

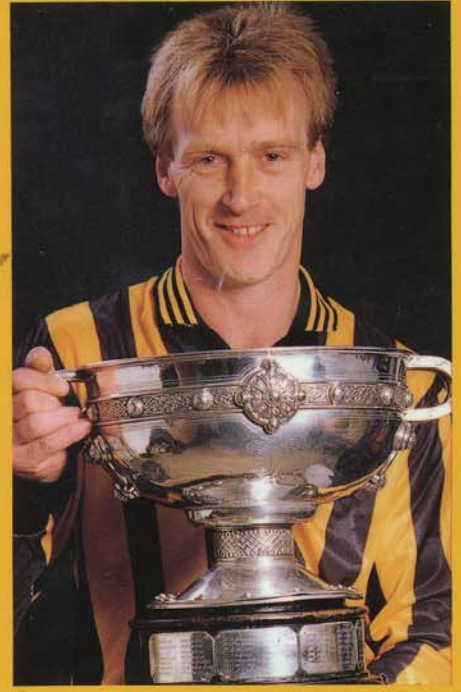


**KILKENNY**  
**G.A.A.**   
**YEARBOOK**  
 **1990**  
**LUACH: £3**





# KILKENNY G.A.A. YEARBOOK 1990

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(*Kilkenny Camogie*).

Michael Walsh  
(*All-Ireland Singles Handball Champion*)

# EDITORIAL

WHEN great years for the G.A.A. in Kilkenny are being recalled in the future, 1990 will quickly come to mind. The winning of eight national titles plus the now annual exploits of handball genius Michael Walsh gave endless hours of pleasure to Kilkenny people far and wide during the past year and compensated in no small way for the unexpected demise of our senior hurlers in the Leinster championship. Such achievements deserve to be recorded for current and future generations, and I am confident the 1990 Kilkenny G.A.A. Year Book fulfils this purpose.

It was a source of great disappointment to all G.A.A. followers that no Year Book was published in 1989. The County Board under the direction of its Chairman, Paddy Buggy, was determined that a Year Book would be produced in 1990, and so early in March a committee was established to undertake the project. Many months of hard work has gone into this publication and I am extremely grateful to the members of the committee who gave so freely of their time.

Publishing a Year Book is an expensive venture and it would not have been possible without the generous assistance of our advertisers. I am extremely grateful to Barry Henriques for his tremendous work in securing the necessary level of advertising for the 1990 Year Book.

The articles in this Year Book are wide and varied and I am grateful to all our contributors. Both John Knox and Enda McEvoy contribute regularly on Gaelic Games in our local newspapers while our other contributors are generally better known for different roles in the G.A.A. The help I received from Helen Carroll with editing the material was much appreciated.

Photographs are a popular feature of any Year Book and this year is no exception. To that end, I am grateful to all our local and national photographers for making their material available.

The County Board is indebted to the *Kilkenny People* newspaper for the publication of the Kilkenny G.A.A. Year Books in the past, and it also acknowledges with gratitude the work done by previous editors Peter Holohan and John Knox. The best tribute we can pay to all those involved in previous publications of the Year Book, is to ensure that the 1990 edition reaches the same high standards. I must also express my gratitude to the staff of the *Kilkenny People* who assisted with the production and layout of the Year Book.

The youth of today are constantly being bombarded with glossy magazines portraying the stars of every sport under the sun. It is vital that we continue to promote our own local stars and give as much publicity as possible to all our clubs throughout the county. The G.A.A. must continue to improve its whole communication process and it behoves organisations such as the Kilkenny County Board to do its utmost to ensure that we gain the maximum publicity for all our efforts. I hope the 1990 Year Book goes some way to achieving this objective.

As the main sporting organisation in the country we can often be accused of being our own worst enemy. Our biggest critics are our own members. We have a lot to be proud of. Let us appreciate our achievements.

1990 was a year we are unlikely to forget. We salute in this publication the men and women who brought us so many unforgettable moments during the year.

I hope the Year Book gives many enjoyable hours reading to all Kilkenny G.A.A. followers, whether you are living in Kilkenny, elsewhere in Ireland or overseas.

Every good wish to you all for 1991.

NICKEY BRENNAN  
Editor.





# Foreword

Paddy Buggy,  
Chairman Kilkenny  
County Board  
G.A.A.



FOR almost twenty years now G.A.A. supporters in Kilkenny, were indebted to Peter Holohan and later John Knox, who together with the "Kilkenny People" published a Kilkenny Yearbook on G.A.A. affairs. Unfortunately the annual was not published last year, and the County Board set up a Yearbook Committee which set itself the task of producing the first edition of an official County Board Yearbook.

In publishing a Yearbook the committee set itself a formidable task, and the enthusiastic manner in which it has taken up the challenge bears out the maxim of "the occasion producing the men". This Magazine covers the many aspects of G.A.A. activity within the county and is designed to give enjoyment to the many who will read it. I congratulate the committee, and in particular the Editor, Nickey Brennan, and his aide-de-camp Barry Henriques.

The Gaelic Athletic Association is like any other community, made up from a number of elements or groups of individuals. The unifying force that makes it into a cohesive unit is the degree of communication within the association from the very young to the very old. We cannot complain about a lack of publicity for some of our work if we are guilty of a similar lack in our own publications.

Coisde Ghondae Cill Chainnigh is but another channel of such information, and I trust that the Yearbook made palatable by the variety and spread of articles, by its range of colour and black and white photography, will have somewhere within its pages, items of interest and topics by which each reader will again identify with a node in the path of the G.A.A.

Séo chughaibh a cháirde Gaeil eagrán dIrisleabhar Chill Chainnigh. Tá suil agam go mbainfidh 'chuille duine idir og agus aosta sasamh as an bhfoilseacháin. Tá se soileir tár eis an blian athá beagnach thart go bfuil morchuid le deanamh againn, ach má chuirimis le chéile, ní fál go h-aer aon fhadhb.

**Padraig Ó Bogaigh**  
Cathaoirleach Coiste Contae  
Cill Chainnigh C.L.C.G.

# Teachtairacht an Uachtarán



Muintir Chill Chainnigh agus lucht leanúint Cumann Lúthchleas Gael sa Chontae.

I am delighted to be afforded the opportunity of being associated with the 1990 Kilkenny G.A.A. Yearbook. While the McCarthy Cup eluded Kilkenny in 1990, the year was otherwise an outstanding success. The County emerged as national hurling league champions following triumphs over old rivals, Wexford in the home final and New York in Gaelic Park. The minors decorated the 1990 championship with the passion, skill and power synonymous with the county. The drawn All-Ireland with Cork incorporated all the traits and skills that has endeared Kilkenny hurling to followers countrywide. The minors were the holders of a great legacy that is Kilkenny hurling. The team and all associated with it proved effective guardians of this legacy and illustrated the future of hurling in the county has every chance of being as illustrious as the past.

Kilkenny has been a bastion of Gaelic games since the beginning. Few counties can match its dedication and its achievement in respect of hurling in particular. Kilkenny has been amongst the brightest jewels in the crown of hurling, adorning our playing fields consistently with great teams and outstanding individual players. This has not happened accidently and has taken selfless dedication and commitment from successive generations of people. At a time of great sociological change and challenge, this commitment is now more important than ever. The educational systems have gone through a metamorphosis, youth have a variety of influences and options and they have the means of availing of these options. We must place a greater emphasis than ever in the club attracting youth, in providing the necessary coaching and competition and in ensuring that our games, the best in the world are the attractive deferred option.

Kilkenny has had a proud past. I have no doubt that its future is in safe hands and I look forward to experiencing the Black and Amber in great encounters in the foreseeable future.

Táim fëin agus gach éinne i gCumann Lúthchleas Gael gach fíor buíoch díobh go léir.

SEÁN Ó DUBHLAINN,  
Uachtarán,  
Cumann Lúthchleas Gael



# Surprise, surprise from Under-21 team to all opponents

By JOHN KNOX, *Kilkenny People*

**I**T WAS the classic case of skill triumphing over all else! The physique may not always have been there to match the opposition, but delicacy and craft with the camán proved more than adequate compensation.

In a nutshell, that was the theory behind the unexpected victory by Kilkenny in this year's All-Ireland under-21 hurling championship. The team that was expected to take another year to mature astounded everyone, not least of all a few counties along the way who reckoned they had what it takes to get to the top.

One such team was Offaly, the Noresiders' opponents in the opening match. Offaly came into the game fresh from their seniors hammering Kilkenny in the Leinster championship. They had a few seniors in action, and reckoned they were ready for the slaughter.

They got the shock of their lives. The game was barely 10 minutes old, and Kilkenny had them beaten. Like Mike Tyson, the plucky Noresiders inflicted heavy punishment early on. Offaly couldn't recover.

Galway fancied their chances too. One recalls with amusement that cold evening in Limerick. A colleague from the *Connacht Tribune* was chuffed with himself at half-time. Galway led by 1-9 to 0-7 and, to be honest, were worth a bit more. During the opening five minutes of the new half Charlie Carter went wild and slammed home 2-2.

One will always remember my colleague's comment: "This wasn't supposed to happen". It wasn't how the scriptwriters had seen things. And neither was the way the final against the old foe, Tipperary, turned out.

## WRONG SCRIPT

The Munster men were the defending champions. They had 12 survivors from the victorious panel of 1989. Kilkenny, by comparison, were young and 17 of their squad would be under-age again in 1991. Everything pointed towards a Tipp win.

Again Kilkenny read the wrong script, and impeccably tuned by uplifting trainer Nickey Brennan (Conahy Shamrocks) they scored the county's fifth victory in the series.

"Winning an under-21 All-Ireland is a good preparation for the future", Nickey Brennan pointed out afterwards. "But there is still a lot of work ahead. It is important the players keep their heads. The learning process is not over yet".

Never did a man speak truer words. Indeed, these same players face an almighty challenge in the championship of 1991. Then, everyone will expect things from them. They will be expected to perform, to win.

Already, people are getting carried away and suggesting a number of players should be promoted instantly to the senior team. Things don't work like that. Like a good wine, good players must be brought along nicely and allowed mature slowly. Properly handled, some of these players can go on to claim senior glory.

Instantly, you have to think about that genius D.J. Carey and Adrian Ronan as well — the latter has shown a liking for the big stage. During his career to date, Ronan has already starred in All-Irelands at colleges, minor and under-21 inter-county level.

In a colleges' final with St. Kieran's he scored 1-3, and laid on two more goals. At minor level with Kilkenny he shot six points, two from frees. In the under-21 final he helped himself to six points, all from play. That takes some doing.

## AS GOOD AS KEHER

Carey, of course, has had his problems with leg injuries, but on his day he shows such natural talent he would have you wondering can he outstrip our own Eddie Keher. Yes, he suggests he has that kind of enormous potential.

On top of the pronounced skill factor, Kilkenny also showed a refreshing attitude, the kind of attitude that, channelled in the right direction, can get men to achieve things they might not otherwise achieve. One suspects there was a little bit of that involved with this year's Kilkenny team because of the way the trainer handled his troops.

