of fans who admired his skill with the camán. He had a special talent, and he used it well. He will be remembered as one of the great stylists of Kilkenny hurling.

'THE DOC', AND MARTIN, MISSED HISTORY

ELEGANT Kilkenny player of the 'Sixties and early 'Seventies, Martin Coogan, passed up the opportunity to make his own piece of hurling history. He could have been the first man to wear protective head-gear in an all-Ireland final.

That was back in 1967, a while before the advent of the hurling helmet. Martin's makeshift helmet would have resembled a boxer's head-gear.

"Martin took one look at it, and asked me 'how could I wear that?'" recalled long-time Kilkenny team medical adviser Dr. Kieran Cuddihy. "Martin thought the whole country would be laughing at him. I suppose it did look a bit odd at the time, but I think it would have done the job".

That was just one idea the inventive Dr. Cuddihy came up with during an eventful 27-year involvement with Kilkenny teams. It all began one evening in 1955 when Kilkenny were training at Nowlan Park for an important championship game. Late Co. Board secretary Paddy Grace asked 'The Doc', as he later became fondly known, to "have a look at one of the lads".

Until after the all-Ireland victory of 1982, Kieran was still caring for the medical needs of the players. Even today he still keeps his hand in, but the main workload has now shifted to Doctors Bill and Johnny Cuddihy, sons of you-know-who. Further to that, another son, Dr. Brendan Cuddihy, who has a practice in Greystones, Co. Wicklow, looks after the needs on match days in Dublin if some member of the family can't make it up from Kilkenny.

"We like to feel we are helpful", said Kieran, who hails from Dublin and one time in the late 'Thirties was a member of the same club (Clann na nGael) as former Director General of the G.A.A., Seán Ó Siócháin. He moved to Kilkenny in 1952, and after "squatting", as he put it, as pathologist for a while, was eventually appointed regional pathologist in 1964. He retired from active duty in June of '87.

PRONE TO KNOCKS

But getting back to that Coogan story from the 1967 all-Ireland against Tipperary (the Noresiders won by 3-8

to 2-7), Kieran had a reason for making head-gear for the Erin's Own (Castlecomer) man. Apparently, Martin was prone to getting knocks on the left side of his face.

"He played with his left, and when he had completed the pull through, he was open to knocks. I just put something together for him".

What could have been Martin's historic head-gear was made out of leather, with inset aluminium pieces. Around that time hurling had started into hurling helmets, mainly in Cork. Donal Clifford was the first inter-county player to use the ice-hockey helmet.

"I would like to see all juvenile players wearing helmets, and all the better if they are the ones with the facial guard", the doctor said. "Why does it take a serious injury to alert people to the dangers? People who know how to play hurling properly know how to protect themselves, because the game is no more dangerous than a lot of field games, but it does no harm to take a few extra precautions".



Sound advice from a man who served with Kilkenny senior teams in 16 all-Ireland finals, and through over a quarter of a century of National Leagues. Who better than Kieran to offer advice?

"Everyone should always be on the safe side", he continued. "While it is not possible to have a doctor at every match (he counted over 50 fixtures in Kilkenny during one week at the height of the season) it is far better for someone to be brought unnecessarily to the doctor or hospital than to take a chance. Always be on the safe side".

A note from the Bishop

LIKE most of us at some time or another, Dr. Cuddihy has had his moments of excitement during matches. The referee wasn't always his favourite person.

On one such occasion, Kieran received an amusing note from the late Bishop of Ossory, Dr. Peter Birch, who was sitting in the Stand in Nowlan Park during a Kilkenny/Cork game.

The note, delivered by a small boy from "a priest in the Stand" simply said: "The referee is neither blind nor illegitimate". The note was signed 'Peter', with a cross.

"You can imagine what I was shouting", 'The Doc' recalled with a degree of embarrassment. "When I looked up into the Stand I saw the Bishop, and he put one hand over his lips and wagged his finger".

Of course, the two men were close friends.

"Bishop Birch was a great G.A.A. supporter and he would want to know everything that was going on. If he thought you had any background news into team affairs he would try and elicit it from you", Kieran recalled.

Up to the time of his death Bishop Birch always attended Kilkenny's last training session before all-Ireland finals to impart his blessing and wish the players well.

Research has now started into the possibility of getting protective hand gear, and Kieran fully backs this work. Every little bit helps, he felt.

CHARACTERS

The former team doctor is long enough around to remember the 'old hurling rules'. He noticed a decline in



'Bridge men had the knack

DR. CUDDIHY has stitched up many a Kilkenny player in his time, but Bennettsbridge men were few and far between.

"I remember once stitching Paddy Moran, but he was struck from behind", the former Kilkenny team medical officer recalled.

Apparently, Bennettsbridge players seldom if ever got head injuries. Kieran Cuddihy assumed it was because whoever taught them as young boys to use hurley sticks showed them how to use the camán for protection.

"Rarely did I have to stitch a 'Bridge man", he said. "Whatever way they went into the tackle with the hurley in front of them they were protected. It was an art with some of them".

Cuddihy ran in and kissed Paddy Moran.

"When I think about it I get as embarrassed as hell", he laughed. "Paddy was the nearest player to me. How unfortunate for him. At that time there was some talk that Kilkenny were afraid of the Tipperary jersies. There was no room out on any pitch if you were afraid of anything". The all-Ireland win of 1967 was another choice memory.

There were amusing memories, too. There was the time he brought a bottle of oxygen into the dressing-room. He had intended to use the oxygen to help players recover their wind quicker. The majority were reluctant to try it, and referred to it as "laughing gas".

Then there were the times in the build-up to all-Irelands when he would give the players vitamin tablets to help their bodies cope with the extra strain. Often these would be passed on to the greyhounds, and the players would come back and tell him "the dog had knocked seconds off his time".

AMAZED

To use his own words, he "never ceased to be amazed by the extraordinary way", Fr. Tommy

TWO GREAT HURLING MEN . . . does thi slook like a dressing-room at St. James's Park? No doubt about the people pictured, Fr. Tommy Maher (front), the former Kilkenny senior hurling team trainer and Paddy Grace, the former secretary of the Co. Board. This is a picture from the R.T.E. files. The occasion was the build-up to the All-Ireland Senior Hurling Final of 1957.

the number of injuries when the rules were tightened up, and a further decline when helmets came into vogue.

"Kilkenny were always a great bunch to be involved with", he said, and his face exploded into a broad smile. "Apart from the hurlers who were characters, there were people like the late Paddy Grace and "Chew" Leahy, and Stephen Kinsella as well, who could brighten up any dark moment. I never came across unpleasantness in the dressingroom".

He recalled the 1964 all-Ireland final against Tipperary, when Kilkenny suffered their biggest defeat since 1937 when they were beaten by 5-13 to 2-8 by the same opposition.

"Martin Coogan had to come off that day because of a cut over his eye", he explained. "When Ollie Walsh came into the dressing-room his first words were: 'Sorry, lads, I let you down'. Coogan jumped up and caught him. 'Don't you ever say that', he told him firmly. 'You pulled this county up often enough when no one gave us a chance'. Lads who would be at each other's throats at club level backed each other to the hilt with the county".

There were brighter moments, maybe even embarrassing ones. One such occasion was after the League victory of 1966 when Kilkenny beat Tipperary in their first senior final of any sort since 1922. An excited Kieran

Maher, now Monsignor and P.P. in Mullinavat, could read a match. He could see a hole in an instant, and what was and wasn't working.

"He was probably a hurling coach ahead of his time", Kieran thought. "He was a great man to respect the different styles of different people. And he could handle players. Jack Mulcahy and Pat Henderson had that same gift of handling players and getting the best out of them".

The late Paddy Grace was out on his own. A secretary, a man in a million.

"He was a generous man and a great rogue", he said with absolute sincerity in his voice. "His roguery was mainly confined to coddling the 'Bosses' in Croke Park. He loved having it out with them. He would threaten not to play the game, but he never had any

intention of doing so. He just wanted to put the wind up them.

"He had no time for pomp or anyone with a big ego. He was one very funny and very generous man, who loved the players and saw they were never short".

Kieran, he likes the 'Doctor' bit to be dropped, concluded by expressing his gratitude to all the Kilkenny players, Co. Board officers and delegates who, down through the years, made it a privilege for him to be part of the entire scene and to have been able to share in the victories and defeats. There was a huge number of players who gave sterling service, and some like Pat Lawlor (Bennettsbridge) and Michael Crotty (James Stephens) didn't get the public recognition they deserved, he felt. He had good memories of them all.

What happened in '66

KILKENNY hit the national headlines after their shock senior all-Ireland final defeat of 1966 against Cork. Everyone remembers the story. Fewer remember the apology.

The Noresiders were the hottest of favourites to win that final. On the day they never got going, and were beaten by 3-9 to 1-10. What happened?

The *Irish Independent* ran a story, penned by the late John D. Hickey, that Kilkenny had been given sleeping tablets the night before the game, and this was the probable cause of the sluggish form. Later the story was retracted and an apology printed.

"In 1966 not one Kilkenny player went on the field, either as a sub. or to start the match, who had taken a sleeping tablet", Dr. Cuddihy confirmed.

He explained that at the beginning of training he told the players that if they had difficulty sleeping, what with the tension during the build-up and so on, he would give them something to help them. One or two players approached him, including one substitute.

"The night before the all-Ireland was no time to be experimenting", he pointed out.

He had been involved with four senior teams in all-Ireland finals earlier (two wins, in 1957 and '63, and defeats in 1959 after a replay and '64) and he knew the score.

Kieran Cuddihy had no difficulty speaking about the matter, even though his professional integrity at the time had been called into question.

It was Kilkenny Co. Board who sought, and got, the apology printed.

A 'kneed' to deceive

THINGS are not always what they might seem, as we all very well know. Such was the case with Seán Clohosey's right knee in the all-Ireland senior hurling final of 1957 against Waterford.

Dr. Cuddihy started an amusing tale: "In the Leinster final Seán had hurt his knee badly, really badly, against Wexford. Nicky O'Donnell had accidentally fallen on it, and the injury was bad".

Clohosey was very doubtful for the all-Ireland. At the same time there was a famous cricketer in England called Denis Crompton who was battling to shake-off a serious injury before a Test match.

Kieran went on: "Would Crompton's knee hold out? was the big story in all the English papers. I was thinking, what a hell of a cheek. What was far more important was would Clohosey's knee hold out?"

With a little help from a doctor friend, it did.

The Kilkenny team medical officer brought in an anaesthetist before the match to give Clohosey a local anaesthetic in the knee.

"Then I was afraid he might get a wallop on the sore knee and it might do more damage and Seán might not feel it", Kieran continued. "So we painted the good knee with a red coloured antiseptic to let on it was the bad knee. Ordinary Dettol was used to clean-up the bad knee.

"Sean got a few awful wallops on his good knee that day", Kieran recalled with a mischievous laugh. "He got through the match, and was none the worse for the wear".

Indeed, Seán Clohosey played a leading role and scored two vital points in Kilkenny's narrow 4-10 (22) to 3-12 (21) win. It was the county's all-Ireland victory.



MULLINAVAT — Runners-up in the Roinn D Under-12 Hurling Championship

Black memory when Leinster finals put off

TOMMY
MURPHY
Co. Board
Chairman



THERE WERE many very fine memories for Kilkenny hurling fans during 1987, but without doubt the blackest and most disappointing was the postponement of the Leinster minor and senior finals involving Offaly and Kilkenny in both.

THE cancellation wasn't the fault of Kilkenny Co. Board. Neither was it the fault of the Offaly Board, or the Leinster Council. Croke Park, the pitch on which the provincial finals are always staged, was unplayable.

Originally the finals were to be decided on July 19. The 90,000 plus rock fans who attended two U2 concerts at the venue led to — now one didn't say caused — damage to the pitch. Large areas of the playing surface had to be resodded. The finals were eventually played on August 2.

To this day, a satisfactory explanation about what exactly happened has not been given to the general public, the people who contribute to the upkeep of the G.A.A. each time they pay at the turnstiles going into a match, or buy a ticket for a raffle for the local club. Once again the general public didn't matter when it came to the crunch, and the subject was more or less marked 'personal', which is another way of telling the masses that it is none of their business.

For those who may have forgotten the main facts, a quick recap. The U2 concerts were well over, and people were looking forward to the provincial finals. On Tuesday, July 14, five days before the games, the *Irish Times* reported all was well, as confirmed by a high ranking official from Croke Park. The same day the *Irish Press* had a story, plus pictures, casting doubt on the state of the pitch.

Within 24 hours the games were off. The *Times* had been fed what turned out to be incorrect information. The same Tuesday, Kilkenny, Offaly and Leinster Council officials were summoned to Croke Park to carry out a pitch inspection after serious doubts had been cast over its suitability for the games.

FURIOUS DELEGATES

"When we saw the pitch on Tuesday we knew immediately it wasn't playable", Kilkenny chairman, Tommy Murphy, later told a lively meeting of the Co. Board that discussed the whole affair. The call from the furious Kilkenny Board delegates was that resignations should follow, and Kilkenny should be compensated for out-of-pocket expenses for the additional training needed because of the postponement.

Needless to say, no resignations followed, and as far as one can make out, no compensation was paid either. The G.A.A. or Croke Park, which is a limited company, said they were sorry to players and supporters and all the rest, but no one ever found out what really caused the damage to the pitch. The G.A.A. was reported as making in the region of £100,000 from the two concerts.

But why should the Croke Park pitch suffer so badly, particularly if adequate measures to protect the field had been taken? Later U2 performed in Pairc Uí Chaoimh. For

two days a full programme of artists played there. The Cork pitch did not suffer anything like the damage at Croke Park. The people in Cork took adequate measures to safeguard the pitch, and important games were played there shortly afterwards.

But for the second year running — games had to be changed following the Simple Minds concert in 1986 — there was disruption at Croke Park after a big gig. The Croke Park people, and no one else, were responsible.

There was a story going around afterwards that the plastic covering laid to protect the pitch was left down too long. The grass died as a result. If that was what happened, it was a simple, but very stupid mistake.

POSSIBILITY INVESTIGATED

Another possibility that was supposedly investigated afterwards was that there was pesticide on the covering.

No one will probably ever find out what really happened. A Croke Park official was summoned to a meeting of Kilkenny Co. Board to explain to delegates what happened, but left some members dumbfounded.

"He tied us up with facts and figures", one delegate suggested. "He was able to show the Association needed the money from concerts and had all the facts and figures at his finger tips".

The majority would be in favour of the concerts, but only if guarantees can be given that Gaelic games will not be interrupted. Such a guarantee was given after the problems that arose following the Simple Minds concert. Then came the problems after U2. People are sceptical about any assurances now.

The real extent of the disruption caused to players, their families, and supporters at home and abroad after the Leinster finals were put back can never be fully appreciated.

In Kilkenny club games had to be rushed. The Co. Board was lucky and got good 'gates' when the weather held up for the county finals, and there was a replay in the intermediate decider. The loss, if there is any, of revenue should be minimal.

However, the county team suffered in the National Hurling League. For the first match against Waterford, a shadow side was fielded because most of the county players were tied up in the local semi-finals. Kilkenny lost, and then lost the next two ties against Galway and Wexford.

So by the Christmas break, the county was under considerable pressure to get points in the competition. And the three-in-a-row of defeats at the start could lead to Kilkenny missing out on the money spinning concluding stages. The cost to Kilkenny following the postponement of the Leinster finals! The county escaped well, for a while.

Paddy, the Doctor for the whole 'Association



The day he became Dr. Paddy Buggy, the former President of the G.A.A. was accompanied by his wife and dear friends. From left: Paddy Grant (Slieverue), Dick Mahony, Jim Langton, Hugh Byrne (another former President of the G.A.A.), Peggy Buggy (wife), Jim Walsh (Slieverue chairman), Maura Mulvihill, Liam Mulvihill (Director-General of the G.A.A.), Paddy Grace (late secretary Kilkenny Co. Board) and John Dowling (President-elect of the G.A.A.).

YOU CAN call him Doctor, but don't expect a cure if you come down sick. You see, the Dr. bit is honorary, a title bestowed by National University of Ireland. Now you could address him as Dr. Paddy Buggy. Yes, it is the same person, the former President of the G.A.A., Kilkenny hurler and Leinster Council chairman.

"It was a tremendous honour for the G.A.A. and myself when I was conferred", Paddy said. "I was the lucky one chosen out of all the people in the 'Association, and I received it on everyone's behalf".

The historic occasion was April 12, 1984, during the Centenary year of the G.A.A. The scene was Iveagh House, by kind permission of the Minister for Foreign Affairs. Paddy Buggy was President of the G.A.A.

The National University of Ireland conferred honorary degrees. A degree of Doctor of Laws (LL.D) was conferred on Paddy Buggy by T. Kenneth Whitaker, Chancellor of the University. Among the 11 people conferred with honorary degrees that day were Cardinal Thomás Ó Fiaich (Doctor of Literature) and James Galway (Doctor of Music).

"People ask me what was the outstanding happening during the Centenary year, and I have to admit it was the conferring of this degree", Paddy suggested. "The G.A.A. was honoured. It was the absolute recognition of what the 'Association had achieved and contributed to Irish life since it was founded".

TREMENDOUS

Paddy has never used the Dr. bit, although entitled to do so. The honour for the 'Association through him was enough. "Tremendous" was the word he used. The name of Pádraig Ó Bogaigh went into the register at the National University of Ireland. There were no special entitlements attached, not even a vote in the Senate elections.

The Kilkenny official was introduced — this is all part of the pomp and ceremony — by Thomas Murphy, Pro-Vice-Chancellor of the University. Part of the text of his address read:

"The achievements of the GAA went far beyond the organisation of sporting and leisure occasions which provided participants and spectators alike with countless hours of healthy exercise, entertainment and excitement. Through these activities, local and national patriotism was aroused, and an interest in things distinctively Irish. The GAA was a patriotic response to the situation in which organised athletics in Ireland were controlled from England and tended to be the preserve of the upper classes.

"The GAA based itself on an affirmation of Irish nationality. Its foundation coincided with the movements for agrarian reform and political freedom, and with the foundation of the Gaelic League just a few years later in 1893. All these forces contributed to change the mental climate of Ireland in the space of less than 40 years, and to the establishment of an independent Irish State.



DR. PADDY BUGGY

"In spite of inevitable disagreement about aims and methods, the GAA was a rapid and continued success. It formulated standard rules for football and hurling. It established boards and councils at county and province level to provide a 32 county structure within which the games were played. It provided playing fields all over the country, and the name of Croke Park is now famous throughout the world as the headquarters of Gaelic sport".

Paddy Buggy exemplified the ideal GAA person, the University felt. He was educated in Waterford and worked for most of his adult life in the administration departments of Kilkenny Co. Council. He played hurling since he captained the team at Mount Sion Christian Brothers School, Waterford. He won Kilkenny medals for junior and senior hurling and for senior football, and Leinster championship, Railway Cup and Oireachtas medals for hurling.

For 11 years he played on the Kilkenny senior hurling team, and captained the team in 1955. As a GAA voluntary official, Paddy Buggy has 40 years to his credit since he became secretary of the Slieverue minor club in 1947. He acted on the Kilkenny Co. Board, the Kilkenny Southern Board, and was from 1961 to 1982 the Kilkenny representative on the Leinster Council of which latter body he was elected chairman in 1978. He did his share as team manager, selector and referee. In 1982 he was elected to the highest office in the 'Association, and led it through its centenary year".

Tullaroan's stars of the century

A STAGGERING forty-five all-Ireland medals have been amassed by 15 individuals, selected as their club's team of the century. And many star hurlers who won all-Ireland medals have failed to make the team.

Yes! It can only be that famous North Kilkenny club, Tullaroan, which had been synonymous with Kilkenny hurling until the middle of this century. You had the Graces, Dohenys, Clohoseys, Waltons, Dan Kennedy, Jack Keoghan, Paddy Phelan and, of course, the legendary Lory Meagher.

Such was the vast array of talent that no one even dared attempt the unenviable task of opting for one above the other. However, two brave men from the club have taken on the onerous task.

Paddy Clohosey and 'Lum Kennedy recently donned the rôle of selectors, and after many hours, days and weeks of soul searching arrived at their final fifteen.

Service to Tullaroan rather than to the county team was the basis of their judgement. Although, they did add the rider that a player must have played with the county team.

Their obvious selection for goalie was the famous Pat 'Fox' Maher, who was known in the club as the father of hurling. A forerunner of the modern day team manager or coach, 'Fox' Maher pioneered hurling in Tullaroan. He also played a vital rôle in Kilkenny's first all-Ireland victory in 1904. Other contenders for the position were Jim Dermody and Ned Teehan, who also won all-Ireland medals with Kilkenny.

DISPUTE

Few could dispute the selection of Jack Keoghan at right corner-back. He won his first all-Ireland medal at the age of 20 years in 1907, and was still playing 25 years later. He went on to win another four all-Ireland medals before emigrating to America in 1914, where he played a prominent role in the G.A.A. Other contestants for Jack's position were Peter Blanchfield, Jim Hogan and Willie Meagher.

The fullback position went to Tommy Grace, a member of the famous Grace family who had given such great service to Tullaroan.



By DIARMUID HEALY

Tommy, one of two of the selection not to hold an all-Ireland medal, narrowly pipped John Holohan of Johnstown. Another fine hurler who played in this position was Fr. Ned Kavanagh, who was full-back on the 1947 Kilkenny all-Ireland winning team.

Many may wonder at the exclusion of Jack Rochford from the full-back position. Reason being, he only played with Tullaroan for a very short period. He did win seven all-Ireland medals with Kilkenny.

The final position on the full-back line went to that great clearer of a ball, Jack Hoyne. Jack, who won two all-Irelands in 1904 and 1905, also played in the 1903 and 1906 finals. He was noted for his sportsmanship, and was regarded as one of those grant characters of the game. Also in the reckoning for this position were Ned Teehan, Mark Marnell and Paddy Larkin.

With a record six all-Ireland medals to his credit, Dan Kennedy was the undisputed choice for the right-half-back position. A former Erin's Own player, Dan won all-Ireland medals in 1905, 1907, 1909, 1911, 1912 and 1913. Other nominees were Jim Grace, Jim Hogan, Paddy Malone and Fr. Dan Grace.

Dick Grace, holder of five all-Ireland and 11 county championship medals, was chosen at centre half-back. He won his first all-Ireland at the age of 18 years in 1909. A year after he began playing with Tullaroan. Dick was a regular on the Kilkenny team until 1926. He will be best remembered for his brilliant displays in the 1916 and 1922 all-Ireland finals. A player of fine physique, he earned a name for clean, open playing which he never dishonoured. Other nominees for this post were Dick Teehan, Billy Bourke, Tom Hogan and Willie Maher of more recent times.

GREATEST

The greatest hurling halfback of his time (when there were many to lay claim to that title), Paddy Phelan got the left-half back spot. The late Paddy Grace regarded Paddy Phelan as the "greatest wing-back of them all". However, prior to his debut at wing-back, Paddy played at half-forward in the three famous finals of 1931. He went on to win four all-Ireland medals, eight Leinster medals, a National League and four Railway Cup medals during the next 10 years. The Grace cousins, Dan and Jim, along with Dick Walsh, were also in contention.

TULLAROAN TEAM OF THE CENTURY

Pat 'Fox' Maher		
Jack Keoghan	Tommy Grace	Jack Hoyne
Dan Kennedy	Dick Grace	Paddy Phelan
Lory Meagher		Dr. Pierce Grace
Sean Clohosey	Henry Meagher	Martin White
Tom Walton	Sim Walton	Jer Doheny

Any hurling team of the past without Lory Meagher at centrefield would be very suspect. His three all-Ireland medals do scant justice to his ability. A legend in his own lifetime, he was a prince among hurlers. He was certainly the jewel in Tullaroan's proud hurling crown.

His partner is Dr. Pierce Grace, who holds a unique record for a Kilkennyman. Pierce holds two football all-Ireland medals, as well as three hurling medals. He won the football medals with Dublin during his university days, in 1907 and 1908. He also played in the 1908 hurling final with Dublin against Tipperary. And on his return to Kilkenny, he went on to win three titles with his native county in 1911, 1912 and 1913.

Other nominees for the centrefield position were Pat Clohosey, Jim Grace, Shem Downey, Billy Fitzgerald, Bill Holohan, Pete Dowling and Sean Clohosey, who gets the right half-forward position.

Clohosey, the stylist with two all-Ireland medals was the last Tullaroan man to captain Kilkenny, and was the last Tullaroan man to win a senior all-Ireland medal. Shem Downey, who won a medal in 1947 along with Fr. Frank Meagher and Jack Gargan, were also in line for this position.

The selection of Henry Meagher at centre half-forward makes this team unique — a father and son figure on a team of the century. Henry is Lory's father. Henry also attended the inaugural meeting of the G.A.A. in Thurles. Four of his sons went on to wear the black and amber. Emigrating to America at the height of his career, Henry thus lost the opportunity of winning an all-Ireland medal.

CONTESTANTS

Among the many contestants for this position were Martin White, who got the left wing forward spot, Dick Fleming, Tom Dunne, Jim 'Nipper' Connor and Mickey Kennedy.

And vying with Martin White for left-half-forward were Jimmy Clohosey, Jim Molloy and Milo Kennedy, a son of Dan Kennedy's. Martin won three all-Irelands and gave sterling service to Tullaroan.

The first of two Walton cousins, Tom Walton, secured the right corner-forward position ahead of such names as Martin Power, Jack Phelan of Ballyragget and the modern day Bobby Sweeney. Tom was a member of the famous 1947 Kilkenny all-Ireland winning team.

His cousin, Sim Walton was the

automatic choice at full-forward. Known as 'Little Sim', he was anything but little on the hurling field. He notched a record seven all-Ireland medals on the field of play. Regarded as the greatest full-forward of all time, Sim won his medals in 1904, 1905, 1907, 1909, 1911 and 1913, as well as being captain in 1912. Other nominees for this spot were Jim Maher and Tommy Hennessy.

The final position at left corner-forward went to the first Kilkenny winning captain, Jer Doheny, who played a real skipper's part when Kilkenny, represented by Tullaroan, beat Cork, represented by St. Finbarr's, in the 1904 final. He had previously played on the losing side in four all-Irelands. He also won eight senior county championship medals. Other nominees were Jackie 'Axle' Cahill, Mickey Kennedy and Paddy 'Skipper' Walsh from Johnstown.

Note:- Tommy Hennessy, who was among the nominees for full-forward, was one of a family of five brothers who played with Tullaroan when they won the county championship in 1958 — a record they held until the arrival of the Fennelly brothers of the Shamrocks, Ballyhale.

A minor league win, but no follow up

THE North Kilkenny minor hurling team won the Leinster league when they beat Offaly by 0-11 to 2-2 in the final played at Nowlan Park. The wind made a mockery of the game.

The Noresiders, favoured by the elements, led by 0-6 to no score after nine minutes. By the interval, the Noresiders led by 0-9 to 1-2. The Offaly goal was scored by Tim Dooley.

It was all Offaly during the first 10 minutes of the second half. Their forwards were guilty of some terrible shooting, and their only score during the second period was a goal by Pat Guinan in the 41st minute. This left one point between



the sides (0-9 to 2-2), Offaly, despite their superiority, failed to add to their total, while Kilkenny fought back for two points.

John Teehan played a great second half in the winners defence. He got most support from Michael Brophy, Liam Drennan and Donal Carroll. Others who showed up well were Jimmy

Walton, James Brennan (Erins Own) and Jimmy Brennan (Fenians).

The North Kilkenny scorers were James Brennan (0-5), Jimmy Walton (0-3), Jimmy Brennan, Fenians (0-2), Pat O'Grady (0-1).

The winning team was Niall Morrissey (Dicksboro), Aidan Ryan (St. Martins), Michael Brophy (Erins Own), Liam Drennan (Galway), Patsy Brophy (Erins Own), John Teehan (Graigue-Ballycallan), John Middleton (Young Irelands), Donal Carroll (Dicksboro), Liam Byrne (Clara), Pat O'Grady (Blacks & Whites), Jimmy Walton (Tullaroan), Jimmy Brennan (Fenians), James Brennan, capt. (Erins Own), John Cullen

(Bennettsbridge), John Buggy (Erins Own), Sub. Ger Dunne (Tullaroan).

As this victory was achieved without the St. Kieran's college players, and also that the pick of the south would be available for the Leinster championship, there was confidence that all-Ireland minor honours could be won. Offaly turned the tables on Kilkenny in the championship, and playing with a determination for above their opponents, they ran out 2-13 to 0-12 winners.

Kilkenny fielded with seven of the players who won the League, while Offaly fielded with eleven of their League side. Obviously the Offaly mentors learned the most from the League clash.

PICTURED OVERLEAF

GRAIGUE-BALLYCALLAN — Intermediate Hurling Champions 1987

BACK ROW (l. to r.): Paul Muldowney, Tom Teehan, Billy Ronan, Ger Hennessy, Kevin Hennessy, Michael Murphy, Jimmy Kenny, Pat Egan. **MIDDLE ROW (l. to r.):** Pat Brennan (trainer), Jim Maher, John Ryan, Johnny Ronan, Mick Kenny, John Teehan, Bill Ryan, Joe Ryan, Kieran Brennan (chairman). **FRONT ROW (l. to r.):** Tomás McCluskey, Pat Hayes, Adrian Ronan, John Caldbeck (capt.), Joe Brennan, Martin Bourke, Milo Hennessy. **MASCOT:** William Brennan.

Young players coming through help Graigue back to the top

THE 18th. club to win the Kilkenny intermediate hurling championship was crowned this year. It was as much a win for good planning and fostering, as good hurling on the actual field. Really, you could put it down to progressive development.

GRAIGUE-BALLYCALLAN, the new intermediate champions and Kilkenny's later club to join the senior ranks, have crammed a fair amount of success into a short few years. This was their third major championship win during the past four years, and while each one was important in its own right, equally important was the fact that Graigue were able to build on the success.

Now they are back in the senior ranks for the first time since 1961, and who knows, if anything like the same improvement shown over the past few years can be maintained, never mind stepped up, then the club could be celebrating a senior championship win sooner than some people might expect.

Of course, a lot depends on how the club adjusts to the senior grade. A year or two might be needed to find the senior feet, if you like, but given any sort of decent luck, Graigue-Ballycallan should survive long enough to be able to make their way. They needed time when they went from junior to senior. They need it again now.

It is interesting to link the club's three championship wins since 1984. In the Centenary year they won what would be regarded as no special event — not easy win but not terribly significant in relation to an adult victory for example — the minor hurling Roinn B championship. What the club actually made out of that win, and team, was crucial. Adrian Ronan, John Teehan, Tomás McCluskey, Michael Murphy and Jim Kenny — a third of a team — from that under-18 side won intermediate medals this year. Any club that push that number of players through from a B under-age championship winning team to a successful intermediate side must be heading in the right direction!

GETTING PLAYERS THROUGH

The following year, 1985 Graigue-Ballycallan made up for the disappointment of the final six years earlier when they won the junior hurling championship by beating John Lockes (Callan) in the decider. Minors of the previous year, Tomás McCluskey and Michael Murphy shared in that success.

Two of the successful minor team helped in the junior victory. Five minors were there at an even higher level this year. The club is getting the players through from the under-age teams. That is what building for the future is all about.

The fall-off at the other end has not been bad, and from the junior team of '85, only then 'keeper, James Hogan and Kevin Butler were not listed among the panel this time, while Pat Hayes (34), who twice came on as a substitute and grabbed vital scores, and Gerry Hennessy (33) were involved, but not as regulars.

It couldn't be said that Graigue-Ballycallan looked championship winning material from the start. They had their tough times, and even in the final against O'Loughlins, which was drawn 2-8 each the first day. In that one they lost captain of the junior winning team, John Ryan, who damaged a shoulder and missed the replay victory (2-5 to 0-8). The main thing was, Graigue improved as the season progressed, and even in the time between the draw and replay in the final, they got better.

The historic championship winning day was wet and dreary for some, but not bad in Graigue eyes. With Kevin Hennessy and John Caldbeck dominating midfield during the opening half, they compiled an interval lead of 2-4 to 0-3. The goals were banged home by Jimmy Kenny. The defence hardly allowed O'Loughlins up the field.

Michael Cleere took over the middle of the park for the losers in the second half, and this time it was Graigue who found it hard to get past centrefield. The tight marking Graigue rearguard had to absorb a lot of pressure. O'Loughlins sneaked back, slowly. The difference was down to 0-8 to 2-4 with 15 minutes remaining. A magnificent defence lost no more ground. Still, there was always the possibility a goal might slip in.

Then up popped Pat Hayes. In the semi-final win over Mullinavat, he proved his worth and struck 1-1 that proved crucial in a 1-15 to 0-9 win. He broke the back in the Southerners challenge. This time he slapped over a point. It was Graigue's only score of the second half. It sickened O'Loughlins. It meant the city lads needed at least two scores to win. They hadn't it left in them for an effort like that.

FOOT IN DOOR

The drawn match had been generally poor, but finished in a welter of excitement. O'Loughlins produced excellent hurling, but left their opponents hanging there too long after leading by 2-6 to 0-4 at half-time.

Graigue got a foot in the door when

Johnny Ronan grabbed a goal in the 37th minute. Then seven minutes from the end Ronan had a lucky goal from 70 yards — the ball took a deflection — and all of a sudden there was no holding the country side (2-7 to 2-6). They managed to get in front. Then they were overhauled. A late point from Michael Murphy earned them a deserved 2-8 each draw.

It was a hectic, and year of marked improvement for Graigue-Ballycallan. The youngsters blended in very well with the older hands. Young Adrian Ronan (17) had an excellent season in goal, and another young one, John Teehan (18) worked well in attack before rising to even greater heights in a more usual defensive rôle. Kevin Hennessy, as ever, was as committed a midfielder as was in the Kilkenny championships, and as effective too. John Caldbeck and Tomás McCluskey had exciting seasons too, and the Ronan brothers, Billy and Johnny, pulled the team through a few tight situations. It was a nice year too for corner-back, Joe Brennan (34), and after many years of trusted service, he at least has a chance to play in the biggest local league of them all — the senior championship.

Graigue-Ballycallan have sailed a nice course in recent years. In 1949 Graigue won the one and only senior hurling championship for the parish. If the same enthusiasm as was shown during the past three years can be maintained, that second win might not be too far away.

The Graigue-Ballycallan winning team was — Adrian Ronan, Joe Brennan, Michael Kenny, Martin Bourke, John Teehan, Billy Ronan, Tomás McCluskey, Kevin Hennessy, John Caldbeck, Michael Murphy, Johnny Ronan, Bill Ryan, Milo Hennessy, Jim Maher, Jimmy Kenny. Subs: Pat Hayes (used), Joe Ryan, Tom Teehan, Gerry Hennessy, Pat Egan, John Cuddihy, Paul Muldowney, Sean Casey. John Ryan played at right half-back in the drawn match, but was injured for the replay.

O'Loughlins — Sean Casey, Liam Leydon, Eddie Kennedy, Richie Kearns, Derek Shelly, Sean Tyrrell, Larry Walsh, Richard Delaney, Michael Cleere, Paul Cleere, Kevin Robinson, John Mulcahy, Eugene Deegan, Pat Treacy, Anthony Bergin. Sub — Eamon Keher (used); Geoff Doyle, Seamus McEvoy, Declan Byrne, Donal Kennedy, Mick Doyle, Anthony Cleere, John Nolan, Benny Cleere, Kevin Cleere.

GRAIGUE-BALLYCALLAN – Intermediate hurling champions, 1987



BACK ROW (left to right): Paul Muldowney, Tom Teehan, Billy Ronan, Ger Hennessy, Kevin Hennessy, Michael Murphy, Jimmy Kenny, Pat Egan. MIDDLE (left to right): Pat Brennan (trainer), Jim Maher, Joe Ryan, Kieran Brennan (chairman). FRONT (left to right): Tomás McCluskey, Pat Hayes, Adrian Ronan, John Caldbeck (capt.), Joe Brennan, Martin Bourke, Milo Hennessy. Mascot: William Brennan.



O'LOUGHLIN GAELS — Runners-up in the Intermediate Hurling Championship

Back row (l. to r.): Mick Doyle, Benny Cleere, Kevin Cleere, Richard Delaney, Geoff Doyle, John Mulcahy, Richie Kearns, Larry Walsh, Sean Casey, Eddie Kennedy, Seanie Tyrrell, Derek Shelley, Donal Kennedy. **Front row** (l. to r.): John Nolan, Seamus McEvoy, Pat Treacy, Eugene Deegan, Liam Leydon, Mick Cleere (Capt.), Anthony Bergin, Paul Cleere, Johnny Holohan, Anthony Cleere.

O'Loughlin's must pick up the pieces and get on with it

A SMALL thing could have turned the year for O'Loughlin-Gaels, and they could have been celebrating their second intermediate hurling championship victory.

The St. John's Park outfit won the title in 1978, and five minutes into the second half of the drawn final against Graigue-Ballycallan they looked to be heading up the road to another success.

At that particular time O'Loughlin's were producing exciting team hurling, arguably their best short spell of the entire year. Unfortunately for them, they just couldn't translate all their fine outfield hurling at that stage into scores, and there they lost their best chance to win the championship.

Oh, in the replay O'Loughlin's got to within a pair of points of Graigue-Ballycallan with plenty of time left, but still didn't win the day. But their hurling at that vital stage of the replay wasn't nearly as good or as damaging as it had been during their best spell the first day.

Where to from here? the O'Loughlin's mentors could well ask. What can you do after a county final but look on the bright side? This O'Loughlin's team is not old by any means, and unless all the enthusiasm has been knocked out of the players,

and there is no reason why it should be, then there must still be hope in the immediate future.

If this year's intermediate championship proved one thing it was you must never throw in the towel. And O'Loughlin's had first-hand experience of that themselves. In a crucial match against Carrickshock they didn't play that well. A late goal from a 21 yards free by John Mulcahy earned them a lucky draw and a place in the semi-finals. In the semi's they beat the general fancy for outright honours, Piltown, and nearly ended up taking the trophy. O'Loughlin's went very, very close.

UPLIFTING SEASON

And for some it was a very uplifting season. Long server Richard Delaney produced his best hurling in years, and helped win many a crucial midfield battle. Eugene Deegan would have to go back a while to find a season that was as full of good performances as this one. The semi-final against Piltown was his treasure of the 12 months. John Mulcahy was always a potential match winner, and the new ploy of shifting him to full-forward broke a few hearts.

Michael Cleere has improved his game tactically by being involved with the senior county squad, and he is always an influential member of the

team. Derek Shelly had a good season, and again in the semi-final against Piltown, produced his best match of the year.

It is never easy to rise immediately after suffering defeat in a county final. O'Loughlin's will probably find that next season, but if they examine themselves constructively, they will see they have more good points than bad. Now that can't be bad for starters!

Piltown qualified for the semis, but lost to O'Loughlin's by 1-20 to 4-7. They got off to a flying start, and after only a few seconds Nicky Culleton had the ball in the net. Minutes later Denis McCarthy fired home a second. The Southerners were away with it, or so everyone thought.

But thereafter they performed like a car with the handbrake on, and were sluggish. At half-time they were 2-2 to 0-10 in arrears and during the closing 10 minutes they were blasted out of the championship. Earlier in the season the hurling of the McCarthys (Liam and Denis), Pat Brophy, Sean Norris, J.J. Long and Gerry Kenny suggested Piltown could make up for successive defeats in the previous two county finals. But they collapsed when least expected.

When winning a semi-final spot, Mullinavat inflicted a heavy defeat on

neighbours, Carrickshock. In doing so, their full-forward line of Mossy Murphy, Pat Hoban and Pat McEvoy looked wonderful. The experienced Murphy was then injured, and missed the semi. His loss was great. The eventual champions beat Mullinavat by 1-15 to 0-9.



BROUGHT OUT BEST

Perhaps Mossy would have changed things? He did a lot for the club again this year. He has helped bring out the best in Hoban and McEvoy. The team started poorly — but improved when

The Roll of Honour

Conahy (4) — 1930, 1932, 1977, 1986.
 Graignamanagh (3) — 1976, 1980, 1985.
 Urlingford (1) — 1929.
 Danesfort (1) — 1931.
 St. Fiacre's (1) — 1934.
 John Lockes (Callan) (1) — 1935.
 Slieverue (1) — 1936.
 Éire Óg (1) — 1937.

Coon (1) — 1973.
 Shamrocks (Ballyhale-Knocktopher) (1) — 1974.
 Muckalee-Ballyfoyle Rangers (1) 1975.
 O'Loughlin's (1) — 1978.
 St. Patrick's (Ballyragget) (1) — 1979.
 Glenmore (1) — 1981.
 Clara (1) — 1982.
 Thomastown (1) — 1983.
 St. Lactain's (Freshford) — 1984.
 Graigue-Ballycallan — 1987.

Mossy Murphy came out of retirement. But with the best of support from Paudie Holden, Joe and Sean Walsh, Andy Aylward, Tom Frisby and company, the club still failed.

Junior champions Windgap put in several spirited performances, but found the going demanding. Still, on limited resources, they survived and with a bit more luck could have fared a lot better. Their best were Pat Walsh

and Joe O'Shea, Bobby Jackman, Seamus Power and Brian Hickey.

Bennettsbridge, St. Patrick's (Ballyragget) or Tullaroan never featured, and Dicksboro and Young Irelands (Gowran) played their last match of the season with absolutely nothing hinging on the outcome. Carrickshock had a few very useful performances to their credit, but St. Lactain's struggled.

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Langton - a hurling artist and a gentleman

By Paddy Buggy, former President of the G.A.A.

IT IS with regret and sadness that I write this article, a tribute to the late Jim Langton, who died in April at the age of 69. Jim Langton was the greatest stylist ever in hurling. He was my boyhood hero. He was the type of player we all wanted to be. Years later I had the pleasure of joining him on the Kilkenny senior team for a period of about five years before he retired.



Jim Langton . . . the great man in his playing days.

HIS PASSING brought back so many happy memories of hurling at its best in the Nowlan Park, Croke Park, Pairc Ui Caoimh, Waterford, New Ross, Wexford, Dungarvan, and a host of other venues. Whether playing for Kilkenny C.B.S., Eire Og, Kilkenny or Leinster, Jim Langton enthralled thousands of hurling supporters.

Memories of great games abound, like Eire Og v the Northern Junior selection, or against St. Brendan's, Carrickshock, Tullaroan, Dicksboro, Thurles Sarsfields, Mount Sion, or Glen Rovers, the Leinster final of 1950, and the all-Ireland finals of 1939 and 1947 being just a few of the highlights of a great career.

From the first day in the mid-thirties when he wore the jersey of St. James' C.B.S., to the day of his retirement, Jim Langton was the craftsman supreme. Stylish Jim Langton, over and above the many Kilkenny hurling stars, was the man who best typified Kilkenny hurling. To Jim hurling was more than a game. It was a way of life. When his playing days were finished he maintained a tremendous interest in the game. He was involved for years as a referee. He represented Kilkenny on the Central Council for a few years. He rarely missed a county convention, even when his club Eire Og went out of existence. He continued to attend at conventions as an interested spectator.

With his great friends, Liam Brett and Tommy O'Connell, he went to club and county games of all types and standards. He was never over critical. All he wanted was an enjoyable game. Sportsman supreme, that he was. Jim thought nothing of playing two games in the one day. He played with Eire Og against Tullaroan in the 1947 county final, seven days before the all-Ireland final. Eight of the Eire Og team and two of the Tullaroan players lined out with Kilkenny the following Sunday in the all-Ireland. Imagine the furore we would have today, if players were asked to play an important club match the Sunday before an important inter-county game!