In the final, at any rate, Kilkenny believed they were kings and getting that healthy state of mind was an achievement in itself. Tipp were a bit cold starting and with the help of a Paul Treacy goal their opponents moved 1-3 to 0-1 clear after

only seven minutes. With a dazzling individual goal from Carey before the break, Kilkenny found themselves 2-5 to 1-4 clear at half-way.

But the real battle was fought and the real heroes shone through during the third quarter. Tipp, with senior stars John Leahy and Conal Bonnar to the fore, blitzed their opponents and got the arrears down to the minimum (2-7 to 1-9).

Just then Kilkenny showed real character. They stood toe-to-toe with their opponents and slugged it out for a few minutes. They stopped the rot. Points from Pat O'Grady, after great work by

## 17 eligible again

TEN OF the Kilkenny players who figured in the under-21 all-Ireland hurling final against Tipperary will be under-age again next year.

The 'young ones' are Jimmy Conroy, Johnny Holohan, Pat O'Neill, Patsy Brophy, John Conlon, Adrian Ronan, D.J. Carey, Paul Treacy, Charlie Carter and Tommy Shefflin.

On top of that lively lot, panelists Pat O'Grady, Declan Forristal, Declan Roche, Ger Henderson, John Buggy, Brendan Mason and Briain Ryan will also be eligible in 1991.

The omens look good!

This year's victory was Kilkenny's fifth in the under-21 all-Ireland series.

## THE ROLL OF HONOUR

- (9) Cork in 1966, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1973, 1976, 1982 and 1988.
- (7) Tipperary in 1964, 1967, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1985 and 1989.
- (5) Kilkenny in 1974, 1975, 1977, 1984 and 1990.
- (4) Galway in 1972, 1978, 1983 and 1986.
- (1) Limerick in 1987.
- (1) Wexford in 1965.



Carey, and Adrian Ronan upped the difference to three points. The Munster champions never got closer afterwards.

The likes of Johnny Holohan, Pat O'Neill, Patsy Brophy, John Conlon, Paul Treacy, who made a major contribution at midfield late in the match, and Carey and Ronan stood firm and refused to give any more. They took a lot though — the All-Ireland title!

It was a fitting finale to a championship run that had just one hiccup. It wasn't in the surprise held in store for cock-a-hoop Offaly. Or the downing of physically stronger Galway, when midfielder James Brennan sizzled, or in the toppling of Tipp. It came in the Leinster final against Laois who held their opponents scoreless for one 17-minute stretch during the second half.

#### NOT WITH IT

The Noresiders just weren't with it that evening in Dr. Cullen Park. Whenever they were, their opponents were made go without. Offaly, Galway and Tipperary certainly didn't think it was going to be that way.

The hard-working selectors with this team were Barry Henriques (John Lockes), Brendan Fennelly (Shamrocks), Michael Hayes (Young Irelands), Martin Morrissey (Dicksboro) and Martin 'Goggy' Brennan (Erin's Own), whose son James 'Shiner' Brennan proved an inspiring captain.

The Kilkenny all-Ireland team was: Jimmy Conroy (James Stephens), Johnny Holohan (O'Loughlin Gaels), Pat O'Neill (Young Irelands), Donal

## The scoring road to victory

### JUNE 6, IN CARLOW, FIRST ROUND LEINSTER CHAMPIONSHIP

**Kilkenny** ..... 1-22 **Wicklow** ..... 0-4  
*Kilkenny scorers:* J. Brennan (0-9), C. Carter (0-4), J. Lawlor (0-4), P. Treacy (1-1), T. Shefflin (0-1), P. O'Grady (0-1), B. Ryan (0-1), T. Murphy (0-1).

### JULY 1, IN PORTLAOISE, LEINSTER SEMI-FINAL

**Kilkenny** ..... 4-11 **Offaly** ..... 1-9  
*Kilkenny scorers:* D.J. Carey (2-0), Charlie Carter (1-3), Adrian Ronan (1-2), James Brennan (0-3), Jimmy Lawlor (0-3).

### JULY 15, IN CARLOW, LEINSTER FINAL

**Kilkenny** ..... 2-9 **Laois** ..... 1-10  
*Kilkenny scorers:* D.J. Carey (1-4), Briain Ryan (1-0), James Brennan (0-2), Tommy Shefflin, Jimmy Lawlor, Jimmy Walton (0-1 each).

### AUGUST 19, IN LIMERICK, ALL-IRELAND SEMI-FINAL

**Kilkenny** ..... 2-16 **Galway** ..... 1-13  
*Kilkenny scorers:* James Brennan (0-9), Charlie Carter (2-2), D.J. Carey (0-2), Tom Murphy (0-1), Adrian Ronan, Brian McGovern (0-1 each).

### SEPTEMBER 9, IN PORTLAOISE, ALL-IRELAND FINAL

**Kilkenny** ..... 2-11 **Tipperary** ..... 1-11  
*Kilkenny scorers:* Adrian Ronan (0-6), D.J. Carey (1-1), James Brennan (0-2), Paul Treacy (1-0), Jimmy Lawlor, Pat O'Grady (0-1 each).

Carroll (Dicksboro), Patsy Brophy (Erin's Own), Tom Murphy (Mooncoin), John Conlon (Bennettsbridge), James Brennan (Erin's Own), Brian McGovern (Slieverue), Adrian Ronan (Graigie-Ballycallan), Jimmy Lawlor (Shamrocks), Tommy Shefflin (Shamrocks), D.J. Carey (Young Irelands), Paul Treacy (Thomastown),

Charlie Carter (Young Irelands). Subs: Pat O'Grady (Blacks and Whites) and Jimmy Walton (Tullaroan) [used].

Other reserves: Declan Roche (John Lockes), Briain Ryan (Fenians), Ger Henderson (Dicksboro), John Buggy (Erin's Own), John Teehan (Graigie-Ballycallan), Declan Forristal (James Stephens), Brendan Mason (Shamrocks).



**MISSION ACCOMPLISHED — Kilkenny Under-21 selectors after the victory over Tipperary.**

*From left:* Brendan Fennelly, Michael Hayes, Nickey Brennan (Trainer/Coach), Martin Brennan, Martin Morrissey, Barry Henriques.



# “We couldn’t be as bad again if we tried” — PAT DWYER

The date was Sunday, June 17. The venue, Croke Park. The occasion, the Leinster senior hurling semi-final, Kilkenny versus Offaly. The Noresiders, the then National League champions, were the hottest of hot favourites.

In a year when favourites were to bite the dust all over, Kilkenny were first to take the dive. Sturdy centre-back Pat Dwyer, one of the few successes on the day, recalls the pain and heartache.

“THE bitter memory of it all is still there”, the stylish Carrickshock defender suggested four months later. “People still talk about that game and wonder why or how we were so bad. It is still hard to credit. The 15 of us were bad on the day”.

Against that, he said, Offaly could do no wrong. Even if some of them had been blindfolded they would still have been able to score.

“We struggled all the time”, Pat went on. “Maybe it was all the matches we had beforehand. We had won the League, then we had club games and inter-county challenges. Offaly came in fresh. They were hungry come the championship. I think it is just one of these mysteries that will remain unsolved. Even at this stage I haven’t a solution.”

The Hugginstown farmer felt the mood in the Kilkenny camp was good in the lead-up to the match. The players were not long back after their League final trip to New York, a trip that left everyone on good terms and pulling together.

On the big day, Pat travelled to Croke Park with Richard Power (Carrickshock), Paul Phelan (Shamrocks), and Tom O’Keefe (Thomastown), with Pat Treacy (Gowran) driving. Offaly were discussed. There was reasonable confidence.

## SOMETHING WRONG

“We didn’t expect the land we got”, the former St. Kieran’s college student said, with a dry laugh. “Going out on the field we were dead set, thinking about nothing but trying to beat Offaly. There were no thoughts about the Leinster final afterwards or anything like that”.

Not long into the game he got the feeling there was something wrong. Christy Heffernan, who was injured, was missed as a target man. Offaly, a young team not expected to come good for a few years, “amazed” Pat. He had seen them three weeks earlier in the Walsh Cup at Nowlan Park against the Kilkenny juniors. They didn’t look anything out of the ordinary.

The Midlanders proceeded to run Kilkenny off the park. The 16 point

hammering (4-15 to 1-8) was the worst the Carrickshock man had experienced.

“We had no answer to them on the day”, Pat conceded. “No matter what we tried, we couldn’t match them. I never remember a game in which we got such a hiding”.

Barely 19 minutes had passed and Kilkenny were 2-3 to no score down, and in serious trouble.

The softly spoken Carrickshock man recalled vividly Offaly’s opening goal. There was a long clearance from the Offaly defence. Pat went up and blocked the ball down. As it fell, Danny Owens was running with the flight of the ball, already inside John Power on the wing. Owens got possession, then lost it, but still managed to knock the sliothar along in front of him. He ended up goaling.

“That was typical of Offaly on the day”, Pat suggested. “The run of the ball was with them. We were always struggling and defending most of the time. The pressure was on the defence nearly all the time, and we just couldn’t seem to relieve it”.

Still, when Kilkenny had their opening score after 25 minutes — a free from D.J. Carey — the centre-back felt it might spark something. It didn’t.

One wondered was there over confidence or anything like that involved?

## NOT OVER CONFIDENT

“We had no reason to be over confident after the League”, Pat thought. “We played well in the home League final against Wexford, but we weren’t wonderful when beating New York in the final proper in New York. It was a struggle. We definitely weren’t over confident. If we had run away with the League in New York that might have been the case. But it wasn’t”.

He was sure about one thing: “Kilkenny are not as bad as they looked that day. We couldn’t be as bad again if we tried”.

Pat said Kilkenny would just have to put the experience behind them, and get on with life. There would come a time of atonement.

“You have to pick up the pieces and keep trying. That is what it is all about”, Pat concluded, with a glint of hope in his eye.



Name: Pat Dwyer.

Age: 25 on December 19.

Height: 6’1”.

Weight: 12st.

Occupation: Farmer.

Miscellaneous: He attended St. Kieran’s college from 1978 until he completed his Leaving Certificate in 1983. He played with all the college teams, but never won anything. “We were the last of a bad lot”, he joked.

At under-age level he played at midfield with his club, Carrickshock. He started playing intermediate hurling when he was 15 and manned the goal for four years. He played with Kilkenny at minor level, and moved to centre-back with his club, and stayed there since.

He has played in the Leinster senior championship with Kilkenny twice, once as a full-back and once as a centre-back.



# Will we ever know what went wrong against Offaly?

By: JOHN KNOX (*Kilkenny People*)

**T**HE disappointment of the year was undoubtedly the flop of the seniors in the Leinster hurling championship. The whole thing was so unexpected and bizarre that some must have felt the happening was a nightmare featuring 'Ripley's Believe It or Not' and when they woke-up the real world would be a much more joyful place.

There was no wakening up. There was no joy. The 4-15 to 1-8 pasting by Offaly at Croke Park on Sunday, June 17 was real, and painful. And in the context of Kilkenny's ever improving form when they had won the National League earlier, it just didn't add up.

As ever, there will be those who will blame players, selectors, maybe even the media for the collapse. Even now, months later, if you ask anyone close to the Kilkenny team what really went wrong, they won't be able to tell you.

You will get a lot of 'I think' and 'If', 'Maybe' and 'Perhaps'. But you will only get morsels that might go anyway towards explaining how a team that looked to have a lot going for it fell asunder on a day when it was expected to walk past the opposition and into the Leinster final, which, incidentally would have been against Dublin.

The year that claimed the life of many a favourite in the hurling world, chose Kilkenny as its first victim. Was it fate? Perhaps.

To be honest about it, the team selectors, Pat Delaney (Fenians), Wattie Long (Glenmore), Henry Shefflin (Shamrocks), Paddy Buggy (Co. Board Chairman) and Manager Diarmuid Healy (Conahy Shamrocks) sent out a team that was as close to being universally acceptable in the county as you are likely to get. Christy Heffernan (Glenmore) had a broken finger and was unavailable, and going on League form the mentors hadn't thrown up any major surprises when they announced the team.

## NOT WITH IT

From the throw-in between 10 and 12 players simply weren't with it. This was a pity, because Offaly were very unsure of themselves at the start. Then they had a goal from Danny Owens after seven minutes. In the 19th minute the devilish Joachim Kelly slipped home a second. Offaly were suddenly 2-3 to no score in front, and suddenly it dawned on them Kilkenny had nothing to offer. From there on they really began to believe, despite what they might want to suggest, and they proceeded to maul their opponents.

It took Kilkenny 25 minutes to open their account, and that was from a free. By half-time they were 3-9 to 1-3 down. Changes in attack and midfield failed utterly to bring about an improvement. Early in the second half Michael Phelan and Eamon Morrissey (free) had points to bring the losers within 10 points of their opponents. Amazingly, that was the nearest they got to Offaly during the entire second half.

By the finish there were 16 points dividing the teams. It was Kilkenny's worst senior championship defeat in over a decade.

Pat Dwyer, Sean Fennelly and John Henderson tried desperately to stem the tide and spark a bit of life into some of their colleagues. It just wouldn't change, although Michael Phelan tortured himself at midfield in an effort to make things happen, and Michael Cleere worked hard, while up front only



Christy Heffernan — his loss was sorely felt by Kilkenny against Offaly this year.

Eamon Morrissey and Richard Power made any sort of an impression.

Were it not for the fact Ireland were doing so well in the World Cup — they played Egypt the same day and thousands stayed at home to watch the soccer on TV — at the time, there would have been uproar in Kilkenny. People automatically turned their attention towards Italia '90, and it wasn't until some time after Jack's heroes had returned home in triumph that serious questions began to be asked about what really happened in Croke Park on Sunday, June 17.





*"Chamber of Horrors" — Perhaps the best way to sum up Kilkenny's display against Offaly in this year's Leinster Senior Hurling Championship.*

### OVER CONFIDENCE

One would suggest part of the reason for the Kilkenny collapse was over confidence, if not wholesale among the players, certainly it was rife among supporters. How often before the Offaly game were players told by followers: "Oh, I won't be going to this match, but I will go to the Leinster final." Admit it, how often did you hear that yourself?

Now that kind of attitude can, in a small but very dangerous way, effect players . . . lessen their concentration, get them to treat the opposition with less respect than they deserve, make them more casual and laid back. Then they become vulnerable, ripe for failure.

The loss of Heffernan, a man to win and hold the ball up front and bring others into the game, was also a factor, however big. Too often defenders blasted the ball away, but instantly it came back at them. There was no respite.

One can hear people saying: 'But surely the manager shouldn't have let the players get over confident.' He can't live with them, protect them from every influence. Remember, they spend more time away from him than they do with him. And if the influence around them is bad, there is danger.

This is not "an explain it all away" piece. More an effort to get people to think first before they lash out. For example, how often do you see parish teams trying to play down their chances in a match so as to lure the opposition into a false sense of security?

People in Kilkenny didn't really rate Offaly this year. After all, they had collapsed in the 1989 All-Ireland semi-final against Antrim of all teams, and that didn't look good. They were regarded as easy pickings for Kilkenny, a team over the top. Against that Kilkenny had put on a few classy shows during the League.

### AN INSULT

On top of all that, a few weeks before the senior championship, Offaly and Kilkenny met in the Walsh Cup final at Nowlan Park. The Noresiders fielded their full junior side, and Offaly had to pull out all the stops during the closing five minutes to win by 2-13 to 2-9. That didn't suggest the midlanders were up to much either.

There were suggestions afterwards that Offaly looked on Kilkenny's attitude towards that Walsh Cup game — fielding a junior team — as an insult, and they used it to inspire their players. It was probably a factor, but I would still contend Offaly were unsure starting that Leinster match. It was only when they noticed their opponents were on a downer, that they blossomed.

Bearing in mind all the good hurling Kilkenny had played beforehand, that Leinster championship game was a real sickener. No one will ever truly know what happened the Noresiders at Croke Park that day. Seven championships have now passed without Kilkenny renewing their friendship with 'Liam'. The long wait hurts. But we must continue to believe.

*The Kilkenny team against Offaly was — Kevin Fennelly (Shamrocks), Bill Hennessy (Tullaroan), John Henderson (Fenians), Paul Phelan (Shamrocks), John Power (John Lockes), Pat Dwyer (Carrickshock), Sean Fennelly (Shamrocks) capt.; Michael Cleere (O'Loughlin Gaels), Richard Power (Carrickshock), D. J. Carey (Young Irelands), Michael Phelan (Glenmore), John McDonald (Mullinavat), Eamon Morrissey (St. Martin's), Liam Fennelly (Shamrocks), Liam McCarthy (Piltown). Subs: Lester Ryan (Clara), Liam Walsh (Glenmore), Adrian Ronan (Graigue-Ballycallan) used; Pat McCormack (Fenians), Ger Fennelly (Shamrocks), Tom O'Keefe (Thomastown), Pat Ryan (Emeralds), Tom Murphy (Mooncoin), Liam Keogh (Tullaroan).*



*Local supporters alight from Seamus Delaney's bus at Clonliffe College on their way to the Leinster Hurling Championship game in Croke Park between Kilkenny and Offaly.*



# THE NEW YORK CATS

Report by John Byrne

NOT since the heady days of the 50's have the 'Cats' strutted thro' G.A.A. circles in the Big Apple with aplomb, conviction and great pride. As at home the G.A.A. over here needs Kilkenny like Sadaam Hussain needs an ally. Kilkenny last won the junior title in 1962 but because of the U.S. Immigration Law of 1965 many teams including the very successful Kilkenny outfit were forced to disband. But in the latter 80's immigration became a way of life and the dormant "cats" started to purr once again. The call went out to immigrants from Tullaroan, Kilkenny City, Glenmore, Tullogher, Clara, Thomastown, Mooncoin that Kilkenny were endeavouring to re-establish their former greatness.

Men like Mike Donovan (Callan), Dick Lyons (Kilkenny), Martin Murphy (Callan), Paddy Phelan (Mooncoin) and John Byrne (Goresbridge) threw their considerable knowledge and expertise behind the rejuvenated Black and Amber and suddenly the road to riches was embarked upon. The vision that was only a dream became a glittering reality when the Cats fought their way to the county final in Gaelic Park. They drew with Westmeath on October 14th but they made no mistake in the replay when they overcame their "Midland" neighbours by 3-14 to 3-9. As you know there are 13 players on teams in New York. The final team was captained by Brian Barcoe (Clara). Other Kilkennymen on the team were Willie Hogan (Tullaroan), Richie Hogan (Tullaroan), Diarmuid Purcell (Tullaroan), Eamon Wallace (Comer), Keith McCorry (Kilkenny), Liam Bolger (Graignamanagh), Luke Doyle (Tullogher), Paschal Brennan (Conahy), John Dunne (Tullaroan), Tom Stapleton (Ballyragget), Mike O'Neill (Kilkenny).

This historic win would not have been possible without the valuable assistance of Ger Fennelly, Joe Hennessy, Paddy Prendergast and Anthony Prendergast. The "non-natives" whose contribution was invaluable to the Kilkenny cause were Martin McCarthy (Tipperary), Damien Mitchell (Offaly), Frank Johnson (Kildare), Seamus Carey (New York), Camillus Mitchell (Offaly), John Staunton (New York), Anthony Gaughan (Meath), Dennis Shannon (Clare), Kevin Connolly (Tipperary), Kieran Gaughan (Meath), Mike Hennessy (New York).

Dick Lyons was team manager and J.



**NEW YORK JUNIOR CHAMPIONS 1990**

**Back Row:** (l-r) M. Hennessy (N.Y.), P. Brennan (Conahy), K. McCorry (Kilkenny), P. Prendergast (Clara), L. Doyle (Tullogher), D. Shannon (Clare), W. Hogan (Tullaroan), L. Bolger (Graignamanagh), B. Barcoe, Capt. (Clara), J. Dunne (Tullaroan), J.J. Kerrigan (Meath), E. Wallace (Castlecomer), D. Purcell (Tullaroan). **Front Row:** (l-r) D. Mitchell (Offaly), G. Fennelly (Shamrocks), J. Staunton (N.Y.), F. Johnson, J. Hennessy (Jas. Stephens), M. McCarthy (Tipperary), R. Hogan (Tullaroan), S. Carey (N.Y.), C. Mitchell (Offaly), K. Connolly (Tipperary).

J. Kerrigan (Meath) was the trainer. So it was a great day for President Donovan and Secretary Murphy. As they say in the song Happy Days Are Here Again.

Days that started way back in 1905 with Dick Quinn (Portnahully, Mooncoin) continued with great success right up into the 30's. Days that saw Kilkenny more famous for its football (could you believe it) prowess with championship wins from 1903 to 1913 (10 titles). This team was backboned by the famous Slatequarry Miners. Kilkenny also collected hurling titles in 1912, 1922 and 1923. Due to things like the Great Depression and World War II the Kilkenny club had to disband until 1946 when the great Dick Sullivan (Ballyhale), Fr. Sean Reid (Ballyhale area), Jim Cahill, Gus Fitzpatrick, Denny Fitzpatrick, Michael Walsh (all Callan), John Byrne (Goresbridge), Ginger Dunne (Kilkenny), got the Kilkenny club back on the tracks once more. With great stickmen like Terry Leahy R.I.P. (Urlingford), Jimmy McCormack (Dublin), Steve Kelly (Mooncoin), Jackie "Axle" Cahill, Mick Loughlin (Urlingford) and the Glendon's from Clomantagh, Kilkenny once more became a force to be reckoned with.

They beat Tipperary in the 1950 New York final and augmented by newcomers Mike Donovan (Callan),

Dave DeLoughry (Bennettsbridge) and a few more they repeated the dose again in 1957. The same year they completed the double, winning the Junior title as well. The fate of Kilkenny diminished until it was re-born again this year. When one indulges in reflections, shadows of great times past, and great names from those eras, one remembers with great 'reverence' names — in addition to those mentioned — like Jack Madigan (Callan), Harry Skehan (Johnstown), Bernard O'Shea (Comer), Pat Phelan (Mullinavat), Bill Kelly (Kilkenny), James O'Keefe (Inistioge), Jack Keogh (Tullaroan), Bishop William J. McDonald (Mooncoin), Paddy Fripps (Mooncoin), Pat Walsh (Kilmacow), the Roches (Glenmore), Ned Healy (Conahy), the Dohertys — John and Joe (Kilkenny), the O'Hara's — Milo and Dick (Kilkenny), Matt Lyng (The Rower), Lar Dwyer (Ballyhale), Paschal Bergin (Galmoy) and so many more.