JIM LANGTON . . . a hurling great.

Jim Langton never believed in taking an unfair advantage. A series of incidents between Carrickshock and Eire Og in the 1945 county championship typified this side of his character, as well as many another. The clubs met in the county final on September 16 and ended level: Eire Og 2-7; Carrickshock 1-10. Jimmy Walsh, one of the outstanding club and county players on the Carrickshock team, was sent-off by referee, Comdt. Kelly. Eire Og, prompted by Jim Langton, refused to play the replay until Jimmy Walsh had served his term of suspension. The replay was on October 8. Ned Long (Carlow) was the referee. Eire Og won by 4-8 to 1-7.

PLAYED SOCCER

Jim Langton played football. He won a minor county title with St. Magdalen's in 1936, and a junior title with Eire Og in 1937. He was adept at basketball, and won a number of trophies. He was always anti-Ban and played a number of soccer games. But in his own words he wouldn't swop a good game of hurling for any in the world.

Born into the well-known Norman family of Langton in Lavistown, just outside Kilkenny city, Jim played his early hurling in the Quarry field beside the railway level crossing, and later at Maddoxtown, where the Bretts, the Ryans and the Langtons, spent most of their leisure time learning the skills of hurling. Ned Langton played with Kilkenny in the minor championship of 1930, when the Noresiders beat Dublin and Laois in the Leinster championship. Down were easily overcome in the semi-final. Kilkenny bowed to Tipperary in the final. Another brother, Larry won championships with Eire Og.

Jim would have played around the Mill and the site of the old Marble works, and he learned to fish in the sweep in the River Nore known as Loughnamon. Jim was always keen on fishing and the Nore. He spent many a pleasant evening in later life walking the banks of the river near where he grew up. He was also very interested in greyhounds, and travelled with his friend, Jack Doheny and his "Dazzling" breed of greyhounds to many a meeting. Jim's mother was a member of the Long family from The Wragg, in the parish of Drom and Inch near Thurles. All through her life she remained a staunch Tipperary supporter. At the height of his career when Jim would be leaving to play against Tipperary she would say to him: "Jim, you're wasting your time, you'll never beat Tipperary".

It is likely that Jim's first competitive hurling was played with Kilkenny C.B.S., where he was introduced to colleges hurling by the late Brother McNamara. Together with Bro. Kealy, Mick Loughman and Fr. Brennan, then a curate in St. Mary's, that same Brother called a meeting which resulted in the formation of an underage club named Young Irelands at the C.B.S. in 1930. Christy Murray was another mentor. He trained the first side to win a minor championship in 1932, when they beat John Lockes (Callan) following a replay. In 1933 the club changed colours from blue and white with a harp as crest, to green and white, and the name of the club to Eire Og.

*"Here's luck to you Langton,
And long may you reign,
You're the pride of all Leinster,
And star of the game".*

Jim Langton was one of a group of Kilkenny C.B.S. hurlers who swept all before them in the mid-thirties. They shared many outstanding achievements, including 1934 and '35 Leinster junior colleges titles, senior colleges 1936. Following their initial success in 1932, Eire Og won four minor hurling titles in-a-row (1934 to 1937), the junior hurling championship of 1936, and the intermediate hurling championship and the junior football championship of 1937. Kilkenny had a double of Leinster and all-Ireland hurling titles in 1935 and 1936, and Jim Langton, whilst he did not win an all-Ireland colleges title, there was no all-Ireland at the time, he played inter-provincial with Leinster in 1935 and 1936. He tasted success when Leinster beat Munster in the final of 1936. These successes launched Langton's career. He had as team mates such notables as Seanie O'Brien, Tommy Walton, Paddy Grace, Bobby Brannigan, Paddy Boyle, Tom Delaney, Eamonn Tallent and Marty McEvoy. Their achievements at that time must rate as a record in the annals of underage hurling.

HIS DEBUT

Jim Langton made his debut for the Kilkenny seniors in the replayed Leinster final of 1938 at Tullamore. Dublin beat Kilkenny by 4-9 to 3-5. Jim was not included on the original selection. He played so well in the curtain raiser, the Leinster junior hurling championship game against Laois, that he was added to the senior panel. He played well when introduced late in the senior game. He



KILKENNY — the All-Ireland Senior Hurling Champions of 1947.

scored a point. Jim won the first of his two senior all-Ireland medals the following year (1939), the famous thunder and lightning final. It is said this was one of the best games the Noresiders ever played. Jim Langton, then 19, scored three points.

"We were lucky to win that day, and the reason we won was that free of Jack Lynch's when he went for a goal and scored a point instead. The free had to be taken three times, and each time it was a bit closer — far too close to be comfortable for any of us. The few inches by which he missed made all the difference. It was the best final Kilkenny ever played, and the toughest match we were ever in. I can still remember how I felt when Cork came suddenly to life in the second half. It left us with two storms to weather, and the Cork storm was the worst. We came through it all right, but only by the skin of our teeth. Cork had any bad luck that was going".

Jimmy Langton captained Kilkenny in 1940 when they beat Westmeath and Dublin in Leinster and qualified to meet the Mick Mackey led Limerick in the final. Kilkenny got off to a good start and led at half time by 1-4 to 1-2. Limerick made a vital switch, which swung the game. They moved Mick Mackey to centrefield, where he dominated.

Kilkenny did not win another all-Ireland until 1947 when, in what for me was the greatest game of hurling I have seen, Kilkenny beat Cork by 0-14 to 2-7. Jim Langton scored three points and had an excellent game. He again demonstrated his creativity and cunning. On the run in a race for possession, Langton pretended to rise the ball on his hurley, and to dash off on a solo run, with a couple of Cork defenders in hot pursuit.

PERFECT DUMMY

Langton had sold the perfect dummy. He had left the ball for team-mate Terry Leahy, who coolly stroked it over the bar. Jim's method of rising the ball in a ruck was another innovation. Surrounded by a cluster of players he would push the ball with his hurley against the inside of his boot, and using foot and hurley, get the ball into his hand.

These were skills that only a Jimmy Langton could master. A story is told that in one particular inter-county game, the opposing goalkeeper had settled in and was playing a brilliant game, blocking and clearing everything. Jack Mulcahy is said to have made his way across to Jimmy Langton and said: "Hang the next ball you get under the crossbar, and I will hang that goalkeeper in the back of the net". Jim duly obliged. Few had his accuracy, or could float a ball like him. Mulcahy arrived with the ball, and buried goalkeeper and ball in net.

There has always been a style and wristwork to Kilkenny hurling. Langton had style in abundance. Very few, if any, matched Jim as a ball player. Watching him in action with all his superb skill, speed and brains, dummying weaving movements, lightning scores and his accuracy from placed balls, one could only conclude that Jim Langton was one of the



Long remembered . . . Jim Langton when he was honoured as a star of the past at the Bank of Ireland All-Star banquet.

greatest in generations of Kilkenny hurlers. During the centenary celebrations of 1984, together with Paddy Phelan, Lory Meagher and Eddie Keher, Jim was one of four Kilkenny men to be selected by public acclaim, on the team of the Century. A tremendous tribute to Kilkenny's contribution to hurling.

Right through his career, which spanned almost 20 years at the top, he delighted with his skill and artistry. He was subtle, speedy and creative. His stroke was swift and pure. It had rhythm. It was never enough simply to score, it had to be done beautifully. His sense of direction, his reading of the game, his timing of his stroke, and his accuracy were remarkable.

He seemed to have in built computer to read angles. Jim Langton scored many a brilliant goal. But it is for his point scoring that he will be best remembered. Many were gems. He rarely left the field scoreless. Regularly he was Kilkenny's top scorer. In the list of top scorers in Leinster finals, Jim Langton was Kilkenny's top scorer (in the minor finals of 1935 and 1936, and the senior finals of 1943 and 1945. He scored 2-3, 1-4, 1-5 and 0-8 in that order).

Like every hurler of his era, the days of the third man tackle, Jim took his share of hard knocks. Sportsman that he was, he took them all in his stride. I doubt if he ever raised his voice in anger, or struck or injured an opponent. His satisfaction came from a mastery of the skills, rather than the

use of strength, brawn or foul tactics. Langton could be prevented from hurling, as they say he could be stopped, but few had the satisfaction of outhurling Jim. His broad smile in victory, or his attitude in defeat, endeared him to thousands.



Jack Mulcahy

TRIBUTE TO MULCAHY

Asked to name the greatest player of all time, Jim felt it was impossible. He would wouldn't judge, or compare, the players of the past against those of today. He paid a

great tribute to his great friend and teammate, Jack Mulcahy. He said Jack was one of the greatest players he ever saw, or played with. "He was a great man to make room for you". Jack was one of the bravest men ever to play the game. For his size he was remarkably strong. With Jim Langton, from the time they won their first all-Ireland medal in 1935, he built up a tremendous understanding and relationship on the playing fields. They seemed to instinctively know what the other was about. Jack started many a move that Jim Langton finished.



Jim had a great regard for Eddie Keher. He said any man who could score 14 points in an all-Ireland final was a genius. He rated Cork's Paddy Donovan very highly. He said: "Paddy was a grand defender, and a fine ball player". He had many great duels with such as John Keane (Waterford), Jim Young (Cork), Jimmy Brophy (Galway) and Jimmy Byrne (Dublin). Jim's attitude to the game is clearly demonstrated in a statement he once made: "The successful teams have always been those who put the skills of the game first. You can have all the physical exercises you like, but in the end it is skill and speed that win hurling games".

Jim Langton's prowess with the camán inspired ballad writers. Thousands of words have been written to describe Jim Langton, and his deeds. Wherever the game of

hurling is spoken about, at home or abroad, London, Manchester, Europe, New York, Boston, Australia, wherever, the Langton name has been heard. Even in Argentina Jim Langton was known. In the forties an Argentinian rancher of Irish descent, sent to Ireland for hurlies to show his sons and their friends. He requested that they be of the same brand or make as those used by Jim Langton.

Jim received many honours. In 1984 and 1985, in addition to being selected on the *Irish Nationwide/Sunday Independent* hurling team of the century, he was honoured by the Bank of Ireland as the Star of the Past. He was presented with the Hall of Fame award by Smithwick's/Kilkenny Sports Star committee. All these were richly deserved.

When Jim Langton died, I lost a friend. I had great difficulty writing this tribute. It is impossible to do him justice. I hope that in some small way I have captured the real Jim.

I am indebted to a neighbour and teammate of Jim's, Paddy Brett, Cois Feorac, Golk Links road, Ferrybank (he was one of

the outstanding defenders with Eire Og), for the use of his scrap book and press cuttings. His help was invaluable.

Hurlers Prayer

*Grant me o Lord a hurlers skill,
With strength of arm and speed of limb,
Unerring eye for the flying ball,
And courage to match them whatever may befall,
May my strokes be steady, my aim be true,
My actions manly, my misses few,
And no matter what way the game may go,
May I rest in friendship with every foe.
When the final whistle for me is blown,
And I stand at last at God's judgement throne,
May the great referee when he calls my name say,
You played like a man, you played the game.*

A beautiful prayer that sets a very high standard, and Jim Langton was one hurler to live up to the ideals of that prayer. *Ar dheis lamh Dé go raibh a anam dilis.*

The Honours He Won

Leinster junior colleges	(2)	1934, 1935
Leinster colleges senior	(1)	1936
Inter-provincial colleges	(1)	1936
Leinster minor hurling titles	(2)	1935, 1936
All-Ireland minor hurling	(2)	1935, 1936
All-Ireland senior titles	(2)	1939, 1947
Leinster senior hurling titles	(8)	1939, 1940, 1943, '45, '46, '47, '50 and 1953.
Railway Cup medals	(2)	1941, 1954
Oireachtas medals	(2)	1940 (captain) and 1947
County minor hurling titles	(2)	1935, 1936
Minor football	(1)	1936
Junior hurling	(1)	1936
Junior football	(1)	1937
Intermediate hurling	(1)	1937
County senior hurling titles	(4)	1939, 1944, 1945 and 1947
Referee	(1)	Minor hurling Co. Final 1945
	(1)	Senior hurling Co. Final 1946



Kilkenny march into yet another famous hurling confrontation. Jim Langton follows his captain, and Paddy Buggy follows up three places further back.

STARS, STARS EVERYWHERE

DURING the 12 months under review, four people involved in Gaelic games were honoured in the Hotel Kilkenny and *Kilkenny People* sports personality of the month scheme.

In September, 1985, this monthly event was first introduced, and in the meantime it has grown in prestige. Each month a sports personality is honoured, and he or she and their partner are invited to dinner at Hotel Kilkenny at which the winner receives a presentation of an inscribed Kilkenny crystal rose bowl.

Then at the end of the year — this particular year runs from September to September — all the people chosen as monthly winners are invited back to the annual banquet, at which two special presentations are made to Supreme and Endeavour Award winners.

The Supreme Award is granted to someone the committee — this includes all-

Ireland medal record holder Noel Skehan — feels has performed particularly well at a high level throughout the year. And the Endeavour Award is presented to someone the committee feels deserves special recognition for their efforts in sport. It may or may not be a participant.

This year the Supreme Award was carried off by peerless camogie heroine Angela Downey-Browne. She was chosen following her outstanding contribution to Kilkenny's double win in the National League and all-Ireland championship.

The same night, teammate Breda Holmes was presented with the September 1987 monthly award. In what was probably her best performance of all time, she scored 2-2 in the all-Ireland final win over Cork, and in all was involved in 3-6 of the winners' total of 3-10. For her efforts, she was chosen as the sports star of the month.

By a strange coincidence,



Patsy Brophy (right) was a star when Castlecomer Community School won the Leinster and All-Ireland Junior Hurling Championships. He was honoured in November by the Hotel Kilkenny and Kilkenny People sports star committee. The winner received his award from Hotel Kilkenny marketing manager, Anne Buckley. Also pictured is Castlecomer C.S. principal, Michael Hester.

camogie also won the first monthly award of 1986. On that occasion Angela Downey-Browne was picked.

STAR RÔLE

Then in November, 1986, Pat O'Neill of St. Kieran's College and Monsignor Tommy Maher, P.P., Mullinavat were honoured.

Young O'Neill was chosen following the star rôle he played when St. Kieran's won the inaugural all-Ireland colleges (Roinn A) junior hurling final.

The same month Monsignor Tommy Maher announced his retirement from active involvement in sport. In all, he had given 50 years' service to Gaelic games and he felt it was time for a break. He was made a

presentation in appreciation of the work he had done for hurling at college, club and county level.

The former President of St. Kieran's master-minded several colleges' championship victories, and helped guide the career of such hurling heroes as Eddie Keher and Mick Crotty. For 21 years he was coach-trainer of the Kilkenny senior hurling team and steered the county to seven all-Ireland wins between 1957 and 1975.

His last big win was shortly after he moved to Mullinavat. He trained the local junior hurling that won the championship of 1984 after a 45-year wait.



Ladies best . . . at the annual Hotel Kilkenny and Kilkenny People sports personality of the year banquet Angela Downey-Browne (right) won the Supreme Award. Her team mate, Breda Holmes won the monthly award for September. The ladies are pictured with Hotel Kilkenny general manager, Richard Butler.

Emigration led to clubs folding -but will they ever return?

By TOM RYALL, Kilkenny Central Council Representative
and Co. Board P.R.O.

EMIGRATION has begun to rear its ugly head again, and if the trend continues many clubs will find themselves in serious trouble. In the 'Fifties it was a feature of life in this country.

I CAN recall the Ballycallan under-14 team of 1958 which lost the county final (Roinn B) to the Rower-Inistioge. In a few short years no fewer than eight of that team had left the country. Among those was Paddy Walsh, who had won an all-Ireland minor medal in 1962. My own club was not the only one with troubles like this. Clubs all over the county were badly hit.

The boom in the 'Seventies saw a number of players return to Ireland. Two who immediately spring to mind are Phil Cullen (Bennettsbridge) and Eddie Leahy (O'Loughlin's). Leahy won an all-Ireland intermediate medal with London in 1967. He played against Kilkenny in the semi-final at Nowlan Park. Liam Dalton (Shamrocks) was another player who returned and was a solid full-back on a number of their championship winning teams.

Dick Nolan (St. Martin's) was another player who came home and played a big part in the early years of Muckalee-Ballyfoyle Rangers' march from junior to intermediate, and eventually senior county honours.

HARDEST HIT

One of the hardest hit clubs by this emigration scourge during 1987 was James Stephens. They lost four of the side that had run the Shamrocks to a point in the 1986 senior hurling semi-final. Their biggest loss was John Scott, who played so well in last year's under-21 Leinster championship game against Wexford.



David Hoyne (Thomastown)

Edward O'Leary went to work in Dublin, and threw in his lot with Faughs and helped them win Dublin

county honours. Indeed, Faughs had a few Kilkenny players on their side. Two are now playing with the Dublin senior team — M. J. Ryan (Galmoy) and Jim Lyng (Rower-Inistioge). Another Kilkenny player with Faughs is Jimmy Prendergast (Clara). The other James Stephens players who emigrated were Eddie O'Neill and Martin Forristal.

BADLY HIT

Another Kilkenny club badly hit by emigration was Slieverue. They had their best year for some time, and just lost out to eventual champions John Lockes by five points (2-9 to 2-4). Their biggest loss was Michael Walsh, a free-scoring forward who could possibly be a county prospect. He had helped U.C.C. to a couple of Fitzgibbon Cup victories. Other players lost were Willie Fleming and Michael Connolly. Both went to Australia while Michael Frisby, a county minor in 1984, Enda Walsh and Andrew Irish went to England.



Liam Long
(Shamrocks)

The London team which played in this year's All-Ireland championship contained two well known senior club hurlers of recent years, Johnny Murphy (Glenmore) and Liam Long (Shamrocks). How they would have loved to be playing in this year's county final. Luckily for Kilkenny, Liam Walsh returned from London and his displays in the county jersey shows what a loss he would have been had he stayed away.

Thomastown are another club who lost players. Away went David Hoyne, an all-Ireland minor and under-21 medallist, and Michael Galway. Both would have been a big help to the Kilkenny junior footballers who lost out by just one point to the eventual all-Ireland finalists, Dublin, in the Leinster championship.

On the other hand, some clubs paid out large amounts of money to bring players home to play in important local championship matches. One such club was Tullaroan, who brought home Edward Holland and John O'Dea for a

couple of games. Mullinavat brought their centre-back, Joe Walsh, back from France for one game.

GO TO EARN MONEY

A division badly hit by emigration was the under-21 grade. Many of the players in that grade are Third Level students who depart to foreign parts to earn money to pay their college fees. The 1986 champions, Dicksboro, were hit hard. I have just taken the effect emigration has on a few clubs, and the article does not purport to be a complete review. Every club can show big losses in this area.

Emigration has led to a decline in the number of teams playing in the local championship. When the population of the country was far higher, we sometimes had up to four teams from the same parish competing in championships. During the last 30 years we have seen the amalgamation of a number of teams. Those I can recall are Emeralds, Fenians, Lisdowney, St. Patrick's (Ballyragget), St. Martin's, Graigue-Ballycallan, O'Loughlin-Gaels, Young Irelands (Gowran), Barrow Rangers, Shamrocks, Thomastown United, Carrickshock,



Johnny Murphy
(Glenmore)

Tullagher-Rosbercon, Rower-Inistioge and St. Senan's (Kilmacow). Many have been successful — St. Martin's, Fenians, Shamrocks and the Rower-Inistioge took county senior honours.



Dick Nolan
(St. Martin's)

CLUBS THAT WENT

On the other hand, we have seen the demise of once-famous clubs. We no longer have Éire Óg, Foulkstown or St. Rioch's. Éire Óg was formed by the late Mick Loughman, and progressed right through from being a minor team to county senior honours. Éire Óg won junior and intermediate county titles on the way.

Men who played with the club make up a who's who of Kilkenny Gaeldom. Men like the great stylish Jim Langon, Jack Mulcahy, Seanie O'Brien, Jack and Joe Gargan, Peter Blanchfield, Mick Neary, Ramie Dowling, former Waterford player Eddie Carew, Nick O'Donnell who won all-Ireland glory with Wexford, "Diamond" Hayden, and in later years Phil "Fan" Larkin as well as noted referee Paddy Johnston donned the colours.

O'DWYER WAS WELL KNOWN

Foulkstown, although they never won county honours, were always a tough nut to crack in the junior championship. They joined the championship around the 1913/14 period, and contested the Northern final of 1914 when they lost to Dicksboro by 4-2 to 2-2.

They won this title in 1953 when they beat Lisdowney by 4-7 to 2-9. Their best known player was Billy O'Dwyer, full forward on the Kilkenny 1957 and 1963 all-Ireland winning sides. They lost out in the county final to Glenmore by 6-4 to 2-5. Other prominent players with Foulkstown at this time were the Flemings, Jimmy Costelloe and Jerry Rowe. Later the O'Dwyers, Noel (R.I.P.), Michael and Joe, were formidable opposition for anyone.

St. Rioch's came from the Walkin Street area of the city. Like Éire Óg, they too came up from the minor ranks and took county honours in 1930. Their most successful year was 1945, when they won the Northern junior final by beating Lisdowney in an unfinished game (2-3 to 1-3). They lost the county final to Thomastown (4-5 to 5-0).

Willie Culleton, a great follower of Kilkenny hurling and a helper with county teams for years, was one of their chief mentors. In 1946 they had two players on the all-Ireland junior hurling winning team, Pakie McEvoy and Sean Murray. The battle cry of their supporters was 'Come on the Rocks'. There was a glamour about their appearances in the championship. Maybe some day, with the rise in population in the city, we will see the revival of these once-famous clubs.

Enthusiasm of city youngsters suggested they wanted more

A NEW hurling competition was introduced in Kilkenny this year and, in the long run, it could turn out to be a very rewarding one indeed for the G.A.A. in the county.

It was organised for youngsters, more specifically for those in the city. It was an Under-13 City Streets League, and it proved a whopping

success, and youngsters were only too willing to get involved.

The G.A.A. itself has admitted there has been a serious fall-off in the number of youngsters being attracted to Gaelic games in large urban areas throughout the country. Kilkenny is no worse than anywhere else, but for a few years now a couple of interested people like Val Malone (James

Stephens) and Eamon Doyle (O'Loughlin's) have been toying with the idea of a city competition.

This year the dream became a reality, and while there were a number of teething problems, overall the competition was a big success, big number of players participated.

Initially, it was hoped to play games

Continued ▶



JAMES STEPHENS — Under-13 City Hurling League Champions

Back row (l. to r.): Conor Cleere, Lee O'Sullivan, Kieran Mahon, John Knox (who presented the cup to the winners on behalf of the sponsors, 'Kilkenny People'), Francis Cantwell, Wayne Kelly, Kieran Brett, Conor O'Dwyer, Vincent O'Brien, Alan Grant, Ian Finnegan. **Front row** (l. to r.): Ashley O'Keeffe, Liam Smith, Richard Brennan, Michael Kennedy, Brian Dooley, Vincent O'Shea, Derek Kerwick, Eugene Somers, Alan O'Rourke, Mark O'Brien.

on consecutive Saturdays and have the competition finished in six weeks, but as can often happen, unforeseen circumstances dictated otherwise. Still, the event was completed in mid-May.

For a couple of years the three main clubs, James Stephens, O'Loughlin's and Dicksboro have been organising independent street leagues. This competition threw them all in together, and each club entered two teams.

The ground rules were simple — teams were to be of equal strength, and if one could not field 15, the other reduced theirs accordingly; host clubs supplied referees and officials, and reports of all matches were to be published in the local paper, the "Kilkenny People".

NOT FANCIED

The final was staged at Nowlan Park and featured old rivals James Stephens and Dicksboro. In fact, the 'Stephens team that got to the decider was not their fancied one, and it caused the upset of the competition

when beating their other team in the semi-final.

The final was a most enjoyable affair which 'Stephens won by 6-4 to 2-0. The scoreline did scant justice to the efforts of the losers, who were on top for most of the opening half.

However, Stephens, who had nippy forwards in Derek Kerwick, Leo Sullivan, Vincent O'Brien and Michael Kennedy slammed home two goals per Michael Kennedy just before the break and rocked their opponents (3-0 to 1-0).

Were it not for talented goalkeeper Adrian Trait, the 'Boro might have lost more ground early in the new half when he blocked out a terrific shot from Brian Dooley. The 'Stephens' surge was only halted momentarily and Derek Kerwick, Brian Dooley and Leo Sullivan slipped through for points to leave the 'Boro 1-0 to 3-3 behind.

Despite great work by Thomas Wall, David Gaffney, James Cunniffe and Jason Hickey, Dicksboro failed to

save the day and 'Stephens carried off the "Kilkenny People" cup.

The response the competition drew from the youngsters was terrific, and it proved once again that if games, any games, are organised for them, the kids will be there. Perhaps this event may not survive in its present format, but there must be a future for it in some form or another.

The **James Stephens team** in the final was: Francis Cantwell, Alan Grant, Conor O'Dwyer, Wayne Kelly, Vincent O'Shea, Vincent O'Brien, Liam Smith, Conor Cleere, Eugene Somers, Pat Brennan (1-0), Michael Kennedy (2-0), Derek Kerwick (2-1), Kieran Mahon, Leo Sullivan (1-2), Brian Dooley (0-1).

Dicksboro: Adrian Trait (1-0), David Gaffney, Declan Phelan, Eamon Moore, Jason Hickey, James Phelan, Finbarr Casey, James Cunniffe, Damien Lennon, Brendan Dalton, Thomas Wall, Declan Wall, Alan Trait (1-0), James Wyse, Joseph Philpott.



DICKSBORO — Losing finalists in the City Hurling League

Back row (l. to r.): John Power, James Wise, James Phelan, Thomas Wall, James Cunniffe, Brendan Dalton, Finbarr Casey, Joe Sinnott, D. Lennon, Denis Philpott (manager). **Front row** (l. to r.): Jeremy Hickey, Robert Fanning, Joe Philpott, Adrian Trait, Declan Phelan, Declan Wall, Eamon Moore, David Gaffney, Michael Gannon, Alan Trait.

Not one, but two grounds in 'Comer

ERIN'S OWN (Castle-comer) G.A.A. club could never be accused of not preparing for the future. In order to get ready for the demands ahead, the North Kilkenny outfit bought new grounds this year, and now they have not one, but two grounds.

Down through the years the town centre Prince Grounds served the club well. But now it is not big enough to cater for all the needs of the club, so new property was bought.

"For a club like ours with so many young players it is essential to have proper playing and training facilities", said chairman, Larry O'Neill.

Along with the Prince Grounds, Erin's Own now have a massive 12 acre grounds at Dysart. The Prince will be used by the juvenile section of the club, and the other will be more or less for all adult teams.

"Both grounds will be developed and maintained

with care", assured Larry O'Neill.

Among the facilities at Dysart could be a spacious social centre. The club decided to purchase new property because the Prince Grounds were not big enough for developments planned.

The officers of this go-ahead club are: Fr. M. Kirwan P.P., and Dr. P. McEneaney (presidents); Joe O'Shea, Gerry Holden, Pat Owens, Tommy Coogan, Fr.

T. O'Toole C.C. (vice-presidents); Larry O'Neill (chairman); Michael Fogarty (vice-chairman); Ger Brennan (secretary); Michael Holland (treasurer); George Kelly (registrar); Ben Delaney (P.R.O.)

Did this good planning pay quick dividends? This year Erin's Own made the big breakthrough and won the minor hurling (Roinn A) championship for the first time.

Generous response helped pay the bills

THANKS to the generosity of people in the parish, Danesfort G.A.A. club was able to pay off the debt on their fine grounds on the Waterford road, about five miles on the South side of the city.

In June 1984 a Field Fund Appeal was launched. The response was very good, and enough money was raised to pay for the purchase of the grounds, to buy a new mower and there was even some left over to go towards the erection of a wall on the Waterford road side of the field. This work will commence in the not too distant future.

During the year the club bought another 1½ acres of land on the North side of their existing grounds. In all, the club now owns seven acres of land. The new land will accommodate a juvenile pitch.

The land was purchased from Mr. Richard Farrell, who has always been a very active member of the club and who has done trojan work with the Field Committee down through the years.

Mick won with Dubs

AKilkenny man who won an all-Ireland senior hurling medal with Dublin in 1938 died during the year.

He was Mick Butler, who played at full-back on the Dublin team of 1938 against Waterford. The score was 2-5 to 1-6.

In the capital he was a member of the Faughs club, and in Kilkenny he played with Carrickshock.

After that 1938 decider, Mr. Butler later won honours with his native county. He played in the

senior championships of 1942 and '44. He was also picked on the Leinster Railway Cup team, and distinguished himself when he held the legendary Mick Mackey (Limerick) scoreless in an inter-provincial match.

The Dublin team in the '38 final was: C. Forde, T. Teehan, M. Butler, T. McMahon, M. Gill, P. Farrell, J. Byrne, M. Daniels (captain), H. Gray, R. Ryan, M. McDonald, P. Doody, M. Brophy, M. Flynn, W. Loughman. Sub: J. Gil-martin.

Waterford: M. Curley, M. Hickey (captain), C. Ware, J. Fanning, W. Walshe, J. Keane, J. Mountain, C. Moylan, S. Feeney, W. Barron, T. Greaney, P. Sheehan, J. Halpin, L. Byrne, D. Goode.

Toddy honoured

SENIOR SIDE, Conahy Shamrocks, honoured one of the most dedicated club officials in the county.

When chosen as the outstanding club personality of the year, Toddy Lacey was presented with the impressive Kieran Brennan memorial trophy. This was the first time this award was given.

The late Mr. Brennan was father of Kilkenny county hurlers, Nickey, Kieran, Paudie and Gearoid. He was a loyal club official down the years, and always threw himself wholeheartedly into ventures undertaken by the club. He was a member of Kilkenny Co. Council for several years.

Club chairman, Nickey Brennan made the presentation to Mr. Lacey.

Clara the toast of the county

AN HISTORIC achievement made Clara G.A.A. club the toast of the county during 1987. Following their exciting first win in the Kilkenny senior hurling championship of 1986, Clara were honoured as the club of the year in the annual Co. Board awards scheme.

Each year the Board honours clubs and individuals for their outstanding achievements. Clara swept the top award following their never-to-be-forgotten season.

Other award winners were:

Senior hurler: Lester Ryan (Clara).

Senior footballer: John Brennan (Thomastown).

Intermediate hurler: Richard Power (Carrickshock).

Junior hurler: Des Dunne (Danesfort). R.I.P.

Junior footballer: Luke Bird (Tullogher).

Under-age player: Richard Minogue (James Stephens).

Club official of the year: Ned Quinn (Mooncoin).

Balance of power at minor level has shifted

LOCALS who have their ear to the ground and who have an inkling into hurling developments in the various counties must have viewed with mixed feelings events in the Leinster minor final between winners, Offaly and Kilkenny.

IT was a good old tussle and the exchanges were tough, but fair. Some of the individuals involved were very talented. There wasn't too much in it at any time, and interest was maintained for the best part of the hour.

It was interesting that Offaly, who the previous season made a bit of history and won their first all-Ireland, were strong enough to retain their provincial title, even though they had a generally younger team than their opponents. The fact they went on to win the all-Ireland again speaks volumes for their ability to surmount seemingly impossible obstacles.

And for those who might not be too well up on the goings on at under-age level in the various counties, the word from Offaly is that they fancy their chances of a hat-trick of minor all-Irelands. Reason for the optimism is that they have a very good under-16 team on the way. In fact, few in the midland county expected an all-Ireland win this time round. They were thinking more in terms of 1988.

All of which leaves Kilkenny exactly where? When next year's championship comes round, seven years will have passed since this county won a minor all-Ireland. Perhaps not a very long time, but long enough at the same time.

In 1984, Kilkenny qualified for the all-Ireland final, but lost in a replay to Limerick. By comparison with the same spell in the seventies (1970 to '77) the

county has fallen back a long way, because at that time all-Irelands were landed in 1972, '73, '76 and 1977.

BALANCE SHIFTED

One may as well call a spade a spade and throw it out — Kilkenny have gone backwards at minor level! And who can say other than the balance of power has shifted?

A few years ago (1981) the Offaly seniors turned the hurling world upside down when they won their first all-Ireland. It was only a flash in the pan, those who didn't want to see the truth suggested. This year Offaly were as big a threat in the senior championship as any of the so-called big shots. Who is to say their minors cannot now disturb the preserves of old, and stay in the top bracket for a while too? The first fruits of that senior win of '81 were picked last year and this year.



The Kilkenny minor team of 1987 wasn't a bad one. It would be unfair to say other than the team played well in the Leinster final. The team was skilful to a fault, but in the end the more forceful — in rugby terms it would be called controlled aggression — approach of Offaly made the difference.

Scorers - who, when and where

AT KILLARNEY:

Kilkenny 3-16 Kerry 0-2
Scorers: L. Byrne (2-1); J. Walton (1-3); J. Teehan, B. McGovern (0-3 each); J. Brennan, P. O'Grady (0-2 each); J. Cullen, B. O'Keefe (0-1 each).

AT PORTLAOISE:

Kilkenny 2-20 Dublin 3-10
Scorers: J. Lawlor (2-2); B. McGovern (0-5); J. Walton (0-4); P. O'Neill, P. O'Grady, J. Brennan (0-2 each); A. Ronan, J. Brennan, L. Drennan (0-1 each).

AT CROKE PARK:

— Leinster final

Offaly 2-13 Kilkenny ... 0-12
Scorers: James Brennan (0-4); A. Ronan (0-4); D. Bradley, B. McGovern, P. O'Grady, J. Lawlor (0-1 each).

Kilkenny probably had the best player on view in James Brennan, a youngster who went back from nothing, and who took a lot of punishment. It was a delight to watch him. The body swerve. Cute wrist work. He has the kind of skill you too rarely see. There were other good ones in Dominic Bradley, John Conlon, a revelation in his first championship outing, Liam Drennan and Pat O'Neill, who filled the troublesome full-back position.

But for all their nice hurling and hurlers, Kilkenny finished with nothing. At least it was good to see a skilful team again. For a few years the county was winning nothing with

less attractive combinations. In a peculiar way, this was progress.

CONTINUE GOOD WORK

If credit lies with selectors Paul Kinsella (St. Martin's), Brendan O'Sullivan (Thomastown), Jim Neary (Graigue/Ballycallan), Phil 'Fan' Larkin (James Stephens) and James Delahunty (chairman Bord na nOg) for their dedicated efforts, for dedicated they were, fair play to them, and hopefully their good work will be continued. You can't win all the time, as they say, but at least Kilkenny looked like getting something together this time.

The Leinster minor league was won by Kilkenny, but happenings in the past have

shown this is no true guideline when it comes to the championship.

In the Leinster final, Offaly won by 2-15 to 0-12 after leading by 1-4 to 0-6 at half-time. The second half was just over a minute old when James Brennan shot an equaliser for the Noresiders. Later a hard earned goal from Thomas Moylan won back the initiative for Offaly, but a pair of points revived the challengers. Three scores in a row for the winners put Kilkenny in trouble, and they never recovered.

In the semi-final, the

Noresiders had seen off Dublin (2-20 to 3-10). If nothing else, the Dubs did their opponents a favour, and highlighted problems in defence. Hence, Pat O'Neill was moved, with great success, to full-back for the provincial decider. Top performers on this occasion were Jimmy Walton, Jimmy Lawlor, James Brennan and Brian McGovern.

The other outing was in Killarney — believe it or not a Leinster championship match — against Kerry. The score told the whole story: Kilkenny 3-16; Kerry 0-2.



In black and white terms it was not a good year for the minor hurlers. Maybe so, but by comparison with the not too distant past, the inventive efforts in the Leinster final were a heck of an improvement.

The Kilkenny team in the

Leinster final was: Jimmy Conroy (captain), Michael Brophy, Pat O'Neill, Liam Drennan, John Teehan, Tom Murphy, John Conlon, Jimmy Walton, Dominic Bradley, Jimmy Brennan, Brian McGovern, Pat O'Grady, Jimmy Lawlor, James Brennan, Adrian Ronan. Subs: Richard O'Neill, Patsy Brophy (used), Niall Morrissey, Brian Foskin, Pdraig Larkin, Donal Carroll, Billy O'Keefe, Ollie Byrne, Liam Byrne, Anthony Aylward, John Middleton, John Cullen, Martin Walsh.

So you think you know about Gaelic Games! Try These Questions! . . .

- Q. 1** Name the Kilkenny man who captained a club in another county to a senior hurling championship win in 1987?
- Q. 2** Who was the first club in Kilkenny to win the junior, intermediate and senior hurling championships?
- Q. 3** Can you name the last Kilkenny-born man who won an all-Ireland senior football medal?
- Q. 4** John Costelloe (Thomastown) won an all-Ireland colleges senior football medal in 1973. With what college?
- Q. 5** Name the four men who played with Kilkenny in the Leinster junior football final against Dublin in 1971 and later won all-Ireland and All-Star hurling honours?
- Q. 6** The last time a club won three county minor hurling championships in-a-row was 1960, '61 and '62. Name the club?
- Q. 7** In the 1979 all-Ireland senior hurling final, Kilkenny introduced two substitutes. The final was against Galway. Who were the subs introduced?
- Q. 8** Who played in goal for Kilkenny when they won the minor all-Ireland hurling final in 1977? The match against Cork went to a replay.
- Q. 9** Since 1978 Shamrocks (Ballyhale) have contested all but one of the Kilkenny senior hurling finals. Do you know the missing year, and the finalists?
- Q. 10** St. Lactain's won the Kilkenny senior hurling finals in 1961 and '63. Who did they beat in the finals?
- Q. 11** Who was the man who went on as a sub on the Kilkenny minor winning team of 1972, and as a sub on the under-21 winning team of 1975?
- Q. 12** How many all-Ireland senior football medals did Jack Grace of Tullaroan win with Dublin?
- Q. 13** Who was the first man to captain a 15-a-side all-Ireland winning senior hurling team? What year was it?
- Q. 14** Galway's victory over Kilkenny in the all-Ireland semi-final in Thurles in 1976 was their first over Kilkenny in the championship in how many years?
- Q. 15** In what year did the late Jim Langton play his last championship game with Kilkenny?
- Q. 16** He played in goal for Kilkenny when they won the Leinster senior hurling title in 1943. His brother was famous in another sport. Who was he?
- Q. 17** Who started at right half-forward when James Stephens won the all-Ireland club senior hurling title by beating Blackrock (Cork) in 1976?
- Q. 18** Glenmore won their first Kilkenny senior hurling title this year by defeating Shamrocks in the final. How many times have Glenmore appeared in the final?
- Q. 19** Who replaced Frank Cummins when he retired injured in the 1973 all-Ireland senior hurling final against Limerick?
- Q. 20** It was a case of third time lucky when John Lockes (Callan) won this year's junior hurling final. They lost the finals of 1982 and '85. Who beat them those years?

ANSWERS ON PAGE 78

Positive start, and football effort must continue

DURING A distinguished inter-county career that spanned 11 years, Nickey Brennan experienced it all with the Kilkenny senior hurling team. He was fondly christened 'Mr. Dependable' by those close to the team. Nickey never let anyone down. His array of honours at the end of the day included five all-Ireland senior winners' medals, as well as two National League awards. He was never found wanting by the county then, and today it is the same. It would be so much easier for a man like him to forget about football in Kilkenny, but he wouldn't.

These times he works with the Kilkenny football team. Some call him the team 'trainer-coach'. He doesn't look on it like that, just simply that 'he is doing his bit', for Kilkenny. "You know, you will be the trainer of the team", he was told at the first selection meeting after he had answered a call from then senior football champions, Mooncoin, to help out with the Kilkenny team. As ever, he threw himself wholeheartedly into the task. That was in January of this year. Results haven't changed all that much for Kilkenny, but attitudes have. Nickey Brennan has helped the once thriving game in the county take a few steps up the road to recovery.

Working with the Kilkenny football team is no job for those seeking fame, never mind fortune. Nickey's heart is in it. The man has the will that could make all the difference.

He told us what it was like working for the good of the other game in Kilkenny — Gaelic football.

"REALLY, all we have achieved in football at county level during the past year is we have won back a bit of respect. Inter-county football in Kilkenny is no longer a joke. We have achieved no more than that. It was important to achieve that. A change of attitude had to come about before we tried to do anything else. Now we have to start thinking about results. That is the next step.



"I reckon we have a reasonable chance of scoring a win or two in the current National League. We are trying to put a panel of players together who we can rely on, players who will turn up all the time. You can't get anywhere without that. We find that when you are not getting anywhere it is hard to keep the players interested. They tend to get disillusioned, and that is understandable. Now we have the backbone of what we are after. You don't get what you want with 11 or 12



NICKEY BRENNAN

players, you need twice that number at least.

"Kilkenny can beat a few of the counties playing in Division 4 of the National League. With the proper application we can win games. To win a game or two is one of the aims this year. Honestly, whether it is a player, or official or supporter, they all get fed up with the team losing all the time. Winning is the top priority. Last year it was to get things organised properly. Now we want a win or two.

"The biggest difference between hurling and football in Kilkenny is that with the hurling team you always went out with the positive attitude that 'we can beat these lads'. Trying to get the same attitude across to the

footballers that they can compete with other teams, and that they have a chance, and are entitled to win games, is not easy. Just because they are from Kilkenny, who are the 32nd of the 32 counties playing football, does not mean they will always be down there. That is the thing we are trying to get across to the players.

LIMIT TO WHAT CAN BE ACHIEVED

"They must have respect for themselves and the jerseys they wear. When this change of attitude comes about, then the players can get some achievement out of the game.

"The one way to get rid of all the doubts and problems with football is to start winning and achieving something.

"But let us not fool ourselves. There is a limit to what we are going to achieve. There is no point talking nonsense and shouting about competing with the likes of Meath, Dublin or Kerry. That is out of the question. We will compete with the likes of Carlow, Waterford and others like that in the football world, and take part in the inter-county junior championship. That is the limit to what we can achieve in the foreseeable future.

"It is nice to be ambitious and all the rest, but let us have realistic ambitions."

Continued ▶

The Leinster junior championship is a competition in which Kilkenny could make an impression. The county went close this year. When drawn away to Dublin, the Noresiders finished just two points behind.

"Looking at that match in isolation, the difference between Kilkenny winning a Leinster junior title and not winning one is not so great," the Conahy Shamrocks clubman felt. "We were there with a chance this year, and we must be there with one every year."

Dublin later hammered all before them in Leinster, but lost the all-Ireland final after losing a couple of players to their senior team.

"When we played Dublin they were on a high, because the county had just won the National League", Nickey went on. "The odds were always stacked against us, but we went up to

Parnell Park with a fair amount of enthusiasm. To run them so close was an achievement in itself.

"Unfortunately, by the time the start of the National League against Longford came about, the enthusiasm of that effort had been lost. An old problem raised its head again. You try hard in the championship, but you must start all over again when the League commences. There is no continuity.

HURLING THE NO. 1 GAME

"In between it was practically impossible to arrange training. But you can't really blame anyone for that, because the players were tied up in the championships with their clubs. Hurling is the number 1 priority. We realise and accept that, and try to operate around it."

Nickey could not speak highly enough of the efforts put in by Co.

Board chairman Tommy Murphy and secretary, Ted Carroll and their Football Board counterparts, Pat Mulrooney and Joe Fox.

"The players are looked after well, be that at training or before or after matches," Nickey assured. "At the end of the day a lot depends on clubs. If they don't help and encourage their players to participate, then there is little anyone else can do. Players don't really train for football at club level, so our get togethers are very vital.