They all, in their own way helped to carry the traditions of hurling, nurtured in their home parishes, to grace the playing fields of their adopted homes around the world, and especially in places like New York. A new day had dawned for Kilkenny on this side of the Atlantic. Indications are that the sun will shine for a long day yet. Here's to 1991.



**NEW YORK JUNIOR HURLING CHAMPS - 1962**

**Back Row:** (l-r) Fr. S. Reid (Ballyhale), T. Glendon (Clomantagh), T. Moylan (Thomastown), M. O'Hara (Kilkenny), J. Aylward (Knockmoylan), J. O'Shea (Castlecomer), P. Walsh (Kilmacow), P. Ryan (Graignamanagh), J. Doyle (Castlecomer), T. Leahy R.I.P. (Urlingford), J. Walsh (Castlecomer), M. Donovan (Callan). **Front Row:** J. Grace (Kilkenny), R. Bolger (Tullogher), R. Cantwell (Kilkenny), M. Glendon (Clomantagh), J. Doherty (Kilkenny), D. Dunne (Kilkenny), H. Dullard (Kilkenny), —, —, D. O'Hara (Kilkenny).



# Players deserve better, so don't belittle the League

By JOHN KNOX *Kilkenny People*

PEOPLE can argue whatever way they will about the importance and value of the National Hurling League, but one important point cannot be refuted, it is a tough competition to win.

It has become fashionable these times to suggest that teams who put too much into the League burn themselves out, and lose their appetite for the All-Ireland championship.

It is a point of view I don't subscribe to, even bearing in mind what happened to Kilkenny this year after winning the League, following a tough and prolonged 10-match campaign.

How often do we hear the cry to 'use the League to build a team?' Kilkenny did exactly that this year. Contrary to some opinion, the Noresiders didn't put too much into the League. They used it to get a team together and, coming out of it, they had a settled look about the side that would roll into the championship.

Even bearing in mind what happened in the Leinster championship, one would suggest the Kilkenny selectors Diarmuid Healy (Manager), Paddy Buggy (Co. Board Chairman), Pat. Delaney (Fenians), Wattie Long (Glenmore) and Henry Shefflin (Shamrocks) followed a good course during the League. At the time of the victories in Croke Park (home final) and New York (final proper) it was generally agreed they had done a good job. But after the championship collapse, suddenly opinion was: Kilkenny had put too much into the League.

A certain amount had to be put into the competition for the simple reason Kilkenny were rebuilding. Young players like D.J. Carey, Bill Hennessy, Eamonn Morrissey, Tom Murphy and Tom O'Keefe were being introduced to a level of competition alien to them. On top of that, players with limited experience like Pat Dwyer, Willie O'Connor, Adrian Ronan, Michael Phelan and even former Waterford player, John McDonald, had to be tuned into a state of mind that left them in absolutely no doubt what it took to be successful at the highest level.

## BAD HABITS

That extensive workload took a lot of doing, involving building-up confidence, eradicating bad habits that wouldn't be serious at club level but would on the inter-county stage. And, above all else, contrasting styles had to be meshed



*Kevin Fennelly receiving the National Hurling League trophy from G.A.A. President John Dowling following Kilkenny's victory over New York.*

together. To suggest a team should be built during the League, and then not expect some form of effort to be put in, is a contradiction.

A county team won't form into a useful unit by just coming together on match days. The process of getting a good fighting unit together is much more involved than that. Those who dismiss the League and say it is not worth fighting for are working off the premiss that you have the players and it's only a matter of a tune-up for the All-Ireland series. Things haven't been like that in Kilkenny for a few years now.

The line that the 'League is not worth winning' is not fair to the players. It was a major achievement for Kilkenny this year, and the victory in the final proper over New York in Gaelic Park in the Big Apple was a significant happening. It was the first time a Kilkenny team played on two continents before taking home the trophy. And so, it was the first time they won the title in New York. No matter what, both are firsts, and, as such, cannot be repeated again.

Kilkenny did beat New York in a League decider previously. After beating Tipperary in the Home final of 1966 — to lay the final bogey that ran since the All Ireland of 1922 — by 0-9 to 0-7, they toppled the Yanks in a two-legged final.

In the first at Croke Park (att. 7,085) the Noresiders were none too impressive and won by 3-10 to 2-7. The second encounter at Nowlan Park was a none too

friendly affair, and the home side won by 7-5 to 0-8 for an aggregate win of 10-15 to 2-15. That was in the days of Claus Dunne, Joe Dunphy, Seamus Cleere, Pat Henderson and company.

Winning this, Kilkenny's 8th League, involved some heroic deeds. There was an awkward trip to start with to Antrim, then the defeated All Ireland finalists. The Northerners were perfect hosts, but Kilkenny did the business. Before the Christmas recess, there was a hugely satisfying away victory over Wexford.

## HAMMERED

At the beginning of the year Galway were hammered by 5-12 to 0-10 at Nowlan Park, the Noresiders' first win over the Tribesmen since the previous League success of 1986. Then there was a great draw with Cork in Páirc Uí Chaoimh, and another thrilling draw with Tipperary before 20,000 fans at Nowlan Park.

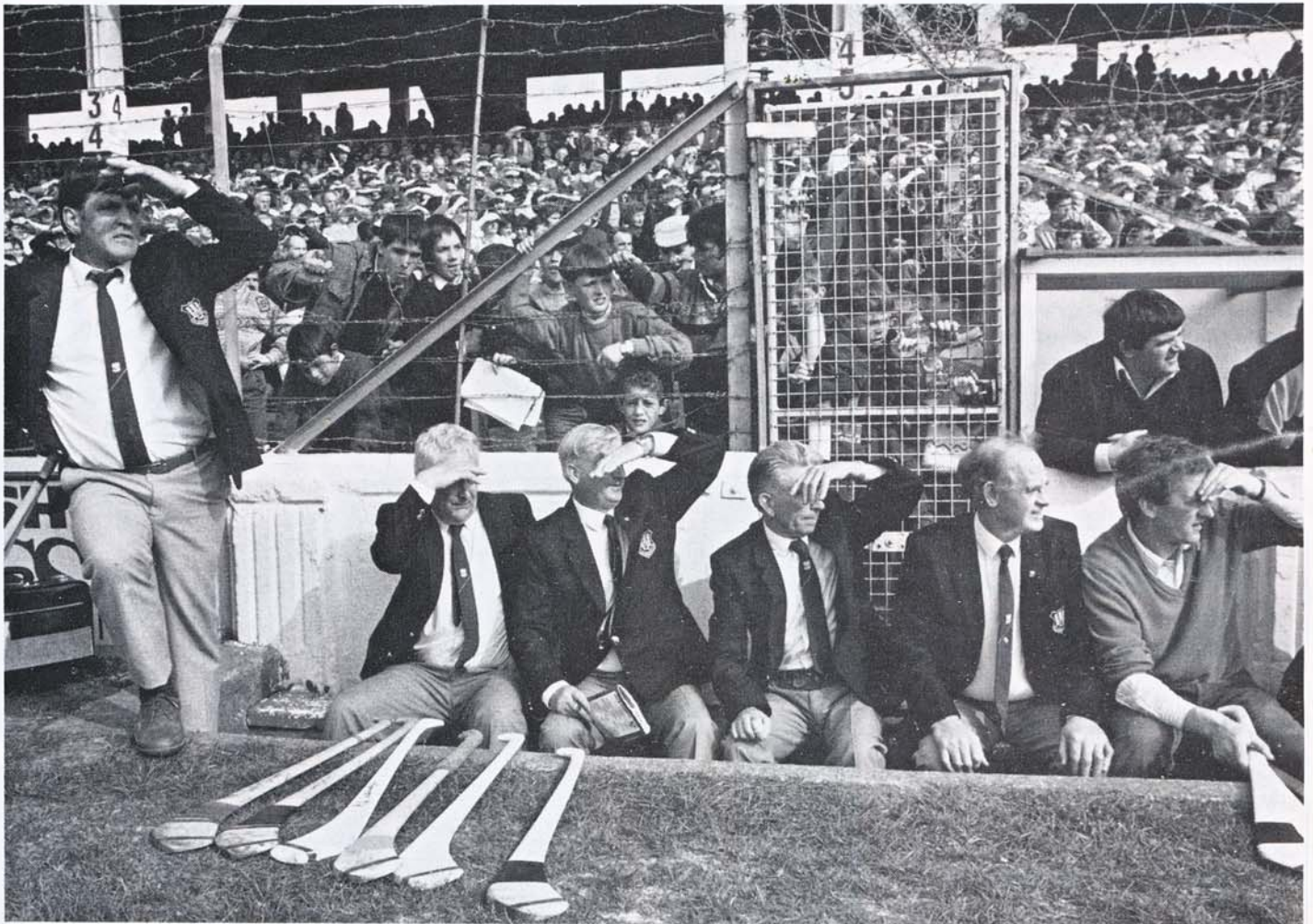
In the Home final, Kilkenny put on a hurling show against Wexford. Simply, the team looked great. The players showed style, flair and tenacity. Christy Heffernan shot a goal in the fifth minute, which put the Noresiders in front for the first time. They never looked back. At half-time they led by 1-8 to 0-8, and weren't flattered. They won by 3-12 to 1-10, and weren't flattered.

For Kilkenny people in the 24,000 attendance, memories of the great team of 1982 and '83 came flooding back. Heffo. showed his year's best form. Liam Fennelly couldn't be contained. Richard Power was flying. Eamonn Morrissey, John Power, John McDonald and Michael Cleere all played like men who had been reared on success.

That win booked a flight to New York for the final proper. Now anyone who has ever visited Gaelic Park knows the score. Simply, the pitch is not good enough for senior inter-county hurling. It is tight, and bald in patches. Thirteen-a-side without midfielders might suffice, but 15 fully trained thoroughbreds on each side is too much, too risky.

And playing in New York is not like a trip to Hugginstown, Ballyragget or Thomastown. There is the time difference. The changes in food and lifestyle. And some don't travel that well. I remember being beside John Power (Callan) travelling on the bus from Kennedy airport to Manhattan and he was dying. Flying made him violently ill.





**Eyes on the ball** — Kilkeny mentors looking tense against Wexford in Home League Final.

Then there was the problem with hurleys. They had to be kept in cool, damp conditions. They had to be moist regularly. The dry air makes them bone dry, and they break easily.

#### **DID COUNTY PROUD**

In New York the Kilkeny players did themselves and the country proud, on and off the field. They looked after themselves, played by the rules.

"We had to, or we would have been beaten", Richard Power admitted afterwards.

People at home took New York for granted. They were a bunch of enthusiastic emigrants, in the backwaters of the organisation. They had former Kilkeny favourite, Harry Ryan (Clara) aboard. They were no softies.

In the end, Kilkeny won by double scores: 0-18 to 0-9. That belied the exchanges. During the opening 26 minutes, the sides shared equality in 14 points. The Yanks lost a bit of ground then, and by half-time were 0-7 to 0-10 behind. They fell apart in the 53rd minute when they had a player sent-off.

"We really believed we could win that final", Harry Ryan revealed afterwards. "We trained to win, not to put in a good show, and be beaten".

That beautifully sunny afternoon in

New York, D.J. Carey had one of his brightest outings, and shot 10 points. He was courageous in tough territory. Pat Dwyer showed that little something that confirmed, yes, he would make a good centre-back. He went on to prove that in the championship. Kevin Fennelly played a star game, too, and John Power, Bill Hennessy and Michael Phelan rose to magnificent heights.

Unfortunately, team captain Sean Fennelly had to miss the trip because of a family problem that didn't, in the long run, prove as serious as first thought. But 'the lads' did it for Sean, and brother Kevin took over as skipper.

That final lacked one big thing — the passionate involvement of fans celebrating the reaching of the summit.

"It wasn't the same without the supporters being there", said Richard Power. "They have to be part of it when it happens. Their excited reactions help your realise what you have achieved. Without them, the New York win was lacking atmosphere. It was like any other old match".

#### **MAGNIFICENT CAMPAIGN**

Nonetheless, the Gaelic Park victory crowned a magnificent campaign, during which Kilkeny were beaten just once in 10 matches. The memories live on.

D.J. Carey flying down the wings in Casement Park, and no one able to keep into him. Richard Power destroying Liemrick with a 5-star showing at midfield. Guts proving the difference in Wexford, when down to 14 players. John Henderson, Willie O'Connor and Michael Cleere — his two late scores won the match — excelled. That was the day Pat Dwyer moved to centre-back for the first time.

The intensity of purpose that drove Galway empty-handed from Nowlan Park. The near miss by Richard Power in Cork, that almost won the day after Michael Phelan dragged the team back of the ropes. How John McDonald saved the blushes against Tipperary, and how Eamonn Morrissey exploded on the scene in the semi-final and home final.

All are wonderful memories from a wonderful campaign. Let us not belittle them by summary appraisals of a competition it has become fashionable to put down. The players deserve better than that.

The Kilkeny team in the final in New York was: K. Fennelly (capt.), B. Hennessy, J. Henderson, P. Phelan, J. Power, P. Dwyer, M. Cleere, R. Power, L. Ryan, D.J. Carey, M. Phelan, J. McDonald, E. Morrissey, C. Heffernan, L. Fennelly. *Sub:* L. McCarthy.



# Young D.J. the second best in the land

**T**HE leading Kilkenny scorer during the National League was 20-year-old D.J. Carey. The fleet-footed Young Irelands (Gowran) lad ran up scores in all but one game. Still, he didn't finish as leading scorer in the entire League, although he nearly did.

D.J. finished second in the scoring charts, behind, strangely enough, John Hennessy from Kerry. The man from the Kingdom hit a marvellous 9-41 in the lower reaches of the League. Without ever scoring a goal, Carey was 16 points short of that tally.

## FOURTH IN LINE

KILKENNY'S eighth National Hurling League victory leaves the county fourth behind Tipperary (15), Cork (12) and Limerick (9) in the honours list.

Since the Royal Liver Assurance took over sponsorship of the event three years ago, new champions have been crowned each time.

Tipperary won in 1988, Galway the following year, and The Cats this season.

In the 'Home' final stakes, Kilkenny are second behind Tipperary (5). The Noresiders have two home wins to their credit, and Cork, Galway and Waterford all have one each.

The other Kilkenny Home final win, along with this year, was in 1966. The Noresiders lost Home finals in 1950 (v Tipp. 3-8 to 1-10), 1965 v Tipp. 3-14 to 2-8) and 1968 (v Tipp. 3-9 to 1-13).

### ROLL OF HONOUR

15 — **Tipperary** in 1928, 1949, 1950, 1952, 1954, 1955, 1957, 1959, 1960, 1961, 1964, 1965, 1968, 1979, 1988.

12 — **Cork** in 1926, 1930, 1940, 1941, 1948, 1953, 1969, 1970, 1972, 1974, 1980, 1981.

9 — **Limerick** in 1934, 1935, 1936, 1937, 1938, 1947, 1971, 1984, 1985.

8 — **Kilkenny** in 1933, 1962, 1966, 1976, 1982, 1983, 1986, 1990.

5 — **Galway** in 1932, 1951, 1975, 1987, 1989.

4 — **Wexford** in 1956, 1958, 1967, 1973.

3 — **Clare** in 1946, 1977, 1978.

2 — **Dublin** in 1929, 1939.

1 — **Waterford** in 1963.



*Eyes on the ball - D.J. Carey heads goalwards in the All-Ireland Under-21 final.*

Converted to points, Hennessy's tally was 68, and D.J. Carey, Kilkenny's free-taker most of the time, had 52 points to his credit.

No matter what, that was some achievement for a young lad experiencing action in the senior grade for the first time. In the first and last matches, against Antrim and New York, respectively, D.J. shot 10 points each day.

Those 10 points were the highest individual scores by a Kilkenny player. Another newcomer, Eamonn Morrissey, went close to matching that figure in the Home final against Wexford, when he shot 2-3.

In the overall scoring charts, Morrissey finished sixth with 7-19 (40), behind John Hennessy 9-41; D.J. Carey 0-52; Kieran Delahunty (Waterford) 1-45; Gary Kirby

(Limerick) 4-35; Jimmy Holohan (Wexford) 3-37 (46).

Ger Fennelly was Kilkenny's leading scorer after the League triumph of 1986. On that occasion he scored 1-47, which was two points less than Carey this season.

The 16 Kilkenny scorers in the League were: D.J. Carey (0-52), Eamonn Morrissey (7-19), John McDonald (4-8), Christy Heffernan (2-8), Michael Cleere (0-10), Richard Power (0-9), Liam McCarthy (1-6), Lester Ryan (0-8), Tom Murphy (0-6), Adrian Ronan (0-4), Michael Phelan and Liam Fennelly (0-3 each), Tom O'Keefe, Anthony Prendergast (0-2 each), John Power and Pat Dwyer (0-1 each).

The totals were: For 14-142 — Against, 10-96.



# 25 players were used

ALTHOUGH Kilkenny played 10 matches, and were generally viewed as being team building, they didn't use an inordinate number of players during the National League.

In all, 25 players made appearances during the campaign, which was five less than when the Noresiders won the title last in 1986.

Of course, the '86 tally was the biggest number of players used in years. The numbers in previous seasons were 27 (1985) and 25 (1984).

The panel, in order of appearance, was Kevin Fennelly (Shamrocks), Willie O'Connor (Glenmore), Pat Dwyer (Carrickshock), John Henderson (Fenians), Sean Fennelly, capt. (Sham-

rocks), Michael Cleere (O'Loughlin-Gaels), Tomás McCluskey (Graigue-Ballycallan), Billy Hennessy (Tullaoran), John Power (John Lockes), D.J. Carey (Young Irelands), Lester Ryan (Clara), Anthony Prendergast (Clara), Liam McCarthy (Piltown), Richard Power (Carrickshock), Adrian Ronan (Graigue-Ballycallan) — that was the team that opened against Antrim — Tom Murphy (Mooncoin), Eamonn Morrissey (St. Martin's), Tom O'Keefe (Thomastown), John McDonald (Mullinavat), Michael Phelan (Glenmore), Christy Heffernan (Glenmore), Liam Walsh (Glenmore), Paul Phelan (Shamrocks), Liam Fennelly (Shamrocks), Ger Fennelly (Shamrocks).

## The climb to the top of the League ladder

### OCTOBER 13 AT CASEMENT PARK, BELFAST

**Kilkenny 0-20 Antrim 2-8**

*Kilkenny scorers:* D.J. Carey (0-10), Adrian Ronan (0-3), Lester Ryan, Anthony Prendergast (0-2 each), Richard Power, Tom Murphy, Eamon Morrissey (0-1 each).

### OCTOBER 29 AT NOWLAN PARK

**Kilkenny 2-17 Limerick 2-11**

*Kilkenny scorers:* Liam McCarthy, E. Morrissey (1-2 each), D.J. Carey (0-4), Tom O'Keefe, R. Power, T. Murphy (0-2 each), Michael Cleere (0-2), L. Ryan (0-1).

### NOVEMBER 12 AT JOHN LOCKES PARK, CALLAN

**Dublin 1-9 Kilkenny 0-11**

*Kilkenny scorers:* D.J. Carey (0-5), R. Power, T. Murphy, John McDonald, E. Morrissey, M. Cleere, A. Ronan (0-1 each).

### NOVEMBER 26 AT WEXFORD PARK, WEXFORD

**Kilkenny 1-11 Wexford 0-11**

*Kilkenny scorers:* E. Morrissey (0-4), J. McDonald (1-0), M. Cleere (0-2), L. McCarthy, John Power, L. Ryan, R. Power, T. Murphy (0-1 each).

### FEBRUARY 18 AT NOWLAN PARK

**Kilkenny 5-12 Galway 0-10**

*Kilkenny scorers:* E. Morrissey (2-2), J. McDonald (2-0), Christy Heffernan (1-2), D.J. Carey (0-4), R. Power, L. Ryan (0-2 each).

### FEBRUARY 25 AT PÁIRC UÍ CHAOIMH, CORK

**Kilkenny 0-13 Cork 1-10 (13 pts.)**

*Kilkenny scorers:* D.J. Carey (0-5), L. Ryan, E. Morrissey, Michael Phelan (0-2 each), M. Cleere, J. McDonald (0-1 each).

### MARCH 11 AT NOWLAN PARK

**Kilkenny 1-12 (15 pts.) Tipperary 2-9 (15 pts.)**

*Kilkenny scorers:* D.J. Carey (0-5), J. McDonald (1-1), M. Cleere (0-3), C. Heffernan, T. Murphy, R. Power (0-1 each).

### APRIL 9 LEAGUE SEMI-FINAL AT THURLES

**Kilkenny 2-16 Dublin 1-9**

*Kilkenny scorers:* E. Morrissey (2-2), D.J. Carey (0-5), J. McDonald (0-3), C. Heffernan, Liam Fennelly (0-2 each), M. Phelan, R. Power (0-1 each).

### APRIL 22 HOME LEAGUE FINAL AT CROKE PARK

**Kilkenny 3-12 Wexford 1-10**

*Kilkenny scorers:* E. Morrissey (2-3), C. Heffernan (1-2), D.J. Carey (0-4), M. Cleere, J. McDonald, L. Fennelly (0-1 each).

### MAY 6 LEAGUE FINAL PROPER IN GAELIC PARK, NEW YORK

**Kilkenny 0-18 New York 0-9**

*Kilkenny scorers:* D.J. Carey (0-10), L. McCarthy (0-3), E. Morrissey (0-2), Pat Dwyer, C. Heffernan, J. McDonald (0-1 each).

## ☆ Snippets ☆

### STARS OF THE FUTURE IN ACTION

KILKENNY had a footballer in action at the All-Ireland football finals in Croke Park in September. Richard Connolly from Piltown played a full part in the I.N.T.O. organised skills football match played between the two All-Ireland finals. Not many Kilkenny players figured on such an auspicious football occasion. Richard did the county proud.