Perhaps if we had a few more pockets of football like the Railyard we might have a better base from which to work.

"There is no reason why we should give up football in Kilkenny," he continued. "But any goals we set must be realistic. We feel we have made a positive start and we are prepared to keep up the effort."



SHAMROCKS (Ballyhale) — Runners-up in the Senior Camogie Championship.



PILTOWN — Winners of the Roinn A Under-13 Football Championship.

BARRY LEADS THE WAY



CORK native, Barry Hickey is the Kilkenny Co. Board Development Officer! Who is what, where, I can hear people asking.

The A.I.B. bank official is, as the job name would suggest, the man responsible for planning and executing development projects in the county. These could be at games, social or Co. Board level, but it is his job to see things are not standing still.

"I try and help the development of the G.A.A. in general, on and off the field" said Barry, who has been working in Kilkenny since 1969. Sure he is one of ourselves now.

In this his first year in the job, he has helped promote additional games and cultural activities for youngsters; he has organised coaching courses for adults, and he has sparked off a greater awareness among clubs of the need to constantly promote Gaelic games.

This was really the first year the job of Development Officer on the Co. Board took on any real relevance. It had to, because it was a pet project of newly elected Leinster council chairman, Jack Boothman. He vowed when he took office that he would fight to get an active Development Officer in every county in the province.

Each county has one now, and monthly they have review meetings in Newbridge, Co. Kildare, and Kilkenny's Paddy Buggy, a former President of the G.A.A. chairs the gathering. Each Officer is accountable. Past, current and future projects all have to be outlined at this meeting. Nothing is left to chance, or let slip into the back ground.

GREAT FOR YOUNGSTERS

"Some people have the wrong idea of what development is all about", Barry said. "Something like bringing a county player to your club and getting him to meet or run through a quick session with youngsters could be classed as development. Something like that can be great for youngsters, and that is how they can be attracted into the 'Association'".

His own club, John Lockes (Callan) had Kerry footballer, Mikey Sheehy, with the Sam Maguire Cup in hand, as a visitor last year. The Kerry star was joined by Kilkenny hurling stars, and youngsters in the area were thrilled to bits to be able to meet and talk to the giants of the codes.

"Things like that may seem small, but they could have a huge spin-off", Barry reckoned. "Young players look up to these lads, and they long to follow in their footsteps. Youngsters can be introduced to Gaelic games this way".

In tandem with Paul Kinsella (St. Patrick's De La Salle) and Eamon Doyle (Co. Board Youth Officer), Barry helped get new class and streets leagues organised in the city. Four teams from the city ended up in the shake-up of the under-14 hurling championship. Perhaps there was a connection. The new competitions certainly didn't do any harm.

"Members on the Co. Board can help in a big way too", Barry suggested. "They are representing their clubs, and they should report back everything. It is their duty to carry news and information from the Board, and not to go away from

meetings and forget about everything that happened".

"I was pleased enough the way the year went", Barry said. "It would have been great had Kilkenny won the senior hurling all-Ireland. Any time you can reach the all-Ireland, the games locally received a huge lift.

MUST WORK

"People think if we are winning all-Irelands that everything is going great. Winning doesn't do any harm, but outside the county teams there are many others to be looked after. We must be working at all aspects of the 'Association all the time".

Barry floated a novel idea about how the G.A.A. could

get involved in promoting tourism. He felt Gaelic games, and particularly hurling, could be used more when promoting Ireland as a holiday destination.

"The game of hurling is so attractive, so distinctive and highly skilled that its appeal could be utilised more", he felt.

"I would like to see the G.A.A. and R.T.E. forming a company and doing videos of games. These could be used to promote games, and tourism. The Tourism Board could be involved. I would imagine there would be a huge foreign market there, and, I have no doubt, foreigners would love our native games".

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Meet the Development Officer

... Barry Hickey

Full name: Barry John Finbarr Hickey

Birthplace: Ballynoe/Conna parish (East Cork)

Birthdate: August 4, 1949.

Height: 5' 4½"

Weight: 10st.

Occupation: Assistant-manager A.I.B., Callan

Married to: Kathleen Hogan, Kilmoganny on Aug. 2, 1976

Children: Evan (8½); Grace (5½) and Darragh (10 months)

Club: John Lockes (Callan)

Car: Ford Orion

Hurling hero of childhood: Ned Power (Waterford) and Ollie Walsh (Kilkenny).

Football hero of childhood: Mick O'Connell (Kerry)

Favourite sports outside Gaelic games: All outdoor games.

Other sports people you most admire: Stephen Roche (cycling), Tony Ward (rugby), Eamon Coughlan (athletics), Eddie Macken (horse jumping).

Most memorable match(es): The day John Lockes won the junior and minor (Roinn A) county finals.

Favourite holiday resort: Trabolgan.

Favourite singer(s): Kenny Rogers and the group Smokey.

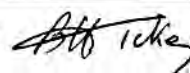
Favourite actor/actress: Clint Eastwood.

Favourite activity on day off: Gardening.

Favourite T.V. show: Late Late Show and Sunday Game

Person in the World would most like to meet: Pope John Paul

Signature: Barry Hickey.




ERIN'S OWN (Castlecomer) — Minor Hurling Champions of 1987

Back row (l. to r.): Gerry Meally, Cormack Young, John Delaney, John Donovan, Peter Breen, Eddie Connery, Florence Brennan, Victor Smith, Patsy Brophy, Larry O'Neill (manager). **Front row** (l. to r.): Joe Maher, Michael Brophy (capt.), Liam Slevin, Tom Dwyer, John Buggy, Willie Holden, James Brennan.



TULLAROAN — Winners of the Roinn D Under-12 Hurling Championship

Back row (l. to r.): Seamus Ó Meachair, Eamon Holland, Daniel Norton, John O'Dea. **Middle row** (l. to r.): Donal Doheny, Alan Sheahan, James Hennessy, Lory Holland, Donie Hogan, Anthony Dooley, Thomas Crosby, Peter Butler, Vincent Norton, Fergal Moore, Barry Teehan, Michael Maher, Declan O'Dea, Jimmy Glennon, Brian Maher. **Front row** (l. to r.): Adrian O'Dea, Niall Keogh, Stephen Delaney, David Glennon, Jimmy Coogan, Michael Kennedy, Eamon O'Neill, Eoin Hall, David Millea, John Breen, Thomas Delaney.

Referees - problems galore, but who will do anything about them

REFEREES, along with mother-in-laws, must be the most maligned species on earth. Supposedly always right, even when wrong, these so-called knights of the whistle really can't win. And when defeat turns to recrimination, you can be sure of one man who will certainly not escape criticism.

WE'VE HEARD the after-match wails a thousand times before. "The ref was diabolical/blind/agin us/should have made a draw out of it..."

Toss in the abuse referees sometimes endure from pitch, sideline and terrace; the travelling to fixtures; the fact that at the Summer height of Kilkenny's G.A.A. season they have to be out four or five nights a week; and what have they got? What many people would sympathise is a lot of unnecessary hardship, all for "love of the game". Who'd be a referee?

At a time when more attention than ever is regularly focussed on refereeing standards in hurling and football, maybe it's no harm to take a look at the situation in Kilkenny. We haven't reached the Wicklow stage of locking unfortunates into car boots, but is everything really so rosy in this county? From supporters, players, officials and from the men in black themselves, the answer seems to be an emphatic "no".

Some facts to start with. There are upwards of 25 referees on the Co. Board's books, sweeping alphabetically from Dinny Butler (Threecastles) to Christy Whelan (Kilmoganny). These men are appointed to take charge of fixtures by a variety of organisations in the Kilkenny G.A.A. set-up, most important of which is the Co. Board's refereeing sub-committee, chaired by county chairman Tommy Murphy.

NOT STRICTLY AMATEUR

The referees are not strictly amateur. They receive £16 (£8 a team) for senior championship games here; £12 for intermediate matches; £10 for junior and £6 for minor and under-16. These fees may or may not be shared with the umpires.

So what about referees in Kilkenny? Are they good?, bad?, indifferent? If so, why so? And if so, what should be done to help?

Turning first to the players, we spoke to two members of the current Kilkenny panel, and to three others who have also played senior inter-county hurling in recent years. All five

are still playing at various levels.

The criticisms they offered of refereeing — and not of referees themselves — must be seen in a wider context. "It's a terribly hard job, and we all make mistakes", all five sympathised. Interestingly, both present-day county hurlers added that they would not be a referee for any money.

So what do players feel about the current standard of refereeing in Kilkenny? For all five it's a case of Paschal Long first "and the rest a long way behind". Inconsistency is definitely a big problem, with interpretation of the rules varying from ref to ref. "Some referees blow you for things that others would let you away with", one remarked. "Maybe it's because not enough of them have played the game at the higher levels, or because some might not get as much practice as the top players, but whatever the reason the standard of refereeing is very uneven. There's simply far too much inconsistency among officials".

There are other faults. "Many referees are much too strict, you can't give a fair shoulder any more because all you have to do is run into someone and you get penalised. Too many officials never consult their umpires or linesmen — a ref can't see everything, so it's vital they have an understanding with their officials and work as a team".

"The third-man tackle is not enforced any longer. And off-the-ball or late tackles, which are probably the worst tackles in the game, seem to be increasing and the culprits not being punished. There is always the chance of bias. You come up against the same referees so often that grudges can easily be held over by both parties. And occasionally a referee could be a cousin or buddy of someone on the opposition."

So much for the debit side. What about the referees' credit account? Referees fitness is not seen as a problem. "Alright, the standard definitely drops as you go down the ladder so that at junior or football



By ENDA McEVOY

games you'll see referees giving frees for incidents 50 or 60 yards away. But at senior and intermediate level in Kilkenny they are plenty fit", one player felt.

UMPIRES WATCHING

The displays of the men in the middle on county final day this year drew praise from the players. "Fan Larkin did a very good job on the minor match. As a former great hurler he would obviously have the respect of the players, and would probably have a better idea than most about when to let fouls go and keep the play flowing. As for Paschal Long, he was always on the look-out for off-the-ball fouls in the senior game, and he had his umpires watching too".

Again, you get back to a wider context. Referees in Kilkenny do make mistakes, but there is more to it than that. Player discipline, or lack of it, is felt to have a lot more to do with it. And the Co. Board are far from blameless, either.

"No doubt about it, referees are under fierce pressure, and having players bawling at you and disputing decisions can only increase that," a county star of today says. Anyone who witnessed the attitude of some of the Shamrock players to Dinny Butler in the 1986 county senior hurling final will know exactly what he means.

"I mean, even umpires would

probably be a little nervous about doing a good job. You get lads roaring for a seventy when they know well the ball was wide. That brings the game into disrepute. It has to stop. You go up to a soccer match in the Fair Green, maybe it's a city derby and very tense, but the ref. gives a decision and that's that, all the players just go back to their places and get on with the game".

The Co. Board comes in for sustained fire from the players on two counts: the appointment of referees. "Do they appoint them just for the sake of appointing someone?", and the lack of protection refs receive. At open grounds around the county dangers to officials can obviously fester in hearts on the sideline, yet at least one player thinks we could see a serious incident at Nowlan park.

"The stewarding in the 'Park has become appalling. The number of mentors and hangers-on let onto the line the day of the junior and intermediate finals this year was a disgrace. How is a referee meant to do a good job if he has to spend time clearing the sidelines? One of these days something is going to happen there."

SACROSANCT

Protection does not just mean physical protection either. Referees must be fully supported in all their actions by the Co. Board's disciplinary committee. "Even when it means applying the same rules to sent-off county players as to ordinary cases, this has to be done, and to be seen to be done!" one hurler said. "There's a feeling that county players have been sacrosanct for far too long, and getting away with the minimum two weeks when probably their offences warranted longer".

This is echoed by a prominent local referee. "The Co. Board does not like referees who create hassle", he claimed, and named two referees, he said, received very few senior games this season because they "caused trouble" in important matches in 1986.

Some might say the above was contributed by people with an axe to grind. Crucially, none of those observations appeared to be a minority opinion, because delegates at the 1987 County Conventions overwhelmingly passed a motion dealing with the need to improve refereeing standards in this county.

Proposing "that the Co. Board's referees' sub-committee have the task of rating the referees, and that there be eight top referees with grading up and down from that as they see fit, with intensive training for the top referees". Barry Henriques (John Lockes) remarked that the general standard of officiating was poor, with different interpretations or rules, a gap in fitness and no method for referees to find out what mistakes they were making.

Seconding, Paddy Buggy (Slieverue) pointed out the need for new young officials. Every club has the responsibility of providing referees, he declared. A motion was passed at Convention a few years ago urging each club to provide one referee. What happened to that?

And with professional fouls creeping into Gaelic games in recent years, "there is an attitude that nobody is guilty of a serious offence on the field. That's not right. Such attitudes must change", the former G.A.A. President concluded.

Fr. Tommy Murphy, Jim McGrath (Danesfort) and Georgie Leahy (James Stephens) also spoke in favour of the motion which was passed by a huge majority.

WHO KNOWS THE RULES?

For their part, referees feel things would improve if players actually knew the rules of the game. "An awful lot of players in clubs around the county simply don't know the rules", one well-known referee said. "I'd go so far as to say that some don't know half of the rules. Every club should have some kind of coaching sessions, give each player the rule-book and make sure they all know the rules. I think that would improve the situation both hurling-wise and referee-wise. And it

might be no harm if some spectators were shown a rule-book too!"

Referees, it seems, take up the whistle for a variety of reasons. For some it is a conscious desire to stay involved after their playing days. Others begin with under-age games in their own club, fancy the challenge and decide to take it from there. For at least one ref in the county, his career in black developed out of the blue.

Carrickshock's Paschal Long was just another youth attending a hurling match in Mullinavat back in 1972. The appointed official failed to turn up. Paschal Long took charge of the game, enjoyed the experience and took an interest in refereeing from then on.

"The Southern Board was looking for new talent at the time. I asked fellow-clubman John Walsh to put my name forward, and within 12 months I was refereeing the county minor final".

If different referees have different reasons for becoming involved, love of the game is the common denominator that keeps them at it. How else do you explain men willingly giving up four nights a week to do games during the Summer plus possibly two games on a Sunday? The money is a bonus, not a prime factor.

"The money referees in Kilkenny receive is certainly very good", one admitted. "You talk to officials from Dublin or Tipperary and they're amazed at the money we get. We are not in it for the money — It would be a bad day for the G.A.A. if anyone were — and considering that you might have one difficult match in every four or five, then £16 is more than enough for coming into Nowlan Park or wherever and running around for an hour".

PLAYERS NO WORSE THAN BEFORE

The same man maintained that the attitudes of players to referees was no worse than it ever was. "There are a few loud players and officials, every team has one or two who will abuse you whatever you do. The problem is

Continued on page 40 ▶

that these are the people who'll tell a referee he's making mistakes. If it were up to me I'd appoint a six-man committee for three years to have sole responsibility to go to all the games around the county, have delegates on the various boards, assess and grade the referees, and generally look after them and coach them".

The local referee's association, chaired for the last two years by Jim McGrath, organises a get-together with a top referee like J.J. Landers or Noel O'Donoghue at the start of each season to go through the rules and discuss problems. This year Paschal Long took charge of the meeting. Ideally the referees would like to have more meetings as the season progresses, but the sheer weight of fixtures in Kilkenny usually prevents this.

The biggest problem, all reckoned was the obvious shortage of young referees. Nobody seems to have come up through the ranks to the top since Paschal Long, and the fact that he and Dinny Butler have between them been given the last six or seven county senior hurling finals is a sore point.

A member of the Co. Board's refereeing sub-committee agreed that many of the current list are "not

getting any younger", but said it's hard to blame the 'Board for not encouraging new talent. "Maybe if they were more strict, if they backed referees to the hilt regardless of what actions they had taken, some might be more inclined to come forward", he conceded.

The complicated knot of bodies appointing the officials should be sorted out, he felt. "You have us fixing senior and intermediate matches, the Southern Board's Referees committee and the Northern Board fixing junior and under-12 games in their own divisions. And Bord-na-nOg appointing minor and other under-age referees. It's not really satisfactory. I know, and possibly it does make it hard for someone starting off doing the under-16 fixtures to rise up to intermediate and senior".

"But we all do our best. The usual procedure is that our committee meets after the Co. Board meeting each month. We look at the senior and intermediate fixtures to be played during the next four weeks — usually it would be only one round, never more than two. We go through the list, pick out what looks the hardest game, and appoint the best referee to that. We always look for the difficult match and the best man goes in".

DECIDE PUNISHMENT

County chairman, Tommy

Murphy and secretary, Ted Carroll are automatic choices on this committee, with the other six elected annually at the first Co. Board meeting of the year. Pat Mulrooney (Clara), Ned Moran (Blacks and Whites), Joe Mackey (Dunnamaggin), Ned Buggy (Dicksboro), Liam Duggan (Carrickshock) and Paddy Cahill (Graigue-Ballycallan) made up that six in 1987.

Referees are supposed to write a report after each match, and certainly do so following games in which players have been sent-off. The Co. Board's eight-man Disciplinary Committee — much in the news recently — read the reports and decide the punishments. Given the criticism earlier in this article of the committee, it's only fair to quote one of its members who stressed that the referee's report "is usually adopted and acted upon".

And there you have it. Maybe it doesn't look for the past 1,500 words as though refereeing in Kilkenny is in a crisis, and this writer is certainly not trying to suggest anything of the sort. What is clear, however, is that problems do exist. The danger signs are there. The players are saying so. Club and county officials are saying so. And, above all, the referees are saying so.

Who is going to do something about it?



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Did former stars make up unique final?

IT MAY have been way down the championship scale in order of importance, but players who had won a combined total of 21 all-Ireland senior hurling medals took the field in one Kilkenny final.

The 'big match' was the special junior hurling championship (Roinn A) decider. You must be joking, you could well blurt. But it's a fact. Five of the players involved in that showdown between the Rower-Inistioge and Bennettsbridge won 21 all-Ireland medals between them. And a sixth player also sampled all-Ireland senior fare.

Some final, what? Where else in Ireland would something like this happen? For a final at this level, this particular clash must be unique. Just look at the all star cast:

Rower-Inistioge — Eddie Keher at right full-forward won senior all-Irelands in 1963, '67, 1969, '72, '74 and 1975; Willie Murphy at full-back won all-Irelands in 1969 and in '72 as a sub.

Bennettsbridge — goalkeeper Noel Skehan won a record nine all-Ireland medals in 1963, '67, '69, 1972, '74, '75, '79, 1982 and 1983; Pat Lawlor, who came on as a sub, won all-Irelands in 1972, '74 and 1975; centre-forward John Kinsella went on as a sub in the all-Ireland of 1967, and another team member, Phil Cullen played on the losing Kilkenny all-Ireland team of 1973 against Limerick.



Bennettsbridge players from the final (from left): John Kinsella, Noel Skehan and Pat Lawlor.

How about that for an array of talent? The final score was Rower-Inistioge 1-10; Bennettsbridge 1-4. The game attracted an attendance of over 1,000. Followers got a glimpse of the kind of skill that put the aging stars among the best hurlers in the land in their prime.

At the break the winners led by 0-5 to 1-0. Five minutes into the second half Eddie Keher produced a flash of brilliance, and the game was over. He slipped his marker, and from 20 yards crashed a ferocious drive past his former county team mate, Noel

Skehan. There was no hauling the Rower back after that.

The victorious Rower team was — P. Fleming, J. Dunphy, B. Murphy, T. O'Keeffe, M. Galavan, B. Kennedy, M. Cotterell, J. Ryan, J. Walsh, R. Bolger, A. Galavan, P. Kearney, E. Keher, S. Cullen, N. Cotterell. Subs: M. Mackey, P. Grace, L. Ryan.

Bennettsbridge — N. Skehan, J. Cullen, B. Crowe, C. Hayes, J. Byrne, P. Cullen, D. Ryan, T. Cleere, R. Comerford, S. Walsh, J. Kinsella, M. Burke, P. Comerford, J. Holohan, T. Lawlor. Subs: P. Lawlor, G. Kelly.



ROWER-INISTIIGE — Special Junior Hurling Champions (Roinn A)

Back row (l. to r.): Seamus Cullen, Liam Ryan, Noel Cotterell, Tom O'Keeffe, Pat Fleming, Joe Ryan, Matt Galavan, Robert Bolger, Michael Mackey. **Front row** (l. to r.): Pat Grace, John Walsh, Eddie Keher, Pat Kearney, Jim Dunphy, Amby Galavan (capt.), Billy Kennedy, Mick Cotterell, Billy Murphy.

Euphoria after just two glory days in 57 years



CLONEEN — Special Junior Hurling Champions (Roinn B) 1987

Back row (l. to r.): Sean Lawlor, Joe Coogan (selector), Noel Kerr, Larry Brennan (selector), Tommy Brennan, Johnny Lawlor, Martin Dowd, Thomas Brennan, Patsy Wilson, Michael Delaney, Martin Mealy (chairman), Michael Rowe, Eamon Walsh (selector). **Front row** (l. to r.): Eamon Mansfield, Dinny Brennan, Eamon Cahill, Paddy Phelan, Oliver Kierans, John Cahill, Eddie Mahon, Brendan Smyth (capt.), Tom Brennan (manager), John Bolger, Jimmy Brennan, Tom Comerford, Dom Kennedy (treasurer).

TO MOST G.A.A. fans in Kilkenny, the dates May 25, 1930 and September 27, 1987 have absolutely no significance. But to a proud group of people in a Northern pocket of the county they mean everything. They are the sum total of their glory days.

A LOT OF water has flowed under the bridge and many a pint has been drank in the intervening years. All through those 57 years the little Cloneen G.A.A. club wasn't around, but following a new beginning in 1984 came a bit of history this season.

It may not be Kilkenny's most sought after title. It may not cost most people even a thought. But the special junior hurling championship (Roinn B) was Cloneen's priceless jewel this year.

Three months ago Cloneen won the special junior hurling (Roinn B) title by beating John Lockes (Callan) by 1-8 to 1-4 in the county final. History — it was their first hurling win ever. And how the whole parish celebrated.

The night of the famous victory the players were ferried through the village of Clogh on a decorated float. The following evening the sister village, Moneenroe greeted the conquering heroes.

"The likes of the celebrations were never seen in the area", a club official remarked. The green colours of the team were everywhere to be seen. Bonfires blazed. Cloneen were Kilkenny hurling champions, and the people of the area celebrated.

The present Cloneen club, a sister unit of the Railyard football club, was reformed in 1984. Even in Kilkenny, it is recognised as a football area, and draws players from the surrounds of Clogh and Moneenroe.

KILLED SPIRIT

The area has one of the

fastest growing rural populations in the South East, but for many a year before '84, it was the only parish in Kilkenny without a hurling team. Oh sure, there was a Cloneen team there decades ago, and that was later followed by Gazebo, but for one reason or another these faded and died. Perhaps lack of success killed the spirit?

In the past Cloneen figured in a few county finals, mainly football. Their first big win was in the junior football championship of 1929. That final against Tullogher was played on May 25, 1930 and Cloneen won 5-4 to 1-2.

Their second win was this year, and it was in the other code, hurling. A huge crowd supported the team, and the players did the parish proud. They always looked

the better team in the final.

A goal by Martin Dowd during the final quarter eventually broke John Locke's resistance. The losers made the best of the few chances that came their way in the opening half, and at the break showed 1-1 to 0-3 in front. Cloneen let chances slip, and had nine shots wide of the mark.

During the closing half Cloneen did better. They scrubbed the deficit, and got their noses in front. Then came Dowd's goal. At last a hurling title was within the grasp of Cloneen. They took it.

The winners had a powerful half-back line in Brennan, Cahill and Lawlor, with the central defender the star. Noel Kerr was another one in dazzling form, and Martin Dowd, Brendan Smyth and John

Bolger were also top performers.

DIFFICULT TO SURVIVE

In 1984 the meeting to reform Cloneen was chaired by Tom (Roe) Brennan. There was a big attendance in Clogh hall, and everyone was realistic. Because the area had little or no hurling background, and most of the players who would be involved had little or no experience at under-age level in the game, it was agreed there was little use affiliating a junior team in the Northern championship. Everyone accepted it would be too difficult to survive in that grade.

Instead, the meeting decided to opt for the special junior championship. A wise move, bearing in mind their resources. An under-12 hurling team was also formed.

A year was to pass and there were setbacks before Cloneen won their first special junior match. In 1985 they beat Blacks and Whites. It was a beginning.

This year the club had the playing strength to field teams at under-12 and 14 level, as well as special junior. People like Larry Brennan, Danny Lawlor and Donal Brennan took charge of the youngsters. Tom 'Cloney' Brennan, who back in 1958 won a junior

hurling championship with Erin's Own (Castlecomer), provided inspiring leadership for the adult team.

On the county final team, Tom was joined by his son of the same name.

September 27, 1987 was a big day for Cloneen. After many a disappointment in recent years, they finally made the big breakthrough. Realism prevails. Next season they are looking forward to "establishing themselves" in the junior grade proper.

The Cloneen team in the county final was — Eddie Mahon, Tom 'Cloney' Brennan (jnr), John Cahill, Noel Kerr, Thomas

Brennan, Eamon Cahill, Sean Lawlor, Brendan Smyth (capt.), Michael Delaney, Patsy Wilson, Michael Rowe, Martin Dowd, John Bolger, Tom 'Cloney' Brennan (snr.), Eamon Mansfield. Subs — Tom Comerford, Oliver Kierans, Jimmy Brennan (used); P. Whelan, D. Brennan, J. Lawlor, W. Brennan.

Club Officers — Tom 'Roe' Brennan (president); Martin Mealy (chairman); Charlie McCarthy (P.R.O. and secretary); Don Kennedy (treasurer). Team selectors — M. Mealy, J. Coogan, C. McCarthy, E. Walsh, T. Brennan. Manager — Tom Brennan. Trainer — D. Lawlor.

An Ród So Romhainn

Le TOMÁS DE BHÁLDRAITHE, Oifigeach Gaeilge

LE BREIS 's dachad bliain anuas, tá 'r gluichí i measc óige an náisiúin chomh h-eagraithe, deá-riartha san go gceapfá go gcaithfeadh an óige bheith gafa ag an C.L.G. agus go raibh ár gluichí slán. Ach ní h-amhlaidh atá do réir deallraimh. Níl contae in Éirinn a bhfuil cóir níos fearr air ná Cill Chainnigh ó thaobh eagraíochta de. Mar sin féin, tá roinnt mhaith daoine anso buartha go leór faoi stáid na gluichí i measc na h-óige sa chontae. Táthar ag clamsán go bhfuil an iomarca buachaillí ag tréigint na gluichí sul a mbíonn a n-óige caite.

Tionóladh comhdhail de'n óige in Árus Ó Lochlainn-Gael ar an 16ú lá de Dheireadh Fomhair seo caite. Ba mhór an t-údar díomá an tinnreamh, ach dar le h-Éamonn Ó Dúill, Oifigeach, le h-Óige, "Criunniú gnóthach críochnúil be ea é agus b'fhiú é a reactháil".

Níl dóthain slí agam anso na tuairimí go léir a nocht na h-ógánaigh a chioadh ach labhair siad faoi easba córais traenála do mholtóirí, faoid dhrochmholtóireacht dá bharr, faoi easba caomhnaithe dóibh. Cháin siad an Cóiste Smachta faoi bheith failliteach ina ndualgaisí, an díth smachta ar imearthóirí garbha. Déanann clubanna móra, go h-áirithe neamhsuim de imearthóirí laga, cáinteoir iad go poiblí agus leagtar béim chomh mór san ar cluichí a bhuaichint go gcailleann an aos óg suim in imirt na gluichí má chailleann siad.



Tom Waldron

Sílím féin go bhfuil lochta ag baint le riaradh agus dáileadh na gluichí faoi Bhórd na nÓg i láthair na h-uaire agus seo agaibh iarrach de m' chuid féin an cheist a phlé go grad. Faoi láthair, do'n dream faoi 18 mbl., bíonn trí nó ceithre sraith-chluichí san Earrach. B'fhéidir, craobhchluiche amháin Mí Iúil i ndiaidh na scrúdaithe. Sin ceithre nó cúig cluichí sa bhliain. Ní leor é sin. Meathann suim an ógánaigh. Faoi 16 bl. tá feabhas beag ar an scéal. Molaim sraithchluichí san iomáint a imirt i ndiaidh a chéile Mí Aibreáin, peil Mí Márta. Caithfear cuimhneamh go neagann suim na mbuachaillí go mear muna mbíonn flúirse cluichí acu.

Imríonn buachall deich geluichí ar a laghad sa bhliain le linn dó bheith faoi 14 bl. B'fhéidir nach n-imreodh sé ach trí cluichí nuair a shroiseann sé 18 mbl. Cúis mhór í seo le cailliúint imerathóirí idir 14 bl. agus 18 mbl.

FÓIRNE SEACHTAIR

Cuireann Club Lios Dúin Fhiaich cómórta siumiúil do bhuaichillí bunscóile faoi bhannaí Cóca Cóla ar siúl gach bliain a chimeadann buachaillí Tuaiscirt an Chontae gnóthach sa bhFomhar. Ná féadfaí comórtais dá leithéid a rith d'imearthóirí faoi 16 agus faoi 18 pé uair bhéadh oiriúnach. Ní bhíonn gach buachaill sna h-aoisghrúpaí sin faoi chúing scrúdaithe. Comórtais Seachtair (ar ghach foireann) atá i gceist, ar ndó.

Tá carn clubanna ann a bhféachann na daoine céanna i ndiaidh na bhfoireann go léir ó'n scoil go sroistear sinnsearach. Ní h-ionadh go dtagann strustuirse ar chomhairleoirí agus ar oiliúnóirí i gcásanna mar sin, agus gur breá leo nuair a bhuitear ar ógánaigh i gcomórtais agus go ligtear saor iad chun féachaint i ndiaidh na n-imearthóirí fásta. Idir ganntannas cluichí agus ganntannas traenála, teanntar amach an dream óg.

I bhfeighil na rannóg aoise ba chóir do thriúr (duine do ghach rannóg) féachaint chuige go dtugtar aire do na h-ógánaigh, idir láidir agus lag. Muna a mbíonn an óige faoi réir againn, táimid creachta.

Gasps of relief as 'Lockes do it at last

THERE ARE times when a team must conquer more than the opposition to win county or even national honours, and one suspects for that very reason John Lockes (Callan) heaved a heavy sigh of relief when they won the Kilkenny junior hurling championship of 1987. "At last we did it", must have been the most oft-times heard gasp of relief from happy players and supporters afterwards.

IT wasn't that anyone in Callan and, indeed, in most parts of Kilkenny felt John Lockes hadn't the ability to win the title. But somehow it got away, or was let slip so often in recent times that people began to wonder would they ever win it.

In fact, John Lockes must have wondered themselves, and when approaching the county final against Galmoy one of the biggest obstacles they had to overcome was their own fear of losing — again. Obviously, under the experienced hand of George Leahy (James Stephens) they conquered their self-doubts and in the end they were comfortable winners of the club's third junior title (the others were in 1911 and 1952).

Perhaps in the long run the extended stay in the junior grade will stand to John Lockes. Next season they will be playing in the intermediate championship, and contrary to what some might want to believe, the adjustment to the higher grade is not as easy as it might seem. It will take a big effort just to survive, but survive John Lockes can, and with little difficulty if they put their minds to it.

By this time John Lockes have to know their hurling trade. This was their second county final in three years, but any time during that period they might have won the title. In 1985 they were hot favourites to beat Graigue-Ballycallan, but finished at the wrong end of a 1-12 to 3-4 scoreline. The following year they were shocked in the Southern final by Windgap, who, against all the odds, scored outright victory.

So, after all the disappointment, John Lockes had their hour of glory this season. And as they had always

suggested, they had the hurling in them and produced a commanding display and beat Galmoy by 2-17 to 3-8.

EXTREMELY DIFFICULT

The winners threatened to run away with the game in the opening half. During the first 20 minutes they swept their opponents aside, and with the elegant John Power and Liam Egan lording it at midfield, Galmoy found it extremely difficult to get past this sector, never mind anything else. Points flowed from the Callan men — Michael Wall (2), John McCormack, Oliver Byrne, John O'Dwyer (4) and Liam Egan (2) — and they zoomed 10 points clear. There looked no hope for the Northerners.



The winners gave little or no ground away until the break, and going out for the new half carried a 0-13 to 1-1 advantage. Galmoy started lively after the break, but goals from John O'Dwyer and John Murphy delayed their threatened take-over. During the closing quarter the losers stormed back, and John Lockes took a back seat, but by that time Callan had the trophy in the bag.

After the agony of the previous two years when their hurling suggested they had the makings of a

championship winning team, but ended up with little, John Lockes must have been delighted to break down a barrier that would have proved more difficult to remove with each passing year. There was always the danger that time would run out on them.

At any time county titles are difficult to come by, and it was only fitting that this fine team should sample the glory. Few titles at adult level have been won by the club, which has one of the best organised committees in these parts and boasts one of the finest grounds in this and many a county besides, in John Lockes Park. Now the off-the-field progress of recent times has been matched by on-the-field exploits. And rightly so.

In all, John Lockes won five major Kilkenny hurling titles: junior 1911, 1952 and '87; intermediate in 1935 and senior in 1957. For a club founded way back in 1884, the same year the G.A.A. was founded, no one could say they have taken more than their fair share.

In that context, the victory of this year's team must be lauded. John Lockes never found it easy to win, and even this talented team encountered the same difficulties. However, they persevered and all the pain and suffering must have been worth it in the end.

GREAT SERVICE

Players like Tom Ryan, John McCormack, Michael Power, Jimmy Donovan and E.J. Ryan have given great service to the club, and no matter what happens from here on, in the John Lockes context, they are history makers. The same can be said of the rest of the panel.

The champions' most accomplished



JOHN LOCKES (CALLAN) — Junior Hurling Champions 1987

Back row (l. to r.): John Donovan, John Bergin, E. J. Ryan, Jim Lynch, John Power, Liam Egan, Kieran O'Dwyer, Bosco Bryan, Jim Donovan, Michael ower, John O'Dwyer, Tom Ryan. **Front row** (l. to r.): Philip Comerford, Jim Power, Robert Townsend, Denis O'Sullivan, John Murphy, Mick Lynch, Sean Hogan, John McCormack, Jimmy Condon, Michael Wall, John Walker, Oliver Byrne. **Mascots:** Even Hickey (left), John Wall.

player is, without doubt, John Power, a 21-year-old who is destined for great things with Kilkenny. In the Southern final win over St. Senan's (2-11 to 1-5) he showed the trait of a good one . . . he played really well when the team most needed him. That was nothing new for him. In the county final he virtually ran the match from midfield, and his partner, Liam Egan, was able to take on a roving commission.

The other stars of the historic county final win were Jimmy Donovan, Sean Hogan, who as captain, made a very good acceptance speech afterwards, Michael Wall and John O'Dwyer. At other times new goalkeeper Kieran O'Dwyer and John

McCormack, particularly in the Southern final when he scored 1-3, made handsome contributions to a memorable season for John Lockes.

The Callan men have taken a big step forward into the intermediate grade. They have a generally young team, and given the proper approach and leadership they should enjoy good times in the higher division.

The **John Lockes** team in the county final was: Kieran O'Dwyer, Bosco Bryan, Tom Ryan, Michael Lynch, Jimmy Donovan, Sean Hogan (capt.), Michael Power, John Power, Liam Egan (0-2), John Murphy (1-0), Jim Lynch (0-1), Michael Wall (0-3), Oliver Byrne (0-1), John O'Dwyer (1-

8), John McCormack (0-2). *Subs.:* John Bergin, Jimmy Condon (used); Denis O'Sullivan, E.J. Ryan, Jim Power, Robert Townsend, John Walker, Phil Comerford.

Galmoy: Tom Russell, Lotty Harte (capt.), Stephen Delaney, Jimmy Duggan, Tommy Drennan, Billy Harte, Liam Drennan, Gerry Drennan (0-1), Nicky Grace (0-3), Eddie Cullinane, John Duggan (0-1), Pat Glendon, Michael Glendon (1-2), Jim Bergin (2-1), Willo Phelan. *Subs.:* Frank Grace, Ger Phelan, Tom Ryan, Jarlath Duggan, John Grace, Anthony Bergin, Sean Phelan, Peter Ryan, Phil Phelan, Pat Bergin.

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If it happened, Tom knows about it



Tom Ryall

REALLY, he could be called "Mr. G.A.A." in Kilkenny. If there is a fixture somewhere, he knows about it. If there is a result worth having, he has it. And sure when it comes to knowing who won what, when and where, well, ask him and you will be filled in instantly.

That is the amazing Tom Ryall, Kilkenny's Central Council representative and Co. Board P.R.O., and Graigue-Ballycallan's tireless worker. The Avonmore Creameries employee took on another title this time, master of masters in the G.A.A. national quiz.

Tom won the all-Ireland final of the Mastermind G.A.A. quiz in the West County hotel, Ennis. The competition was organised in conjunction with Féile-na-nGael in Clare, and against two representatives from each province, Tom was best.

The affable quiz master was Micheal O Muircheartaigh of R.T.E. All eight competitors got the same 30 questions

first, and they had to write their answers down. The top four qualified for the final proper.

Even here Tom proved best, and answered 18 questions correctly. He went into the final against Jim Hally (Waterford), Joe Woods (Clare), and Gerald Corbett (Galway).

Each competitor then had two minutes of general knowledge questions on the G.A.A., and the scores here were Tom Ryall and Joe Woods 9 each; Gerald Corbett 7; Jim Hally 5.

IN HIS ELEMENT

These marks were then carried forward to the final round, which consisted of questions on the contestants own county. Sure Tom Ryall was in his element here. It was he

who researched, and wrote, the book on the history of the G.A.A. in the county entitled: 'Kilkenny: The G.A.A. Story 1884-1984'. If it happened, Tom knew about it. If someone achieved something, he knew about it.

At the end of this round Tom was a clear winner from Jim Hally. Tom brought his score to 18; Hally got to 14; Corbett to 12 and Woods to 14.

All the competitors received Galway crystal, and Tom Ryall won a free week-end at the all-Ireland hurling final. This included travelling expenses, hotel accommodation for two days, and £50 spending money.

Jack Lynch, former Taoiseach and former Cork hurling and football star, presented trophies to the competitors.

The Almighty was with Cork in '31

IT PAYS to have the Almighty on your side, even when playing hurling.

It would appear the Mighty One was on Cork's side in that never to be forgotten all-Ireland senior hurling final of 1931.

Anyone who has ever heard about hurling, must have been told about this one. It went to three games before a decision was reached.

The first day Cork and Kilkenny drew 1-6 each. The second day the score was 2-5 each. And in the second replay Cork won by 5-8 to 3-4.

That final, and the exciting action it produced, sparked off a new enthusiasm among sports lovers in Ireland. It lifted hurling into the big league.

An attendance of 24,460 was attracted to the first meeting. Such was the interest aroused by that draw, that 33,124 packed Croke Park the second day. And for the third meeting, which was played on November 1, not a very inviting time of the year to be out in the weather, 31,935 saw the Leesiders snatch victory.

Those games were the talk of the nation for months afterwards, and the Central Council saw fit to present both teams with watches in recognition of their great feats.

FAVOURS THROUGH INTERCESSION

It could be said, Kilkenny did well to even bring the final to three games, bearing in mind certain things.

You see a little Catholic

magazine called *The Messenger* told a thing or two about that final. This was a magazine that circulated largely through schools and featured letters of thanksgiving for favours received through intercession.

The issue which followed the third game in 1931 contained a letter of thanksgiving to the Sacred Heart for Cork's success in the hurling final. Sure in the circumstances Kilkenny hadn't a hope!

Another interesting piece about that final was the reaction of a Dublin High Court Judge, who was an avid hurling follower. He was so moved by what he had seen and enjoyed in the two draws that he suggested there should not be a third game. He thought the

honours should be shared by the two counties.

The Kilkenny team in the second replay was — Jim Dermody, Paddy Phelan, Peter O'Reilly, Dinny Treacy, Tommy Carroll, Podge Byrne, Eddie Doyle, Tommy Leahy, Eddie Byrne, Jack Duggan, Jerry Leahy, Dick Morrissey, Dan Dunne, Mick Larkin, Mattie Power. Sub: M. Murphy; captain, Lory Meagher was a non-starter because of a rib injury, and Paddy Larkin was also sidelined through injury.

Cork: J. Coughlan, M. Madden, P. Collins, E. O'Connor, D. Barry-Murphy, J. O'Regan, T. Barry, J. Hurley, M. O'Connell, E. Coughlan (captain), P. O'Grady, P. Aherne, M. Aherne, W. Clancy, P. Delea. Sub: G. Garrett.

Glenmore never gave up hope, and they ended top of the pile

THE HISTORIC first victory of Glenmore in the Kilkenny senior hurling championship this year underlined one important reminder for all clubs in the county — you should never give up hope. While there is hope in the heart, anything is possible, as the Southerners found to their delight this season.

TWICE their faith in themselves was tested severely, and twice they showed true grit and courage. And now the club that in years past was better known for their football triumphs, enter their Centenary year atop the hurling pile in Kilkenny. What a way to celebrate a 100th birthday!

Before they even entered the knock-out stages of the championship, Glenmore could have given up the ghost. They got things all wrong during one preliminary round match and surprisingly lost to the Fenians (Johnstown). That was bad enough, but they had an opportunity to atone for that error and force a three way play-off if they managed to beat St. Martin's in the concluding preliminary round match. Glenmore failed. The championship looked finished for them for at least one more year.

However, the following evening the Fenians had to play struggling Rower-Inistioge. A Fenians win would have shot them through to the semis. A win for the Rower would take them clear of the relegation zone. The Rower got the verdict. That result revived Glenmore's season, and so through a curious turn of events, they got the fourth spot in the semi-finals.

Now it would have been understandable had self doubt crept into the minds of some Glenmore people because of the way they made the shake-up.

"If we couldn't win the semi-final place for ourselves, how could we hope to win the championship", could have been a thought in one or two minds. It wasn't. Glenmore's self belief never wavered.

OUR YEAR

As selectors, Paul Fitzgerald recalled after the county final win: "There was something deep down

that told us this was our year. Even when the results went against us, something told us we would still survive. Somehow we did".

The men from the deep South survived, but their greatest test of character was still ahead. In the semi-final they ousted James Stephens. It wasn't a great match, more a struggle between two teams with weak forwards. 'Stephens were beaten by 0-14 to 0-10. Glenmore's favourite hurling son, Christy Heffernan, missed the match because of a thumb injury.

The county final was a showdown between Shamrocks (Ballyhale) and Glenmore. This was a repeat of the 1985 final. Shamrocks were after their 7th title.

With nine minutes remaining, the Shamrocks had dashed back from being 11 points down at one stage to draw level at 3-9 each, and they looked poised to surge on to victory. In the region of 11,000 people at Nowlan Park accepted a now familiar story. Another glorious Shamrocks comeback. Another glorious Shamrocks win. But it didn't happen.

At that moment Glenmore faced their greatest test of character in decades, perhaps ever. A game they had dominated for long stages, and led at half-time by 3-6 to 1-4, was suddenly totally out of their control. And they were panicking. No one had given up hope. Everyone was dashing around putting in loads of effort. But there was no direction or cohesion to their play. They were there for the taking.

PUT BRAKES ON

Then up popped Christy Heffernan at midfield. He had done duty at corner-forward, but now he was needed for more strenuous work — a match saving effort. He produced it. He made two inspiring catches. He threw out two good passes. One led to

a goal for John Flynn, via additional work by Ray and John Heffernan. That score put the brakes on the Shamrocks charge. They were halted in their tracks, and another nice point from Ray Heffernan finished an historic scoreline:

Glenmore 4-10; Shamrocks 3-9.