On All-Ireland hurling final day, Paul Hoyne and Pat Marnell from the Graigue/Ballycallan club figured on the hurling skills team. And not to be outdone, Marie Sweeney and Olive Hennessy from Tullaroan were involved with the camogie skills team on the same day.

### JOHNSTOWN CAMOGIE RIVALRY

AN unusual twist to this year's All-Ireland Minor Camogie Final between Kilkenny and Tipperary was provided by three girls from Johnstown Vocational School. Caroline Dooley and Grace Webster were members of the successful Tipperary team while their school mate, Bridget Wall, was a member of the Kilkenny team. So whatever the result, Johnstown could not lose.

Another camogie connection with Johnstown Vocational School this year was provided by Bridget Barnaville, who was a member of the Kilkenny Senior Camogie panel which defeated Wexford in this year's final.

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# Gillian gives performance

**T**HE fabulous story that is the Kilkenny Camogie team has been well chronicled. The players are now household names. They have style, finesse, craft and skill, indeed one could use a whole dictionary of words to describe the achievements and performances of the Kilkenny Camogie teams since the Seventies.

The names are as familiar as their hurling counterparts — Downey, O'Sullivan, McGarry, Holmes, etc. one could keep going on and on. No praise is equal to the achievements of this fantastic group of sportswomen. The winning of the 1990 Senior Camogie title demonstrated once again the resilience of the current team. Wexford were expected to be formidable opponents and as events turned out they contained the champions well for a while. But then as if by the waving of a magic wand, Kilkenny took off and giving the finest exhibition of point taking seen in an All-Ireland final, they cruised to a comfortable win.

Kilkenny are a team full of stars, coached to perfection by Tom Ryan. The "old" reliables were once again to the fore but this year the addition of two young players showed Kilkenny's new emerging talent is well capable of keeping the team at the top for many more years. Glenmore's Brigid Mullally and Freshford's Gillian Dillon are two of the youngest players ever to play in an All-Ireland final. Both had already tasted All-Ireland success at minor level with Kilkenny, so playing and winning All-Irelands was nothing new to them. Brigid Mullally had the unique distinction of playing in both minor and senior All-Irelands in the same year. Although success eluded her at minor level this year when the team lost narrowly to Tipperary, she more than made her presence felt in the senior final against Wexford.

## **FINEST PERFORMANCE**

Gillian Dillon's display against Wexford was undoubtedly her finest. Playing at midfield, she oozed confidence throughout. Her sweet striking delighted the large Kilkenny following in Croke Park and marked her as a player who will play in many more All-Ireland finals.

It was inevitable that Gillian Dillon would play camogie. Hurling was a way of life in her house. Her father, Pa Dillon, was the legendary Kilkenny full-back of the Sixties and the early Seventies. His displays are always spoken of by people with a passion for hurling. Gillian recalls pucking hurling balls around the field with her brother Bobby in her younger days.

## **of her life**

The development of camogie at National School level in Kilkenny was a significant move in the Eighties. Freshford was one of the first areas to become involved and Gillian pays a big tribute to her coach at National School, Brian Waldron, for his help in teaching her the skills that would one day grace Croke Park.

Her performances with the Freshford school team would quickly bring her to the notice of the Kilkenny Under-14 selectors and she went on to win two Leinster championships at this grade. Further success followed at Minor level but this time the chance of All-Ireland glory came beckoning for the first time.

## **MINORS TAKE TITLE**

Again Gillian was to the forefront as Kilkenny defeated Armagh and the team repeated the success the following year (1989) in Thurles when they brushed aside the challenge of Tipperary. That was the day Brigid Mullally set scoring records unlikely to be achieved again in a camogie final.

Gillian was also to the forefront with her school, Presentation Convent Kilkenny, as they strove for camogie honours. 1989 saw the school win the Leinster Senior final but they were defeated by St. Raphael's from Loughrea in the All-Ireland final. Again Gillian speaks highly of the work done by the team coach Mr. O'Dwyer in her development.

Having completed her Leaving Certificate, Gillian is now studying Equestrian Science at Thomastown Vocational School and will line out with the school team in the forthcoming

championship. The school is drawn in a different group to the Presentation Convent, Gillian's former school, but how ironic if they were to meet in the later stages of the championship. Some of her opponents would have been her team-mates last year.

## **CALL UP A SURPRISE**

Her call-up to the Kilkenny team this year took her by surprise but it was an opportunity she grasped with delight. Coming on as a substitute in the semi-final against Cork, she did enough in this game to retain her place for the final. Gillian cites the physical aspect of the game as the biggest change she has encountered but as she showed in the All-Ireland final she can handle the toughest of opponents. Her All-Ireland appearance was her first time to play in Croke Park — her display would indicate that it will become a familiar surface to her in the future.

Gillian's heroes growing up were the older members of the current team and little did she think that one day she would play beside them in an All-Ireland final. She talks glowingly of the encouragement and help both herself and Brigid Mullally received from the older players since they came on to the senior panel. It is this great team spirit that Tom Ryan has instilled in the team that has taken them to such great achievements.

Gillian's hope is to taste much more success in the future. On her shoulders rests the task of continuing the glory days so enjoyed by the present squad. 1990 was a year she is ever likely to forget. A first senior All-Ireland medal and a classy display into the bargain.

Kilkenny's camogie future is in good hands with Gillian Dillon.



Gillian Dillon in action against Wexford in the All-Ireland Camogie final in September.



*THERE were some who suggested it was no good, a waste of time, not worth talking about. The fickleness of human nature. A keyhole view, when part of something is made greater than the whole.*

# Flat Final note, but Glenmore were on-song all season

*By John Knox (Kilkenny People)*

**T**HAT was the way it was after Glenmore literally walked away with the Kilkenny senior hurling championship. They walloped out-of-sorts Clara by 3-15 to 2-6 in the final. That game was a dead loss. But to use it as the summary of Glenmore's season is to ignore a magnificent achievement.

For Glenmore's second win the Kilkenny senior hurling championship was nothing short of magnificent. It wasn't their fault that the final didn't turn out to be an epic. Their job was to win. They did exactly that, and played well as a team when doing.

But it was long before the October 7 final that the Southerners met and scaled their biggest obstacle. Indeed, bearing in mind the huge amount of injuries that beset the club all season, there was hardly a day, apart from the final, when someone hadn't an injured finger or two crossed hoping for the best.

That was the way it was all season for Glenmore. One injury followed another. Even the week before the final so many were nursing knocks that inter-county player, Michael Phelan was the only forward able to play during training. Now to carry all those injuries, put them behind you and still come out on top deserved better than to have the final as the game by which your season was judged.

"Our most difficult times were May and June when we had up to six players injured at one time", conceded team selector, Ted Dollard after the victory over Clara. "At that time we would look around and wonder who would be next. That was when we were most vulnerable, and we could have lost the championship then".

## SHOWERED PRAISE

Talented Glenmore didn't, and the only game of the seven they played in the championship that they failed to win was against St. Martin's (Muckalee). At one time in the championship inter-county stars, Willie O'Connor, Christy Heffernan and Liam Walsh were out together. Still the Southerners managed to win.

No wonder then trainer, George Leahy and selectors Ted Dollard, Wattie Long and John O'Shea showered praise on their players. For remember, all this was

achieved against a backdrop which saw Glenmore come into the championship scarred. They had lost the previous year's final against Shamrocks (Ballyhale) when a goal in the closing 10 seconds from Paul Phelan snatched the Walsh Cup from their grasp. That hurt, left them unsure.

When things were going bad for them this year, it would have been easier for Glenmore to chuck it all in, suggest fate had ordained they weren't to win. They didn't lie down under their troubles. Instead, they showed resilience, and every time they received a knock, they just kept plugging away.

That kind of spirit, allied with very considerable hurling talent, carried Glenmore through. No, it is to seriously short change them by ignoring the hardship they survived before the final.

When the season opened the general view was that the Shamrocks would take all the beating, and Glenmore, all going well, would make life difficult for them.

## HOW THE CLUBS STAND

**Tullaroan (19):** 1887, 1888, 1895, 1897, 1899, 1901, 1902, 1904, 1907, 1910, 1911, 1915, 1924, 1925, 1930, 1933, 1934, 1948, 1958.

**Bennettsbridge (12):** 1890, 1952, 1953, 1955, 1956, 1959, 1960, 1962, 1964, 1966, 1967, 1971.

**Mooncoin (12):** 1888, 1900, 1906, 1908, 1913, 1916, 1927, 1928, 1929, 1932, 1936, 1965.

**The Shamrocks (8):** 1978, 1979, 1982, 1983, 1985, 1988, 1989.

**Carrickshock (7):** 1931, 1938, 1940, 1941, 1942, 1943, 1951.

**James Stephens (6):** 1935, 1937, 1969, 1975, 1976, 1981.

**The Fenians (5):** 1970, 1972, 1973, 1974, 1977.

**Eire Óg (4):** 1939, 1944, 1945, 1947.

**Dicksboro (3):** 1923, 1926, 1950.

**Confederation (3):** 1893, 1894, 1896.

**Erin's Own (City) (2):** 1905 and 1909.

**Threecastles (2):** 1898 and 1903.

**St. Lactain's (Freshford) (2):** 1961 and 1963.

**Glenmore (2):** 1987, 1990.

**Thomastown (1):** 1946.

**Graigue (1):** 1949.

**Slieverue (1):** 1954.

**John Lockes (Callan) (1):** 1957.

**Rower-Inistioge (1):** 1968.

**Johnstown (1):** 1914.

**St. Martin's (1):** 1984.

**Clara (1):** 1986.

The men from the deep South lived up to expectations, and after beating Graigue-Ballycallan (4-16 to 1-5), Clara (2-13 to 2-10), Graignamanagh (2-9 to 0-8) and drawing with Fenians (1-10 each) — the score against St. Martin's was 3-12 to 0-11 — they went straight through to the semi-finals.

Despite what the Fenians had achieved earlier, when the injured Liam Walsh, Willie O'Connor, John Heffernan, Seamus Boyle and Christy Heffernan watched from the side, they were never at the races in the semi-final. It was like a heavyweight boxer against a flyweight. The Fenians were crushed (6-12 to 0-8).

## HOT FAVOURITES

By this time the Shamrocks had been dumped out of the championship, and Glenmore were the red hot favourites to add to their success of 1987. They duly obliged. The final was really only a game for one 10 minute spell.

Clara were under strain from the throw-in, and after conceding a 12th minute goal to John Heffernan, trailed by 1-4 to 0-1. To the credit of the losers, during the next 10 minutes they halted the slide, and looked like making a game of it.

Then just off half time the bottom fell out, or rather was knocked-out, of their world. Glenmore's most famous son, Christy Heffernan plucked two goals out of virtually nothing.

Those scores left Clara a daunting 0-5 to 3-6 down at half-way. The 10,000 crowd feared the worst.

George Leahy urged Glenmore to drive on strongly. There was the danger that a Clara goal would resurrect thoughts of what Paul Phelan had done to them last year and would sow seeds of doubt. The players obeyed. Within five minutes of the restart Glenmore had zoomed 13 points clear. It was all over.

And so a contest that had promised so much fell flat on its face. That wasn't Glenmore's fault. The win set them up for a shot at the senior hurling-football double. It didn't happen. Muckalee, as they had done earlier in the hurling, beat Glenmore at football too.

"No one can take it from Glenmore, they are a good hurling team" said a relaxed George Leahy after it was all



over. "During a difficult year, the players proved themselves beyond all doubt".

Glenmore surely did that. Indeed, the parish enjoyed a lot of good hurling times. As well as the seniors, the juniors reached the Southern semi-final, and the special juniors were most unlucky to lose the South final against Piltown.

A lot more than hurling was needed from the Glenmore players this season for them to scale to the summit. The old reliables Christy Heffernan, Michael Phelan, Des Ennett, Eddie O'Connor and Des Ennett broke many an opponent's heart.

Willie O'Connor, although troubled

by a serious groin injury and forced to take a three month break after the final, and Liam Walsh, a bad back, made major contributions in difficult circumstances.

Perhaps the most improved Glenmore player was Denis Mullally, an all-action defender cum attacker. In either department he proved a success. Ray Heffernan, too, had one of his best seasons, and P. J. O'Connor crossed the line from youth to senior at some point in the year.

"This can continue for a long time", suggested Glenmore Chairman, Wattie Long. If this is what Glenmore can do in bad times, my gosh, what will they do

when everyone is flying fit? A chilling thought for all the rest.

The Glenmore team in the county team was: Michael Deady, Eddie O'Connor, Eddie Aylward, P. J. O'Connor, Liam Walsh, Willie O'Connor, Des Ennett, Des Heffernan, Ray Heffernan (captain), Denis Mullally, Michael Phelan, Michael Phelan (Aylwardstown), John Heffernan, Christy Heffernan, John Flynn. Subs: Seán Doherty, Pat Barron, Paul Mullally, Michael Aylward, Richie O'Connor, Jim Hartley, Pádraig Hanrahan, Seamus Dollard, John Kirwan, Seamus Boyle, Frank Kirwan.

## First B + I Award for Eamonn

FOLLOWING his outstanding performance in the Royal Liver National Hurling League home final, Eamonn Morrissey from the St. Martin's club, was named as the B+I personality of the month for May. His selection brought Kilkenny back into the B+I honours list after a four years' absence. Kilkenny's last winner of the award was Paddy

Prendergast.

Eamonn Morrissey had a tremendous league campaign with Kilkenny and ended up as one of the team's top scorers with 7-19 to his credit.

His performance in the league final also earned Eamonn the Hotel Kilkenny/Kilkenny People sports personality of the month award for May.



*Congratulations to All the Champs.*



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# Mooncoin came through smelling like roses

**T**HERE was more to it than victory when the final whistle sounded, and it was only right that it should be that way. It was almost as if the hurling order of things had been out of joint for a few years, and the irregularity had been corrected.

That was the way it was when Mooncoin, one of THE all-time great clubs of Kilkenny hurling, won the intermediate championship for the first time. The parish made famous in song won the right to return to the senior grade, from whence, sadly, they slipped in 1987.

Mooncoin's success in taking home the Hanrahan Cup put them back where hurling fans everywhere felt they belong . . . in the senior grade. But on top of the victory over Thomastown in the final came another piece of well-earned glory.

By winning the intermediate crown, Mooncoin became only the 12th club in Kilkenny to score hurling victories at senior, junior and intermediate level. The others were John Lockes (Callan), Slieverue, Eire Óg, Muckalee-Ballyfoyle Rangers, Glenmore, Clara, Thomastown, St. Lachtain's, Shamrocks, Graigue-Ballycallan and Tullaroan.

An outfit with 12 seniors championship wins to their credit deserves to figure among that distinguished group. Mooncoin's senior wins were recorded between 1888 and 1965, and the 1990 success bridged a barren 25 years when sometimes people wondered would the club ever again annex a hurling crown.

## PROUD PARISH

The deep commitment of hurlers Joe Wall, Tom Murphy, Willie Brennan, David Burke and John Mahon made it all possible, and every step of the way the panel was pushed and encouraged by selectors Noel Doyle, Billy O'Keefe and Tom Grant, who knew the faithful in a proud parish would only be happy when senior status was regained. Total satisfaction will come with the next senior success.

The last step to the top was a 4-9 to 1-9 win over Thomastown, and while the

greater part of that game wasn't earth shattering, the winners closing burst had the hallmark of a team with something definite to offer. Mooncoin led at half-way by 2-6 to 0-5, and during the next segment of the match they went off the rails.

At one stage Thomastown had the difference back to 1-9 to 2-8, and they had taken over the initiative. The men from the deep South were in danger of losing all, but suddenly they sparkled.

Hero of the hour, Willie Brennan snatched a goal out of virtually nothing to as good as pole-axe the 'Town. Just on the call of time Brennan crashed home a first rate goal to complete his hat-trick, and thus brought to an end years of heartbreak and misery for an outfit with a near amazing commitment to Kilkenny hurling.

Willie Brennan enjoyed a glorious afternoon, one worth recalling for the grandchildren at some stage later in life. He was there when the

club and team most needed him, as were Burke, Mahon, Tom and Joe Murphy, Michael Fox, Michael Walsh and Jimmy Dunphy.

The closing quarter of that final was probably Mooncoin's best hurling of the season. And a team that can pull off a trick like that in the pressure situation they were in must have a big contribution to make in the senior grade.

## WASN'T EASY

Earlier, in the semi-final, the champions had a near thing when facing O'Loughlin-Gaels. They had but a point to spare that day, after falling away in the second half. However, there was an understandable reason that day. Mooncoin's last championship appearance had been 12 weeks earlier — they went straight through to the semi-finals — and it wasn't easy to keep the players on the boil all that time.

Still, when the club looks back on the campaign they can recall an impressive run. There were wins over John

Lockes, Tullogher-Rosbercon, O'Loughlin-Gaels (2) and Thomastown (2). The only defeat was suffered against Piltown in Mullinavat one bright Sunday afternoon. That day Mooncoin just didn't want to know, and they paid the penalty.

When they really wanted to know in the last 15 minutes of the county final, their class shone through. The team that had been dour, unspectacular throughout the season finally opened up. And Mooncoin looked an impressive bunch in that form.

The Mooncoin team in the final was: David Burke, Jimmy Dunphy, John Mahon, Paddy Crowley, James Grace, Joe Murphy, Jack Kearns, Domo Connolly, Tom Murphy, Michael Fox, Noel Dunphy, Michael Walsh (captain), Tom Hennebry, Willie Brennan, Joe Wall. Subs: Jimmy Holden, Joe Vereker, Pat Hogan (used); Davy Phelan, Michael Kinsella, John Phelan, Joe Dunphy, Michael Comerford, Eamon Fitzgerald, Kevin Grant.



**MOONCOIN — Kilkenny Intermediate Hurling Champions 1990**  
**Back Row:** Mickey Fox, Willie Brennan, Tom Hennebry, David Bourke, John Mahon, Jack Kearnes, Noel Dunphy, Joe Wall. **Front Row:** Domo Connolly, Michael Walsh (Capt.), Jimmy Dunphy, Paddy Crowley, James Grace, Joe Murphy, Tom Murphy.



**THOMASTOWN — Kilkenny Intermediate Hurling Finalists 1990**  
**Back Row:** Michael O'Keefe, Dick O'Hara, Cathal Fitzgerald, John Donnelly, Paul Treacy (Capt.), Brendan Treacy, Liam O'Neill. **Front Row:** Adrian Finan, Billy O'Keefe, Richard Moore, Martin Farrell, Tom O'Keefe, Michael Donnelly, Martin Walsh.



# 'Irelands and O'Loughlins had most regrets

**T**HEY started off as one of the outsiders, but in the end they went close to winning the title. That was the way it was with Thomastown this year in the Intermediate hurling championship.

A quarter of an hour from the end of the race they had one hand on the trophy, but just as they seemed set to reach out and take it firmly in their grasp, Mooncoin snatched it away unceremoniously.

All in all, Thomastown had a good year, but on two occasions the eventual champions put one over them. Their greatest achievement came in the semi-final when they surprised championship red hot favourites, Young Irelands (Gowran).

Only a few weeks earlier Kilkenny goalkeeper, Kevin Fennelly, joined John Lanigan, Dick O'Hara and Ger Walsh on the backroom team and between them they hatched a plan that shackled 'Irelands. They used a three-man midfield to restrict their losses when playing against the wind in the opening half. The gamble worked.

With five minutes remaining, 'Irelands were moving well, but simply couldn't kill off the opposition. Then up popped Cathal Fitzgerald to score a goal out of the blue. Within seconds he had the net bulging again. Against all expectations, Dick O'Hara, Liam O'Neill, Mick Donnelly, Paul Treacy, John Brennan, Tom and Billy O'Keefe and Brendan Treacy and the boys were on their way into the final.

In the big one, it nearly worked for them, although they never really showed belief in themselves. It was almost as if some of the players were in the state of mind: 'sure we will give it a go, and if it works out well and good'. A small thing would have made all the difference in the end.

## REGRET

Beaten semi-finalists, Young Irelands and O'Loughlin-Gaels, will look back with regret on the championship.

Throughout the series, 'Irelands looked the team to beat. They had more fine hurlers — D.J. Carey, Charlie Carter, Pat O'Neill, John and Pat Kennedy, Toss Farrell, Cathal Fitzgerald, Ciaran Phelan — than anyone. They paid the price for not killing off Thomastown when they had them on the run.

A championship that looked like ending with a celebration went flat on 'Irelands.

O'Loughlins saw the same thing happen in the semi-finals. They made awful mistakes during the opening half of that tie against Mooncoin and their opponents were gifted two goals, and scored a good third one. The St. John's Park lads chased like mad during the closing moiety, and failed by just a point in the end.

Michael Cleere, Derek Shelly, Gordon Ryan, Paul Cleere, Michael Holohan, Andy Comerford and that scoring machine, John Mulcahy, will long regret 30 minutes of madness. Their chance of outright victory went out the window because of silly errors.

The season didn't throw up much to cheer Bennettsbridge, Dicksboro, Carrickshock, Piltown or John Lockes. The 'Bridge never sparked. They promised and promised, but never delivered. The 'Boro suffered because they had to play too many natural backs in attack, and a lack of scoring power left them short when it came to do-or-die effort.

Injuries didn't help Carrickshock, who, with a 10 point contribution in their first match from county minor player, Patrick Farrell, hinted they might do something. In the end bad luck robbed them of the services of Pat Dwyer (finger) and Willie Barron (knee-cap), and their challenge fell asunder at a crucial time.

## NEVER IN HUNT

Piltown and John Lockes never looked like getting into the hunt. The Rower-Inistioge didn't to themselves justice. They put themselves under too much pressure too often and could not work under that burden. Their trainer even gave them a complete break in mid-season, but they just wouldn't unwind.

The relegation issue fell between St. Lachtain's (Freshford) and the team that suffered the heaviest defeats of any in Kilkenny, Tullogher-Rosbercon, the junior champions of 1989. Poor Tullogher were beaten by 1-6 to 4-11 in their introductory match in the intermediate grade. John Mulcahy 'went to town' on them.