For sheer drama and sustained action, this was one of the all time great finals. The spirit of the game was always good. In the end Christy Heffernan's experience proved invaluable. Glenmore's general tenacity was equally important. Perhaps, to some degree, age caught up on a few of the Shamrocks players.

In some ways comparison could be made with the 1985 final. On that occasion, two goals approaching half-time put Glenmore firmly in control. Later when the Shamrocks charged back, Glenmore were unable to hold them.

"We were determined not to let that happen again", saviour of the match, Christy Heffernan said afterwards. "At half-time everyone was anxious, but very determined. No one was confident. The win was just fantastic. This was our best performance of the year and everyone played his heart out".

Never was a truer word spoken. All the Glenmore players were on a high for the match. During the opening half centreforward, Michael Phelan couldn't be held. He had the Shamrocks defence reeling, and he always used the ball intelligently. Indeed, the work rate of the whole attack was surprising. What was unusual was that the sextet chased like defenders. If an opponent got the ball, Mick O'Connor, John Flynn or someone else was quickly in pursuit.

At the back the champions had uncompromising performers in Willie

and Eddie O'Connor, and Seamus Boyle turned himself into a shadow for the afternoon and never left his man's side. A good performance in the final from Pat Barron was nothing new. He had a terrific season, and if he can build on it, he could be seen in the Kilkenny colours in the not-too-distant future. The other midfielder, Des Heffernan, who in the past played some of his club hurling in Wicklow, completed a duo that found few masters during a hectic season.

BENEFICIAL ASSOCIATION

"It is hard to put into words what this win means for our club", commented chairman, Tom Ryan, who during his three year term saw the Glenmore senior team contest two finals and a semi-final. "Now that we have made the breakthrough, I hope we can build on it".

For team trainer, Martin Óg Morrissey the final was most unusual indeed. In 1985 he was in the Shamrocks camp, and plotted the downfall of Glenmore. This time he reversed the roles. His association with Glenmore has been a most beneficial one. He has been with them when they won Kilkenny junior, intermediate and senior hurling championships. What a record!

As expected, Glenmore wallowed in the success. They were entitled to, they had waited a long time for it. But once the initial euphoria died down thoughts turned to the future. They liked the feeling of being champions, and they want more.

"We don't want to be one hit wonders", a prominent club official observed. Hopes for next year and the years coming after were already beginning to emerge.

The Glenmore team in the county final was: Michael Deady, Seamus Boyle, Paddy Murphy, Eddie O'Connor, Liam Walsh, Willie O'Connor, Des Ennett, Des Heffernan, Pat Barron, Ray Heffernan (1-8), Michael Phelan (0-1), John Flynn (1-0), Christy Heffernan (1-0), John Heffernan, Michael O'Connor (1-1). *Reserves:* John Kirwan, Eddie Aylward, Paddy O'Connor, Michael Phelan, Michael Aylward, Pat Phelan, Paschal Phelan, Francis Kirwan, Tom Phelan, Denis Mullally.

Shamrocks: Jimmy Lawlor, Michael Fennelly, Frank Holohan, Watty Phelan, Paul Phelan (0-1), Maurice Mason, Seán Fennelly, Ger Fennelly, Michael Dempsey (0-1), Dermot Fennelly, Brendan Fennelly (0-2), Tommy Phelan, Michael Kelly, Liam Fennelly (2-1), Kevin Fennelly (1-4). *Reserves:* Seamus Grace, Seán Lawlor, Dick Walsh, Pat Phelan, Dick Aylward, Mick Kearney, Seán Reid (injured).

Up one week, down the next

GLENMORE may have been up in the air after their dazzling win in the Kilkenny senior hurling championship, but within a week they were brought crashing back to earth.

The following Saturday in Portlaoise, the Kilkenny champions faced the home side in the Leinster club championship. The visitors didn't play that well, they hit 17 wides over the hour, and were beaten by 0-14 to 1-8.

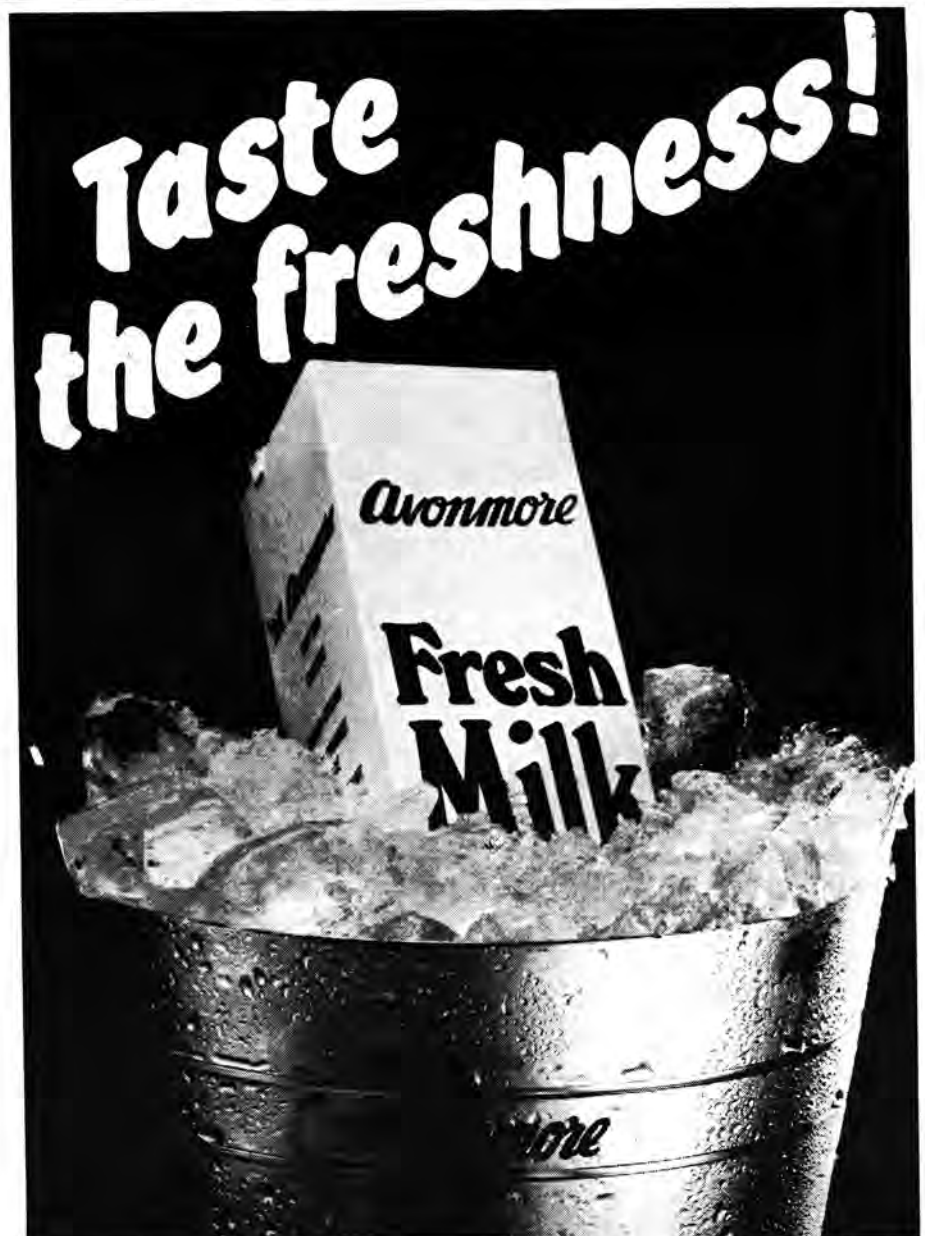
Glenmore started without Christy Heffernan, who damaged a suspect thumb he carried into the county final, John Heffernan, who had a broken nose, and corner-forward, John Flynn, who arrived late.

Portlaoise ran them out of it in the opening half, but for all their good hurling, the winners just managed an interval lead of 0-8 to 0-3.

Glenmore continued to miss chances after the break, but still they cut the deficit to a pair of points, and looked capable of getting back on terms. Then they gave away a stupid free at midfield, and Portlaoise' best player, Billy Bohane pointed to inspire them once more.

Into the last quarter Glenmore were still fighting to wipe out the deficit and Christy Heffernan was forced into action. He lifted the Glenmore effort, but he hadn't the time to save the match.

The Kilkenny champions had their chance to win, even without playing well. They missed the boat, despite the best efforts of Pat Barron, Paddy Murphy, Michael Phelan, Eddie and Willie O'Connor, Liam Walsh and late in the match, Christy Heffernan.



Shamrocks as good in defeat as in victory

WHERE to from here could well have been the thoughts going through the minds of Shamrocks (Ballyhale) officials in the wake of their senior hurling final defeat by gallant Glenmore.

Shamrocks, Kilkenny's most successful club in modern times, this year contested their ninth final in 10 years. An amazing run in itself, and the fact they won six Kilkenny championships, and two all-Irelands (1981 and 1984), in that time bears testimony to the class of their players.

Some reckon the November 1 county final was a last stand for one or two of the Shamrocks players who have served the club loyally down the years. Perhaps. Age, and the wear and tear of years of hurling at the highest level caught up on a few of the Ballyhale side in the final, and when it came to mustering one last push, they just hadn't got it left in them.

For all that, the Shamrocks went down with all guns blazing. They were as good in defeat this year as they had been during some of their half a dozen championship wins. What other team in Ireland would have taken up the chase to pull back 11 points with a little over 20 minutes of a county final left? Things must go wrong to fall 11 points behind in the first place, but then to think you could put it all right in 20 minutes takes some effort of mind and body.

Yet that was precisely what the Shamrocks did. They convinced themselves, somehow, that all was not lost, and for 13 dazzling minutes they swept their opponents off their feet and got back on level terms. It was a mighty effort. It nearly ended with another championship in the bag. But when Glenmore worked another goal to bring the Shamrocks seven scores in-a-row run to a halt, the losers

just could not find enough in them to battle back.

DIDN'T COME BACK

Not that they raised the white flag immediately. That is not the Shamrocks way. In the closing stages of the match they were awarded a 21 yards free to the right of the town end goal. Kevin Fennelly blasted for the big score. It didn't come. Shamrocks didn't come back. They were beaten in the end by four points. For the second consecutive year they lost the final.

"Had we won this one, it would have been our greatest victory", club chairman, Michael Hoyne conceded. "We were disappointed to lose, but at least there was some consolation in the fact we played very well".

In some ways what the Shamrocks achieved in getting to the final was amazing. On county final day, they had 21 players listed in their panel. In truth, they worked off a lot less. Michael Fennelly, for most of the year a centreback, carried a leg injury in the semi-final and final. His was a success of mind over pain. Maurice Mason was hardly involved during the season, but yet when thrown in at the deep end in the semi-final against St. Martin's he survived. He even starred.

That type of passion thrust Shamrocks to the top of club hurling in Kilkenny and Ireland during the past decade. Without doubt, they will now shed one or two of the players who helped them to so much glory but the person who would write them off completely would be a fool.

One of the losing semi-finalists, James Stephens must have a lot of hard thinking to do. Some of their long servers didn't get it together in the semi-final against Glenmore. The question is — should they give up or go on? Evidence of the main body of the



championship would suggest the latter course of action.

GONE NO FURTHER

In recent times Stephens have lost talented players like Eddie O'Neill, Martin Forristal and John Scott, who all left Ireland in search of work. That trio could have made a difference in the semi-final.

But the trickle of players away to other parts has left Stephens in exactly the position they were three years ago, with a lot of young players mixed in with the older hands. Through no fault of their own, they have gone no further up the road towards adding to their six senior championship wins.

A good blend of seasoned and young players gave the other losing semi-finalists, St. Martin's great hopes this year. Just one point finished their season. They were beaten by 3-4 (13) to 1-9 (12) by the Shamrocks.

Martin's must still be regretting the happenings here. In the opening half they took their opponents apart. At half-time they led by 0-8 to 1-1. In the second half they allowed their opponents slow down and confine the play. They were out-foxed.

The great work put in during the year by Jim Moran, Johnny Brennan, Eamon Morrissey, Bobby Shore, Ciaran Hayes, John Morrissey and company looked like getting the reward of a county final place at least. One point, and just one defeat in the championship ended their hopes. Even Glenmore did worse than that. They were beaten twice.

LATE FORM GOOD

Defending champions, Clara were in a really tough

group with Shamrocks and James Stephens. They missed the semi-final cut, despite a few top class displays. In their game against Mooncoin, they shot over 20 points. Not bad at all. They paid the penalty for a few bad errors.

Their hurling near the end of the championship was very good, and they looked to be running into top form. Exciting forward, Stephen Whearty was showing enormous potential, and with other good score grabbers like Harry and Lester Ryan and Anthony Prendergast they had the power where a lot of others lacked it . . . in the forwards.

The Fenians (Johnstown) can reflect on a year of progress. The addition of Pat McCormack helped them. With the door to the semi-finals wide open, they slipped-up. Ger Henderson didn't start in that crucial game because of a hand injury sustained in the all-Ireland final, but by the time he joined in, the Rower-Inistioge had settled and were not going to be beaten. The Fenians relied too much on Joe Ryan and Billy Fitzpatrick for scores. At least they took one step forward.

Conahy Shamrocks put in a few promising performances, and in their first season back in the top flight, suggested they could have the makings of something big in the future. They have youth on their side.

Thomastown, Rower-Inistioge, Erin's Own, Mooncoin and Graignamanagh struggled. Graig showed they had room to improve and the Rower put a few useful performances together. The 'Town just didn't put it in on the training field, and then it didn't happen for them on match days. Erin's Own went back on their promise of the previous 12 months, and Mooncoin plunged into deep trouble.

GLENMORE - Kilkenny Senior Hurling Champions 1987



BACK ROW (l. to r.): Ray Heffernan, Des Ennett, Willie O'Connor, Paldy Murphy, Michael Phelan, Liam Walsh, Pat Barron, Des Heffernan.
FRONT ROW (l. to r.): John Flynn, Michael Deady, Mick O'Connor, Cristy Heffernan (Capt.), John Heffernan, Seamus Boyle, Eddie O'Connor.

Get players into field and standards will improve

A FEW weeks ago the Co. Board discussed the state of minor hurling in the county, and emphasis was placed on falling standards. While there was a lot of talk, not one concrete proposal was put forward on how to improve matters.

THE only way of raising standards is to get players to spend more time in the training field practicing the skills of the game. The minor championship this year in the Roinn A grade was the best for a number of years. The finals of the championship and league were excellent. As well, a number of very close games were played in earlier rounds. Games that come to mind are Graigue-Ballycallan v. Dicksboro; Graigue-Ballycallan v. James Stephens; Erins Own v. Young Irelands; Erins Own v. James Stephens; Thomastown v. Graignamanagh and Thomastown v. Piltown (draw) in the championship. The Young Irelands v. Graigue-Ballycallan league match was one of the most exciting for years. Next year is expected to be just as good. Teams like James Stephens, Fenians, Young Irelands, Graigue-Ballycallan, Dicksboro, Graignamanagh and Thomastown will all be hoping for success in the championship.

Erins Own (Castlecomer) created history by taking the Roinn A title for the first time. Under-16 champions two years ago, they beat St. Lactain's (Freshford) in the first round (4-17 to 1-6). They had to battle hard to hold off the challenge of Young Irelands (Gowran) in the second round. A good start was half the battle, and they got through by 3-10 to 2-9. They qualified for the county final by beating James Stephens in the Northern final (1-9 to 2-2).

Thomastown, as so often in the past, won in the South. They beat Graignamanagh in the first round (3-17 to 2-12). In the South Final they drew with Piltown, 1-11 to 2-8. In the replay they won by 4-10 to 0-6.

Sustained efforts paid off for the North Kilkenny boys in the county final. They pulled away in the closing quarter for a comfortable 1-10 to 0-6 win. The vital goal by substitute Christy Brennan came four minutes from time. The sides were level at the interval at 0-4 each, although Erins Own had the better of matters. The

sides were level 0-6 each in the 38th minute. Points by John Buggy, James Brennan (2, frees) and Buggy edged Comer ahead. Christy Brennan's goal clinched the issue.

STYLIST

The winners had a real stylist in James Brennan, who ran the game from midfield. He won the man of the match award sponsored by Hennessy Sport. He got great assistance from the hard working Victor Smith. Others who did well were Liam Slevin in goal, John Delaney, Michael and Patsy Brophy, John Buggy in the closing stages, and Tom O'Dwyer.

Thomastown had stars in Adrian Finan, a superb half-back, Damien Walsh, a rock solid full-back, Billy Murphy, Michael Lannon, Paul Treacy, and Billy O'Keeffe.

Erins Own: Liam Slevin, John Delaney, Michael Brophy (capt), Peter Breen, John Donovan, Patsy Brophy, Cormac Young, James Brennan (0-6), Victor Smith (0-1), John Buggy (0-2), Tom O'Dwyer (0-1), Willie Holden, Eddie Connery, Florence Brennan, Joe Meagher. Sub: Christy Brennan (1-0), Cathal Phillips.

Thomastown: Willie Holden, Sean Óg O'Sullivan, Damien Walsh, Billy Murphy, Adrian Finan, Michael Lannon, Pat O'Keeffe, Kevin Maher, Joe Bookle, Willie O'Keeffe (0-1), Martin Murray (0-1), Eoin O'Neill (0-1), Martin Donnelly, Ronan Blanchfield, Paul Treacy (0-3). Sub: Matt Grace.

Erins Own missed the double when they were defeated by Graigue-Ballycallan in a brilliant league final. Graigue won by 2-9 to 0-10, and took the John Tobin memorial trophy for the first time. The sides were level at the interval 0-5 each. Erins Own had a great chance of a goal in the first minute of the second half, but missed. A wonderful goal by Adrian Ronan in the 38th. minute set the winners on the road to victory. The losers narrowed the gap to a point. Another goal, this time by Tomás Comerford was the straw that finally broke the camel's

back, and Erin's Own could not recover.

The winners had an outstanding player in centre-back John Teehan, who was unbeatable. Other prominent players were Conor Manogue, Mark O'Brien, Padraig McCluskey, Noel Maher, Adrian Ronan and Edward Teehan. James Brennan was again a star for the losers. Others who looked impressive were John Delaney, Michael Brophy, Patsy Brophy, Tom O'Dwyer, Victor Smith, Peter Breen and Florence Brennan.

Graigue-Ballycallan: Conor Manogue, Michael Comerford, Mark O'Brien, Pat Purcell, Padraig McCluskey, John Teehan (capt.), Eamon Egan, Joe Delaney, Noel Maher, Joseph Brennan (0-1), Edward Teehan (0-1), Tomás Comerford (1-0), Maurice Ronan, Adrian Ronan (1-7), Tom McGrath. Subs: Patrick Dalton, Willie Egan.

Erins Own: Liam Slevin, John Delaney, Michael Brophy, Peter Breen, John Donovan, Patsy Brophy, Cormac Young, James Brennan, Victor Smith, John Buggy, Tom O'Dwyer, Willie Holden, Joe Meagher, Florence Brennan, Eddie Connery. Subs: Christy Brennan, Colm Meagher.

The minor B hurling championship was won by the Fenians, who proved far superior to the other teams in this grade. In the final they beat Shamrocks by 4-16 to 1-3. They beat St. Martin's in the first round by 5-10 to 0-1. In the Northern final they got their closest game against St. Patrick's (Ballyragget). The Fenians came through by 1-12 to 2-3. Shamrocks beat John Lockes (Callan) in the first round (2-14 to 1-9). In a closely contested game they ousted Slieverue. Glenmore were beaten in the Southern final by 3-12 to 3-5.

The Shamrocks got a tonic start in the opening half. The Fenians played brilliant hurling and went into a 1-8 to 1-2 interval lead. The hurling in this half was magnificent. Helped by two soft goals early in the second period the Fenians pulled away for an easy win. The winners had a star in Liam Drennan, who took a lot of sting out of the Shamrocks team.

Jimmy Brennan gave a delightful display at midfield. Others who impressed were Tom Henderson, Anthony McEvoy, Jim Dollard, Brian

Ryan, who had a great second half, Ger Brennan and Joe Corcoran. The Shamrocks best players were Seamus Ryan, Edward Mason, Tommy Shefflin, Jimmy Lawlor, Brendan Mason and Bobby Aylward.

Fenians: Melvyn Moriarty, Dan Costigan, Tom Henderson, Gerry Quinlan, James Carroll, Liam Drennan (0-1), Anthony McEvoy, Jimmy Brennan (0-8), Jim Dollard (capt.), Ger Brennan (1-2), Brian Ryan (0-1), Matty Walsh (0-1), Kieran McEvoy (0-2), Joe Corcoran (2-0), Michael Phelan (1-1).

Shamrocks: John Shefflin, P. Phelan, Seamus Mason, Edward Mason, P. Lennon, Seamus Ryan, P. Walsh, Tommy Shefflin (0-2), Bobby Aylward, P. Walsh, Jimmy Lawlor (0-1), S. O'Sullivan, Liam Fitzsimons, Seamus Fowler, Brendan Mason (1-0).

TOP TEAM

Tullaroan were the top team in Roinn C. They completed the Championship/League double. Tullaroan were a class above the other teams, and might have been good enough for the B grade, just as Fenians might well have been good enough for the A section. Tullaroan beat Blacks and Whites in their first game. In the Northern final they had six points to spare over the Harry Ryan trained Barrow Rangers (0-10 to 0-4).

Mullinavat came through the South and beat Tullagher-Rosbercon and Dunnamaggin in the Southern final (3-8 to 1-4).

Tullaroan laid the foundations of victory in the first half, after which they led by 1-7 to 1-0. They eventually ran out 5-14 to 3-1 winners. The champions best players were Philip Doheny, Seoirse Butler, Joe Norton, Jimmy Walton, Tom Hennessy, Noel Treacy and three goal hero, John Cummins. Pick of the losers were Eamon Law, a brilliant goalkeeper, Patrick Aylward, Graham O'Brien, John Delehunty, Billy Walsh and their best player was Billy Carroll.

Tullaroan: Michael Dooley, Richard Delaney, Laurence Cummins, Ray Keogh, Philip Doheny, Joe Norton (0-1), Seoirse Butler, Jimmy Walton, capt. (0-5), Paul Hennessy, Tom Hennessy (0-3), Noel Treacy (0-3), John Cummins (3-0), Paul Norton, Danny Crosby (2-0), Ger Dunne (0-2). Subs: Billy Cuddihy, John Delaney.

Mullinavat: Eamon Law, W. Walsh, Richard Fitzgerald, Graham O'Brien, Patrick Aylward, Tom Conway, John Delehunty, Francis Conway, B. Cass, Billy Walsh, Billy Carroll (2-0), M. Walsh, Peter Phelan (0-1), Donie McDonald (1-0). Subs: P. Carew, P. O'Keefe.

Tullaroan had it much tougher in

the league final when they beat Blacks and Whites by 3-11 to 2-7. At the interval they led by 0-6 to 0-2. They increased their lead in the second half to 3-10 to 0-6. Blacks and Whites tried to the very end and scored two fine late goals. Best for the winners were Richard Delaney, Joe Norton, Jimmy Walton, Philip Doheny, Paul Hennessy, Ger Dunne and Danny Crosby. The losers had one of the best players on view in Pat O'Grady (Curragh) at full-back. John O'Grady had a great game in goal. Others who played well were Pat O'Grady (Lofty), who had a great second half, John Lawlor, Peter Farrell, Martin Farrell and Tommy Doyle.

Tullaroan: Michael Dooley, Richard Delaney, Laurence Cummins, Ray Keogh, Philip Doheny, Joe Norton (0-2), Seoirse Butler, Jimmy Walton, capt. (1-4), Paul Hennessy (0-1), Tom Hennessy (0-1), Noel Treacy, John Cummins, Paul Norton, Ger Dunne (0-2), Danny Crosby (2-1). Subs: John Delaney.

Blacks & Whites: John O'Grady, Peter Farrell, Pat O'Grady (Curragh), David Savage, Kieran Phelan, John Lawlor (0-1), Richard Dowling, Martin Farrell, Bobby Doyle, J. O'Brien, Pat O'Grady (Mount Loftus), L. Aylward, Tony Farrell, Tommy Doyle, J. Ryan. Subs: D. Murphy, M. Doyle.

Hardy Southern battlers



ST. SENAN'S (Kilmacow) — defeated Southern Junior Hurling Finalists.

ERIN'S OWN (Castlecomer) — *Kilkenny County Minor Hurling Champions 1987*



BACK ROW (l. to r.): Gerry Meally, Cormack Young, John Delaney, John Donovan, Peter Breen, Eddie Connery, Florence Brennan, Victor Smith, Patsy Brophy, Larry O'Neill (manager). FRONT ROW (l. to r.): Joe Maher, Michael Brophy (capt.), Liam Slevin, Tom Dwyer, John Buggy, Willie Holden, James Brennan.

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A name at last for 'Stephens Grounds

THEIR home grounds were officially named, and their five All-Stars were honoured when the James Stephens club held their Centenary celebrations in July.

On their 100th birthday, 'Stephens felt it was time to tie up some loose ends, and one of the things they did was give a proper name to their club grounds, which had been generally known as Larchfield, the same name as the housing estate in the area.

So the city's newest G.A.A. grounds was officially named James Stephens park. The official opening was performed by former President of the G.A.A., Dr. Paddy Buggy (Slieverue), and Fr. Brian Flynn, Adm., St. Patrick's blessed the grounds.

The opening of the

grounds climaxed a weekend of festivities. The celebrations started with a get-together of all county and all-Ireland medal winners from the club. In all, 110 certificates of appreciation were presented to 'Stephens men at this celebration.

The highlight here was a special presentation to the club's five Bank of Ireland All-Star hurlers — Phil 'Fan' Larkin, Liam 'Chunky' O'Brien, Mick Crotty, Brian Cody and Joe Hennessy. The mementos, which carried a Celtic scripted citation explaining why the players were picked as All-Stars, were designed by club member, Martin Ryan. R.T.E. personality, Mick Dunne, joined in these celebrations and made the presentation to the 'Stars.

During what turned out to be a week-end of fun, an

under-14 hurling blitz was organised, and 'Stephens played a challenge against the famous Glen Rovers (Cork) after the grounds were officially opened.



MANY WINS

In their time 'Stephens won six Kilkenny senior hurling championships (1935, 1937, 1969, 1975, 1976, 1981); two all-Ireland club titles (1976 and '82); three junior hurling

championships (1924, 1929, 1955); one senior football championship (1976, as The Village) and a special junior hurling championship (1986). There were many more famous wins besides, and during 1986 the club won an incredible nine Kilkenny championships at various levels.

James Stephens Park contains over five acres of land. The grounds are fully enclosed, and include full sized and juvenile pitches.

The club's building programme began in 1974, but a bad fire in 1978 destroyed most of their work. Immediately an ambitious rebuilding programme was commenced, and now the club boasts spacious dressing-rooms and showers, bar, squash courts, functions room, kitchen and other ancillary facilities.



MOONCOIN — Runners-up in the final of the 1987 Yoplait All-Ireland Hurling Sevens Championship.

Back row (l. to r.): Sean Murray (Dairyland Ltd.), John Mahon, Mick Walsh, Jimmy Holden, Lar Power, Noel Doyle (selector), Eugene Dunphy, Louis Marie (Dairyland Ltd.). **Front row** (l. to r.): Bob McMunn (Kilkenny hurling follower), Dominic Connolly, Jimmy Dunphy, Eddie Crowley, Joe Murphy, Mick Corcoran, Joe Dunphy.

Team of the Year

'Irelands equal record

YOUNG IRELANDS (Gowran) finished as the team of the year in the under-16 grade. They equalled the record previously held by James Stephens, Mooncoin and Piltown by taking all four under 16 crowns. In their first year in Roinn A they took the hurling league and championship, while their footballers won the Roinn B league and championship.

MOOINCOIN pushed 'Irelands all the way in the championship final. Gowran eventually won by 3-7 to 2-7. It was 'Irelands first under-16 Roinn A title. Two years earlier in the under-14 final, 'Irelands beat Mooncoin by two points. 'Irelands led by 3-5 to 1-3 at the interval.

A goal for Mooncoin by Michael Quirke, followed by two points from line balls by Brian Cody, set the stage for a grandstand finish.

Best for the winners were Pat O'Neill, although not allowed to dominate as he often does; James Bryan, Jack Carey, Robert Middleton, James McDermott and Charlie Carter. Mooncoin had good players in Brendan Rothwell, who made a couple of great saves, Kevin Grant, Alan Nolan in the second half, Brian Cody, Eoin Dunphy and Michael Quirke.

Young Irelands: Joe Walsh, Tom Fenlon, James Bryan, Denis Dunphy,

Jack Carey, Pat O'Neill (0-1), Pat Farrell, Robert Middleton, James McDermott, Joe Lennon (0-2), Ciaran Phelan (0-1), Aidan Roche, Martin Carey, Charlie Carter (2-3), David O'Neill (1-0). *Sub:* Ciarán Carey.

Mooncoin: Brendan Rothwell, Tomás McCarthy, Alan Nolan, John Walsh, Andy Phelan, Kevin Grant, Pat Hogan, Eoin Dunphy, Brian Cody (0-2), Fintan O'Keefe, Michael Quirke (2-2), Mick Comerford (0-2), Alan Fitzpatrick (0-1), Micheál Kinsella, Brendan Murray.

SWEET VICTORY

Young Irelands scored a sweet victory in the league final. They beat James Stephens by 6-12 to 2-6. The winners played their best hurling of the year in the first half and powered into an interval lead of 3-6 to 0-2. 'Stephens dominated the opening 20 minutes of the second half and had the winners in trouble when they narrowed the gap to 3-7 to 2-5.

The switching of Pat O'Neill to centre-back steadied the winners. They scored 3-5 in reply to a point for the losers to run out convincing winners. In addition to Pat O'Neill, who was the star, the winners had excellent players in James Bryan, Ciarán Phelan, James McDermott, Joe Lennon and Charlie Carter, who had a field day at full-forward. The losers' best were Niall Lahart, Paul Brennan, Brian McGrath, Tadgh O'Donoghue and Jim Cashin.

Young Irelands: Joe Walsh, Denis Dunphy, Ciarán Phelan (0-1), Robert Middleton (1-0), James McDermott (0-1), Joe Lennon, Aidan Roche, Pat O'Neill (0-5), Ciaran Carey (1-0), Martin Carey (2-0), Charlie Carter (2-4), David O'Neill (0-1).

James Stephens: Niall Lahart, Paul Cody, Sean Morrissey, Brian McGrath, Joe Ronan, Tadgh Donoghue, Declan Power (1-0), Jim Cashin, Paul Brennan (0-1), Kieran Conroy (0-1), Billy Whelan, Noel Brennan (1-0), Phil Larkin (0-4), John McGrath, J. Canning.

In the Roinn B football championship, 'Irelands had a close call against Muckalee. They won by 0-10 to 1-4. They over-ran Tullagher-Rosbercon in the championship final (3-14 to 1-1). At the interval they led by 2-8 to no score.

Young Irelands: Michael Phelan, James Bryan, Pat O'Neill, James Byrne, Ciaran Phelan, Jack Carey, R. O'Donnell, Robert Middleton (0-2), Thomas



YOUNG IRELANDS (GOWRAN) — Under-16 Hurling Champions (Roinn A)

Back row (l. to r.): James McDermott, James Bryan, Thomas Fenlon, Charlie Carter, David O'Neill, James Byrne, Ciaran Phelan, Jack Carey, Eamon Conconnan, Joe Farrell, Martin Treacy, Rory O'Donnell, Colm Curran, Pat O'Neill. **Front row** (l. to r.): Martin Carey, Aidan Roche, Joe Lennon, Joe Walsh, Patrick Farrell, Denis Dunphy, Robert Middleton, John Drennan, Kieran Carey, Declan Gibbons, Gary Farrell.



YOUNG IRELANDS (GOWRAN) — Under-16 Football League and Championship Roinn B Champions

Back row (l. to r.): Pat O'Neill, Aidan Roche, Rory O'Donnell, Colm Curran, James Byrne, James McDermott, James Bryan, David O'Neill, Charlie Carter, Thomas Fenlon, Martin Treacy, Ciaran Phelan, Jack Carey, Gary Farrell. **Front row** (l. to r.): Martin Carey, Declan Gibbons, Joe Farrell, Kieran Carey, Eamon Concannon, Michael Phelan, Joe Walsh, Denis Dunphy, Robert Middleton, Joe Lennon, Patrick Farrell, John Drennan.

Fenlon, Joe Walsh (0-2), James McDermott (0-3), Joe Lennon (0-1), David O'Neill (1-2), Aidan Roche (0-2), Charlie Carter (0-2).

Tullagher-Rosbercon: M. Bookle, B. Molloy, D. Hennessy, T. Power, R. Barron, Tom Doherty, E. Bookle, S. Cummins, T. O'Driscoll, T. Murphy, D. Doolin, B. Glendon, T. Murphy, T. Mullaly (1-0). *Sub:* L. Walsh (0-1).

CLEAN SWEEP

Young Irelands completed the clean sweep when they won the football league final (Roinn B) by topping Graignamanagh (1-16 to 2-4). The winners got a tonic start. David O'Neill goaled within a minute. At the interval they led by 1-4 to 0-4. Midway through the second half Graig had a brace of goals from T.P. Grace and John O'Shea to level the scores 1-7 (YI) to 2-4 (G). The winners dominated the last quarter and hit nine unanswered points.

Young Irelands: Michael Phelan, Jack Carey, James Bryan, Denis Dunphy, James Byrne, Pat O'Neill, Ciarán Phelan, Robert Middleton (0-2), Thomas Fenlon (0-1), Joe Lennon (0-3), James McDermott (0-2), Joe Walsh (0-2), David O'Neill (1-1), Charlie Carter (0-5), Martin Carey. *Subs:* R. O'Donnell, Aidan Roche, C. Curran.

Graignamanagh: Paul KIELTY, Liam Doyle, Donal Murphy, Rory Bolger, Matt Blanchfield, Kevin Corbett, Rory Flood, Charlie Byrne, T.P. Grace (1-4), P. Doyle, Philip Gahan, Alan Byrne, Michael Dowling, John O'Shea, D. Reddy. *Subs:* Des Gannon.

Graignamanagh had better luck in the hurling championship. They captured the league and championship — Roinn B. They beat St. Martin's in the championship by 1-14 to 2-4.

Martin's, after playing with the strong breeze, led by 1-4 to 0-3 at the interval. Graig levelled the scores in the 37th minute. After the Southerners had gone three points ahead, Martin's fought back to level the scores with a goal from Diarmuid Lawlor. The winners added seven points before the finish.

Charlie Byrne and T.P. Grace were outstanding for the winners. P. Stapleton, Paul Doyle and Dermot Comerford did best for the losers.

Graignamanagh: Paul KIELTY, Liam Doyle, Rory Bolger, Matt Blanchfield, Charlie Byrne, Kevin Corbett, John O'Shea, Nigel Bolger, Philip Gahan (0-1), Donal Murphy (1-1), Pat Doyle (0-1), T.P. Grace (0-9), Alan Byrne (0-1), M. Dowling, Des Gannon.

St. Martin's: Dermot Comerford, Caleb Daly, P. Doyle, M. Lawlor, P. Stapleton, Paul O'Neill, Nicholas Purcell, Aidan Lawlor (1-0), Dick Dooley, Sean Kelly, T. Kehoe, M. Patterson, R. Healy, John Dooley, Diarmuid Lawlor (1-4). *Sub:* Gerry Buggy.

Graignamanagh won the league when they beat the Fenians by 4-9 to 3-5. Fenians led by 2-3 to 1-3 at the interval. Alan Byrne levelled the scores in the 34th minute. Another goal by Des Gannon set the Southerners on the road to victory. This was an excellent game.

Graignamanagh: Paul KIELTY, Liam Doyle, Rory Bolger, Matt Blanchfield, Charlie Byrne, Kevin Corbett, John O'Shea, Philip Gahan, Nigel Bolger, T.P. Grace (0-7), Michael Dowling, Donal Murphy (0-1), Alan Byrne (1-1), Desmond Gannon (2-0), Pat Doyle (1-0).

Fenians: Alan Behan, Liam Holohan, Gerry Quinlan, Derck

Behan, Dan Costigan, James Carroll, Anthony McEvoy, Stephen Grehan (0-1), Pat Murhphy, Adrian Behan (0-1), Matty Walsh (1-2), Eugene Ryan, Paddy Bowe (2-0), Michael Phelan (0-1), P.J. Delaney. *Sub:* Keith Behan.

HONOURS DIVIDED

The honours were divided in Roinn C hurling. Carrickshock annexed the championship by virtue of a 7-6 to 2-3 victory over Galmoy. After an early goal to Clara, the Southerners got level after 12 minutes (1-2 each). Goals by Patrick Nolan, Thomas Nolan and Noel Delehunty helped Carrickshock into a 4-5 to 1-2 lead. The winners dominated the second half.

Carrickshock had good performers in Philip Fennelly, Kevin Ryan, William Duggan, Thomas Nolan, Patrick Farrell and three goal hero Patrick Nolan.

Carrickshock: Brian Hudson, Willie Duggan, Jim O'Shea (capt), John O'Gorman, Paul O'Dwyer, Philip Fennelly, George Frisby, William Duggan, Kevin Ryan, Eddie O'Dwyer, Thomas Nolan, Patrick Farrell, Patrick Nolan, Peter Kenneally, Brendan Hudson. *Subs:* Noel Delahunty, Matty Murphy.

The league title went to Dunnamaggin, who registered a 3-10 to 1-6 victory over Conahy Shamrocks. At the interval the winners led by 1-4 to 0-2. A Paul Whelan goal in the second half put Dunnamaggin well ahead.

Best for the winners were Brian Mackey, a top class goalkeeper; James Moylan, Sean Ryan, Jim Hickey, Michael Moran, Paul Whelan and Brian Cowley. Tom Lawlor at full-back was the losers most prominent player. Others who did well were Canice Brennan, Philip Carroll, Peter



GRAIGUE-BALLYCALLAN — Minor Hurling League Champions

Back row (l. to r.): Adrian Ronan, Joe Delaney, Mark O'Brien, Eamon Egan, John Teehan (Capt.), Pat Purcell, Edward Teehan, William Egan, James Nugent, Tom Comerford, Padraig Dalton, Stephen Kelly, Peter Sheppard. **Front row** (l. to r.): Tom McGrath, James Butler, Joe Brennan, Maurice Ronan, Conor Manogue, Padraig McCluskey, Michael Comerford, Noel Maher, Ger Neary, Tom Comerford, Edmund Hally, John Nugent.

Mulhall, Padraig Downey in goal and Ciarán Muldowney.

Dunnamaggin: Brian Mackey, M. O'Shea, O. Fleming, N. Kennedy, J. Kenny, James Moylan, Michael Kennedy, James Hickey, Sean Ryan (0-2), Eddie Kennedy (0-3), D. Reid, Michael Moran (0-3), P. Fleming (1-1), B. Crowley, Paul Whelan (2-1). *Sub:* S. Kennedy.

Conahy Shamrocks: Padraig Downey, M. Kirwan, Tom Lawlor, C. Connolly, J. Lawless, Canice Brennan (0-1), Peter Mulhall, Philip Carroll (0-1), M. Nolan, Brian Lacey, P. Nolan (0-1), K. Healy, Ciaran Muldowney (1-3), Michael Healy, Ger Brennan. *Sub:* P. Dunne.

NEW RECORD

James Stephens registered a record-breaking fifth county title in succession in the under-16 Roinn A football championship. This beat their previous record of four-in-a-row (1967-1970). The city boys scored a 3-9 to 0-1 victory over Mooncoin. Stephens led by 1-3 to 0-1 at half-time after playing against the breeze. The winners' goal was scored by Billy Whelan.

James Stephens: Dean Smithwick, Paul Cody, Brian McGrath, Niall Lahart, Liam Hennessy (0-1), Tadgh Donoghue, Declan Dooley, Paul Brennan (capt, 0-2), Declan Power, Jim Cashin (1-0), Kieran Conroy (0-3), Oran Hennessy (0-1), Phil Larkin, Billy Whelan (2-2), P. Blanchfield. *Subs:* Sean Morrissey, Clive Kenny, J. Treacy.



Mooncoin: John Walsh, Alan Nolan, Kevin Grant, D. Reddy, Andy Phelan, Pat Hogan, Micheál Kinsella, Mick Comerford (0-1), A. Fitzgerald, J.J. Holden, Eoin Dunphy, J. McNamara, Brendan Murray, Michael Quirke, Brendan Rothwell.

James Stephens were even easier winners of the league in which they beat Piltown by 6-9 to 0-2 in the final.

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The dads in the Galmoy army kept in step



GALMOY — Defeated Junior Hurling Finalists

Back row (l. to r.): John Duggan, Tom Russell, Jim Bergin, Stephen Delaney, Billy Harte, Liam Drennan, Jimmy Duggan, Gerry Drennan, Paddy Cooney (trainer). **Front row** (l. to r.): Eddie Cullinane, Nicky Grace, Tommy Drennan, Willo Phelan, Lotty Harte (capt.), Michael Glendon, Pat Glendon.

IN 1975 they contested a Kilkenny senior hurling final and, 12 years up the road, Galmoy tried valiantly to regain some of the ground they lost in the interim when they qualified for the junior hurling final against John Lockes.

In some ways the decider was an uneven battle, between the young legs of the Callan men and the experienced Galmoy men. At the end of the day youth triumphed over experience, but it was interesting to see the story unfold.

Galmoy did very well on the way to the final but, on the big day, the hurling know-how departed some for long stages, and by the time it came back John Lockes had the match won. At least when it was all over Galmoy had the satisfaction of getting within two scores (six points) of the opposition, which was a better reflection of what they accomplished over the whole season. Had they been beaten by anything like the 14 points (2-16 to 1-5) they were behind at one stage, it would have belied their excellent efforts beforehand.

Age was very much against Galmoy going into the final. Men like Lotty Harte (43) and Stephen Delaney (38) filled major roles in the team, and well they did, too. This pair were around when Galmoy won the junior final of 1966, and also when they contested the 1975 senior final, so down through the year they have given incredible service to the North Kilkenny club.

Another man with a few years behind him was goalkeeper Tom Russell (41), while Billy Harte (40), a Kilkenny senior star in the mid-seventies, was no spring chicken either, when talking in terms of keeping up with younger men in a county final.

Galmoy have always had their long

servers, and one can remember a bespectacled corner-back by the name of Ryan, who continued playing away past what would be regarded as the Autumn years in any career. And just like Messrs. Harte (Lotty and Billy), Delaney and Russell he did the job. Joe Doherty was another man who gave wonderful service to this small club.

The contribution of such dedicated and loyal players tells it all about small clubs. There is always a struggle to have youngsters who are good enough coming through. The dads in this particularly Galmoy army marched in step with the best of them all year, and showed lively younger lads like Nicky Grace and Gerry Drennan a thing or two on occasions. Others who had good seasons for the club were John Duggan, Jim Bergin, Liam Drennan and the Glendon brothers, Michael and Pat.

In the Northern championship Galmoy had to step past big-hearted Blacks and Whites in the final; Barrow Rangers (Paulstown) who looked potential champions for a long time; Danesfort, Lisdowney, James Stephens and Emeralds (Urlingford). In the Northern division they had many good days, and two great ones in the semi-final against Barrow Rangers, which went to a thrilling replay.

Blacks and Whites' best showing was against Lisdowney in the semi-final. They were really up against it that afternoon, but when most needed John Barcoe, Martin O'Grady, Ned Kelly, Denis Carroll and J. J. Barcoe all showed character of steel that inched them through in a tight finish. For the second year running it was a hard luck story for them, but they are getting there.

Barrow Rangers, with John Lawlor, Michael Doyle, Paddy Murphy, Syl

Hennessy and Pat Purcell always to the fore, had a tremendous early season tussle with Erin's Own (Castlecomer) when they served warning of their intent. A small thing could have turned their season into a championship-winning one.

BOUNCE BACK

Northern champions of 1986, Danesfort were not as hungry for success this time as they had been the previous year when they won their first divisional title in 42 years. Clubs often experience a bad year after a winning one, so perhaps next season they might bounce back?

Lisdowney have the core of a good side in Billy McEvoy, Tony Thornton, Ned Wall, Gerry Henderson, Larry McEvoy and Shay Downey. In the semi-final they lost by 0-14 to 2-9 (15) against Blacks and Whites. They are not far away from the top, but this particular championship is getting no easier to win.

In the South, St. Senan's (Kilmacow) may have been beaten 2-11 to 1-5 by eventual champions John Lockes in the divisional final. That scoreline did scant justice to the efforts of the losers, who never got a break during the game. They improved a lot on the previous year, and Dick McNamara, what a great servant he is, Jimmy Hennebry, Jim Kinsella, Gerry Mulligan, Sean Caulfield and Liam Kinsella were reliable performers.

Dunnamaggin were not far away when the knock-out stages were reached, but lack of real fire-power cost them dear. Tullogher-Rosbercon paid for inconsistency, and had their form been a little more even throughout the season, they could have figured in the shake-up.



ROWER-INISTIOGE — Winners of the Under-12 Roinn C Hurling Championship

Officials (from left): Billy Kennedy, Benny Houlihan, Richie Tierney. **Players — Back row** (from left): Richard Flood, Ann Galavan, Deirdre Langton, Kevin Kennedy, Jim Murphy, Michael Barron, Richard Murphy, Jim Galavan, Brendan Bolger, John Downey, Jim Kelly, Martin Flood, Michael Murphy, Patrick Brennan, Derek Walsh, John Kavanagh. **Front row** (l. to r.): James Mackey, Matty Sheehan, Michael Galavan, Liam Naddy, Michael Kennedy, Paul Cotterell, Shane Egan, Richard Kelly (capt.), Henry Langton, Mark Kennedy, Martin Bourke, Ciaran Houlihan, Ronan Murphy.

New organisers and new team names

BÓRD na nÓg took over responsibility for the under-14 hurling and football championships for the first time this season. All the competitions have been completed. For the first time the teams carried the names of their parent club. Great under-14 teams like Kilkenny C.B.S., St. Patrick's, St. John's, Kilmanagh and Urlingford will never be seen again. They will bear club names like Dicksboro, James Stephens, O'Loughlin-Gaels, Graigue-Ballycallan and Emeralds.

The under-14 Roinn A hurling final was an all-city affair. O'Leighlin-Gaels and Dicksboro topped one group, and James Stephens and Young Irelands (Gowran) the other. 'Stephens beat O'Loughlin-Gaels in one semi-final while Dicksboro accounted for Young Irelands (Gowran).

There were great expectations before the final because the sides had met in the Féile na nGael decider and it took extra time to reach a decision in favour of 'Stephens. The final turned out to be a damp squib. Dicksboro were overawed and never produced their best form. This game 'Stephens their sixth title. They had won the finals of 1940, 1966, 1967, 1974 and 1981 when known as St. Patrick's.

The winners led by 3-5 to 1-0 at the interval. The 'Boro got back into the game in the second half but whenever they looked likely to score they found Francis Cantwell in unbeatable form in the winners' goal. Philip Larkin, the winners captain, had a thundering game. Daithi Kearney, Derek Kenny,

Clive Kenny and Malcolm Murphy were most prominent in a great all-round team performance.

Dan O'Neill played a stormer for the losers. He was the best player on view. Others who did well were Michael Ryan, John O'Dwyer, Sam Morrissey, Tom Henderson and James Phelan.

James Stephens: Francis Cantwell, Tobias White, Daithi Kearney, James Mulhall, Vincent O'Brien, Philip Larkin (capt.), Barry Smith, Derek Kenny, Eugene Somers, Brian McEvoy (0-1), Malcolm Murphy (0-2), Clive Kenny (2-3), Kevin Grogan (0-1), Liam Heffernan (1-1), Brian Leahy. Subs.: Michael Hoban.

Dicksboro: Michael Trait, D. Phelan, Michael Ryan, Des Price, Ted Carroll, Dan O'Neill, Eoin Begley, John Peters, Vincent Byrne, J. Cunniffe, P. J. Trait, John O'Dwyer, Tom Henderson, Noel Murphy, Sam Morrissey. Sub.: James Phelan, R. Knox.

MADE AMENDS

John Lockes (Callan), beaten by Dunnamaggin in a replay of the 1986 Roinn B under-14 hurling final, made amends this year by going all the way. They just got the better of St. Lactain's (Freshford) in a thrilling final (3-3 to 2-3). The losers tried everything they knew in the closing 10 minutes for the equaliser.

John Lockes led by 2-2 to 1-3 at the interval. The goals were scored by Stuart O'Donovan. Four minutes into the second half a penalty goal by Peter

Kearney put the Callan side two goals ahead. A William Walsh goal (he also

scored one in the first half) brought St. Lactain's back into the game. However, they could not do any more.

Best for the winners were Stuart O'Donovan, Colm Nolan, Adrian O'Sullivan, Peter Kearney and David Cahill. In Oliver O'Connor the losers had one of the most exciting players on view. Others who did well were Lorcan Carroll, Martin Queally, Mervyn Queally, William Walsh and Davy Martin.

John Lockes: Richard Grace, Patrick O'Brien, Colm Nolan, David Cahill, John Corcoran, Adrian O'Sullivan, Martin Roche, Peter Kearney (1-3), Brendan Power, Garry Power, Stuart O'Donovan (2-0), John Roche, David Leahy, Nicky Roche, Denis Carey. Subs.: S. Byrne, N. Dangan, P. Roche.

St. Lactain's: Eamon Ryan, T. J. Kelly, Lorcan Carroll, C. Turner, M. Maher, Mervyn Queally, B. Cahill, G. O'Shea, Damian Hurley, William Walsh, Davy Martin, J. Costelloe, N. Cahill, O. Dalton, Oliver O'Connor. Sub.: P. Walsh.

Like John Lockes, Clara came back from a Roinn C final defeat the previous year to take the honours. They accounted for Carrickshock by 3-8 to 2-1. Clara, the favourites, had to battle all the way. A goal in the last minute gave them a flattering 10-point winning margin. The winners led by 1-8 to 0-1 at the interval.

Brilliant goalkeeping by Anthony



CALLAN — Under-12 Hurling Champions (Roinn B)

Back row (l. to r.): Patricia Leahy, William Walsh, Paul Morrissey, Garda Harry Bryan, Dominic Griffin, Simon Doocey, Noel Dargan, Conor Roche, Eugene Cassin, Vincent Bogue, Michael Corcoran, Sean Walsh, Michael Saunders, James Young, Nicholas Landy, David Cahill, Bro. John Devitt. **Front row** (l. to r.): Shane O'Keefe, John Power, Kevin Phelan, Vincent Grace, Sean Byrne, Keith Leahy, John Roche (Capt.), Niall O'Sullivan, Raymond Kearney, Nigel O'Donovan, Martin Corcoran, Richard Power, Daniel Leahy.

Murphy kept the losers' total small. Those who also stood out for the winners were Martin Malone, Eamon Phelan, Sean Casey, Justin O'Hanrahan, Robert Shortall, their best forward, and Denis Drennan. Carrickshock had stars of the future in Adrian Burke, Eddie O'Dwyer, their best player, Paddy Mulcahy, Martin and Pdraig Roughan and Shane Long.

TWO GIRLS ON TEAM

The losers fielded with two girls on their team. They were Tracy O'Shea and Inez Fennelly.

Clara: Anthony Murphy, Michael Meany, Martin Malone, Seán Casey, Francis Hoyne, Eamon Phelan, Mick Fitzgerald, Justin O'Hanrahan, Rory Moore, Denis Drennan (2-3), Robert Shortall (1-3), Stephen Byrne, Mark Galvin (0-1), Noel Corr, Martin Óg Carrigan (0-1). Sub.: Liam Corr.

Carrickshock: Adrian Burke, John Phelan, Martin Roughan, Paddy Mulcahy, Seamus Kenneally, Pdraig Roughan, Tracy O'Shea, Eddie O'Dwyer (1-1), Paul O'Dwyer, Nicholas Murphy, Shane Long (1-0),

P. J. Cuddihy, Richard Nolan, Barry Hudson, Inez Fennelly. Sub.: Eamon Phelan.

The Roinn A under-14 football championship went to a replay. In the first match Dicksboro and O'Loughlin's drew 3-5 each.

Best for Dicksboro were John Peters, Michael and P. J. Trait, John O'Dwyer and Sam Morrissey. O'Loughlin-Gaels had good ones in Willie O'Neill, James Burke, Jason Bryan and Michael Kinsella.

Dicksboro: Tom Henderson, D. Phelan, John O'Dwyer, Eoin Begley, P. J. Trait, Michael Ryan, Vincent Byrne, John Peters, Dan O'Neill, Michael Trait, James Phelan, J. Philpott, Ted Carroll, Noel Murphy, Sam Morrissey.

O'Loughlin-Gaels: P. Geoghegan, R. McEvoy, Barry Power, M. Bolger, P. Geoghegan, P. Holohan, D. Morrissey, A. Roche, Joe Daly, James Burke, Willie O'Neill, J. Bryan, Michael Kinsella, B. Deegan, P. O'Hara. Sub.: S. Trehy.

St. Patrick's (Kilmacow) took their first under-14 football championship when they beat St. Patrick's (Bally-

ragget) by one point in the Roinn B final. The finishing score was 3-1 to 2-3. A goal against the run of play seven minutes from the finish by James Phelan was the decisive score. The losers looked in a good position at the interval when they led by 2-2 to 2-1.

The winners had particularly fine players in John Roche, Peter Ryan, James Phelan and Paul Atkins. The losers best were Brian Kenny, Declan Walsh, James Dowling and Raymond Breen.

St. Patrick's (Kilmacow): Tommy Hearn, Brendan Walsh, John Roche, Denis Scully, Robert Delton (capt.), Peter Ryan, Mark Kennedy, James Phelan (1-0), Paul Atkins (2-0), Trevor Sutton, Ian Callaghan, Mossy Hennessy, Eamon Gahan, Patrick Gahan, Niall Walsh (0-1).

St. Patrick's (Ballyragget): Mick Ryan, Sean Foley, Declan Walsh, Liam Roberts, Adrian Stone, James Dowling (1-0), Raymond Breen, Brian Kenny (0-2), Davy Dowling, Stuart Liston (0-1), John Saunders, Peter Dooley, Joe Dowling (1-0), Derek Butler, Tom Phelan. Sub.: Damian Walsh.



DUNNAMAGGIN — Runners-up in the Under-12½ Roinn C Hurling Championship

Back row (l. to r.): William Kickham, Anthony McCormack, James Berry, Paschal Kennedy, Denis Brennan, Barry Raggett, John Kenny, Alan Mackey, M. Lahart, Adrian Moran, Willie Kearney, Noel Lahart, Tom Hickey, J. P. Moore, Philip O'Shea, Tom McCormack, Ronnie Cahill, Andrew Hickey. **Front row** (l. to r.): Kenneth O'Shea, Dermot O'Shea, Paul Cahill, Peter Barry, Paul Kearney, Mick O'Neill, Willie Drennan, O'Neill.

ANOTHER RECORD FOR DUCKSIE



EVERY account of Kilkenny's handball fortunes during the past 10 years inevitably contains reports of further honour brought to the county by that Talbot's Inch maestro, Michael "Ducksie" Walsh. But equally inevitably, such is the standard of the top players within the county that his achievements form but a part of the success stories of 1987 in Ireland's most ancient game.

Glenmore showed that they can score success in more than hurling. Mullinavat took more than their share of singles and doubles titles, and then scored a superb inter-club success. The county juvenile players began to win again. Willie Pratt

got oh-so-near a senior title, while Kilkenny also had the incredibly bad luck of retiring from an all-Ireland final through injury.

The beginning of the handball season was a huge disappointment to Ducksie Walsh. Firstly he and his 40x20 partner, Michael Reade, lost out in the Leinster final against unrated Meath — who continued unrated to win the all-Ireland title!

He retained his Leinster senior singles title, and was fixed to play Ulster, in Newry, in the all-Ireland semi-final. A breakdown in communications had the Kilkenny player



Michael "Duxie" Walsh and Eugene Downey regained the All-Ireland Senior Doubles Handball title when they defeated the holders Tom and John Quish from Limerick in an exciting final, which featured many long rallies. This win completed a double for Walsh, as he retained his Singles title (for the third time). Pictured at the presentation are (from left): Eugene Downey, Jim Whelan (sponsor) and Michael Walsh.

thinking he was due to play at 7 p.m. on a Saturday, but this original time had been altered. When he arrived everyone had gone home.

Ducksie was forced to concede the game. What looked like being a great final confrontation with his Roscommon namesake fell through.

In the Coca Cola senior championship it was a different story. It was rated as a poor championship, but that was because all Ducksie's games were cakewalks, with the exception of an all-Kilkenny semi-final when his 60x30 doubles partner, Eugene Downey, gave him a tough game.

However, even this record third Coca Cola triumph in-a-row failed to engender any enthusiasm among the handball fraternity. They knew all along that Ducksie would win the singles, and the Quish brothers the doubles. No one told Ducksie and Eugene Downey about this forecast when they faced the Quish brothers in the final, more than confident of success.

Once more controversy raised its head. The court got wet during the junior game earlier in the programme and that game was called off at one-game each. Nevertheless, the senior players wanted action and they entered a court where a foothold was difficult to get. This should have favoured the hard-hitting Quish brothers, but Ducksie Walsh gave his best exhibition ever, with Downey not far behind, and they hammered their Limerick rivals 21-7.

GREAT YEAR

That was enough for the Quish duo. They claimed the court was unplayable and, in fairness, they were right. The game was called off and continued a fortnight later.

As feared, the break worked wonders for the Limerick champions. They won the second game of the set, albeit after a struggle. Now the tie was delicately poised. Any delicacy there was soon disappeared as Eugene Downey played his best handball ever to combine with the lethal Walsh to regain a title they had surrendered just a year before.

So 1987 provided yet another great year for Michael Walsh and his irrepressible partner, Eugene Downey.

Thanks mainly to sterling work by Sean Kennedy — an official equally committed to handball and hurling — the fine feats of Glenmore's hurlers were not the only ones to reflect glory on the far South parish. The club took over the mantle of Kilkenny's leading juvenile side, thanks to two superb players.

Dominic Fitzgerald, after looking promising for the past few years, showed great skill and character when winning the Leinster and all-Ireland titles in under-13 singles 40x20. He went very close to winning the doubles when, having outscored all Leinster and Ulster could offer, he succumbed to the Munster champion in the final of the corresponding 60x30 final.

Ken Cottrell will not have his name on the all-Ireland champions' list this year, but it will not be long until he does.

He won the Leinster under-12 singles title in both courts, showing some lovely touches in doing so. Then came his run of bad luck. Ulster brought through a brilliant under-12 player who had won the under-12 all-Ireland the previous year. Not alone did Ken have to face this brilliant Northerner in both semi-finals (60x30 and 40x20), but on both occasions he had to travel North to the player's home court.

He barely lost on both occasions, so he must be listed as a player of the future.

Also showing great promise in winning the Leinster under-15 doubles title were John Valentine and Niall Tyrrell (Talbot's Inch), while Graham O'Brien (Mullinavat) was all-Ireland runner-up in under-16 singles. Another player

who appeared to get a tough draw was O'Loughlin's James Bourke who, having won the Leinster under-14 singles title, travelled to Ulster to take on yet another home all-Ireland champion. Neutral observers at this game felt that James got a remarkably big number of bad decisions from the Ulster referee before losing out.

PIERCE WAS BRILLIANT

Pierce O'Keefe has invariably been praising his father, Pat, for his all-Ireland winning performance in over-age competition. That was until last year when he won a title for himself, under-21 singles. He was the youngest ever to win this title, so it was inevitable that he would be a force to reckon with again this year.

This he proved to be. He won no less than three titles in this grade and drove the fancied and talented Tipperary star, Eddie Corbett, to near despair in the process. Pierce won both singles titles. In March he was tops in 40x20, while Autumn saw him prove himself best in 60x30. Pat Maher from Clogh was his partner in under-21 doubles, and they played magnificent handball to win through in 60x30 doubles. And Pierce is underage again next year!

This was not the end of his achievements. Pierce was a member of the superb Mullinavat side that won through allcomers to win the inter-club all-Ireland. Best performance of all, perhaps, was the Leinster final against fancied Kells, when Pierce O'Keefe, Sean Walsh and Paddy Fitzpatrick overcame an extremely strong side.

Pat O'Keefe also had a victory of note. He overcame his old rival, Willie Kerins (Kerry) to win the Golden Masters singles title in 60x30.

A great year was capped for the O'Keefe family when Pierce followed his father's achievement of 1984 by being chosen as Kilkenny's "handballer of the year".

UNFORTUNATE INJURY

One of the very best junior players throughout the 60's and 70's was Paddy Irwin of Ullard. One of his clubmates, Johnny Hennessy, had already tasted all-Ireland victory with Pat O'Keefe in an overage championship when both these great warriors decided to have a go at the Silver Masters doubles championship this year.

They won through a very vibrant Leinster championship, and had no trouble winning their all-Ireland semi-final joust with Ulster.

The all-Ireland final seemed a certainty with all the better players already defeated in Leinster, but, with the game scarcely 20 minutes old, Johnny Hennessy's knee went from under him and, being in no condition to continue, and with no substitutes allowed, Kilkenny were forced to concede defeat. What a disappointing end to a fine effort by the Ullard men.

Another pair who suffered a final defeat were Pierce O'Keefe — who had starred in under-21 and inter-club — and his senior handball doubles partner, Willie Pratt. Pratt has been denied the chance of a senior medal just a couple of years ago when partnered by Billy Bourke. This time he teamed up with O'Keefe, and made it to the all-Ireland final. They faced up the Quish brothers — not them again! — and went down in a close game.

Handball has no close season and, even at the time of publication, another Kilkenny player is hot on the trail of a major success. Michael Reade (Talbot's Inch) teamed up with Dublin player, Patrick Hall, in the international trials to decide Ireland's pairing for next year's World championships in Australia. The pair, never together before, have made it to the final and face Wexford boys John Fleming and Pat Cleary.

They went within minutes of historic win



ST. KIERAN'S COLLEGE — Leinster Champions and All-Ireland Colleges' Juvenile Hurling Finalists

Back row (l. to r.): Larry Mahony, Barry Power, Andrew Comerford, Brian Kenny, Philip Lynch, Willie Duggan. **Second row:** Colm Comerford, Liam Heffernan, Jim Canning, Lorcan Carroll, John Drennan, Tobias White. **Third row:** Eddie Dwyer, Philip Larkin, Philip Whelehan, Pat Farrell, P. J. Delaney, Niall Skehan. **Front row:** Kieran Carey, Maurice Woodcock, Garry Farrell, Joe Dermody (Capt.), Wayne Ronan, Declan Morrissey, Brian Lacey, Brian Leahy.

ST. Kieran's college, who are among the biggest winners in colleges hurling, this year went within an ace of adding another major title to their huge list of honours, and creating another piece of history.

The famous Kilkenny school qualified for the inaugural colleges' juvenile hurling all-Ireland final. Against St. Raphael's (Loughrea), who were coached by Galway senior mentor, Cyril Farrel, the college boys went close to winning, but were caught in a sprint finish.

On the way to the decider St. Kieran's passed old rivals, Kilkenny C.B.S. and St. Brendan's community school (Birr) in the Leinster championship. Getting through the province was something in itself, because it gave Kieran's a fabulous seventh consecutive victory at this level.

Unfortunately for the Noresiders, there was a long delay between the Leinster and all-Ireland finals, and in retrospect that didn't suit Kieran's at all. In the all-Ireland they were far below their Leinster final form, but still, with seven minutes to go, got into a winning position.

The concluding scoreline was 2-6 to 1-6 in favour of Raphael's. With 53 minutes played, St. Kieran's showed 1-5 to 0-4 in front, and another famous

victory looked within their grasp. Then suddenly St. Raphael's went into overdrive, and blasted home 2-2 — a youngster by the name of Maurice Headd shot all those scores — to register perhaps the most unlikely win in colleges competitions this year.

Naturally, the Kilkenny boys were bitterly disappointed. St. Raphael's also enjoyed a good start, and looked sharper on the ball. Still, once the winners initial burst was contained, St. Kieran's fought on and at half-time had somehow sneaked 0-4 to 0-3 in front.

BLISTERING FINISH

A 33rd minute goal from the forceful Joe Dermody looked like setting up victory, but things didn't turn out that way. St. Raphael's blistering finish turned the match right around, and the brave Kieran's lads went home empty handed.

At least Kieran's had the satisfaction of a good Leinster championship win to console them. This victory was all about heart, as Birr was beaten by 5-3 to 4-2. The match was always open, and in the closing stages the winners had to hang on for dear life before clocking up the seventh win in-a-row.

A penalty goal from Joe Dermody, and a like score from Kieran Carey, left Birr 0-1 to 2-0 behind after just 11 minutes. All credit to the Offaly boys,

they were back on terms (2-1 each) at the break and forced the Noresiders to have a rethink about their team during the interval.

St. Kieran's showed wholesale changes for the second period, the most vital of which were the placing of Larry Mahony at centre-back, Barry Power at full and the moving of P. J. Delaney, son of former Kilkenny star, Pat Delaney, to centre-forward. The switches worked a treat, and within five minutes of the break Kieran's had moved 3-2 to 2-1 clear. By the 44th minute they were 4-2 to 2-2 ahead, and it was then Birr commenced a mighty effort to save the match. Against a resolute St. Kieran's, there was no way back for them.

On this very special day, St. Kieran's were forced into producing the goods or else. It was no surprise then that their 'big guns' in the team were very much to the fore, and Larry Mahony, Barry Power, P. J. Delaney, Joe Dermody, Kieran Carey, Niall Skehan (son of former great Noel Skehan) and agile 'keeper Wayne Ronan were very much to the fore.

FLATTERED

Earlier in the championship Kieran's were flattered somewhat to beat Kilkenny C.B.S. by 2-12 to 1-4. The half-time score here was 0-4 (K) to 0-3. In the end, the physical strength of

the likes of Power and Mahony told against smaller opponents. A 36th minute goal from Niall Skehan turned the game.

Still, one could not forget the fluent striking of C.B.S. player, Brian Delaney that day, or the dogged efforts put in by team-mates Niall Lacey, who looked a 'keeper of great promise, Dan O'Neill and Seán Fitzpatrick.

The C.B.S. team was: N. Lacey, E. Begley, M. Ryan, M. Dowling, G. Murphy, S. Fitzpatrick, S. Teehan, D. O'Neill, J. Daly, M. Galvin, P. J. Trait, P. Shortall, M. Culleton, B. Delaney, J. Phelan. Subs: M. Kinchella, J. O'Dwyer, A. Roche.

The St. Kieran's college team in the all-Ireland final was: W. Ronan (Graigue/Ballycallan); P. Holohan (O'Loughlin's); B. Power (O'Loughlin's); G. Farrell (Young Ireland's); E. Dwyer (Carrickshock); L. O'Mahony (Danesfort); J. Drennan (Young Ireland's); P. Larkin (James Stephens); A. Comerford (O'Loughlin's); N. Skehan (Bennettsbridge); J. Dermody

Scores as they came

AT NOWLAN PARK:

St. Kieran's college 2-12 Kilkeny C.B.S. 1-4
Scorers: Niall Skehan (1-3); P. J. Delaney (1-1); Kieran Carey (0-3); Brian Lacey, Joe Dermody (0-2 each); Willie Duggan (0-1).

AT PORTLAOISE: Leinster final

St. Kieran's college 5-3 St. Brendan's C.S. 4-2
Scorers: Kieran Carey (2-0); Joe Dermody (1-2); Andrew Comerford (1-1); Willie Duggan (1-0).

AT BIRR: All-Ireland final

St. Raphael's 2-6 St. Kieran's 1-6
Scorers: Joe Dermody (1-3); Niall Skehan, Brian Lacey, Kieran Carey (0-1 each).

(St. Lactain's); B. Lacey (Conahy Shamrocks); C. Comerford (Windgap); P. J. Delaney (Fenian's); K. Carey (Young Ireland's). Subs: T. White (James Stephen's) used; B. Kenny (Ballyragget); M. Woodcock

(Danesfort); P. Farrell (Young Irelands); W. Duggan (Carrickshock); P. Lynch (Mullinavat); B. Leahy (James Stephens); D. Morrissey (O'Loughlin's); L. Carroll (St. Lactain's).

35th Provincial win was highlight for Kieran's

SOMEHOW it is easier to accept defeat when you know you just were not good enough. The hard luck stories and the near misses can be difficult to take. From the highest to the lowest grade that is the norm.

SOMEHOW one feels St. Kieran's college were not too despondent after defeat in the all-Ireland colleges senior hurling championship final. At the finish they were 4-11 to 1-7 behind St. Flannan's college (Ennis), but at least they had the consolation of knowing they were beaten by a class team.

This showdown was a head-on clash between the 'big boys' of colleges hurling. At the end of the day Flannan's walked away with their 10th title, and left their opponents still in second place with seven wins to their credit.

The all-Ireland in Birr was a magnificently contested affair. Kieran's got off to a bright start when star player, Pat O'Neill crashed home a third minute penalty. An eight minute injury to wing-back, John Crosby, who had to be taken to hospital, threw the losers out of their stride, and then on either side of the break they were shaken badly when they conceded scores.

Flannan's were just being reeled back after Crosby departed, and the score was 1-4 each, when the winners hit a purple patch approaching the break. By half-time they had dashed 3-7 to 1-5 clear. St. Kieran's, who needed every break they could get to live with such talented performers, just couldn't hold them.

TOO MUCH POWER

The Noresiders were awarded another penalty early in the second half, but this one was blasted wide. That was bad enough, but when Flannan's burst up the field they picked off a point to make things even worse for their opponents. With five Limerick inter-county minors in their side, the Ennis school had too much power, and by the finish they were easy winners against opponents who were simply out of their class. On this occasion a willing spirit could not make up the immense difference for Kieran's.

The losers were in the best of company here, and there was no shame in defeat. Overall, the championship,

had been a good one for the skilful Pat O'Neill, Adrian Ronan, Richard O'Neill, John Crosby, Brian Ryan and Dominic Bradley who showed, particularly during the Leinster championship, that they were made of the right stuff.

In Leinster, St. Kieran's won their 35th title, and first since 1984. At least that was something.

In their opening game they walloped city challengers, Kilkeny C.B.S. by 8-17 to 3-5. More than what they scored, what they conceded concerned team officials afterwards. In Leinster the defence caused most concern but then in the all-Ireland coped as well as could be expected. D. J. Carey was the only forward who scored in the all-Ireland final.

The Leinster final against St. Brendan's community school (Birr) was a testing affair. A 7th minute goal from Adrian Ronan left the losers behind and they never got in front, but to the finish they were there with a chance.

No living with classy Flannan's



ST. KIERAN'S COLLEGE — Leinster Champions and All-Ireland Colleges' Senior Hurling Finalists

Back row (l. to r.): Mark O'Brien, Declan Forristal, Jim O'Neill, Dominic Bradley, Richie O'Neill, Pat O'Neill. **Middle row:** John Crosbie, John Gavin, Jimmy Conroy, Tommy Shefflin, Fran Whelan, Adrian Ronan, Paul Fahy, Pdraig Dalton, Rickie Cashin, Kevin Conroy. **Front row** (l. to r.): Dick Dooley, Pdraig Larkin, Pdraig McCluskey, Brian Ryan (capt.), Paul Brennan, D. J. Carey.

At half-time St. Kieran's led by 2-5 to 1-4. Twice during the closing 11 minutes wind assisted Birr got within a point of their opponents. It wasn't until substitute, Dick Dooley hit a great point from an acute angle with time almost up that the Noresiders got a safe margin ahead. They won by 4-8 to 3-9.

HURLING VICTORY

No way could the all-Ireland be regarded as a defeat for Kieran's. It was a victory for hurling, and the Croke Cup went back to St. Flannan's, breeding ground for such well-known hurling personalities as Seán Stack, Ger Loughnane, Gerry McInerney, Joe McKenna, Donie Nealon, Len Gaynor, John Moroney and Johnny Callanan.

St. Kieran's have produced their own good ones down the years, including Eddie Keher, Brian Cody, Billy Fitzpatrick, Mick Crotty, Nickey and Kieran Brennan, Ger Fennelly, Paddy Prendergast and Harry Ryan. Who knows, one or two of this year's losing team could make the hurling big time in the years ahead. Better lessons can sometimes be learned in defeat than in victory.

The St. Kieran's team in the all-

The scoring returns

AT NOWLAN PARK:

St. Kieran's college 8-17 **Kilkenny C.B.S.** 3-5

Scorers: Adrian Ronan (2-9); Pat O'Neill (1-4); Brian Ryan (2-0); Declan Forristal (1-1); Dick Dooley, Paul Brennan (1-0 each); Richard O'Neill, Jim O'Neill, Kevin Conroy (0-1 each).

AT PORTLAOISE: Leinster final

St. Kieran's 4-8 **St. Brendan's C.S.** 3-9

Scorers: Adrian Ronan, Dick Dooley (1-2 each); Brian Ryan (1-1); Paul Brennan (1-0); Kevin Conroy (0-2); Pat O'Neill (0-1).

AT BIRR: All-Ireland final

St. Flannan's college 4-11 **St. Kieran's** 1-7

Scorers: Pat O'Neill (1-3); Adrian Ronan (0-3); D. J. Carey (0-1).

Ireland final was: Jimmy Conroy (James Stephens); Pdraig McCluskey (Graigue/Ballycallan); Frank Whelan (James Stephens); Pdraig Larkin (James Stephens); John Crosby (St. Lactain's); Pat O'Neill (Young Irelands); Paul Fahy (James Stephens); Adrian Ronan (Graigue-Ballycallan); Dominic Bradley (James Stephens); Kevin Conroy (James Stephens); Richard O'Neill (Dunnamaggin); Paul

Brennan (James Stephens); D. J. Carey (Young Irelands); Declan Forristal (James Stephens); Brian Ryan (Fenians), captain. *Subs:* Dick Dooley (St. Martin's) used; Jim O'Neill (Mullinahone); Tommy Shefflin (Shamrocks); Eoin Meade (Piltown); Mark O'Brien (Graigue/Ballycallan); Pdraig Dalton (Graigue/Ballycallan); John Gavin (Barrow Rangers); Rickie Cashin (Ballacolla).

'Comer could be heading for the top



PRESENTATION CONVENT, CASTLECOMER — All-Ireland (Roinn B) Under-14½ Hurling Champions

Back row (l. to r.): Jimmy Daly, Dermot Lawlor, Gerry Buggy, Ken Loughlin, Michael Healy, Sean Meally, Tony Donovan, Anthony McDonald, Michael Maher. **Front row** (l. to r.): Martin Nolan, Diarmuid O'Sullivan, Colm Meagher (Capt.), Pdraig Downey, John Ryan, John Kavanagh.

THE Presentation convent, Castlecomer, are all-Ireland hurling champions once again! Who are what, you could well ask. But don't be surprised if during the next decade or so 'Comer emerge as a power in colleges hurling, because they are heading in that direction.

In recent times the Presentation convent has slipped into the winners enclosure a few times. It may be in Division II of colleges hurling, but it doesn't matter, they are getting there.

This year the up-and-coming hurlers from 'Comer won the all-Ireland under-14½ hurling (Roinn B) final by beating St. Jarleth's (Tuam). It was more a mauling than a beating, and the impressive margin of victory was 12-16 to 2-0.

With most of North Kilkenny, and parts of Laois, Carlow and Kildare bordering their general area, the Convent could, conceivably, grow into a major hurling stronghold. Were there signs that the seeds planted by the schools first all-Ireland senior hurling (Roinn B) victory of 1984 had begun to bear fruit when Erin's Own (Castlecomer) won their first Kilkenny minor hurling championship this season? Perhaps the run of successes has started?

The convent's latest success was in the quaint village of Rath, Co. Offaly. They gave a polished performance, and throughout showed superior craft and hurling sense than their opponents.

The 'Comer lads were well versed in the individual skills of the game, far above what one might expect to find in a B division. Perhaps the scoreline suggested as much? Their lifting and striking, passing and pulling on the ball along the ground suggested team handlers had worked hard with the players.

UNCANNY ABILITY

The excellence of the team was epitomised by one player, Diarmuid Lawlor. He showed an uncanny ability to read the game, and without ever having to get involved in the more robust aspect of play, finished with a magnificent 4-8 to his credit. His wrist action and use of the camán was a feature of this particular game.

With Lawlor always able to make a score out of virtually nothing, St. Jarleth's suffered one setback after another. Of course, this was no one man, and many a touch of class was shown by the likes of Colm Meagher, Michael Maher, Ken O'Loughlin,

Jimmy Daly, Anthony McDonnell and Michael Healy.

After just 10 minutes of play, the sweet striking 'Comer boys had slipped 1-5 to 1-0 clear. By the break they had the match won, when leading by 6-8 to 2-0. Their second half superiority was highlighted by the fact that 'keeper, Pdraig Downey had not one shot to save.

In earlier rounds, among the sides overcome by 'Comer were Gorey C.B.S. in the South Leinster final (5-2 to 2-6), and Ard Scoil Rís (Dublin) in the Leinster final proper. Star of the later victory (5-4 to 4-2) was Seán Meally, who kept the team together during intense periods of pressure in the closing 10 minutes. Two other bright performers were Colm Meagher and Anthony McDonnell.

In recent times Presentation convent, Castlecomer made useful progress on the hurling field, and you know, it looks like being the start of something big.

The 'Comer team in the all-Ireland was: P. Downey, G. Buggy, S. Meally, T. O'Donovan, J. Kavanagh, M. Healy, J. Daly, A. McDonnell, K. O'Loughlin, M. Nolan, C. Meagher, M. Maher, D. O'Sullivan, J. Ryan, D. Lawlor. *Sub:* L. Coogan.



CASTLECOMER COMMUNITY SCHOOL — All-Ireland Junior Hurling Colleges (Roinn A) Champions 1987

Front row (l. to r.): Martin Nolan, James Dowling, John Ryan, James O'Loughlin, Tom Brophy, Sean Kelly, Colm Meagher, Brian Judge, Gerry Buggy, Colm Love. **Back row:** Diarmuid Comerford, Ken O'Loughlin, Martin O'Shea, Diarmuid Lawlor, Michael Healy, Anthony McDonald, John Kavanagh, Pat Brophy (captain), Paul O'Neill, Aidan Morrissey, Michael Maher, Sean Meally, Nicholas Purcell.

COMMUNITY SCHOOL TOP OF THE CLASS

LESS than four months after being granted Community School status, a Kilkenny school produced the top results in the country. Castlecomer Community School went to the top of the class in the all-Ireland Colleges' junior hurling (Roinn A) championship. They won their first all-Ireland, and in impressive fashion, too, by beating St. Raphael's (Loughrea) by 3-10 to 3-4 in the big showdown in Birr in early December.

Only last August the Department of Education officially sanctioned the coming together of the Presentation Convent and Vocational School in Castlecomer under the one banner, Community School.

What a great boost it was for the new school when their junior hurlers lifted the Leinster title by beating St. Kieran's college in a thrilling replay. The score was 1-11 to 1-5. Earlier the team had played an exciting 1-8 each draw. This was the first time any 'Comer school, even the Presentation, had won a Division A provincial title. In recent times the Presentation harvested a good crop in the B section, but this time their

grades were straight A's.

For their masterly deeds, the likes of captain Patsy Brophy — he won the Hotel Kilkenny-Kilkenny People sports personality of the month award for November for his efforts — Diarmuid Lawlor, who had a terrific all-Ireland, Sean Kelly, Paul O'Neill, Brian Judge and Aidan Morrissey took top honours.

The 'Comer panel was: Thomas Brophy (Erin's Own), Gerry Buggy (St. Martin's), Aidan Morrissey (Ballyragget), Sean Meally (Cloneen), Brian Judge (Erin's Own), Patsy Brophy (Erin's Own), Ken Loughlin (Erin's Own), Anthony McDonnell (Erin's Own), Colm Meagher (Erin's Own), Anthony McDonnell (Erin's Own), Colm Meagher (Erin's Own), Martin O'Shea (Erin's Own), Paul O'Neill (St. Martin's), Sean Kelly (St. Martin's), Michael Healy (Conahy Shamrocks), Diarmuid Comerford (St. Martin's), Diarmuid Lawlor (St. Martin's), Michael Maher, Martin Nolan, John Kavanagh, John Ryan, James Dowling, James O'Loughlin, Colm Love.

After Cup win, Wexford had high hopes

AVERY fit Wexford team drove through Kilkenny in the Walsh Cup senior hurling tournament semi-final, and went on to win the competition.

This was in May, and the Slaneysiders' decisive 3-13 to 1-11 victory suggested they would make a bold bid for honours in the championship. However, it didn't work out that way.

In the Walsh Cup game,

played in New Ross, Wexford ran their half-fit opponents off the park. They had a goal after just 10 seconds from Ray Murphy, and went 1-5 clear before their opponents had a score.

At half-time Kilkenny were beaten, when they trailed by 0-2 to 2-8. They got more into the game in the second period, but never looked like overhauling the opposition.



The Kilkenny scorers were: Tommy Bawle (0-6), Pat McCormack (1-1), Harry Ryan (0-2), Ger Fennelly, Michael Walsh, Mooncoin (0-1 each).

Kilkenny: K. Fennelly, J. Hennessy, P. Prendergast, F. Holohan, L. Walsh, G. Henderson, T. Ryan, L. Ryan, G. Fennelly, T. Bawle, M. Cleere, M. Walsh, P. Walsh, C. Heffernan, H. Ryan. Subs.: S. Fennelly, P. McCormack.

Helping 'Town to victory meant Declan had to down his own

A TIPPERARY man was instrumental in downing a team from his own county and bringing a hurling all-Ireland title to Kilkenny this year. Indeed, he was the star of the show.



THOMASTOWN — All-Ireland Individual Vocational Schools Senior Hurling Champions

Back row (l. to r.): Billy O'Keeffe, Matt Bookle, John Conlon, Kevin Maher, Johnny Cullen, Declan Ryan, John Skehan, Bobby Maher, Eoin O'Neill, Colm Mullins, Shem O'Neill, Joe Bookle. **Front row (l. to r.):** Declan Lennon, Barry Doyle, Richie Kearns, Sean Kennedy, Paul Treacy, Noel Cullen, Robert Finan, Willie Holden, Larry Fenlon.

THE man in the unusual position was Declan Ryan. He put his exceptional hurling talents to good use for Thomastown vocational school, and helped them win their first individual schools all-Ireland senior hurling championship.

It was a glorious occasion in Semple Stadium, Thurles in mid-May. The beaten finalists were Borrisokane. However, for what was an absorbing hour of hurling, the Tipperary minor of 1986 turned his back on his native county and helped Thomastown to a breath-taking 3-12 to 3-8 win.

Few finals at any level this year produced the thrills and excitement this tussle did. It was nip-and-tuck the whole way. Three times the teams were on terms, and the lead changed hands at regular intervals.

Borrisokane made the early running, but a Thomastown goal from Paul Treacy kept them in the hunt. The losers finished the half-well, and at the break led by 3-3 to 1-7.

Past the three-quarter mark there was still nothing worthwhile between the teams, and it was at this stage that Thomastown's superior strength and skill proved vital. Declan Ryan was a powerhouse at midfield, and he constantly pumped good possession through to the forwards. In the 56th minute the 'Town delivered the killer blow when Eoin O'Neill forced his way through for the winning goal. Even at that, Borrisokane didn't give in, and up to the end they were still battling away.

SWEET MUSIC

The final whistle was sweet music to Thomastown players and supporters alike, and also to team handlers, Joe Mackey and Ned Byrne, who put endless hours into preparing the team. When captain, Johnny Cullen, held the winners trophy aloft, he showed off a prize that was reward for perseverance, not only in the final, but throughout the whole season.

This was no easy championship for Thomastown. Their opening match was against county rivals, Johnstown. The Northerners had reason to be hopeful, and actually held the 'Town to a 2-7 to 0-13 draw. Johnstown trailed by 0-6 to 1-5 at the interval.

A few lucky breaks helped Thomastown in the replay, but

there were occasions when a small thing could have turned the tide. Anyway, after Johnstown were beaten, the next major obstacle was Banagher in the Leinster final.

This was a title Thomastown had not won since 1975. Again nothing less than total commitment was needed. Banagher started well. They looked like causing endless trouble until a goal from 30 yards by Paul Treacy shook them. Not too far off the break, a shot by Willie Holden was deflected past the Offaly 'keeper, and that weakened the losers resistance. The 'Town led by 2-6 to 2-1 at half-time.

GOAL FROM PENALTY

Not too long into the second half Billy O'Keeffe crashed home a penalty goal for the winners. After a 12 year wait, they were on the road to victory.

Stars were John Cullen, John Conlon, Declan Ryan, Billy O'Keeffe, Paul Treacy and Willie Holden. O'Keeffe had a very profitable afternoon, and finished with 1-5 to his credit.

The Thomastown players reacted well to the pressure of all-Ireland final day. They were tested to the full, and survived. Again, Ryan was very much to the fore, and Conlon, Treacy, O'Keeffe, Kevin Maher and Joe Bookle offered first class support. Of course, for his late clinching goal, Eoin O'Neill won a special place in the hearts of Thomastown supporters.

"You lads have set a lead for others, and I hope you go on to greater things", Leinster Council Chairman, Jack Bootman said when he later visited the schools to present the provincial and all-Ireland medals.

During 1987 the Thomastown players showed a lot of class outside class, and as Mr. Bootman said, what happens from here on out is entirely up to themselves. But this class of '87 was special.

The team in the all-Ireland was — Robert Maher, Kevin Maher, Johnny Cullen, Seamus O'Neill, Larry Fenlon, John Conlon, Colm Mullins, Declan Ryan, Billy O'Keeffe, Eoin O'Neill, Joe Bookle, Paul Treacy, Willie Holden, Matt Bookle, John Skehan. Subs: Robert Finan, Sean Kennedy (used), Noel Cullen, Barry Doyle, Richie Kearns, Declan Lannon.

Courage the key for Johnstown



JOHNSTOWN — Under-15 Vocational Schools All-Ireland Hurling Champions

Front row (l. to r.): Tony Watson, Gerry Quinlan, Pat Murphy, Matt Walsh (Capt.), Michael Phelan (vice-capt.), Brendan Wall, Declan Tobin, Owen Murphy, Peter Moriarty. **Back row** (l. to r.): Dan Costigan, Austin Cleere, Stephen Grehan, Alan Bartley, Cyril Cleere, Joe Corcoran, Robert Butler, David Moriarty, Eugene Ryan, Seamus Carroll, Kevin Wall, Anthony McEvoy.

NO MATTER what the level of competition, an all-Ireland title is never won easily. Good planning, hard work and sometimes a bit of luck can be involved.

Johnstown vocational school won a hurling all-Ireland this season. It was the under-15 championship, and it was an historic first win for them. It didn't happen by chance, it was hard earned.

In the final the North Kilkenny school beat a game St. Brogan's (Bandon) by 2-6 to 2-3. A single puck of the ball was all that divided the teams. Johnstown had a bit of luck, they would be the first to admit that, and at the same time, they had to overcome considerable hardship before taking home the cup.

You see, in a bid to get this competition over on time, the all-Ireland semi-final and final were played within a few days of each other. In the semi, Johnstown were involved in a rough-and-tumble match against a Northern team. They won, but at a price. Ruled out for the final were the talented Matt Walsh and Brendan Wall, who received injuries in the semi.

A small school like Johnstown simply hasn't the

numbers to be in a position to lose anyone. So it was with resources stretched to the absolute limit that they faced St. Brogan's.

The Cork boys, naturally, were not interested in their opponents troubles. They wanted to win the all-Ireland if they could, and after an impressive opening 12 minutes when they hit 1-2 without reply, they looked on the road to a famous victory.

IN TROUBLE

Against the breeze and all, Johnstown were in a bit of trouble. Even a point from Austin Cleere didn't help much, particularly when the Leesiders replied with another goal (2-2 to 0-1).

The Noresiders needed help and inspiration from somewhere. They were sinking. The 20th. minute passed, and there was little sign of a change of fortune. Then out of the blue, the nippy Austin Cleere collected a ball about 30 yards out from the St. Brogan's goal. He burst his way through the defence, and against all the odds netted. Johnstown were back on the rails. St. Brogan's were thrown into confusion.

At half-time St. Brogan's were still 2-3 to 1-2 in front,

but their opponents were in fighting mood. Hope had returned. And spirits zoomed when Michael Phelan pointed early in the new half, and then Austin Cleere shot the equalising goal (2-3 each).



It was an amazing turn around, and Johnstown, now in full cry, couldn't be held. That crafty performer, Austin Cleere picked off a point to shove them ahead. Cyril Cleere added on another, and the third of the winning points was added by David Moriarty. Johnstown had won. But hold on. There was a great late save from goalkeeper, Declan Tobin, that was vital.

In this all-Ireland win, Johnstown showed real courage, to overcome the misfortune of the loss of two good players, and to get back after a poor start. Throughout the campaign Austin Cleere had shown enormous potential, but it was only in the final that he really produced his best. In full

flight he was unstoppable. At the back Tony Watson and Cyril Cleere were always able to cope, and others who showed a lot of promise were Anthony McEvoy, Pat Murphy, Kevin Walsh and Michael Phelan.

Indeed, Phelan was the star when Johnstown won their first Leinster final in this grade by beating old rivals, Banagher V.S. The score that afternoon was 5-5 to 1-2. Phelan helped himself to 4-1, and hit three goals during the second period. Another major contribution was made by Austin Cleere, who kept Banagher's best player in tight check. Declan Tobin, Joe Corcoran and Ger. Quinlan were in top form in this one also.

The Johnstown team in the all-Ireland final was: D. Tobin (Emeralds); D. Costigan (Fenians); G. Quinlan (Fenians); T. Watson (Gortnahoe); A. McEvoy (Fenians); C. Cleere (Emeralds); J. Carroll (Fenians); K. Wall (Lisdowney); P. Murphy (Fenians); A. Bartley (Gortnahoe); J. Corcoran (Galmoy); D. Moriarty (Fenians); E. Murphy (Lisdowney); M. Phelan (Fenians); A. Cleere (Emeralds). Sub: R. Butler (Emeralds).

Richard celebrated with classy goal

SEVERAL fine individual performances by a Kilkenny hurler during a year which featured many excellent team showings, earned a local All-Star recognition.

Richard Power was the county's Lone Star in the Bank of Ireland scheme. The flying midfielder claimed one of the centre-field positions on the All-Star side.

For Richard, a member of the Carrickshock club, this was his second award. He won the other in 1982 as a wing-forward.

During the season under review, Kilkenny won the National League by beating Galway in the final and then the Leinster championship. However, they lost their form completely in the all-Ireland semi-final and were well beaten by a tactically superior Galway.

Richard Power was one of the leading Kilkenny players throughout the year. In some ways it was a peculiar year for the Noresiders. They were involved in a couple of thrilling encounters, but rarely did individuals shine above the overall team performance. It was always solid team work that marked their performances.

Richard Power managed a few exceptional showings. Perhaps his best was in the first round of the Leinster championship when he scored five points from play against Wexford, which was some achievement for a midfielder.

ONE STAR AGAIN

In the Leinster final victory over then all-Ireland champions Offaly, he

again hit the high spots and again made the scoresheet.

This was the second successive year Kilkenny had only one All-Star honoured. In 1986 Liam Fennelly was the only one. Indeed, Fennelly must be considered very unlucky not to have been chosen again. During the season he rammed home 11-3 (7-1 in the League) which was some score for a non free-taker. If the basic duty of any forward is to get scores, surely there were few ahead of Fennelly?

Going back another year, to 1985, Kilkenny had two All-Stars. They were Kieran Brennan (Conahy Shamrocks) and Joe Hennessy (James Stephens).



RICHIE POWER

BEST YEAR

Having just one All-Star was the lowest number the county has had in years when any locals made the much sought-after selection. Since the scheme was started in 1977 by Carrolls, there were only three years

when Kilkenny players failed to make the team — 1977, 1980 and 1981.

The county's best year was in 1983, when they won the League/championship double. On that occasion nine Noresiders were selected.

Incidentally, Richard Power celebrated his elevation to the All-Stars team in style. Two days after the selection was announced, Kilkenny played Laois in a hurling challenge at Nowlan Park. A smashing individual goal by Power, following a 50-yard solo run, earned Kilkenny a dramatic 2-8 to 1-10 win.

Now in the 16 years of the All-Stars scheme, Kilkenny have taken a record 61 hurling awards. Following behind are Cork (56), Galway (31), Limerick (25), Offaly (18), Tipperary (15), Wexford (14), Clare (13), Waterford (4), and Dublin, Westmeath and Laois who have one each.

In all, seven Kilkenny players were nominated for this year's All-Stars team. They were: John Henderson (right-full and full-back); Joe Hennessy (right half-back); Ger Fennelly, Richard Power (midfield); Kieran Brennan (centre and left half-forward); Lester Ryan (right full-forward); Liam Fennelly (left full-forward).

The All-Stars team was: Ger Cunningham (C); Denis Mulcahy (C); Conor Hayes (G); Sylvie Linnane (G); Peter Finnerty (G); Tony Keady (G); Bobby Ryan (T); Richard Power (K); John Fenton (C); Tony O'Sullivan (C); Tomás Mulcahy (C); Joe Cooney (G); D. Kilcoyne (Westmeath), J. Barry-Murphy (C), K. Hennessy (C).



TULLAROAN — Minor Hurling (Roinn C) Championship and League Winners

Back row (l. to r.): Paddy Clohosey, Danny Norton, Raymond Keogh, Laurence Cummins, Brendan Cuddihy, Noel Treacy, Danny Crosby, Paul Norton, Joe Norton, Paul Hennessy, Ger Dunne, John Walton. **Front row** (l. to r.): John Cummins, Vincent Norton, Sean Teehan, Thomas Hennessy, Jimmy Walton (capt.), Phil Doheny, Michael Dooley, Seirse Butler. Unavailable were Richard Delaney and John Delaney.

IT WAS A STRANGE LEAGUE

- and it could easily have been an awful lot better

IT WOULD amaze you sometimes where accumulative mistakes, and very often minor ones, can lead. A case in point was Kilkenny's up-and-down run in the National Hurling League season 1986/87. The Noresiders, holders of the crown at the beginning, very nearly ended up being relegated at the finish.



FROM any point of view, it wasn't a very satisfactory League for Kilkenny. Too often mistakes were made, and games that could have been won were lost. At the time the mistakes were taken in isolation, but when it came to the end of the road, and all the figure were totted up, the Noresiders were left needing to win their last match to avoid dropping down to Division II.

On a dreary day in Mullingar, the Leinster champions won that do-or-die match against Westmeath. But even that was a close thing, and the score at the end was a none too impressive 0-8 to 0-6. Still, it was enough.

By a strange sequence of events, a small thing could have seen Kilkenny back in contention for a place in the shake-up of the competition.

You see, the same day as that Mullingar match, Limerick and Offaly played each other. An Offaly win would have forced a play-off between Limerick and Kilkenny for a place in the last eight. The Shannonsiders got

the victory they needed, and consequently shut the door on the Noresiders. Kilkenny were that near to involvement in the money-making closing stages and, at the same time, were on the brink of relegation. It was a strange League.

The curious course the competition took was well known to followers of the black and amber. Their favourites scored wins over Offaly, a very lucky one over Wexford and then Westmeath. Defeats were suffered against Galway, Clare, Limerick and Cork, and the latter three could easily have been won.



HARD SLOG

The match in Salthill was the only one in which the Noresiders were comprehensively beaten.

Later, when Kilkenny trainer-coach Pat Henderson looked back on the League, he summed it up thus: "We won some games we shouldn't have, and lost some we should have won". Luck was with Kilkenny against Wexford alright. They always had the measure of Offaly, but it was a hard slog all the way against improving Westmeath.

It was interesting to note that Galway, the one team that really overpowered Kilkenny, went on to win the competition. Perhaps there is something to dwell on there?



In some ways the League can be a funny old competition. The time of year is not really right for hurling. Some players like to take a break during it, as did Ger Fennelly and Joe Hennessy at times last season. And rarely are players as fit as they might be.

A good start can make a big difference because to lose in the opening matches can put the pressure on to get points to avoid the drop down a grade. And in Kilkenny there is another anomaly. By and large, the team starts with one set of selectors in charge, and then finishes with another group at the helm. A change of crew in midstream. Not exactly the course to take, is it?

In last year's League, Eddie Keher (Rower-Inistioge), Pat Delaney (Fenians) and Johnny Walsh (Shamrocks) took the team through the first match against Offaly. This was Kilkenny's opening defence of the League crown won the previous year by beating Galway in the final.

On a good day, almost 7,500 people turned out to see the Noresiders beat the George Leahy (James Stephens) trained Offaly side by 2-13 to 2-7. It was 0-6 to 0-4 at half-time, and goals in the last quarter from John Mulcahy and Tommy Phelan tilted the balance for the home side, who in all grabbed 2-5 in the closing 15 minutes.

SERIOUS INJURY

That day Christy Heffernan received a serious facial injury and he was forced to miss the following three games.

But for the next outing, against Galway, the old had been replaced and the new selectors — Noel Kehoe (Clara), John Healy (Tullogher-Rosbercon) and Martin Coogan



(Erin's Own) — had taken charge. The new county champions, Clara, had their say. They had earned the right.

The new men had their ideas, and what with some players not available for selection, big changes were made. By the time the match against Galway had finished, Kilkenny had already tried 23 players, and that was in just two outings.

You see the point? There was no real continuity. There had been some unpleasant feelings after the rowdy conclusion to the county senior hurling final, and that had a bearing on things, too. It wasn't easy on the new men coming in as selectors, and it wasn't easy on the old going out. After all, they had guided Kilkenny to League and Leinster championship wins during their term.

The timing of the change-over from one group of selectors to another should be looked at in the immediate future. (See special story).

The second outing for Messrs. Kehoe, Coogan and Healy was a home date with Wexford. Here the home side extended their luck to the absolute limit, and after falling into 13-point arrears in the opening 20 minutes, recovered dramatically and eventually won a thrill-a-minute game by 4-9 to 3-10. During the closing three minutes a point from a free from all of 110 yards by Joe Hennessy and another from newcomer Tommy Lennon made up Kilkenny's victory margin.

Paudie Brennan, who scored two goals, and Lennon and Tommy Phelan were particularly good in this match.

Costly errors, and a goal given away in each half, helped Clare to a 2-12 to 0-12 win in the next engagement. The visitors gave as good as they got here, but mistakes undid all their good work. The visitors led by 0-11 at 1-5 at the interval, but it took the Banner County 17 minutes of the new half to draw level (1-9 to 0-12).

EMPTY-HANDED

After that, Kilkenny missed two frees that would have given them the lead so, in the end, despite heroics from Ger Henderson, Frank Holohan, Tom Brennan, Richard Power, Michael Cleere, Tommy Lennon and Lester and Harry Ryan, they went home empty-handed. It was a good effort against the team that ended up in the League final.

And there was also a hard luck story involved when Limerick won the next tie by 2-10 to 2-9. Here Kilkenny had Michael Cleere sent off in the 39th minute and in the end the extra man made all the difference. Christy Heffernan made a dramatic return here. Even when a man short, the losers took the lead after trailing by 1-6 to 0-4 at the break. In the end, they ran out of steam trying to cover for the man dismissed.

Into the new year, 1987 in fact, Cork walloped home 2-3 without reply in the closing 11 minutes to race to a 4-10 to 2-7 success at Nowlan Park. In all, the teams were level five times during this enjoyable tussle, the last time being in the 48th minute at 2-7 each. In the region of 8,000 flocked to see this game between the all-Ireland and League champions.



Those defeats and hard luck stories left Kilkenny needing a win in their last outing against Westmeath. They got in, but only after a tough struggle. The winners' performance could be summed-up thus: the backs were good, but the forwards failed to deliver the goods. During the opening 20 minutes Westmeath hardly got past their opponents' "40". Still they were only 0-3 to 0-4 behind at the break. Christy Heffernan played a great game, but there was only a limited amount he could do. Just as well Frank Holohan, Ger Fennelly and Michael Cleere were in such good form further back.

With a little luck Kilkenny could have enjoyed much better times in the League. With a little more bad luck, they could have been relegated. But overall, they were better than their lowly position might suggest.

Scoring the worst in at least five years

THE fact Kilkenny had a bad run in the National League, and in the end were fighting to avoid relegation, was highlighted in the scoring returns.

During the seven games, Kilkenny scored a total of 11 goals and 69 points, the worst total in at least five years. The scoring was way down, both individually and collectively.

In the League of 1986, the Noresiders hit 19 goals and 113 points (top scorer Ger Fennelly with 1-47); in '85 the total was 13-96 (top scorer Kieran Brennan with 1-29); in '84 the figure was 13-102 (top scorer Billy Fitzpatrick with 4-55) and in 1983 a massive 24-102 was scored, and Billy Fitzpatrick (4-32) and Christy Heffernan (11-11) shared the top individual honours.

In fairness, Kilkenny won the League in 1983 and '86 and, as a result, played more matches, but last season's returns must still be regarded as poor.

The highest individual score on this occasion was registered by Richard Power, who at one stage in the competition was the free-taker. The lively Carrickshock man landed 1-12. Again, for the leading Kilkenny scorer, that was the worst in at least five years. But for Richard Power, who plays most of his hurling at midfield, it was a good score. Richard also hit the highest score in any one match, which was when he scored seven points against Limerick. He was pushed closely here by Paudie Brennan, who scored two goals against Wexford.

In all, 16 players shared in the scoring during the League.

The men who rose the green and white flags were: Richard Power (1-12, seven frees, one '65'); Harry Ryan (0-12); Tommy Lennon (1-9); Tommy Bawle (0-9, six frees); Tommy Phelan (2-3); Lester Ryan (1-6, one point free); Paudie Brennan (2-1); Christy Heffernan (1-3, goal penalty); Anthony Prendergast (1-3, goal and point frees); Liam Fennelly (1-2); Kieran Brennan (0-3); John Mulcahy (1-0); Michael Cleere (0-2); Ger Fennelly (0-2, frees); Joe Hennessy (0-1, free); Pat Walsh (0-1).

OCTOBER 12, AT NOWLAN PARK

Kilkenny 2-13 **Offaly** 2-7
Scorers: H. Ryan (0-5); T. Bawle (0-4, frees); T. Phelan (1-1); J. Mulcahy (1-0); A. Prendergast (0-2); L. Fennelly (0-1).

OCTOBER 26, AT PEARSE STADIUM, GALWAY

Galway 0-18 **Kilkenny** 1-11
Scorers: T. Lennon (0-4); R. Power (1-1); H. Ryan (0-3); L. Ryan (0-2, one free); L. Fennelly (0-1).

NOVEMBER 9, AT NOWLAN PARK

Kilkenny 4-9 **Wexford** 3-10
Scorers: P. Brennan (2-0); T. Phelan (1-1); A. Prendergast (1-1, frees); T. Lennon (0-2); T. Bawle (0-2, frees); J. Hennessy (0-1, free); L. Ryan (0-1); H. Ryan (0-1).

NOVEMBER 23, AT ENNIS

Clare 2-12 **Kilkenny** 0-12
Scorers: H. Ryan (0-3); T. Lennon (0-2); T. Bawle (0-2); L. Ryan (0-2); M. Cleere, T. Phelan, P. Brennan (1-0 each).

DECEMBER 7, AT ENNIS ROAD, LIMERICK

Limerick 2-10 **Kilkenny** 2-9
Scorers: R. Power (0-7, six frees, one '65'); T. Lennon (1-1); L. Fennelly (1-0); L. Ryan (0-1).

FEBRUARY 15, AT NOWLAN PARK

Cork 4-10 **Kilkenny** 2-7
Scorers: C. Heffernan (1-0, penalty); L. Ryan (1-0); R. Power (0-3, frees); K. Brennan (0-3); T. Bawle (0-1).

MARCH 1, AT MULLINGAR

Kilkenny 0-8 **Westmeath** 0-6
Scorers: C. Heffernan (0-3); G. Fennelly (0-2, frees); M. Cleere, P. Walsh, R. Power (0-1 each).

In just two games, 23 players were used

IN ALL, Kilkenny used 29 players during the course of the National League. It must have appeared at the beginning that half the county was going to get a run, because in the opening two matches 23 different players were tried.

After that, things settled and with the return late of a few who had run into injuries, Christy Heffernan and Kieran Brennan, and Ger Fennelly who had taken a break before Christmas, the numbers being thrown in at the deep end dropped.

Five players — captain Paddy Prendergast, John Henderson, Frank Holohan, Ger Henderson and Richard Power — played in all the games.

Of that group, Frank Holohan was the only one who subsequently failed to establish himself in the championship team. After playing against Westmeath, he was injured in the run up to the Wexford game. Frank received a leg injury and by the time he had regained full fitness, the team had taken on a settled look. Talk about bad luck.

Frank, an army captain, has given great service to his club, Shamrocks, and Kilkenny and, no doubt, will

continue to do so. With Kilkenny he won senior all-Ireland medals in 1982 and 1983, and National League honours in the same years, and also in 1986.

Could there be some sort of jinx on the corner-back position in Kilkenny? A few years ago Paddy Neary (James Stephens) played very well throughout the League for Kilkenny, but then failed to get a run in the championship. That was in 1983, after helping the Noresiders win the League. He actually played in the final against Limerick.

The men who played were (number of games in brackets): Paddy Prendergast, John Henderson, Frank Holohan, Ger Henderson, Richard Power (7 each); Harry Ryan, Tommy Lennon, Lester Ryan (6 each); Tom Ryan, Liam Fennelly, John Mulcahy (5 each); Kevin Fennelly, Christy Heffernan, Tommy Bawle, Joe Hennessy, Anthony Prendergast, Kieran Brennan, Paudie Brennan, Michael Cleere (4 each); Tommy Phelan, Michael Walsh (3 each); Sean Fennelly, Pat Walsh, Tommy Brennan, Ger Fennelly (2 each); Declan Mullan, John Power, Larry Cleere, Liam Walsh (1 each).

Marriage of convenience to produce talented progeny

GIANT Kilkenny firm, Avonmore Creameries have joined in a marriage of mutual convenience with giant sporting organisation, the G.A.A. and the proposed off-spring should be a very talented lot indeed.



Pictured at the launch of the Avonmore/G.A.A. "Play Football" book are (l. to r.): John Dowling (Chairman G.A.A. Development Committee), Brendan Graham (Group Secretary Avonmore), Joe McGrath (Chairman G.A.A. Coaching Council) and Nicky Purcell (former Group Secretary Avonmore).

YOU SEE, the pair have pooled their resources in a major promotion of hurling and football throughout the country. And the direct beneficiaries will be the G.A.A.'s playing population, from the top county players to the youngsters taking up the games in schools and colleges.

The Co-Op, for long leaders in the G.A.A. Inter-Firm competitions, have thrown their lot in behind the Association's coaching wing.

And now you could be having Avonmore and the G.A.A. for breakfast, dinner and tea, because the Co-Op will bring this new marriage to the attention of a mass consumer audience by advertising it on their line of products.

"Avonmore have always been committed to long-term planning and investing in the future", Avonmore

Group Managing Director, Pat O'Neill said. "We believe our involvement in the G.A.A. National Coaching programme is a logical extension of this philosophy.

"Coaching is about the pursuit of excellence, something which we in Avonmore are constantly striving for, both among our workforce and farm suppliers".

In addition to providing financial support for existing G.A.A. coaching activities, Avonmore decided to introduce a number of innovations.

COACHING CLINICS

Among these would be a programme of coaching clinics organised on a county basis. They would involve prominent county hurlers and footballers providing one-day coaching clinics for schools and clubs throughout the country.

A number of new coaching aids will also be made

available as part of the Avonmore/G.A.A. National Coaching programme. These include an illustrated book on football skills, and a video based on the same publication.

A number of special awards have also been introduced to publicise well executed individual and team skills in both hurling and football.

Welcoming the assistance of Avonmore, the G.A.A. President, Dr. Mick Loftus said it was a source of great encouragement that a major national organisation like Avonmore should make a worthwhile investment in the national games.

"By investing in coaching, Avonmore have demonstrated good business sense, and there can be a positive long term benefit for us all in this", he added.

Avonmore have 12,000 farmer suppliers, 1,400 employees, and extends from

Drogheda to South Tipperary. The Co-Op have a long association with the G.A.A.

Indeed, the Avonmore Training Division Manager, Billy Murphy, is a former Kilkenny hurler, who won senior all-Irelands in 1969 and 1972 (sub.) Retired group general secretary, Nicky Purcell, was a former Kilkenny Central Council representative. Kilkenny's current Central Council representative, Tom Ryall, works with Avonmore.

The Co-Op also boasts of nearly 40 employees who are either current or former inter-county players, including all-Ireland medal winners like Nickey Brennan, Billy Fitzpatrick, Mick 'Cloney' Brennan and Martin Brennan.

On the playing field, Avonmore have also proved tops in the G.A.A. The Co-Op won seven senior inter-firm all-Ireland hurling titles over the last 11 years.



Thanks Seamus . . . retiring Football Board Secretary, Seamus Delaney, was made a presentation by the Co. Board in appreciation of his service to the game. Also pictured are (from left): Pat Mulrooney, Football Board Chairman; Tommy Murphy, Co. Board Chairman and Mrs. Girlie Delaney, who was made a presentation of a bouquet of flowers.

Fond farewell to Seamus

THE MAN, who for the past 17 years filled the most unenviable job in the G.A.A. in Kilkenny, was bid a fond farewell by grateful colleagues.

Football Board secretary from 1969 to 1986, Seamus Delaney called it a day at the beginning of the year, and he was the recipient of several presentations by the people he had worked with down through the years.

The Patrick street publican knew more bad times than good in a county that has always struggled in the football world. But through the ups-and-downs Seamus laboured away, and at the end of it all accumulated a store of happy memories, and made scores of new friends.

"It was all above love for the game", Seamus suggested when asked why he stuck with such a difficult task. "There were times when it would have been easy to pack it all in, but someone had to do the job. I enjoyed the good times and put up with the bad".

Seamus served under five chairmen — Mick Meally (Railyard); Francis O'Brien (Kilmoganny); Nicky McGrath; Barry Henriques (Coolagh) and Michael O'Neill (St. Senan's).

He was the 5th secretary of the Football Board, and followed Liam MacOda, Clomanto (1937-'40); Tom Butler, The Rower (1941-'43); Jim Lyng, The Rower (1944-1964 March); Mick Morrissey, Muckalee (1964 March — 1967); Tommy O'Brien, Kilkenny (1968). Seamus was first elected in 1969 as a representative of the Clann na Gael club, of which he was a founder member.

To date, Seamus has completed 25 years service to the Co. Board.

Co. Board chairman, Tommy Murphy presented Seamus with a barometer on behalf of the 'Board, while Football Board chairman, Pat Mulrooney made a presentation of a silver tray and Duiske glass.

The O'Loughlin Gaels club also made a presen-

tation of Duiske glass. This was made by chairman, Luke Roche and Mrs. Girlie

Delaney, wife of the retiring official, was presented with a bouquet of flowers.

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Pat is "Mr. Money" on the 'Board

IN accordance with the wishes of delegates, a new position, that of treasurer, was created on Kilkenny Co. Board and a man was voted into office at County Convention in the spacious and functional O'Loughlin Gaels complex.

The man given the task was Pat Dunphy (Rower-Inistioge), who, as a former bank official and current manager of the E.B.S., Patrick street, was no stranger to monetary matters.

In all, there were four nominations for the job. Two withdrew, so it was a straight fight between 32-year-old Pat Dunphy and indefatigable John Lockes (Callan) clubman Barry Hickey, an official with the A.I.B., Callan.

Mr. Dunphy won the favour of delegates after a vote.

Convention agreed to back John Dowling (Offaly) in his quest to become the next President of the G.A.A. At Congress later, Mr. Dowling was made President-Elect. He will take over the highest office in the G.A.A. next year.

In his address, Co. Board chairman Tommy Murphy warned Kilkenny would fight plans to do away with the junior hurling and football inter-county championships. Again Kilkenny backed a winner, and Congress agreed to retain these competitions.

Generally, Convention was a quiet affair, and in the absence of anything contentious, business was completed quickly.



Pat Dunphy

Co. Board officers: Tommy Murphy, Danesfort (chairman); Ted Carroll, Lisdowney (secretary); Jimmy Brophy (Piltown) and Jim Rice, O'Loughlin's (trustees); Pat Dunphy, Rower-Inistioge (treasurer); Ray Anthony, Carrick-on-Suir (auditor); Tom Ryall, Graigue-Ballycallan (Central Council rep. and P.R.O.); Paul Kinsella, St. Martin's, and Brendan O'Sullivan, Thomastown (Bord Iomána); Eamon Doyle, O'Loughlin's (Youth Officer); Tomás de Bhaldraithe, St. Lactain's (Irish officer); Seán Leahy, James Stephens, and Michael O'Neill, St. Senan's (Leinster Council reps.). Delegates to Leinster Convention and Congress: Ted Carroll, Seamus Delaney, Pat Dunphy, Barry Hickey, Eddie Keher (Rower-Inistioge) and Tommy Murphy.

All the officers

Northern Board: Ned Moran, Blacks and Whites (chairman); Jim Rice O'Loughlin Gaels (vice-chairman); John Lyng, Emeralds (secretary); John Lyng; Martin Meally, Cloneen; Jim McGrath, Danesfort; and Nicky Grace, Threecastles (Co. Board delegates).

Southern Board: Joe Mackey, Dunnamaggin (chairman); Andy Aylward, Mullinavat (vice-chairman); Joseph Walsh, Thomastown (secretary-treasurer); Joe Mackey, Ned Conway, Mullinavat (Fixtures Committee reps.); Ned Conway, Barry Hickey, John Lockes, P. J. Roughan, Carrickshock, Sean Walsh (Co. Board delegates); Andy Aylward; Michael Power, John Lockes; Tom Ryan, Glenmore; Tommy Hoynes, Carrickshock (Referees Sub-Committee reps.).

Handball Board: Eamon Hanrahan (chairman); Pat O'Keeffe (vice-chairman); Con Moore (secretary-treasurer for 12 years and P.R.O.); Johnny Brennan (registrar) and Co. Board rep.). **Juvenile Board:** Bobby Falsey (chairman); Sean Kennedy (vice-chairman); Doc Hennessy (secretary-treasurer). Selectors: B. Falsey, D. Hennessy, S. Kennedy, T. Anthony, Nicky Hawe. Senior Selectors: Pat O'Keeffe, T. Reddy, P. Parsons, J. O'Neill, E. Hanrahan.

Football Board: Pat Mulrooney, Clara (chairman); Joe Fox, Graignamanagh (secretary); Teddy Holden, Graignamanagh (vice-chairman); Seamus Delaney, Joe Fox, Tommy Duggan, Mullinavat and Barry Henriques, John Lockes (Co. Board reps.).

Camogie Board: John Phelan, Lisdowney (chairman); Mary Fennelly, St. Paul's (secretary); Annette Stapleton, St. Paul's (treasurer); Breda Holmes, St. Paul's (registrar).

Bord na nOg: James Delahunty, Mooncoin (chairman); Eddie Blackmore, Piltown (vice-chairman); Tom Ryall, Graigue-Ballycallan (secretary); Pat Dunphy, Rower-Inistioge (delegate to Co. Board); John Walton, Tullaroan; Seamus Grace, Fenians; Michael O'Neill, Slieverue; Michael Byrne, Graignamanagh, and officers (Grading Committee).

Primary Schools Board: Bro. Healy, Kilkenny C.B.S. (chairman); Ned Quinn, Mooncoin (vice-chairman); Paul Kinsella, St. Patrick's De La Salle (secretary); John Knox, Gowran (treasurer-P.R.O.).

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Winners of awards for Gaelic games pictured at the 1987 Kilkenny Sports Stars awards dinner in Springhill Hotel with Mr. Garry McShane, Managing Director, Smithwick's Brewery (sponsors). They are (from left): Kevin Fennelly (who received the hurling award for his brother Ger), Biddy O'Sullivan (camogie) and Pierce O'Keeffe (handball).



From left: David Phelan (Mooncoin), Donal Carroll (Dicksboro), Michael Walsh (Graignamanagh), Eamonn Doyle (County Youth Officer) and Pat Horgan (Young Irelands) who represented Kilkenny at the G.A.A. Youth Congress.

Here are the Answers

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>A 1. Richie Reid (Faughs, Dublin).</p> <p>A 2. John Lockes (Callan) in 1911 (junior), 1935 (intermediate) and 1957 (senior).</p> <p>A 3. Denis 'Ogie' Moran with Kerry in 1986.</p> <p>A 4. Gormanston (Meath).</p> <p>A 5. Phil 'Fan' Larkin, Mick 'Cloney' Brennan, Kieran Purcell and Frank Cummins, who went on as a sub.</p> <p>A 6. Mooncoin.</p> <p>A 7. Kevin Fennelly (Shamrocks) and Dick O'Hara (Thomastown).</p> <p>A 8. Lester Ryan (Clara).</p> <p>A 9. The year was 1981, and the final was between James Stephens and Fenians (Johnstown). Stephens won by 2-10 to 0-8.</p> <p>A10. Near South Selection in 1961 (4-5 to 0-12) and Tullogher in 1963 (1-7 to 0-3).</p> | <p>A11. Joe O'Sullivan (Piltown).</p> <p>A12. Five in 1901, 1902, 1906, 1907 and 1909.</p> <p>A13. Dick 'Drug' Walsh in 1913.</p> <p>A14. In 33 years. The previous one was in the semi-final of 1953.</p> <p>A15. In 1954 against Wexford.</p> <p>A16. Jimmy Gilmartin, brother of handballer John Joe.</p> <p>A17. Joe Hennessy.</p> <p>A18. Three times — in 1964 (v. Bennettsbridge); in 1985 (v Shamrocks) and this year.</p> <p>A19. Billy Harte (Galmoy).</p> <p>A.20 1982 Barrow Rangers (Paulstown) won by 0-12 to 0-6; 1985 Graigue/Ballycallan won by 1-12 to 3-4.</p> |
|---|---|

How did you do?

As a fisherman might say, the 'Big One' got away

FISHERMEN are the band of sports people given the dubious honour of being the most creative when telling tales of what might have been. Stories of the fish that got away can be impossible to contradict, simply because of the nature of the sport.

KILKENNY had a bit of a "slipped hook" experience themselves this year. It could be argued a big fish got away, and they were left with little consolation, but plenty of thoughts about what might have been.

The 1987 all-Ireland senior hurling final featured Galway and Kilkenny. It wasn't one of the best. It wasn't even one of the most sporting. It was close, nasty and dour. In the end Galway registered their third senior win. The score read: Galway 1-12; Kilkenny 0-9.

The margin of victory, or defeat, whatever way you want to look at it, wasn't the fairest reflection of a match ever. The general body of the game was much closer than the finishing scoreline might suggest. A small thing could have tilted the balance the other way, but as Kilkenny had what luck was going in the all-Irelands of 1975 and '79 against Galway, who could begrudge them a win this time?

Still, to be fair to the efforts of Kilkenny as much as Galway — and by no means wanting to rub it in or blame any individuals — this final could easily have been landed. Kilkenny could have chalked up win number 24.

The losers went in at the interval just 0-4 to 0-5 down. Within 30 seconds of the re-start Ger Fennelly shot the equaliser. Twice the teams swapped points after that, and then in the 43rd minute Kilkenny hit the front for the one and only time. Liam Fennelly was fouled. Ger Fennelly converted the free, and Galway were left 0-7 to 0-8 behind. The Noresiders seemed to be making their burst at exactly the right time.

A BREAK

Less than 10 minutes later the Connacht champions had battled to reverse the roles, and showed 0-10 to 0-8 in front. The match seemed to be slipping on Kilkenny. Then came a break. Liam Fennelly got a run at goal. Somehow his palmed effort from point-blank range was kept out of the net by 'keeper, John Commins. That was like the moment when a big fish slips the hook, and swims away to freedom.

Instead of a goal at one end, Galway escaped and Joe Cooney had a point at the other. Moments later came a goal at the same end. There was an element of luck involved, in that Noel Lane's angled shot was half saved by 'keeper, Kevin Fennelly. The ball trickled into the net. A desperate dive by Liam Fennelly — where did he come out of? — failed to stop the run of the ball.

In those moments, the senior hurling all-Ireland of 1987 was won and lost. For a long time the 65,586 attendance had known one goal would swing it. The scores that followed afterwards were only statistics for the record books.

The Kilkenny hurlers didn't need anyone to tell them they had missed a right chance. The losers dressingroom must have been the most depressing place in Ireland that afternoon. Tears were shed. Players couldn't talk.

There was optimism there too. Former stars, Phil 'Fan' Larkin and Eddie Keher were there to give consoling words.

"Kilkenny will be like all Kilkenny teams, they will be back next year to win", assured Phil Larkin. If the memories of the losers dressingroom on September 6 are any spur at all, Fan could be right. And perhaps local supporters felt that too, because the following evening when the team arrived back in the city, in the region of 5,000 turned up to say "well done, and thank you". The hurlers had given people a good year, and there was many a grateful soul.

WASN'T A BAD YEAR

There were a few unkind souls as well. There was the usual, "sure so-and-so was never any good anyway". The selectors didn't escape. They "should have done this and that". In fairness, it wasn't as bad as in years past. Perhaps people are coming to the realisation that lucky breaks can turn, and win, games from time to time. The fact Galway, who were in their third consecutive final, had beaten Kilkenny and not someone else probably helped.

The final itself, and the Kilkenny performance, disappointed. Kilkenny, who in their previous four outings had averaged nearly 3 goals and 18 points per game, struggled to get 0-9 in the final. Harry Ryan was the only forward to make the scoresheet of those who started. Ger Fennelly finished with seven points, and with better shooting from frees, he could have nearly doubled that. The losers registered nine wides in the first half, and six in the second. That was 15 in all. And they were still there with a shout going into the dying stages. No mean achievement. No bad Kilkenny team, no matter what people might want to believe.

Outside the established players, the successes of the championship were wing-backs Seán Fennelly and Liam Walsh. They truly arrived. They showed they are made of the right stuff. The full-back line of Hennessy, Prendergast and John Henderson proved those who doubted them wrong. Prendergast, never given the credit he deserves, yet again proved himself one of the best defenders in the county. Those who questioned his pace and defensive qualities were strangely mute when, with his two flankers, the Kilkenny full-back trio was picked en-bloc by Leinster.

But the '87 final truly belonged to sturdy veteran, Ger Henderson. He received an awful hand injury in the early stages, but refused to give in to pain or suffering. The most

heroic performance in an all-Ireland final ever, that was Ger Henderson's.

Overall it was a good championship for Kilkenny, final apart. In the opening match Westmeath, who has caused problems in the League, were easily cast aside (4-20 to 4-5). Christy Heffernan did a one man demolition job and scored 2-5.

LET RIP

In the next match against Wexford, it was Harry Ryan, in a new full-forward role, who stole the limelight. The Noresiders were the cool, clean heroes, and clinically took their opponents asunder. Ryan blasted home 1-4. In the opening eight minutes Wexford were left 0-1 to 1-4 behind. By the break they were better off, but still 1-8 to 1-10 down. In the second half, the Noresiders let rip, and won by 3-20 to 2-15.

Originally the Leinster final was to have been played in mid-July, but because of damage caused to Croke Park during two U2 concerts, it was put back until early August. The disruption caused locally was still being felt months later. Kilkenny won an extraordinary final by 2-14 to 0-17.

It was as if the Mighty One had ordained this should be remembered as two games. Offaly won the first hands down. Kilkenny the second.

The losers were brilliant in the opening period, and were not one bit flattered when they led by 0-14 to 1-5 at the break. Ger Fennelly kept Kilkenny in the game with scores from frees. A second goal from Liam Fennelly in the 49th minute knocked the wind out of Offaly. The Noresiders slipped through, but needed super performance from Ger Henderson, Lester Ryan, Ger Fennelly, Joe Hennessy, Ger Henderson, Paddy Prendergast, John Henderson, Seán Fennelly, Liam Walsh and Christy Heffernan to get there. Offaly were that good that so many Kilkenny players had to play well for them to win.

The all-Ireland semi-final against Antrim was another

thriller. Harry Ryan produced another amazing game, and scored 2-5 from play. The Northerners lack of experience cost them dear, and they were only beaten in the closing six minutes (2-18 to 2-11). Kilkenny were flattered. Antrim could not be praised enough.

GOOD TIMES

After just 12 minutes Antrim led by 1-5 to no score. As well, they had hit six wides. Kilkenny had just two shots at goal in the same time. At half-time, the losers were still in front (1-7 to 0-5). Twice during the second half the teams were level. It wasn't until Ger Fennelly pointed a free in the 64th minute to put Kilkenny 2-12 to 2-11 ahead that Antrim were finally cracked.

After all that had gone before, including in Munster where Tipperary scored their first provincial win in 16 years, the all-Ireland final was the hurling let-down of the year. Both sides got involved in a physical battle, and the standard of hurling suffered.

But let us not just remember that one. There were plenty of good times in the days against Wexford, Offaly and Antrim. It is too soon to write the epitaph of this team just yet.

The Kilkenny all-Ireland team was: K. Fennelly (Shamrocks); J. Hennessy (James Stephens); P. Prendergast (Clara, capt.); J. Henderson (Fenians); L. Walsh (Glenmore); G. Henderson (Fenians); S. Fennelly (Shamrocks); G. Fennelly (Shamrocks); L. Ryan (Clara); K. Brennan (Conahy Shamrocks); C. Heffernan (Glenmore); R. Power (Carrickshock); P. Walsh (Windgap); L. Fennelly (Shamrocks); H. Ryan (Clara). Subs: T. Lennon (Bennettsbridge) and L. McCarthy (Piltown). Other panelists: D. Bourke (Emeralds); F. Holohan (Shamrocks); T. Leahy (James Stephens); M. Cleere (O'Loughlin's); F. Holohan (Shamrocks); T. Leahy (James Stephens); M. Cleere (O'Loughlin's); J. Power (John Lockes); T. Ryan (Clara); T. Bawle (Dicksboro); K. Ryan (Clara); P. McCormack (Fenians).



Le Dea Mhéin

ó

Chomhairle Laighean

C.L.G

M. Ó Dubhsláine

Runaí



Seven times losing margin was the same or smaller

KILKENNY were beaten by six points in the all-Ireland final. Only seven times in the 19 all-Ireland final defeats the county has suffered, has the losing margin been as great or smaller than that.

The most recent one was the 2-8 to 1-15 (four points) defeat against Cork in 1979. That day, the teams were level eight times. Some reckoned Kilkenny lacked experience against Cork, who were after the three in-a-row.

After the Leinster final the previous year Eddie Keher retired. Many felt he had been caught in a moment of weakness, and media pressure brought his career to a premature end. To this day, there are thousands who believe he would have made

the difference against Cork in '78.

In 1971 Tipperary won by 5-17 to 5-14, which was the second highest total of scores in a final. This was an 80 minute game. Tipperary deserved their win, and Kilkenny had no complaint.

Another close enough one was in 1966 against Cork (3-9 to 1-10). Here the Noresiders gave one of their worst ever displays in an all-Ireland. The inadequacy of the losers forward line was unbelievable. Kilkenny had a goal in the closing stages from Tom Walsh, and that took the bad look off things.

The closest one of all was the 1950 final against Tipperary. The score was 1-9 to 1-8. The title was there for the taking, but the losers fell

away in the second half. Against the breeze and all in the opening half, Kilkenny had the better of things and turned over 0-7 to 0-5 ahead. Things went sour after that.

There was another close one in 1945, and Tipperary won this by 5-6 to 3-6. A record crowd of 69,459 attended. The losers were unsteady in the opening period, but improved afterwards. They might well have won but for the brilliance of Jimmy Maher in the Tipp goal.

Prior to that, there was another near miss in 1940 against Limerick, when the score was 3-7 to 1-7. The moving of the great Mick Mackey to midfield changed the game after Kilkenny, the defending champions, led by

1-4 to 1-2 at half-time. There was a body of opinion that suggested Billy Burke should have been sent out to mark Mackey, but it didn't happen.

Another year that, according to records, produced a close final was 1897, when Tullaroan represented the Marble City county against Kilfinane (Limerick). The score was 3-4 to 2-4. The losers had an interval lead of 2-4 to 1-1. This game marked the first appearance of men from Mooncoin in an all-Ireland. The Mooncoin men who played were John Quinn, Pat Fielding and Michael Merry.

No doubt about it, Kilkenny have had their near misses in their time.

The scores that nearly did it

MAY 31, AT PORTLAOISE

Kilkenny 4-20 **Westmeath** 4-5

Scorers: Christy Heffernan (2-5, point free); Kieran Brennan (1-2); Pat Walsh (1-2); Harry Ryan, Liam McCarthy, Liam Fennelly (0-3 each); Seán Fennelly (0-2).

JUNE 21, AT CROKE PARK

Kilkenny 3-20 **Wexford** 2-15

Scorers: Harry Ryan (1-4); Liam McCarthy (1-3); Ger Fennelly (0-5, four frees); Liam Fennelly (1-1); Christy Heffernan (0-3); Pat Walsh (0-2); Lester Ryan, Seán Fennelly (0-1 each).

AUGUST 2, AT CROKE PARK — Leinster Final:

Kilkenny 2-14 **Offaly** 0-17

Scorers: Ger Fennelly (0-9, four frees, two 65s'); Liam Fennelly (2-0); Richard Power, Christy Heffernan, Harry Ryan, Kieran Brennan, Tommy Lennon (0-1 each).

AUGUST 16, AT DUNDALK

—all-Ireland semi-final

Kilkenny 2-18 **Antrim** 2-11

Scorers: Harry Ryan (2-5); Ger Fennelly (0-7, six frees); Kieran Brennan (0-3); Tommy Lennon, Christy Heffernan, Richard Power (0-1 each).

SEPTEMBER 6, AT CROKE PARK:

— all-Ireland final

Galway 1-12 **Kilkenny** 0-9

Scorers: Ger Fennelly (0-7, frees); Harry Ryan, Tommy Lennon (0-1 each).

Most consistent, but still second best

KILKENNY'S most consistent scorer in the championship didn't head the scoring charts at the end of the competition for the McCarthy Cup.

Harry Ryan, of the champions Clara club, was the only player who scored in all five championship games. His overall tally was a very respectable 3-14, but it wasn't enough to put him on top of the scoring hit parade.

This honour fell to free-taker, Ger Fennelly who weighed-in with 28 points, two more than Harry's total. Strangely, in what was Kilkenny's easiest game, the opening one against Westmeath, Ger Fennelly failed to score.

The Shamrocks man made up for lost time after that. His highest tally was nine points, which he scored

against Offaly in the Leinster final.

However, hit-man Harry did make it to the top in one area, but even here, he had to share the honour. His terrific individual score against Antrim was 2-5, the highest in any one match. Against Westmeath, Christy Heffernan also grabbed 2-5, but one of its points was a free. All Harry's scores in the all-Ireland semi-final were from play.

Kilkenny's overall championship total was 11-81.

The scoring honours went thus: Ger Fennelly (0-28, 21 frees, two 65s'); Harry Ryan (3-14); Christy Heffernan (2-10); Liam Fennelly (3-4); Kieran Brennan and Liam McCarthy (1-6 each); Pat Walsh (1-4); Tommy Lennon, Seán Fennelly (0-3 each); Richard Power (0-2); Lester Ryan (0-1).

KILKENNY – Leinster senior hurling champions and all-Ireland finalists



BACK ROW (left to right): Joe Hennessy, Christy Heffernan, Richard Power, Lester Ryan, Sean Fennelly, John Henderson, Liam Fennelly. FRONT ROW (left to right): Harry Ryan, Ger Henderson, Paddy Prendergast (capt.), Kevin Fennelly, Kieran Brennan, Liam Walsh, Ger Fennelly, Pat Walsh.

KILKENNY — all-Ireland senior camogie champions



BACK ROW (left to right): Liz Neary, Angela Downey, Ann Downey, Deirdre Malone, Breda Holmes, Rita Wemyss, Billy O'Sullivan. FRONT (left to right): Jo Dunne, Marie Fitzpatrick, Bridie McGarry (capt), Anna Whelan, Clare Jones, Tom Ryan (trainer).

Kilkenny the undisputed camogie champs

THE final contest wasn't really billed as such. But when Kilkenny entered it, they were going for the title of undisputed champions. They made it to the top, and when they walked away, everyone acknowledged them as the very best at their job.

That was the way the year ended for the Kilkenny senior camogie team. They were undisputed champions of the game in Ireland. First they won the National League, then the All Ireland open draw championship — for the third consecutive year — and the haul over a three year period included five national titles. Little more could have been achieved.

Often the achievements of the ladies are placed a distant second to those of the men, but in this year when the hurlers just missed the McCarthy Cup, people had time to reflect on the exploits of the ladies. And all were impressed.

The All Ireland camogie final, for example, was as entertaining as any good hurling game. One remembers getting back to Kilkenny the night of the game and viewing highlights of the match on the television with some friends. The general consensus was something like . . . "The skill factor involved is something else". The Kilkenny girls opened a few eyes and they may not have realised it, but they gave camogie a huge shot in the arm.

Perhaps more than ever before, the sports-minded people of Kilkenny appreciated what the camogie players did. When the team arrived back in the city for a civic reception on the night after the final, thousands turned out to greet the skilful champions. It wasn't so much people had suddenly copped on to camogie, but the players, with their attractive style of play, had won a place in the hearts of the sporting public.

HOT FAVOURITES

There was a lot of pressure on Kilkenny entering the All Ireland



final against Cork. They were after the second league/championship double. They were the hottest of hot favourites.

But it didn't seem to bother the ladies, and by half time they had laid strong foundations for victory. Cork were good, but their opponents were great. That was the difference in this decider, in which skill triumphed over all else. The catching, lifting, striking, hooking and passing of the winners was hard to credit. Many a hurler would be glad to be master of his trade as much as the ladies.

At the break the attendance of 4,500 — a good crowd — must have sensed the outcome. Cork were 0-2 to 2-3 behind, and the O'Duffy Cup looked destined for the Noreside again. Kilkenny captain, Bridie McGarry, already had one hand on the trophy.

"Bridie — Hold Me Now" was the prophetic message on one colourful black and amber banner. Out on the field, that camogie genius, Angela Downey-Browne frightened the daylight out of Cork every time she gained possession. But she wasn't alone when it came to terrorising the opposition, because Breda Holmes was another forward who blasted holes in the losers' defence at regular intervals. Further back, goalkeeper Marie Fitzpatrick showed excellent anticipation and placed the ball well when clearing, and midfielder Anna Whelan also turned in the proverbial blinder.

"We look forward to another first class display of skill and sportsmanship in today's final", Camogie Association President, Máire Uí Loinsigh, had written in the match programme. Kilkenny and Cork did not disappoint.

TAKEN AFTERNOON OFF

On the training fields of Danesfort, Nowlan and St. John's Parks and St. Kieran's College, Kilkenny had laboured hard under coach-trainer Tom Ryan. The efforts had all been worthwhile and in the final the winners had such control that team selectors Billy Malone (St. Brigid's), Carmel Savage (St. Paul's) and Mr. Ryan could have taken the afternoon off.

That win over Cork meant that during the past three years Kilkenny won the All Ireland each time, and in 1985 and '87 won the leagues as well. Not bad going, not bad going at all.

Going on the results of the three championship matches it must be said, without overstating things one little bit, that Kilkenny ran away with the competition. Cork got nearest to them, and they finished nine points behind (3-10 to 1-7).

In the opening round, a young Clare team put up only token opposition. Angela Downey-Browne helped herself to her best score of the championship and finished with 3-3 to her credit.

The next one, Kilkenny dreaded — an away tie against Dublin. This was a repeat of the All Ireland final of 1986. The Noreside ladies trained extremely hard. Their efforts paid rich dividends. They won by an impressive 3-9 to 0-6.

Again the winners were in cracking form. Their speed and anticipation gave them yards to spare over their opponents. Two goals early in the second half from Angela Downey-Browne sealed the Dubs' fate. Angela's twin, Anne, was in terrific form at midfield and landed a few excellent long range points. Captain Bridie McGarry played like a woman possessed and was always there to provide back-up, or encouraging words, for a teammate. Biddy O'Sullivan was another who relished the big challenge and repeatedly beat back the best the Dubs could throw down her wing.

PROPER PERSPECTIVE

After that the Marble City girls knew they had the makings of another All Ireland. The big day couldn't come fast enough for them. When it did come, they didn't disappoint.

Before finishing, let us try and get the proper perspective on what these great — and great is what they are — camogie ladies have achieved. We all remember what the Kilkenny senior hurlers of 1982 and 1983 won: they captured two All Irelands and two National Leagues. The likes had never been done before in the county.

Now compare that to what the camogie team did. They won one title more over three years. Was that not better? It is a fact of life that the achievements of women in sport rarely gain the recognition they truly deserve.

We in Kilkenny are lucky. In the early eighties we had a special band of talented hurlers. Now we have a special band of talented camogie players. We should never forget that, or stop being proud of them. It is as tough and demanding for one to get to the top as the other.

The Kilkenny All Ireland team



Famous race . . . Downey and Ring chase the sliothar in the senior camogie final. Angela Downey is daughter of former Kilkenny hurler, Shem Downey, and Mary Ring is daughter of former Cork star, Christy Ring.

was: Marie Fitzpatrick (St. Brigid's, Ballycallan), Rita Wemyss (Shamrocks), Deirdre Malone (St. Brigid's), Bridie McGarry, capt (St. Paul's), Biddy O'Sullivan (Shamrocks), Clare Jones (St. Paul's), Anne Downey (St. Paul's), Anna Whelan

(Lisdowney), Jo Dunne (Shamrocks), Liz Neary (St. Paul's), Angela Downey-Browne (St. Paul's), Breda Holmes (St. Paul's). Reserves: Siobhán Ryan (Shamrocks), Helen Holmes (St. Paul's), Breda Cahill (St. Brigid's), Frances Rothwell (Mooncoin).



Cumann
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and patronage during 1987

Eamonn Ó Cearbhaill
Runaí

Unbeaten run ended with 5th league win

THE ABILITY to learn quick lessons and be versatile are important in sport, as the Kilkenny senior camogie ladies found out this season.

DURING an unbeaten National League run, that ended with the county taking the title for the fifth time, the ladies had to be adaptable. And they gave no better example of their ability and willingness to change their plan of action than in the final win over Dublin.

In an earlier round the teams had played a close, hard and uncompromising game at Leopards-town. The Dubs were beaten, but only just, by 2-4 (10) to 1-6 (9). The result was always in doubt there, because there was never a lot between the teams. At half-time they had been level at 2-0 (K) to 1-3.

So when all the sorting out was done and the pair met again in the National League final the issue was wide open, going on earlier events. That was the clue. . . . open. Kilkenny kept play in the final open and moved the ball quickly. They didn't get involved in any 'uncompromising' stuff, and they walked away with the title on a 4-8 to 1-5 scoreline.

On their home territory, the Noreiders were just too good for lacklustre opponents. The Dubs missed a few likely chances during the opening half, but the winners made good their escape and took over afterwards.

At the break the winners showed 1-4 to 0-3 in front, and the A.I.B. trophy beckoned. Only to be expected, Angela Downey scored the goal, and a beauty it was too.

FINISHED

Into the second moiety Jo Dunne picked off a point for the winners, and then that other half of the dynamic twin partnership, Anne Downey goaled from a free. The Dubs were finished after that. They hadn't the heart to come back, and anyway, their opponents were in such high spirits they weren't given half-a-chance to get anything going.

The winners had many stars that afternoon, but none shone brighter than Deirdre Malone, whose never say die spirit epitomised the team's willing spirit. She ran herself to a stand-still. Other class performers were Angela and Ann Downey, Clare Jones and Biddy O'Sullivan.

Other teams beaten during the course of the League were Wexford,



Cork and Galway in the semi-final. The eventual champions used the competition to build a team for the championship, and when they found themselves in with a chance of outright victory they went for it.

Rita Wemyss, who late became a key figure in the defence during the championship regularly operated in attack during the League. By the time the all-Ireland series had finished, she had established herself as one of the best backs in the country.

Wexford caused a few problems in the opening round, but still never got in front. At half-time they trailed by 0-2 to

1-2, and were held to just one score after the change around.

The next match against Cork was just too easy, and the Leesiders were beaten by 11 points, which was a big surprise. Angela Downey bagged her biggest haul of the competition here, and finished with 2-7 to her credit.

The first Dublin match was followed by the semi-final against Galway. The Westerners gave it everything they had, but they lacked the experience and neat stick work of their opponents. Still, Kilkenny were not as impressive as they might have been.

The showdown was something of a revenge mission for Kilkenny. The previous year when league champions, they were stripped of their crown by the Dubs. On this occasion the locals got it exactly right against confident opponents. They didn't know it at the time, but another League/Championship double was on the way.

The League final team was: Marie Fitzpatrick, Rita Wemyss, Deirdre Malone, Bridie McGarry, Biddy O'Sullivan, Clare Jones, Anne Downey, Anna Whelan, Jo Dunne, Breda Holmes, Angela Downey, Liz Neary. *Subs named:* Nora Whelan, Siobhan Ryan.

The scores that mattered

MARCH 15 at St. John's Park:

Kilkenny 1-6 **Wexford** 1-2

Scorers: A. Downey (1-2); Breda Holmes (0-2); Jo Dunne, Rita Wemyss (0-1 each).

APRIL 26 at Nowlan Park:

Kilkenny 3-14 **Cork** 1-9

Scorers: Angela Downey (2-7); Ann Downey (0-4); Jo Dunne (1-1); Rita Wemyss (0-2).

MAY 3 at Leopardstown:

Kilkenny 2-4 **Dublin** 1-6

Scorers: Breda Holmes, Anna Whelan (1-0 each); Angela Downey (0-2); Jo Dunne, Ann Downey (0-1 each).

MAY 24 National League semi-final:

Kilkenny 4-7 **Galway** 1-7

Scorers: Angela Downey (2-3); Breda Holmes (1-1); Jo Dunne (1-0); Ann Downey (0-2); Rita Wemyss (0-1).

JUNE 7 LEAGUE FINAL at Nowlan Park:

Kilkenny 4-8 **Dublin** 1-5

Scorers: Angela Downey (2-3); Ann Downey and Jo Dunne (1-2 each); Clare Jones (0-1).

A GLORIOUS DECADE

WITHOUT doubt, this will go down as one of the greatest decades for camogie in Kilkenny.

Apart from the senior all-Ireland titles won since the beginning of the eighties (4), the peerless ladies have also collected four National League crowns.

In all, Kilkenny won the Camogie League five times to date, and top the honours list.

Kilkenny wins were scored in:

1978	<i>Kilkenny</i> 2-4	Limerick 1-5
1980	<i>Kilkenny</i> 3-8	Tipperary 1-3
1982	<i>Kilkenny</i> 2-5	Cork 1-4
1985	<i>Kilkenny</i> 4-7	Dublin 2-13 (draw)
	<i>Kilkenny</i> 4-7	Dublin 3-6 (replay)
1987	<i>Kilkenny</i> 4-8	Dublin 1-5

Three stand with greats of hurling

THE MOST recent success was Kilkenny's seventh in the all-Ireland open draw senior camogie championship.

Three players have achieved what only five Kilkenny hurlers have done in over 100 years of Gaelic games. The ladies won seven all-Ireland medals on the field of play. Remarkable, bearing in mind the first senior camogie win was in 1974.

The long servers and winners were Angela Downey-Browne, Bridie McGarry (nee Martin) and Liz Neary.

The hurlers who have done the same are Dick Doyle, Dick Walsh, Sim Walton, Jack Rochford and Frank Cummins.

Anne Downey also collected a 7th all-Ireland medal this season. She won one as a sub in 1974.

Frank Cummins has eight all-Ireland medals in all. He gained one as a sub in 1967.

Former Kilkenny goalkeeper, Noel Skehan, won nine all-Ireland medals overall. He gained six as a player, and three as a sub.

Kilkenny won the National League and Championship double in 1985, and this year's was the second double.

But Kilkenny are still a long way behind in the roll of honour. Dublin

lead the lot with 26 all-Ireland victories, followed by Cork (14) and Kilkenny (7).

The best run of all-Ireland wins was the 10-in-a-row recorded by Dublin between 1957 and '66. They also put eight wins together between 1948 and '55. It could have been 19 straight wins for them, but Antrim won the final of 1956.

Consequently, by camogie standards, the three-in-a-row is far from unusual.

Cork did it first between 1934 and '36 and again between 1939 and '41, before graduating to a four-in-a-row in 1970-'73.

Between 1942 and '44 Dublin did their first three-in-a-row, and later they put 8 and then 10 wins together.

In 1976 and '77 Kilkenny put wins back-to-back, but this time they got the treble up. The county won the titles in:

1974:	Kilkenny 3-3, Cork 1-5 (replay). Kilkenny 3-8, Cork 4-5 (draw).
1976:	Kilkenny 0-6, Dublin 1-2.
1977:	Kilkenny 3-4, Wexford 1-3.
1981:	Kilkenny 1-9, Cork 0-7 (replay). Kilkenny 3-9, Cork 3-9 (draw).
1985:	Kilkenny 0-13, Dublin 1-2.
1986:	Kilkenny 2-12, Dublin 2-3.
1987:	Kilkenny 3-10, Cork 1-7.

Angela led the way

AS IF anyone really needed telling, Angela Downey-Browne was the top scorer in the all-Ireland championship.

In the three games, she slammed home a massive 5-14, an incredible score by any standards.

In the final, Angela was in direct opposition to a girl called Mary Ring, daughter of the late, great Cork hurler, Christy Ring.

By a strange twist of fate, Shem Downey, Angela's father, and Christy Ring played on each other in the senior all-Ireland hurling final of 1946.

That year Kilkenny had a problem with the centre-back position, and in each match, had a different man in the number 6 shirt. For the all-Ireland, Shem Downey was entrusted with the task, and facing him was the mighty man from Cloyne.

Shem caught the attention of the Kilkenny selectors while playing with the county juniors in the all-Ireland semi-final of 1946 against Limerick. Instantly he was promoted to the senior side.

Forty-one years later, a Downey and Ring clashed again in an all-Ireland final. How about that?

The county's overall tally was an impressive 14 goals and 30 points.

The Kilkenny championship scorers were: Angela Downey-Browne (5-14); Breda Holmes (5-4); Jo Dunne (2-2); Anne Downey (1-5); Bridie McGarry (0-3); Anna Whelan (1-0); Biddy O'Sullivan, Liz Neary (0-1 each).

JULY 26, AT NOWLAN PARK:

Kilkenny 8-11 **Clare** 3-8
 Scorers: Angela Downey (3-3); Breda Holmes (2-2); Jo Dunne (2-1); Bridie McGarry (0-3); Anna Whelan (1-0); Anne Downey, Biddy O'Sullivan (0-1 each).

AUGUST 30, AT O'TOOLE PARK, DUBLIN:

Kilkenny 3-9 **Dublin** 0-6
 Scorers: Angela Downey (2-4); Anne Downey (0-3); Breda Holmes (1-0); Liz Neary, Jo Dunne (0-1 each).

SEPTEMBER 27, AT CROKE PARK, ALL-IRELAND FINAL:

Kilkenny 3-10 **Cork** 1-7
 Scorers: Angela Downey (0-7); Breda Holmes (2-2); Anne Downey (1-1).



LISDOWNEY — Primary Schools Camogie Champions

Back row (l. to r.): Bridget Wall, Brenda Doran, Caragh Burns, Michelle Mullally, Geraldine Thornton, Aine Dunne, Catherine White, Caroline Fogarty, Marie Kenny, Angela Carroll. **Front** (l. to r.): Veronica Walsh, Brid Blanchfield, Jane Roberts (capt.), Mary Brennan, Fiona McEvoy, Veronica Thornton, Martina Tallis, Deirdre O'Reilly.

Camogie grows and grows, and standard gets better

THERE was never more camogie played in the county than this year, and all county finals have been completed. The Co. Board deserves credit for getting through such a big programme.

ST. PAUL'S had it all to do to beat Shamrocks (Ballyhale) in a brilliant county senior final played before a big attendance at Nowlan Park. 'Paul's won by a point. The final score was St. Paul's 2-7; Shamrocks 0-12. The winners went seven points ahead in the second half with the help of a great goal from Angela Downey-Browne. Shamrocks, with the large crowd urging them on, scored six unanswered points to cut the gap to the minimum. 'Paul's didn't score during the last 15 minutes. They led at the interval by 1-4 to 0-4.

When Angela Downey-Browne hand-passed the ball to the net, and followed it with a point, the match looked all over. Shamrocks then switched Siobhán Ryan to midfield and she sparked the rally which nearly saved the game. Best for 'Paul's were Angela and Ann Downey, Clare Jones, Breda Holmes, Helen Holmes and Bridie McGarry. Those who stood out for Shamrocks were Rita Wemyss, Biddy O'Sullivan, Teresa Fennelly, Siobhán Ryan and Ann Harrington.

St. Paul's: Caroline Holmes, Liz Neary, Helen Holmes, Bridie McGarry, Catherine Neary, Clare Jones, Ann Downey, Geraldine Ryan, Angela Downey-Brown, Breda Holmes, Breda Ryan, Ursula Mulcahy. Subs. (not used): Julie Fry, Cathy Holden, Mary Holden, Agnes Reddy, Sarah Russell.

Shamrocks: Anna Cahill, Rita Wemyss, Bernie Galway, Teresa Holden, Biddy O'Sullivan, Chrissie Ryan, Teresa Fennelly, Ann Harrington, Siobhán Ryan, Jo Dunne, Carmel Moran, Teresa O'Neill. Subs. (not used): Joan Kenneally, Mary Harrington, Geraldine Ryan, Pauline Treacy, Emma Holohan.

CLUB OF THE YEAR

St. Paul's went on to win the all-Ireland title, but the club of the year was undoubtedly Lisdowney, who won six county titles. Their last one was the under-21 final against Blacks and White (2-2to 0-2). Camogie Board chairman John Phelan is the driving force behind the club. The titles won were Primary schools

(Roinn B), under-14 (Roinn B), under-18 (Roinn A), Junior A and B. The following is a review of their hours of glory.

In the under-14 (Roinn B) final against Carrickshock great displays were turned in by captain Bridget Barnaville, Bridget Wall, Mary Brennan, Áine Dunne and Kay Grace.

Team: Geraldine Thornton, Bridget Barnaville (0-2), Teresa Blanchfield, Bridget Wall, Caragh Burns, Caroline Blanchfield, Mary Brennan, Paula O'Reilly, Jane Roberts, Áine Dunne (1-0), Pauline Tallis, Kay Grace (2-0). The score was 3-2 to 1-0.

The Primary schools (Roinn B) decider was against Shamrocks. The score was 3-4 to 2-0. A display by Bridget Wall was the highlight. Others who shone were Mary Brennan, Martina Tallis, Jane Roberts and Áine Dunne.

Team: Geraldine Thornton, Brenda Doran, Fiona McEvoy, Bridget Wall, Caragh Burns, Mary Brennan, Áine Dunne, Veronica Thornton, Michelle Mullally, Jane Roberts (capt.), Veronica Walsh, Martina Tallis, Brid Blanchfield.

The Junior B showdown against Galmoy ended in a 3-4 to 1-0 win. Lisdowney were simply too good. Eileen Kennedy, Bernie Jacob, Bridget Barnaville, Bridget Wall, Catherine Dunne, Catherine O'Loughlin, Vera Hogan, Marguerite McDonald, Ailish Brennan, Eithne Dunne. Subs.: Jacinta Kenny, Catherine Murphy.

Galmoy: E. Holohan, E. Phelan, N. Smeaton (1-0), H. Drennan, A. Grady, J. Cleere, S. McCormack, H. Barden, U. Doyle, C. Burke, J. Carroll, K. Brophy. Subs.: A. Drennan, I. Delaney, N. O'Brien.

The Junior A final against Mooncoin called for a great team display. Classy individuals were Marina Downey, Clare Farrell, Bridget Sharkey, Geraldine Cuddihy, Anna Whelan, Marie Tobin. The score was 3-8 to 0-2.

Lisdowney: Veronica Wall, Una Dowling (capt.), Caroline Glendon, Anna Whelan, Marie Blanchfield, Bridget Sharkey,

Marina Downey (0-5), Lizzy Fogarty (0-1), Clare Farrell (1-1), Geraldine Cuddihy, Ber Brennan (0-1), Maria Tobin (2-0).

Mooncoin: Anne Morohan, Carmel Kearns, Margo Fripps, Elaine Kirwan, Joan Fripps, Áine Dunne, Frances Rothwell (0-2), Bernie Croke, Susan Landers, Carol Rothwell, Kathleen Comerford, Ann Walsh (capt.).

Blacks and Whites were well served by Cathriona Savage, Lizzy Whelan and Majella Hickey.

Lisdowney: Veronica Wall, Bridget Barnaville, Mary O'Carroll, Marina Downey (capt.: 0-2), Ailish Brennan, Bridget Sharkey, Lizzy Fogarty, Bridget Wall, Eithne Downey, Marie Blanchfield (1-0), Aideen Kennedy (0-1), Kay Grace (1-0).

Blacks and Whites: Cathriona Savage, Ann Carroll (capt.), Marian Ryan, Breda Moylan, Teresa Aylward, Eva McDonald, Stella Nolan (0-1), Claire Kelly, Lizzy Whelan, Mary Lyng, Majella Hickey (0-3), Geraldine Byrne.

Blacks and Whites: Cathriona Savage, Ann Carroll (capt.), Marian Ryan, Breda Moylan, Teresa Aylward, Eva McDonald, Stella Nolan (0-1), Claire Kelly, Lizzy Whelan, Mary Lyng, Majella Hickey (0-3), Geraldine Byrne.



KILKENNY — 1987 Winners of the Leinster Under-14 title for the third year in a row

Back row: Gillian Dillon, Fiona Dalton, Grainne Carroll, Ciara Butler, Aine Comerford, Kay Grace, Paula Dowling, Margaret Hickey, Aisling Cullen, Una Murphy, Bridget Mullally, Bridget Barnaville, Bridget Wall, Nicky Lambert (trainer). **Front row:** Catherine Murphy, Anita White, Marie Kenneally, Marie Aylward, Siobhán Dermody, Tracy Millea, Orla Ryall (capt.), Elaine Nolan, Sinead Millea, Margaret Hanley, Mary Brennan. **Mascot:** Ellen Hanley (with cup).

St. Brigid's (Ballycallan) won four county titles in 1986, but lost the minor to Blacks and Whites. This time they relinquished the titles they held, but won the minor Roinn A. In this final they scored a 2-2 to 1-2 win over St. Lactain's (Freshford). This was a real thriller. It was St. Brigid's sixth minor success. The winners led by 1-0 to 0-1 at the interval. Their goal was scored by Geraldine Brennan. Two pointed frees by goalie Sinéad Millea and a goal following a deflection by Orla Ryall helped 'Brigid's in the second half.

St. Brigid's: Sinéad Millea (0-2), Rita Ronan, Ciara Butler, Margaret Dalton, Mary Ryall, Tracy Millea, Patricia Cleere (capt.), Orla Ryall (1-0), Mary McGrath, Chriona O'Sullivan, Margaret Quirke, Geraldine Brennan (1-0).

St. Lactain's: Siobhán Dermody, Monica Cahill, Esther Dermody, Esther Kennedy, Eithne Keoghan, Gillian Dillon, Sinéad Carroll, Claire Ryan, Eleanor O'Hara, Miriam Butler (capt.), Eithne Coakley, Grainne Carroll. Subs.: Margaret Hickey, Paula Dowling.

Tullogher, who took the B under-14 title in 1986, followed by taking the A honours in '87. They beat St. Brigid's (Ballycallan) by 2-5 to 1-2 in the final. The game brought two of the brightest camogie prospects in the county into opposition — Bridget Mullally for the winners and Sinéad Millea. Bridget Mullally scored 1-5 of her side's total of 2-5. Sinéad Millea got all of St. Brigid's scores (1-2). The winners' keeper, Elaine Nolan, was brilliant. Una Murphy was another player who starred for the winners.

Tullogher: Elaine Nolan, Una Murphy (capt.), Catherine Murphy, Edel Fitzgerald, Elaine Lawlor, Dolores Lanigan, Joan Mullally, Mary Doolin, Ciara Lee, Bridget Mullally (1-5), Ann-Marie Malone, Ann Galavan. Subs.: Sandra Phelan (1-0), Frances Kilty.

St. Brigid's: Áine Comerford, Fiona Dalton, Roisín Cleere, Ciara Butler, Elizabeth Delaney, Miriam O'Connor, Orla Ryall, Tracy Millea, Marie Byrne, Sinéad Millea (1-2), Catherine Dillon, Deirdre Muldowney. Sub.: Ann Nugent.

St. Lactain's (Freshford) took the Primary schools (Roinn A) crown when they beat Mullinavat in a great final by 3-1 to 2-1. Tullaroan captured their first title when they won the Primary schools (Roinn C) honours by beating Clara (1-1 to 0-0). Another side that scored a first in camogie was Piltown, who beat Clara (1-0 to 0-0) in the under-14 (Roinn C) final. The winners were

trained by Kilkenny senior goalkeeper Marie Fitzpatrick.

Carrickshock won the minor Roinn B title by beating Mooncoin (5-1 to 4-3). To complete the spread of honours, Thomastown took the senior B county final by beating Blacks and Whites (2-3 to 2-2).

THIRD WIN ON TROT

The victory of the Kilkenny under-14 team for the third year running augurs well for the future. A minor all-Ireland championship (under-16) must now be a possibility. Trainer Ted Brown will be hoping for their big breakthrough in 1988. They just failed to Dublin in this year's Leinster final.

The Under-14s beat Offaly, Wicklow and Wexford in their league section. This brought them into the semi-final against Wexford. As they had only beaten the Slaneysiders by a goal (4-3 to 4-0) in the league section, they prepared hard for this Nowlan Park clash. Kilkenny scored a facile 7-5 to no score victory.

The Kilkenny scoring was shared by Sinéad Millea (5-0) and Bridget Mullally (2-5).

The Leinster final against Dublin produced a tremendous game, laced with skill, blistering pace and determined play. Thanks to a lucky goal from a Bridget Mullally free, the Noresiders led by 1-1 to 0-2 at the interval. Dublin equalised early in the second half. Kilkenny came back for a goal following the puck-out. Elaine Nolan's drive was won by Orla Ryall at midfield. Her ground drive went to Tracy Millea, who lofted the ball to her sister, Sinéad, who planted it in the net. Both sides exchanged points to leave the final score Kilkenny 2-3; Dublin 1-3. The winners held out against great pressure.

Kilkenny: Elaine Nolan (Tullogher), Bridget Barnaville (Lisdowney), Marie Aylward (Mullinavat), Gillian Dillon (St. Lactain's), Una Murphy (Tullogher), Bridget Wall (Lisdowney), Orla Ryall (capt., St. Brigid's), Aisling Cullen (Thomastown), Tracy Millea (St. Brigid's), Grainne Carroll (St. Lactain's), Bridget Mullally (Tullogher) (1-2), Sinéad Millea (1-1). Subs.; Siobhán Dermody (St. Lactain's), Kay Grace (Lisdowney). Other members of the panel were Catherine Murphy (Tullogher), Marie Kenneally (Mullinavat), Paula Dowling (St. Lactain's), Mary Hickey (St. Lactain's), Áine Comerford (St. Brigid's), Anita White (Thomastown), Mary Brennan (Lisdowney), Margaret Hanley (St. Brigid's), Catherine Whitehead (Blacks and Whites).

Twin partnership a winning one

TWO Kilkenny sisters in sport were honoured 'at the double' for what could only be described as remarkable contributions to their chosen sphere of activity.

To state they are twins probably gives the game away, because they are the most famous sisters involved in their sport in Ireland.

Another hint, their dad was a dab hand with a camán in his hand in his day, and he won all-Ireland honours with Kilkenny.

No marks for guessing the Downey twins, Angela and Anne, who were even inseparable at the B+I annual dinner, when they shared the camogie award. And you guessed it, the talented duo chalked up another piece of history, because never before were two camogie players honoured at the annual function.

Indeed, it turned out to be some year for awards for Angela. She started by being picked as the Texaco player of the year. She was only the third camogie player to be honoured thus, and followed in the footsteps of Una O'Connor, Dublin (1966) and Sue Ward, Antrim (1967). Then, along with her sister, she took the B+I annual award, and in November she won the Supreme Award at the Hotel Kilkenny and "Kilkenny People" annual awards banquet.

In the B+I scheme, the twins were honoured for "the decisive roles they played" in Kilkenny's victory over Dublin in the all-Ireland senior final (1986), and also the consistently high form they displayed throughout the year.

SHARED ALL

This was the first recognition for

Anne in the B+I awards, but for Angela it was the third. She became the only personality in the 12-year history of the event to be honoured three times.

The girls, who are daughters of Shem Downey, Ballyragget, who won a senior all-Ireland with Kilkenny in 1947, have been outstanding members of the Kilkenny camogie squad during the past decade. And only to be expected, where one went, so too did the other, and they shared all the joys and failures together.

Both won their first senior all-Ireland medals in 1984, and now they have a massive 14 between them. They have shared in all five of Kilkenny's National League successes (10 medals there).

With their club, St. Paul's, they have also won all-Ireland honours, Angela in 1970 as a sub. and together in 1974, '76 and '87. They have won Gael Linn medals with Leinster in the inter-provincial championship, and they have also sampled success at Leinster championship level.

Surely, there cannot be many twins involved in sport anywhere in the world who have won so much at such a high level?



Pictured at the B+I Line/G.A.A. Camogie Player of the Year awards are (l. to r.): Angela Downey, Mr. Ronald M. Delany, Publicity Manager, B+I Line, Anne Downey. Angela and Anne received Camogie Player of the Year Awards.

Martin's deserved, and got, something

IT IS strange sometimes the way things can work themselves out in sport. A small thing can make all the difference. An unlucky slip, a bit of luck or a touch of genius, can be the difference between glory and pain.

One suspects the membership of the St. Martin's (Ballyfoyle-Coon-Muckalee) club can relate to that after what was an unusual year for them.

They suffered just one defeat in the senior hurling championship, and it was all over for them. The eventual champions, Glenmore, fared even worse than that. They were beaten twice by Fenians (Johnstown) and, would you believe, St. Martin's. Unfortunately for Martin's, their loss was in the knock-out stages, a time when you get only one chance. All the same, the Northerners had a good championship.



Johnny Brennan

The eventual winners didn't set the scene alight in the O'Byrne Cup. In the final they gambled and won when tossing great servant, Danny Coonan, into the fray with 15 minutes remaining. He wasn't picked on the starting 15 because of injury, but he succeeded in turning a match that was going away from them. A bit of luck.

UNBEATABLE

There was a touch of genius involved when Martin's won their semi-final. Here they beat Mooncoin 2-10 to 0-6. An easy enough win, the score would suggest, but it was far from such. Mooncoin blasted holes in their opponents' defence at regular intervals, but each time they found goalie Bobby Shore in unbeatable form. Shore won the match for Martin's and beat Mooncoin.

Nowlan Park was a wet and dreary place for the final. Erin's Own had the better of the opening moiety, but failed to take all their chances, and it took a goal from former county star, Mick 'Cloney' Brennan, right on half-time to give them any sort of a worthwhile lead (1-4 to 0-5).

The 'Comer men slipped 1-6 to 0-5 in front with 40 minutes gone and then Martin's risked Coonan. Johnny Brennan was pushed into midfield and Coonan ignited what had been a

struggling attack. Good openings created saw Richard Moloney crash home 1-2. The match was saved.

It was good to see Bobby Shore, Jim Moran, Johnny Brennan and their dedicated friends take something from the year. They deserved something. They got it. Others who stood out in the final were Danny Coonan, Liam Dowling, Ciaran Hayes and Eamon Breen.

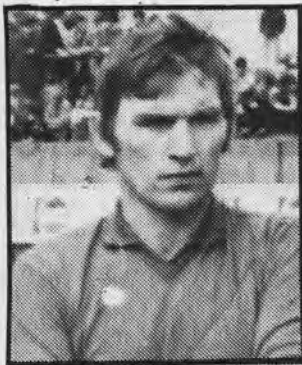
St. Martin's — Bobby Shore, Ciaran Hayes, Tony Maher, Eamon Breen, Tom Walsh, Jim Moran, Tom Cody, Liam Dowling, John Moran, M. Maher, John Morrissey, Eamon Morrissey, Tom Moran, Richard Moloney. *Subs:* Sean O'Neill, Danny Coonan, J.J. Dowling.

Erin's Own — Martin Brennan, Peader Healy,



Danny Coonan

Peter Casserley, Donal Dunne, Tony Brennan, Eamon Coogan, Kieran Bergin, Michael O'Neill, John Kelly, Brian Young, David O'Rourke, Vincent Brannelly, Seamus Holden, Mick Brennan, Tommy Buggy. *Sub:* Martin Fogarty.




Jim Moran

In contrast, Martin's didn't always look that good in the O'Byrne Cup open draw championship, but still they ended up winning it. In the final they beat near neighbours and great rivals, Erin's Own (Castlecomer), by 1-12 to 1-8.

That success was some consolation for Martin's, who continued to be the biggest crowd-pullers in the Kilkenny championship. These men take their hurling very seriously. To suggest it is a religion to them is to touch on its true meaning in their lives.



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A Board with bright, new ideas that worked

THE Kilkenny Primary Schools Board has been innovative in recent years. The schools competitions have been introduced. The process continues this year.

In the under-13 football competition, the use of the solo run was curtailed. Only one toe-tap and one hop was allowed. An infringement was penalised with a hop ball. In making this change, the Board hoped to invoke all players more often and develop team-work.

A new hurling competition for 5th class pupils was introduced. This was played as a blitz in eight different centres. It was very popular.

A very interesting development in Roinn A saw many schools fielding a second team, and the matches played in conjunction with the Roinn A under-12 fixtures. In the city, the inter-class school leagues were brought back. All the schools participated. The co-operation of the Gardai, who provided trophies and referees for all the finals, helped in no small way to make them successful.

GREAT LOSS

This year the Board lost one of its most valued members through the death of Mr. Michael Moran, principal, Dunnamaggin school. Gus, as he was popularly known, had been a loyal and devoted member of the Board since he moved to Kilkenny over 20 years ago. Ever courteous, and a gentleman to deal with, Gus was popular and respected. Under his guidance hurling and football prospered in the parish, and school teams achieved a lot of success.

G.A.A./I.N.T.O. SKILLS AWARD

In the skills competition, organised jointly by the I.N.T.O. and the G.A.A.,



Raymond Kearney (Callan) won the Kilkenny long-kick competition, and Padraig Lawlor (Gowran) won the hurling award.

They qualified for the Leinster final, but failed to reach the all-Ireland when they finished third.

COACHING

The annual coaching course for national teachers was held in St. Kieran's college. The course proved highly successful. The coaches were Ned Power, Waterford (hurling), Liam Fardy (football) and Enda Timonny (handball).

KILMANAGH RETAIN TITLE

Having made the breakthrough in 1986, Kilmanagh successfully defended the under-12 Roinn A hurling championship. In a replay of last year's final, they defeated Graignamanagh by 4-8 to 2-3.

Denis Byrne at centre-forward scored 4-7 for the winners. Kilmanagh led by 3-6 to 0-1 at half-time.

Kilmanagh: T. Hoyne, P. O'Dwyer, N. Teehan, K. O'Halloran, M. Byrne, D. Cleere, T. Dermody, E. Marnell, J. Young, P. Butler, D. Byrne (4-7, 2-1 frees), P. Comerford (0-1), P. Cody, S. Dermody, D. Ronan.

Graignamanagh: K. Maher, S. Corbett, F. Doyle, P. Hayden, T. Treacy (0-2), J. Bolger, J. Brett, J. Flood (0-1), P. O'Neill, A. Morrissey, G. Walsh (1-0), P. Ryan, S. Byrne, D. Maher, C. Walsh. Sub.: C. Dunne (1-0).

CALLAN WIN

The Roinn B final was an absorbing contest. Losers Castlecomer led by 1-1 to 0-0 after 15 minutes. Callan got 1-2 to 1-1 ahead with a goal from Daniel Leahy and points from David Cahill and John Roche. Jason Brennan goaled for Castlecomer. However, Callan exerted their superiority and won by 3-6 to 2-2.

Callan: N. Sullivan, R. Power, M. Corcoran, S. Walsh, R. Kearney, N. Dargan, V. Grace, S. Byrne, D. Cahill (0-3, two frees), E. Cassin, J. Roche (2-3), N. Donovan, D. Leahy (1-0), V. Bogue, M. Corcoran.

Castlecomer: S. Brennan, B. Brennan, L. Shore, T. O'Shea, A. O'Neill, E. Rothwell, S. Loughlin, D. Buggy (0-2, one free), K. Brennan, F. Meagher, T. Dunne (1-0), S. O'Neill, J. Holland.

ROWER-INISTIIGE BEST

The Rower-Inistioge were best in Roinn 'C'. They defeated Dunnamaggin by 3-5 to



1-2. The Rower led 2-1 to 1-2 at the break.

Rower-Inistioge: J. Doheny, J. Murphy, R. Murphy, M. Murphy, J. Kelly, N. Kennedy, M. Flood, M. Barron, R. Kelly (2-4, three points '65s'), R. Flood, B. Bolger (0-1), A. Galavan (1-0), M. Kennedy, J. Galavan, P. Cotterell.

Dunnamaggin: P. Cahill, O. O'Neill, A. Mackey, P. O'Shea, B. Raggett, J. Kenny, D. O'Shea, P. Barry (0-1, '65'), T. Hickey, M. O'Neill (0-1), P. Kearney, A. Moran, K. O'Shea, J. Barry, N. Lahart (1-0).

NO MISTAKE

Tullaroan made no mistake in the Roinn D hurling final. Beaten by Clara 12 months ago, they toppled Mullinavat by 2-6 to 3-1. The winners were 1-3 to no score at half-way. Mullinavat came back a bit but two late goals from Jimmy and Jack O'Keefe were not sufficient to snatch victory.

Tullaroan: B. Teehan, J. Glennan, M. Maher, M. Kennedy, F. Moore, D. Hogan, D. O'Dea, V. Norton (0-2, one free), T. Crosby, P. Butler, J. Hennessy (2-2), L. Holland, B. Maher, A. Dooley, D. Doheny (0-2).

Mullinavat: B. Conway, J. Geady, J. Butler, D. Kelly, M. Murphy, E. Slattery, M. Holden, J. O'Keefe, R. Carroll, O. Aylward, F. Cleere, R. Conway, D. Duggan, K. Phelan, J. O'Keefe.

FOOTBALL

In recent years, the Roinn A under-13 football championship when played on a league basis was one of the most popular competitions run by the Board. In all, 59 matches were played by the eight participating teams. The early start in September helped. After the league section, Piltown were unbeaten and top of the table.

Under-13 Football Roinn A

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Piltown	7	7	—	—	17
C.B.S.	7	6	1	—	12
St. Patrick's	7	5	2	—	10
Gowran	7	3	3	1	10
Thomastown	7	3	3	—	6
Kilmanagh	7	1	—	2	4
Ballyragget	7	1	5	1	3
St. John's	7	—	7	—	0

In the semi-finals Piltown beat Gowran, and Kilkenny C.B.S. beat St. Patrick's. Piltown scored an historic victory over the C.B.S. in the final (2-3 to 1-1). The Southerners won the Roinn B title in 1983. This was their first appearance in the Roinn A final.

The decider was very exciting. The winners led by 1-3 to 1-0 at half-time. The city boys dominated the second half for long periods, but failed to make any impression on the scoreboard until Brendan Kennedy pointed. In the closing stages Piltown took control again and a Trevor Grace goal sealed a historic victory.

Piltown: Damien Lawlor, James Farrell, Paddy Gorman, John Tully, Brian Walsh, James Connolly, Michael Dwyer, Tadhg Kenny (0-1), Brian Kenneally, Liam Kearns (1-0), Jonathan Cleary, Michael Brennan, Leo Commins, Eamon Costelloe, Trevor Grace (1-1).

Kilkenny C.B.S.: Rory Deevy, Aidan Begley, James Wise, Pat Henderson, Declan Wall, Keith Geoghegan, Michael Gannon, Eoin Gibbons, Robery Glynn, Brendan Kennedy (0-1, free), Pat Kealy, Paul McCabe (1-0), Niall Lanigan, Kilian Ryan.

HISTORIC WIN

Moneenroe also scored a historic first victory in the Roinn B championship. They defended Mooncoin by 0-6 to 1-1. The winners were on top for long periods. The Southerners led at half-time by 1-1 to 0-3, somewhat against the run of play. A good goal from Mark Driscoll made the difference. During the second half Moneenroe piled on the pressure, and points in rapid succession from Ian O'Keeffe, Brian Hardy and Damien Walsh gave them the honours.

Moneenroe: Andrew O'Shea, Arty Kerr, Adrian Brennan, Brian Walsh (capt.), John Dowd (0-1), Brian Hardy, Michael Maguire, Willie O'Neill, Jimmy Roche, Raymond Mooney (0-1), Ian O'Keeffe (0-1), Peter Roche, Gerry Campion, Damien Walsh (0-2), Shane Coogan (0-1).

Mooncoin: Billy Quinn, John Conway, Marcus Conway, Richard Delahunty, Hilary Óg Delahunty, Michael Purcell, Alan Conway, Stephen Phelan, Oliver Power, Robert Kelly, Liam Sutton (0-1), David Cody, Mark Driscoll (1-0), Ian Murray, William Walsh.

WHERE THE TITLES WENT

Under-12 hurling Roinn A (*Castle Hurleys Cup*) — Kilmanagh 4-8; Graignamanagh 2-3.

Roinn B (*Hennessy Cup*) — Callan 3-6; Castlecomer 2-2.

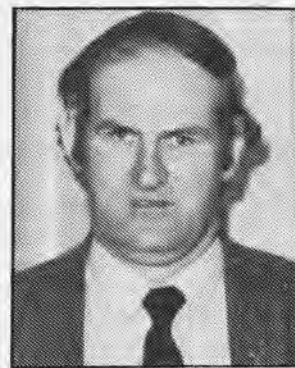
Roinn C (*Ulster Bank Cup*) — Rower-Instioge 3-5; Dunnamaggin 1-2.

Roinn D (*Liam Ryan Cup*) — Tullaroan 2-6; Mullinavat 3-1.

Under-13 Football Roinn A — Piltown 2-3; Kilkenny C.B.S. 1-1.

Roinn B — Moneenroe 0-6; Mooncoin 1-1.

When the Boss was away this team really played



George Leahy

IT WAS an occasion when the Boss was away and the team did play, and really well at that, and landed an all-Ireland senior title.

That great servant of Gaelic games, George Leahy was the Boss concerned. St. Paul's was the team involved. And the competition was the club all-Ireland senior camogie final.

Duty as trainer-coach with the Offaly senior hurling team meant George had to travel to Croke Park. His charges there performed well, and beat Dublin by 2-8 to 0-6 in the National League.

Part of him was elsewhere, in Ballyragget with St. Paul's. The camogie team did the Boss proud, and reversed the result of the previous year's final against Glen Rovers (Cork) and won by 1-4 to 0-5 against the same opposition.

This was St. Paul's first win in 11 years in the championship, and their sixth in all — 1968, 1969, 1970-71, 1974-75, 1976-77 and now '87.

The final was no dazzling affair. Rain and high winds dictated otherwise. There wasn't the same atmosphere as at the decider the previous year when 3,000 supporters turned up in Cork. It was tough going, for both teams.

At half-time Glen Rovers led by 0-2 to 0-1. Six minutes into the second half St. Paul's turned the match in their favour. Angela Downey sent in a free that broke near the goal. Alert Paul's captain, Breda Holmes, gathered and palmed the only goal of the match. That was vital. The score put Paul's 1-2 to 0-2 ahead.

TENSE FINISH

Two minutes later Ann Downey threw over a point for the Noresiders, but the visitors' hit back for points from Val Fitzpatrick (2), one of Cork's stars in the all-Ireland inter-county senior final. The teams swapped a score each after that, and the finish was really tense.

The St. Paul's defence, with county captain Bridie McGarry a commanding figure, held together and the Leesiders had to go home without the trophy they came with.

Glen Rovers didn't surrender easily. They were tough and uncompromising. They wanted to prove the previous year's win was no fluke, and Angela Downey's early departure then from the Kilkenny team didn't really matter. St. Paul's were just happy to take the honours this time. Talk of things past did not bother them.

Overall it was a great club championship for the Kilkenny girls. They walked through the opposition until they got to the final. First they saw off Crumlin (Dublin) and then Buffers Alley (Wexford) in the provincial final. That was followed by a win over Glenamaddy (Galway).

Those wins put their slender — just one point — county final victory over Shamrocks into perspective. Yes, the standard on the Kilkenny club scene is very good. Team selectors Mary Fennelly, Carmel Savage and Mary McCorry didn't realise it at the time, but when St. Paul's won out in Kilkenny they had beaten the best they were going to come up against.

St. Paul's had six of the Kilkenny all-Ireland winning team to call upon, and, only to be expected, they formed the back-bone of the side. But top members of a great supporting cast were Marie Lawlor and Helen Holmes.

The St. Paul's team in the final was — Marie Lawlor, Catherine Neary, Liz Neary, Bridie McGarry, Helen Holmes, Clare Jones, Ann Downey, Geraldine Ryan, Caroline Holmes, Breda Holmes (captain), Angela Downey, Breda Ryan. *Subs:* Cathy Holden, Mary Holden, Julie Fry, Agnes Reddy, Annette Stapleton, Sarah Russell.

Talent of '84 falls away

THERE IS hardly any need to write a review of Kilkenny's run in the Leinster under-21 hurling championship. The review of the 1986 season would nearly be apt again, because the county made another quick exit from the competition, and rather unspectacularly too.

IN 1986 the Noresiders were dumped out of the competition in their first match. That was a surprise, bearing in mind eight of the team that had unsuccessfully contested the all-Ireland final of the previous year were available.

This time Kilkenny managed to get over the first obstacle, and saw off limited Laois. But then in the next match, for the second consecutive year they were beaten by Wexford, and not a wonderful Wexford team either.

You know, at times you have to wonder where Kilkenny are going, or if they are going anywhere. Under-age teams have not been doing that well in recent times, but no one seems too bothered about the fact. It is presumed senior players of tomorrow will appear out of nowhere.

"There is no need to worry, things will work out", seems to be the attitude.

But if players are not coming through at minor and under-21 level, then there is cause for concern. And in recent years, what with falling standards and so on, there must be a fall-off in the number of useful contenders going through the system who might, some day, make the senior county team.

SCRUTINY

This year's under-21 team, for example, was worthy of close scrutiny. In 1984 roughly the same batch of players was in contention for the county minor team. That team qualified for the all-Ireland final. In between, players like Alan McCormack (James Stephens), Walter Purcell (Windgap), Liam Egan (John Lockes), Willie Dwyer (Carrickshock), Billy Cleere (Bennettsbridge), and one feels sure there are a few more, slipped back sufficiently, or for some other reason failed to figure.

In the case of McCormack, he emigrated to England to work, but that still left others who were lost from the county team in the intervening three years. Standards dropped. There may be more who missed out too, but on quick reflection, those names spring to mind.

Now one can understand that selectors can differ in their view of players. Because so-and-so was on the



Alan McCormack

under-18 team should not automatically mean he should be called up again three years later. But the fall-off is the worrying thing, because it is highly unlikely that there will be a big addition to the playing numbers from under-21 upwards.

In the years between the minor team of 1984, and this year's under-21 team, Kilkenny didn't just see a fall-off in numbers, the county also lost considerable ground to others. In the Leinster minor final of '84, Kilkenny beat Wexford by 2-10 to 1-11. This year Wexford turned the tables. Is it that Kilkenny have gone back? Or have Wexford come on that much? Make up your own mind.

Just like last year, the Kilkenny under-21 selectors — Martin Morrissey (Dicksboro); John Comerford (Young Irelands); John Dunphy (Mullinavat) and Michael Barron (Glenmore) — had countless trials, North and South, plus challenge games to help them sift through the talent. So it would appear lack of preparations was not the problem.

In fairness, in the run-up to the Laois match, there were doubts about a couple of players who had taken knocks. Kilkenny opened woefully, and after 14 minutes trailed by 1-4 to no score. A quick re-think. A few quick changes, and things started to happen.

With a bit of luck thrown-in, the Noresiders went in for the rest 2-2 to 1-4 ahead. Within seven minutes of the restart they had the match won. Pat McEvoy slipped home two goals, Michael O'Neill another, and most of the 5-6 to 2-4 victory margin was on the 'board.

RAGGED

This was a ragged performance, and

apart from John Power, no one could claim they did well over the hour.

The scores were grabbed by Pat McEvoy (3-3); M. Phelan, M. O'Neill (1-0 each); J. Power, L. Dowling, E. Morrissey (0-1 each).

The losing margin against Wexford was 1-12 to 1-7. The winners, who later won the provincial title, were mediocre. Their opponents were worse. The commitment was there among the losers, but the skills were missing. Wexford led by 0-5 to 0-4 at half-time.

Again John Power did all he could to haul Kilkenny out of the doldrums. He received support, but not enough, from Paddy Fennelly, Pat McEvoy, Eamon Holland, Michael Phelan and Eamon Morrissey.



Larry O'Brien... played very well against Laois.

The G.A.A. this year decided this championship would be a quickie affair. It was to start in April, and finish before the end of May. As far as Kilkenny were concerned, it was over before they started hurling.

Against Wexford, the scorers were P. McEvoy (0-4); E. Morrissey (1-1); M. Phelan (0-2).

Players used in the championship were: T. Phelan, T. Byrne, B. Bryan, W. O'Connor, P. Phelan, J. Power, P. Fennelly, L. Mullan, L. O'Brien, L. Dowling, E. Holland, G. Drennan, M. Phelan, M. O'Neill, P. McEvoy, F. Morgan, E. Morrissey, T. McCluskey, T. Lennon.

Win-One, Lose-One sequence continues

AS FAR as Kilkenny are concerned, events in the All Ireland junior hurling championship follow a none too happy pattern. After an All Ireland win one year, the county loses out in the first outing the next season.

IT happened in 1985. The Noresiders won the Centenary (1984) junior championship, but in their first defence of the title they were literally knocked-out. This was an away match against Dublin.

Roll on 1986, and again the Noresiders take home the laurels. Then what happened? In their first defence this year they crashed out. A coincidence, or what? Wexford spoiled the party this time.

Those real optimists amongst us will look on the bright side. If things work out as they should, then Kilkenny should be celebrating a junior win next season. Perhaps!

But it was ironic Kilkenny should make such a quick exit this time. The county fought tooth-and-nail at Congress to have the junior championships retained. There was a strong lobby to do away with these hurling and football competitions, but Kilkenny stood firm and led what proved to be a successful fight to retain the championships.

The basis of the Kilkenny argument was put thus by Co. Board chairman, Tommy Murphy: "These championships can be a great breeding ground for senior players of the future. Junior clubs don't really get the exposure they deserve. This opens doors for them. Every player needs some motivating factor and this can be exactly that for everyone in the junior grade".

NOTE EASY

Perhaps the key to the win-one, lose-one sequence is the rule whereby players who figure on a winning team one year must stand down the next. That means

the All Ireland champions must field a whole new team in the following championship. Not an easy thing to do and, at the same time, continue winning.

But the rule is a fair one all the same, and it has led to a sharing of the honours, not only among the counties, but players as well.

Preparations didn't always go well for this year's Kilkenny team. Attendances at training were not always what they should have been, despite the coaxing and good efforts of mentors.

When it came to the actual match situation, perhaps it was understandable then that Kilkenny were run off the park by opponents Wexford. In the end the visitors to Nowlan Park won by 3-15 to 2-7.

The Slaneysiders set a hot scoring trend in the opening four minutes, when they hit points per Tom Byrne (2), Pat Barden and John McDonald. This was no hit-and-miss affair and the winners kept up their constant surge forward right to the finish.

At half-time Kilkenny trailed by 1-9 to 0-5. A 35th minute penalty goal from Johnny Ronan — the losers' had a good penalty saved in the first half — raised spirits momentarily. But then Wexford hit back for three quick points, and by the 56th minute they were 2-14 to 1-6 clear.

ONLY SUCCESS

Three minutes from the end the losers' best player, Denis McCarthy, pulled back a goal. It didn't really matter, Wexford deprived them of even a big finish when they hit a like score with only seconds remaining.


The only real success on the Kilkenny team was Denis

McCarthy, who threatened a lot when in possession. However, he lacked any useful support up front, although Johnny Ronan tried hard. At the back, Bill O'Hara did his bit to plug the frequent holes that appeared, and John Marnell did likewise when moved to corner-back in the second half.

Maybe the trend will continue and a good year will follow this one! We wait and hope.

The Kilkenny team against Wexford was: D. Burke (Emeralds), P. Brophy

(Piltown), N. Brennan (Conahy Shamrocks), B. O'Hara (Thomastown), G. Brennan (Conahy Shamrocks), J. Marnell (Dicksboro), J. Ryan (Dunnamaggin), R. Moran (Bennettsbridge), D. Staunton (St. Patrick's), J. Ronan (Graigue-Ballycallan), P. McCormack (Fenians), L. Heffernan (Tullagher/Rosbercon), M. Rafter (Emeralds), R. McCarthy (Bennettsbridge), D. McCarthy (Piltown). Subs: S. Mahony (Conahy Shamrocks), P. Foley (Windgap), L. Keogh (Tullaroan).




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A FOOTBALL WIN

- after 76 years

THE RISE in the standard of under-age football manifested itself in the minor grade this year when the county won the South Leinster league for the first time. It was the first football trophy brought to the county in 76 years.

The last was the victory in the Leinster senior football championship of 1911, when Meath were beaten in the final by 2-4 to 1-1.

In the championship, the county minor team was beaten by four points by Westmeath in Mullingar. They were in the lead 10 minutes from time when the referee sent off Jimmy Lawlor. It was a very harsh decision, and it probably cost Kilkenny the match. A bad kick-out led to the goal that put Westmeath on the road to victory. The midlanders later lost by just two points to Dublin. The final score read Westmeath 1-13; Kilkenny 3-3.

Wexford beat Kilkenny in the first round of the league when a number of players were absent because of involvement with the St. Kieran's college senior hurling team. Waterford were beaten in the second round by 2-3 to 0-6. As Wexford also beat Waterford, this set-up a Kilkenny-Wexford final. This game, played at Nowlan Park, ended in a draw. Ten minutes from time the Model County led by four points. A great rally by the Noresiders saw Jimmy Lawlor score three fine points, and another with the last kick of the game by Mark Walsh, who had just gone on as a substitute, left the sides level.

Although conditions were dreadful, there was a high wind and rain, the sides served up an exciting game. Wexford led by 1-2 to 0-2 at the interval and it looked good for the Noresiders. The Slaneysiders dominated the third quarter, but only scored two points, while Kilkenny replied with a point to leave the score Wexford 1-4; Kilkenny 0-3.

The introduction of Thomas Thornton, and the switch of Pat O'Grady to midfield provided the spark that ignited Kilkenny. They scored few unanswered points to level the scores Kilkenny 0-7, Wexford 1-4. The scorers for Kilkenny were Jimmy Lawlor (0-3), Donie Duggan (0-2, free), Tony Jeffries (0-1), Mark Walsh (0-1).

STRONGER

Kilkenny were stronger for the replay in Wexford Park. Available were Adrian Ronan, Pat O'Neill and Fran Whelan, who had missed the drawn tie because of the all-Ireland colleges hurling final. Again a gale force wind blew down the field. This favoured the home side in the first half. With John Conlon and Thomas Thornton dominant at midfield, the home side found it hard to make progress. After 20 minutes Wexford led by just 0-3 to no score. However, coming up to the interval they got on top and added five points to lead by 0-8 to no score at the break.

Kilkenny opened their account with a point from Adrian Ronan. Six minutes later Anthony Smith landed a second from a free. Thereafter, there was no holding Kilkenny. They scored two goals and five points in a 15 minute spell and went ahead by 2-7 to 0-8. Both goals were scored by Billy Walsh (Mullinavat). He outsprinted the losers defence on both occasions to flash home two great drives. Wexford tried to come back, and while they did score two points, Kilkenny added another point to run out 2-8 to 0-10 winners.

In addition to Billy Walsh, who was the hero of the hour, others who did well were Anthony Smith, who captained the side and was a tower of strength in defence, Fran Whelan, John Delaney, John Conlon, Thomas Thornton, Pat O'Grady, who was the winners best forward, and Anthony Aylward.

Scorers were Billy Walsh (2-0), Adrian Ronan (0-3, two frees), Pat O'Brady (0-3), Anthony Amith (0-2, frees).

The winning team was John Whelan (Kilmoganny), Ronan Conway (O'Loughlin/Gaels), Brian Foskin (Mooncoin), Fran Whelan (James Stephens), John Teehan (Graigue-Ballycallan), Anthony Smith, capt. (James Stephens), John Delaney (Railyard), John Conlon (Bennettsbridge), Thomas Thornton (St. Patrick's, Ballyragget), Pat O'Neill (Young Irelands, Gowran), Jimmy Lawlor (Shamrocks), Pat O'Grady (Blacks & Whites), Adrian Ronan (Graigue-Ballycallan), Tony Jeffries (Piltown), Billy Walsh (Mullinavat). Subs: Anthony Aylward (Carrickshock), Michael O'Shea (Piltown), Tom O'Dwyer (Railyard), James Brennan (Erins Own), Donie Duggan (Glenmore), played in the drawn game. Anthony Aylward (Carrickshock) also started in drawn tie and went on as a reserve in the replay. Niall Morrissey (Dicksboro), and Mark Walsh (Piltown) went on as subs in the draw. Thomas Thornton (St. Patrick's, Ballyragget) who played in the replay, went on as a reserve in the draw.



KNOCK-OUT TOURNAMENT

The under-16 footballers took part in a four county knock-out tournament. They played Wexford in New Ross, where they lost narrowly (2-7 to 2-5). Kilkenny almost snatched a winning goal in the last minute. At the interval the home side led by 2-4 to 1-2.

Kilkenny, with Paul Brennan and John Lawlor in great form, surged forward in the second half. A goal by Billy Whelan brought the Noresiders back into the game. The winners were lucky to hold out. Others who played well for the losers were Paul O'Neill in the second half, Michael Quirke, James McDermott, Charlie Carter and Dick Dooley.

The team and scorers were: Brian McGrath (James Stephens), Liam Kenny (Piltown), Sean Morrissey (James Stephens), Paul O'Neill (Muckalee), Paul Brennan (James Stephens), John Lawlor (Blacks & Whites), Tadgh Donoghue (James Stephens), Robert Middleton (Young Irelands — 1-0), Michael Quirke (Mooncoin), Dick Dooley (Muckalee — 0-1), James McDermott (Young Irelands — 0-1), Charlie Carter (Young Irelands — 0-3), Kieran Conroy (James Stephens), Billy Whelan (James Stephens — 0-1), Jim Cashin (James Stephens). Subs: Noel Maher (Graigue-Ballycallan), Oran Hennessy (James Stephens), Tom Doherty (Tullagher-Rosbercon).

A change of direction landed county title



A QUICK change of direction, but a good one it turned out to be for Muckalee in November when they had finished with hurling and instead concentrated on football. They ended up as senior champions.

Like most clubs in Kilkenny, St. Martin's, the club that covers the Ballyfoyle-Coon-Muckalee areas, threw themselves completely into the effort of winning the senior hurling championship. They won it once before, in 1984, and went on to win the club all-Ireland. That club win was as Muckalee-Ballyfoyle Rangers, the forerunner of St. Martin's.

For a long time this year St. Martin's looked like adding to that success of '84. In the end they had their dream shattered. But at least they had something to fall back on. Something to act as a 'pick me up'. It was the senior football championship, and the dedicated men from the North, performing as Muckalee, won the title.

The final was against close neighbours, Railyard, the one football only, club in the county. Muckalee won by 0-6 to 0-5 to bridge a 10 year gap since their last victory. The previous one had been in 1977, and that had been preceded by wins in 1968 and 1975.

This year's final was no nail biting affair, despite the concluding scoreline. But it was a final to be recalled, if only for the exemplary spirit in which it was contested.

The losers did very well in the early part of the match, but thanks to the good efforts of elusive forward, Johnny Brennan, Muckalee got 0-6 to 0-3 in front at half-time. Two second half scores were not enough to rescue the Railyard, who missed chances.

Consolation

The Muckalee men celebrated afterwards, and with every good reason. During the season they had beaten Lisdowney (1-9 to 1-3); Slieverue (2-8 to 0-4); Graignamanagh 2-8 to 1-4 after a second replay) and in all scored 11-38, while conceding 7-31. They missed the one they really wanted, but at least they picked up a consolation prize.

No title is won without effort or commitment, and it was a credit to the character of the Muckalee men that they picked themselves up after the hurling championship. None got himself higher than adopted son, Ciaran

Hayes, the Dublin born player. He was there driving his colleague forward at every opportunity, and picked up the 'man of the match' award sponsored by Hennessy Sports.

He received able assistance from Johnny Brennan, Jim Moran, John and Richard Moloney, Anthony Maher and Jimmy Maher.

The losers most stylish performers were the outstanding Thomas Brennan, Eamon Mansfield, Michael Delaney, Aengus Daly, Brendan Maguire and Brendan Smith. The Railyard were after a record 18th title.

Muckalee: Kieran Brennan, Jim Moran, John Moloney, N. Morrissey, Richard Moloney, Ciaran Hayes, Danny Coonan, Paddy Lawlor (0-1), Michael Maher, Jimmy Maher (0-1), Tony Maher, Liam Dowling, Eamon Breen (0-2), Martin Morrissey, Johnny Brennan (0-2). *Subs:* John Morrissey, Pat Maher, Eamon Morrissey (used), P. Kehoe, Bobby Shore, Peter Moore, Seán O'Neill, John Buggy, Richard Nolan, Billy Murphy.

Railyard: Noel Kerr, Aengus Daly, Mick O'Dowd, Liam Mooney, Eamon Mansfield, Tom Brennan, Michael Buggy, Michael Delaney, Noel Power, Brendan Smith (0-3), Noel Geoghegan (0-1), Brendan Maguire (0-1), Paul Brown, Michael Fitzgerald, Martin Buggy. *Sub:* T. Cahill, Martin Doyle, John Murtagh (used), Paddy Dowd, Martin Dowd, John Cahill, Ed. Cahill, Tommy Brennan, Michael Rowe, Michael Walsh, John Delaney, John Smyth, Denis Brennan, John Bolger, John Lawlor.

The Railyard also bit the dust in the junior football county final. On this occasion they were beaten by 0-9 to 0-3 by St. Patrick's (Kilmacow).

The Southerners were as impressive winners as the scoreline would suggest. They put a big effort into the championship, and gained the rewards. The last time Kilmacow won the junior football championship was way back in 1942.

The three Kilkenny county teams were beaten in their first outings in the Leinster championships.

The juniors travelled to Parnell Park, Dublin, for a game that turned out to be really difficult for the fancied home team. In the end they won by 1-9 to 1-7, which was an awful lot less than they expected.

Kilkenny conceded a soft goal just

before half-time. Combined with five bad misses, the end result was defeat. The spirit and commitment of the losers was beyond question. With the help of that lucky goal that went all the way to the net from a 40 yards free, the winners went into a 1-5 to 0-3 interval lead. A goal from Mick Kennedy brought Kilkenny back into it (1-6 to 1-3), but they just could not get the break that could have made all the difference.

Excellent footballers for the losers were Des Dunne, Dominic Connolly, Richard Dunne and Mark Kennedy.

Kilkenny: J. Brennan, T. Brennan, J. Caldbeck, J. Mahon, J. Fitzgerald, D. Dunne, E. Crowley, M. Morrissey, D. Connolly, N. Geoghegan, J. Holden, L. Bird, R. Minogue, M. Kennedy, R. Dunne. *Subs:* E. Maher, J. Ronan.

In the under-21 championship, the Noresiders lost out by 0-5 to 2-8 against Wicklow. The losers led by 0-4 to 0-2 at the half way mark.

Kilkenny: P. Foran (Carrickshock); K. Dunphy (Carrickshock); B. Bryan (John Lockes); D. Killen (St. Lactain's); J. Murphy (Mooncoin); P. Drea (Young Irelands); S. Caulfield (St. Patrick's); T. McCluskey (Graigue/Ballycallan); M. Marnell (Dicksboro); R. Minogue (James Stephens); E. Kelly (Blacks and Whites); W. Haberlin (Mullinavat); L. Keoghian (Tullaroan); J. Nolan (Clara); J. J. Ward (Clara). *Sub:* B. Maguire (Railyard).

Finally, a harsh sending-off killed the chances of the minors in their clash with Westmeath. The midlanders won by 1-13 (16) to 3-3 (12). The teams were level at half-time 1-1 to 0-4 — the losers had the winning of the match until they had a man dismissed.

Magnificent for the vanquished were Brian Foskin, John Teehan, John Conlon, Anthony Aylward, Thomas Thornton, Billy Walsh and Pat O'Grady.

Kilkenny: J. Whelan (Kilmoganny); R. Conway (O'Loughlin's); B. Foskin (Mooncoin); F. Whelan (James Stephens); M. O'Shea (Piltown); J. Teehan (Graigue/Ballycallan); J. Delaney (Railyard); J. Conlon (Bennettsbridge); T. Thornton (Ballyragget); J. Lawlor (Shamrocks); P. O'Grady (Blacks and Whites); P. O'Neill (Young Irelands); A. Ronan (Graigue-Ballycallan); A. Aylward (Carrickshock); B. Walsh (Mullinavat).

Mooncoin take Cahill Cup

TEN clubs shared in the honours in the Kilkenny Scór competitions this year.

The organising committee of Jim Kearns (chairman), Harry Bryan (secretary), Jack Ryan (treasurer), Seán Holden and Phil Cassin had every right to be pleased with themselves.

During the past few years these competitions have really taken off in the county, and the number of entries, and level of competition, have improved tremendously.

The county is still striving to make a big impact at national level, but judging by current developments on the county scene, that happy day is not too far off.

This year's winners of the Phil Cahill memorial cup was won by Mooncoin, and the presentation was made by Mrs. Mary Hoyne, daughter of the late Mr. Cahill, who was a trojan worker for Scór in the area.

RESULTS

CEILI DANCING:

Kilmacow (Robert Kennedy, Robert Duggan, Gary Murphy, Pat Walsh, Helen Murphy, Rose Murphy, Faith Mulcahy, Jacinta Ryan).

RECITATION:

Ballyhale Shamrocks: (Seán Byrne).

SOLO SINGING:

Slieverue (Brian O'Donoghue).

NOVELTY ACT:

Graigue/Ballycallan (Betty Brennan, Marie Brennan, Joe Kelly, Betty Nugent, Tom Brennan).

QUESTION TIME:

Dicksboro: (Tim O'Leary, Tom Gunning, Kieran Fitzgerald).

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC:

O'Loughlin's: (Enda McKenna, Brendan Morrissey, Michael Knox).

BALLAD GROUP:

Mooncoin: (Eddie Lee, Hannah O'Shea, Breda Holden, John Holden, John Cockburn).

SET-DANCING:

O'Loughlin's: (Majella Smith, Rose Smith, Karen Doyle, Karen Treacy, Brendan Tynan, John Brennan, Kevin O'Sullivan, Michael Flannery).

SCOR NA nOG

CEILI DANCING:

Carrigeen: (Mary Phelan, Una

Murphy, Louise Walsh, Margo Healy, Evelyn Dunphy, Susan Rowe, Denise McCarthy, Eithne Dunphy).

Tullogher (Elaine Kennedy) Recitation.

SOLO SINGING:

St. Lactain's: (Mary Kelly).

NOVELTY ACT:

Kilmacow: (Tommy Hearne, Colm Walsh, James O'Hanlon).

MUSIC:

Carrigeen: (Suzanne Rowe, Eithne Dunphy, Louise Walsh).

QUESTION TIME:

O'Loughlin's: (David Denieffe, Nigel Leydon, Paula Drohan).

BALLAD GROUP:

Mooncoin: (Marie Comerford, Many Brogan, Linda Holden, Mary Foley, Tracey Conway).

SET DANCING:

Graigue/Ballycallan: (Adrian Ronan, Tomás McGrath, Padraic McCluskey, Gerard Maher, Mary McGrath, Siobhán Comerford, Julie Young).



Following the National Hurling League game between Kilkenny and Galway at Nowlan Park, the All-Ireland champions were invited to Smithwick's Brewery to sample the home brew. Among the former Kilkenny players who greeted the visitors were (from left): Gus Carey, P. J. Garvan, Jim Cradock of Smithwick's, Tommy O'Connell, Joe Doherty, Paddy Moran and Paddy Johnston.



The Graignamanagh Under-16 Football team who were runners-up in the Roinn B County Final.

The County Selectors



Johnny Walsh



Fintan Murphy



Matt Ruth



Martin Cass



Brian Cody

Run of defeats halted, and still hope in League

THE cloud of depression after the all-Ireland senior hurling final defeat by Galway hung over Kilkenny for a very considerable period.

Perhaps because it was an all-Ireland most felt we could have won, it was harder to get over it than if the county had been well beaten.

When the National Hurling League started, there was nothing in the early results to lift the gloom. What was a most unusual happening, Kilkenny lost their opening three games. Things looked really bad.

In fairness, the players were trying hard, but the results just wouldn't come. The first match was away to Waterford, and with a big number of the county players tied up with their clubs who were preparing for the semi-finals, it was only a shadow side that went to Walsh Park. The Suisiders won by 2-14 to 1-10.

With the senior final just around the corner, the county team was only marginally better off for the second match against Galway. A few newcomers like Brian Young, John Power and Tom Leahy showed up well, but it wasn't enough to save the Noresiders from another defeat, this time by 0-15 to 0-13.

Before this game, the home side formed a guard of honour as the all-Ireland champions made their way out onto the pitch. It was a nice gesture, as was the invitation the Galway group received to Smithwick's Brewery after the game. In the cosy Brewery Cellar, the Galway and Kilkenny players enjoyed a few pints together. The work was over, they were entitled to relax.

The Noresiders third defeat was away to Wexford (0-11 to 0-7). At last everyone was available apart from the injured John Henderson, but despite a wholehearted effort, Kilkenny failed to halt their run of defeats. Five minutes from the end, the losers had a goal by Liam Fennelly disallowed. At the time the score was 0-10 to 0-7. It could have made the difference.

PLAYER THREW A PUNCH

Into the last quarter of this game there was a most unusual occurrence. One Kilkenny player, Harry Ryan struck another, Liam Fennelly. Apparently they exchanged cross words, and the Clara man threw a punch. Almost immediately Ryan was taken off. When the Disciplinary Committee of the Co. Board investigated the affair, Harry Ryan received a three months suspension.

The Leinster champions at last got the win their efforts deserved when they entertained Clare at Nowlan Park in mid-November. This was a dour struggle, and in the end two points, one a great sideline cut by Stephen Whearty and the other from Tom Leahy, gave Kilkenny a 2-7 to 1-8 win.

By this time senior champions, Glenmore, had lined-up new selectors. The Southerners decided to go back to the five strong selection committee, instead of the three man team that had served during the previous two years. Entrusted with the job were Brian Cody (James Stephens), Martin Cass (Glenmore), Matt Ruth (Ballyragget), Fintan Murphy (Rower-Inistioge) and Johnny Walsh (Shamrocks). They replaced John Healy (Tullagher-Rosbercon), Noel Kehoe (Clara) and Martin Coogan (Erin's Own).

The only man among the new selectors who had served as a senior mentor before was Johnny Walsh. But the others got a taste of how difficult life could be during their opening game, and the last one before Christmas, against Limerick. The Noresiders won at Nowlan Park by 3-12 to 1-14. Limerick were in a generous mood, and gifted two goals to their opponents. Those mistakes made the difference.

The win left Kilkenny on a high going into the two month Winter break. And with the new year games against Cork (February 21) and Tipperary (March 6) there was still slight hope of making the League shake-up.

SCORESHEET 1987

SENIOR HURLING FINAL:

Nowlan Park, November 1:
Glenmore 4-10; Shamrocks 3-9.

INTERMEDIATE HURLING FINAL:

Nowlan Park, October 11:
Graigue-Ballycallan 2-8; O'Loughlin/Gaels 2-8.
Nowlan Park, November 8:
Graigue-Ballycallan 2-5; O'Loughlin/Gaels 0-8.

JUNIOR HURLING FINAL:

Nowlan Park, October 11:
John Lockes (Callan) 2-17; Galmoy 3-8.

SPECIAL JUNIOR HURLING ROINN A:

Thomastown, September 27:
Rower-Inistioge 1-10; Bennettsbridge 1-4.

SPECIAL JUNIOR HURLING ROINN A:

Thomastown, September 27:
Rower-Inistioge 1-10; Bennettsbridge 1-4.

SPECIAL JUNIOR HURLING ROINN B:

Nowlan Park, September 27:
Cloneen 1-8; John Lockes (Callan) 1-4.

UNDER-21 HURLING ROINN A:

Hugginstown, December 13:
John Lockes (Callan) v. James Stephens.

UNDER-21 HURLING ROINN B FINALS:

Nowlan Park, December 13:
Fenians (Johnstown) v. Rower-Inistioge.

MINOR HURLING ROINN A FINAL:

Nowlan Park, November 1:
Erin's Own (Castlecomer) 1-10; Thomastown 0-6.

MINOR HURLING ROINN B FINAL:

Nowlan Park, October 26:
Fenians (Johnstown) 4-16;
Shamrocks (Ballyhale-Knocktopher) 1-3.

MINOR HURLING ROINN C FINAL:

Callan, September 26:
Tullaroan 5-14; Mullinavat 3-1.

SENIOR FOOTBALL FINAL:

Nowlan Park, November 14:
Muckalee 0-6; Railyard 0-5.

JUNIOR FOOTBALL FINAL:

Nowlan Park, September 11:
St. Patrick's (Kilmacow) 0-9; Railyard 0-3.

SPECIAL JUNIOR FOOTBALL FINAL:

Callan, November 22:
Graigue-Ballycallan 1-6; Carrickshock 0-1.

MINOR FOOTBALL ROINN A FINAL:

Callan, January 3, 1988:
James Stephens v. Piltown.

UNDER-16 HURLING ROINN A FINAL:

Young Irelands (Gowran) 3-7; Mooncoin 2-7.

UNDER-16 HURLING ROINN B FINAL:

Graighamanagh 1-14; St. Martin 2-4.

UNDER-16 HURLING ROINN C FINAL:

Carrickshock 7-6; Clara 2-3.

UNDER-16 FOOTBALL ROINN A FINAL:

James Stephens 3-9; Mooncoin 0-1.

UNDER-16 FOOTBALL ROINN B FINAL:

Young Irelands (Gowran) 3-14;
Tullaghan-Rosbercon 1-1.

UNDER-14 ROINN A FINAL:

James Stephens 3-8; Dicksboro 1-3.

UNDER-14 HURLING ROINN B FINAL:

John Lockes (Callan) 3-3;
St. Lactain's (Freshford) 2-3.

UNDER-14 HURLING ROINN C FINAL:

Clara 3-8; Carrickshock 2-1.

UNDER-14 FOOTBALL ROINN A FINAL:

Dicksboro 3-5; O'Loughlin/Gaels 3-5;
Dicksboro 1-6; O'Loughlin/Gaels 0-2.

UNDER-14 FOOTBALL ROINN B FINAL:

St. Patrick's (Kilmacow) 3-1;
St. Patrick's (Ballyragget) 2-3.

UNDER-13 FOOTBALL ROINN A FINAL:

Piltown 2-3; Kilkenny C.B.S. 1-1.

UNDER-13 FOOTBALL ROINN B FINAL:

Mooneenroe 0-6; Mooncoin 1-1.

UNDER-12 HURLING ROINN A FINAL:

Kilmanagh 4-8; Graignamanagh 2-3.

UNDER-12 HURLING ROINN B FINAL:

Callan 3-6; Castlecomer 2-2.

UNDER-12 HURLING ROINN C FINAL:

Rower-Inistioge 3-5; Dunnamaggin 1-2.

UNDER-12 HURLING ROINN D FINAL:

Tullaroan 2-6; Mullinavat 3-1.

MINOR HURLING LEAGUE ROINN A:

Graigue-Ballycallan 2-9;
Erins Own (Castlecomer) 0-10.

MINOR HURLING LEAGUE ROINN B:

Fenians (Johnstown) 1-15; Glenmore 0-1.

MINOR HURLING LEAGUE ROINN C:

Tullaroan 3-11; Blacks & Whites 2-7.

UNDER-16 HURLING LEAGUE ROINN A:

Young Irelands (Gowran) 6-12; Jas. Stephens 2-6.

UNDER-16 HURLING LEAGUE ROINN B:

Graignamanagh 4-9;
Fenians (Johnstown) 3-5.

UNDER-16 HURLING LEAGUE ROINN C:

Dunnamaggin 3-10 Conahy Shamrocks 1-6.

UNDER-16 FOOTBALL LEAGUE ROINN A:

Dunnamaggin 3-10; Conahy Shamrocks 1-6.

UNDER-16 FOOTBALL LEAGUE ROINN A:

James Stephens 6-9; Piltown 0-2.

UNDER-16 FOOTBALL LEAGUE ROINN B:

Young Irelands (Gowran) 1-16; Graignamanagh 2-4.

NORTHERN FINALS:

JUNIOR HURLING:

Galmoy 3-12; Blacks & Whites 2-13.

SPECIAL JUNIOR HURLING A:

Bennettsbridge 1-8; Clara 0-7.

SPECIAL JUNIOR HURLING B:

Cloneen 3-9; Clara 1-6.

UNDER-21 HURLING ROINN A:

James Stephens 1-7; Erins Own (Castlecomer) 0-7.

UNDER-21 HURLING ROINN B:

Fenians (Johnstown) 0-15; Conahy Shamrocks 0-3.

MINOR HURLING ROINN A:

Erins Own (Castlecomer) 1-9; James. Stephens 2-2.

MINOR HURLING ROINN B:

Fenians (Johnstown) 1-12;
St. Patricks (Ballyragget) 2-3.

MINOR HURLING ROINN C:

Tullaroan 0-10;
Barrow Rangers (Goresbridge-Paulstown) 0-4.

JUNIOR FOOTBALL:

Railyard 2-5; Blacks & Whites 0-9.

SPECIAL JUNIOR FOOTBALL:

Graigue-Ballycallan 2-6;
Young Irelands (Gowran) 2-3.

UNDER-21 FOOTBALL ROINN A:

Dicksboro v. Jas. Stephens or Graigue-Ballycallan.

UNDER-21 FOOTBALL ROINN B:

Danesfort v. Railyard or Blacks & Whites.

MINOR FOOTBALL ROINN A:

James Stephens 2-9; Dicksboro 1-2.

MINOR FOOTBALL ROINN B:

Young Irelands (Gowran) v. Erins Own
(Castlecomer) or Bennettsbridge.

SOUTHERN FINALS:

JUNIOR HURLING:

John Lockes (Callan) 2-11;
St. Senans (Kilmacow) 1-5.

SPECIAL JUNIOR HURLING A:

Rower-Inistioge 2-11; Mullinavat 1-5.

SPECIAL JUNIOR HURLING B:

John Lockes (Callan) 4-6; Piltown 2-3.

UNDER-21 HURLING ROINN A:

John Lockes (Callan) 1-11; Glenmore 3-5.
John Lockes (Callan) 2-13; Glenmore 2-10.

UNDER-21 HURLING B:

Rower-Inistioge 2-9; Tullaghan-Rosbercon 2-6.

MINOR HURLING ROINN A:

Thomastown 1-11; Piltown 2-8.
Thomastown 4-10; Piltown 0-6.

MINOR HURLING ROINN B:

Shamrocks 3-12; Glenmore 3-5.

MINOR HURLING ROINN C:

Mullinavat 3-8; Dunnamaggin 1-4.

JUNIOR FOOTBALL:

St. Patricks (Kilmacow) 2-7;
John Lockes (Callan) 0-6.

SPECIAL JUNIOR FOOTBALL:

Carrickshock 1-6; Kilmoganny 0-3.

UNDER-21 FOOTBALL ROINN A:

Thomastown v. Glenmore or Slieverue.

UNDER-21 FOOTBALL ROINN B:

Piltown v. St. Patricks (Kilmacow);
John Lockes or Mooncoin.

MINOR FOOTBALL ROINN A:

Piltown 0-6; Thomastown 0-4.

MINOR FOOTBALL ROINN B:

Shamrocks/St. Patrick's (Kilmacow) v.
Glenmore, Graignamanagh, Rower-Inistioge.

CAMOGIE COUNTY FINALS:

SENIOR A:

St. Pauls 2-7; Shamrocks 0-12.

SENIOR B:

Thomastown 2-3; Blacks & Whites 2-2.

JUNIOR A:

Lisdowney 3-8; Mooncoin 0-2.

JUNIOR B:

Lisdowney 3-4; Galmoy 1-0.

UNDER-21:

Lisdowney 2-2; Blacks & Whites 0-2.

UNDER-18:

Lisdowney 3-3; Blacks & Whites 0-4.

MINOR A:

St. Brigids (Ballycallan) 2-2;
St. Lactain's (Freshford) 1-2.

MINOR B:

Carrickshock 5-1; Mooncoin 4-3.

UNDER-14 A:

Tullaghan 2-5; St. Brigid's (Ballycallan) 1-2.

UNDER-14 B:

Lisdowney 3-2; Carrickshock 1-0.

UNDER-14 C:

Piltown 1-0; Clara 0-0.

PRIMARY SCHOOLS A:

St. Lactain's (Freshford) 3-1; Mullinavat 2-1.

PRIMARY SCHOOLS B:

Lisdowney 3-4; Shamrocks 2-0.

PRIMARY SCHOOLS C:

Tullaroan 1-1; Clara 0-0.

OTHER FINAL RESULTS:

ALL-IRELAND CLUB 1986/87:
Borris-Ileigh (Tipperary) 2-9;
Rathnure (Wexford) 0-9.

LEINSTER CLUB 1987/88:

Rathnure (Wexford) 3-8; Portlaoise (Laois) 1-13.

LEINSTER COLLEGES SENIOR 1986/87:

St. Kierans (Kilkenny) 4-8;
Community School (Birr) 3-9.

LEINSTER COLLEGES JUNIOR 1987/88:

Community School (Castlecomer) 1-8;
St. Kieran's (Kilkenny) 1-8.

LEINSTER COLLEGES JUVENILE FINAL 1986/87:

St. Kieran's (Kilkenny) 5-3;
Community School (Birr) 4-2.

ALL-IRELAND COLLEGES SEN. H. FINAL 1986/87:

St. Flannans (Ennis) 4-11; St. Kierans (Kilkenny) 1-7.

ALL-IRELAND INTER-FIRM HURLING FINAL 1986:

Avonmore Creameries (Kilkenny) 1-12;
Thermo King (Galway) 2-9.

ALL-IRELAND INTER-FIRM J.H. FINAL 1986:

Barids (Galway) 3-5;
Suir Electric-Dawn Meats (Kilkenny) 1-8.

LEINSTER INTER-FIRM S.H. FINAL 1987:

Avonmore Creameries (Kilkenny) 4-19;
Telecom Eireann (Dublin) 0-12.

KILKENNY INTER-FIRM S.H. FINAL 1987:

Avonmore Creameries v. Suir Electric-Dawn Meats
- Iverk Produce (To be played).

KILKENNY INTER-FIRM J.H. FINAL 1987:

St. Canice's/Army/Smithwicks 0-16; Tallis Bros. 0-5.

ALL-IRELAND CLUB CAMOGIE FINAL:

St. Pauls (Kilkenny) 1-14; Glen Rovers (Cork) 0-5.

ALL-IRELAND COLLEGES J.H. ROINN A 1986/87:

St. Kieran's (Kilkenny) 7-15;
Portumna College (Galway) 1-5.

1987/88:

Community School (Castlecomer) 3-10;
St. Raphaels (Loughrea) 3-4.

ALL-IRELAND COLLEGES J.H. ROINN B FINALS 1986/87:

Presentation (Castlecomer) 4-12;
Cross & Passion (Ballycastle) 2-3.

ALL-IRELAND COLLEGES JUVENILE HURLING ROINN B FINAL 1986/87:

Presentation (Castlecomer) 12-16;
St. Jarleths (Tuam) 2-0.

ALL-IRELAND COLLEGES JUVENILE HURLING ROINN A FINAL:

St. Raphaels (Loughrea) 2-6;
St. Kierans (Kilkenny) 1-6.