They pushed Mooncoin after that, but still lost by 1-12 to 2-14. Next time out they were slammed by Thomastown (1-5 to 2-16).

When it came to the fight to stay up, they took a leaf out of another book; they slammed home 4-14. That score proved plenty to beat St. Lachtain's (2-4). The losers were a better team than

## WHO WON, AND WHEN

**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'Loughlins** (1) - 1978.  
**St. Patrick's** (Ballyragget) (1) - 1979.  
**Glenmore** (1) - 1981.  
**Clara** (1) - 1982.  
**Thomastown** (1) - 1983.  
**St. Lachtain's** (1) - 1984.  
**Graigie-Ballycallan** (1) - 1987.  
**Tullaroan** (1) - 1988.  
**Mullinavat** (1) - 1989.  
**Mooncoin** (1) - 1990.

relegation would suggest. With the right attitude, Lachtain's could come straight back up.

## Second Byrne Cup for 'Stephens

JAMES STEPHENS' proved best in closing quarter and scored a good win over St. Martin's in a lively Byrne Cup open draw final played at the Polo Grounds, Jenkinstown, in June. The final score was James Stephens' 0-15, St. Martin's 1-8.

**SCORERS:** James Stephens — B. Walton (0-5, three frees); D. Cowhig, L. Mullan (0-3) each; B. Ayres (0-2); T. Leahy (0-2) - **St. Martin's** — D. Lawlor (0-4), S. Kelly (1-1), J. Brennan, P. Lawlor, D. Coonan (0-1 each).

James Stephens — M. Moore, F. Morgan, P. Neary, G. Morrissey, J. Hennessy, J. O'Connor, T. Fogarty, B. Ayres, B. Walton, T. Leahy, E. Connery, D. Cowhig, L. Mullan, N. Kelly, J. Larkin. *Sub:* T. Butler.

**St. Martin's** — B. Shore, E. Breen, T. Maher, J. Kelly, T. Walsh, J. Moran, M. Maher, C. Hayes, P. Kehoe, J. Brennan, P. Lawlor, A. Lawlor, D. Coonan, S. Kelly, D. Lawlor. *Sub:* C. Moloney.

*Referee:* J. Guinan (Lisdowney).



# *It was pre-ordained they would be champs*

By: JOHN KNOX (*Kilkenny People*)

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*You have often heard someone remark after a fatality: "Oh, when your time is up, your time is up." It was a thought along those lines that came to mind, but thankfully this story had a happy ending, when one glanced back and took a cold, hard look at the slippery trail a Kilkenny team took to an All-Ireland victory this year.*

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**A**T THE finish there was no doubting the worthiness of Kilkenny as crowned kings of the All-Ireland Minor Hurling Championship. In a replayed final against Cork, the elegant Noresiders turned in a show of skill and craft that was so powerful it took the competitive element out of the game. Cork were, simply, swept aside.

But you know, a mere puck of the ball here or there along the way could have changed the whole course of that championship for Kilkenny. From day one I think it had been pre-ordained that Kilkenny were going to take home the Irish Press Cup. Their number wasn't up, as moments of fortune during the campaign would suggest.

Not that one is trying to suggest for a moment Kilkenny aren't worthy All-Ireland champions. Far from it. Anyone who was in Thurles for the replayed final and saw the way Cork were mopped up, knows otherwise. But you have to be fair, Kilkenny did have luck on their side here and there. And luck can make a big difference now and again.

For example, in the opening match of the campaign against Wexford in Dr. Cullen Park, the Noresiders enjoyed a lucky break. It helped them force a draw. A shot from Dermot Lawlor was judged to have entered the net. To this day, certain Kilkenny supporters will swear that ball came back into play off some part of the woodwork, and didn't cross the line at all. An umpire felt otherwise, and Kilkenny drew the match. In the replay they pulverised Wexford.

## **REASON TO REGRET**

In the All-Ireland semi-final then, just a point separated the Leinster champions and a tough and well balanced Galway team after an energy sapping clash. The Tribesmen had reason to regret a first half decision by the referee to make Maurice Headd re-take a 55 yards free. Headd scored the first time, and missed the re-take. Kilkenny won by a point.

Then in the all-Ireland final, the teams finished level the first day. At one stage early in the second half Kilkenny led Cork by 10 points. urged on by fierce



*Dermot Lawlor (St. Martin's) — Kilkenny's Hurler of the Year in 1990.*

support from the terraces — Cork were in the senior final — the Munster champions roared back.

They were flying and had Kilkenny reeling with five minutes remaining. Kevin Murray blazed through the Noreside defence, but was fouled as he released the ball to Damien Fleming, who buried it in the net. Referee Willie Barrett called play back. What might have been a Cork goal ended with a point after the free. The score then was 3-13 to 3-11. Had the referee allowed the advantage rule in that situation, it could have been curtains for Kilkenny.

It wasn't. In the replay, despite considerable trouble with injuries, Kilkenny performed majestically. Cork were never in the hunt. The county's 14th minor hurling crown was won at ease. And by a strange coincidence, the winning margin was 14 points.

People will tell you, good teams make their own luck. True enough. But let us be fair about it, Kilkenny had more than a bit of luck during the campaign. In the end it proved justified, going on the form shown by the team. The replayed final was over after 20 minutes, when Kilkenny were tearing their opponents asunder, and were 2-8 to 0-2 ahead.

Who could but say glorious forward Dermot Lawlor was worthy to be the holder of an All-Ireland winners medal at minor level? One would suggest he must be the most skilful ball player in Ireland at this level today. During the six match campaign he accumulated 6-28. Had he been on a bonus scheme for scoring, the county simply wouldn't have been able to afford him.

## **ULTIMATE IN CLASS**

Lawlor represented the ultimate in the



# Minors do a turn for Leinster

KILKENNY did a good turn for themselves and Leinster when they won the All-Ireland minor hurling championship.

The 1990 success was the county's 14th in the series, which leaves them just one behind table-toppers Cork and Tipperary, who have 15 wins each.

For the first time ever, teams from Leinster put five wins in-a-row together in the championship. Offaly recorded victories in 1986, 1987 and 1989, and Kilkenny kept the cup in the province the other two years.

The last time the trophy went outside Leinster was in 1985, when Cork won the all-Ireland.

## THE STATE OF MINOR AFFAIRS:

**15** - Cork in 1928, 1937, 1938, 1939, 1941, 1951, 1964, 1967, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1974, 1978, 1979, 1985.

**15** - Tipperary in 1930, 1932, 1933, 1934, 1947, 1949, 1952, 1953, 1955, 1956, 1957, 1959, 1976, 1980, 1982.

**14** - Kilkenny in 1931, 1935, 1936, 1950, 1960, 1961, 1962, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1981, 1988, 1990.

**4** - Dublin 1945, 1946, 1954, 1965.

**3** - Offaly in 1986, 1987, 1989.

Wexford in 1963, 1966, 1968.

Limerick in 1940, 1958, 1984.

**2** - Waterford in 1929, 1948.

**1** - Galway in 1983.

class that ran through the team. Dan O'Neill was another, who from start to finish, soldiered like a champion. Philip Larkin likewise. Sean Ryan reminded one of the dashing Brian Ryan of the 1988 minor team the way he was able to root out possession from seemingly impossible situations.

Not in the team from the word go, Andy Comerford and Canice Brennan welded the defence together when introduced at centre-back for the replayed final, covered themselves in glory too.

Team selectors Ger Henderson (Fenians), Larry O'Neill (Erin's Own), John Comerford (Young Irelands), Paddy Corbett (Graignamanagh), James Delahunty (Chairman Bord na nOg) and inspiring trainer Fr. Liam Barron encountered a common problem at this level — they didn't know what they really had until the pressures of All-Ireland day were on. Had Lady Luck not

intervened, a talented crew might never have materialised.

The draw in the opening match against Wexford was thanks to luck, and Lawlor's handiwork. In the replay the Noresiders worked-up a half-time lead of 3-3 to 0-9 after playing against a gale, and they dominated afterwards.

Because of that replay, there were only four days rest before the Leinster final against Laois. Here Kilkenny gave a glimpse of what they could do on a good day. During the opening half they overran Laois, and led by 1-11 to 0-5 at the interval. Then weaknesses showed in the heart of the defence, at midfield and in attack, and Laois got back within striking distance. There was unease in the Kilkenny camp, but not distress before they won by nine points.

The semi-final against a good Galway team was a test of courage, endurance and hurling talent. A 39th minute wonder save from 'keeper Alan Behan was important, and so too was heroic defensive playing in the dying stages by Barry Power, David Beirne, Dan O'Neill and Philip Larkin. That was a great match to win.

## HIGHEST ORDER

The draw in the final produced hurling of the highest order. Kilkenny ran up a half-time lead of 2-9 to 1-3, and then had the opening point of the new half. They looked assured of victory. Cork suddenly sparked into life. A game that had been going one way, suddenly turned the other.

Cork's hurling while on the ascent was beautiful to watch. Kilkenny met the challenge head on. O'Neill, Larkin,

Lawlor, Patrick Farrell and Sean Ryan produced something extra special. Kilkenny escaped with a draw.

There was no such escape for the Leesiders in the replay. With a new team Kilkenny were flying. Andy Comerford raced up the right wing in the opening minutes, and first made a goal for P. J. Delaney, and then a point for John Shefflin. The trend was set. Lawlor had a rare individual goal in the 16th minute. By half-time the losers were 2-11 to 0-4 down, and struggling badly.

Kilkenny were slow coming out of the dressing rooms for the second half. The players were told — there was to be no let up this time. There wasn't. Lawlor and company got the rewards the Gods ordained they should, and that their rich talents deserved.

*The Kilkenny team in the replayed all-Ireland final was:* Alan Behan (Fenians); Michael Holohan (O'Loughlin Gaels); Larry Mahony (Danesfort); James Carroll (Fenians); Dan O'Neill (Dicksboro); Canice Brennan (Conahy Shamrocks); Philip Larkin (James Stephens); James McDermott (Young Irelands) Capt.; Paul Long (Kilmacow); Andy Comerford (O'Loughlin Gaels); John Shefflin (Shamrocks); Patrick Farrell (Carrickshock); P. J. Delaney (Fenians); Sean Ryan (Dunnamaggin); Diarmuid Lawlor (St. Martin's). *Subs:* Austin Cleere (Emeralds) and Barry Power (O'Loughlin Gaels) used; Joe Dermody (St. Lachtain's); Robert Shortall (Clara); Anthony McEvoy (Fenians); Keith Behan (Fenians); Brian Hanrahan (Clara); Sean Meally (Cloneen); Seamus Dollard (Glenmore); Declan Gahan (Kilmacow); Niall Lacey (Dicksboro); Philip Carroll (Conahy Shamrocks); Pat Purcell (Graigieballycallan). David Beirne (Dicksboro) was injured for the final, but was part of the panel.

# THE GLORY TRAIL

## JUNE 29 AT CARLOW — LEINSTER SEMI-FINAL DRAW

**Kilkenny** ..... 3-5      **Wexford** ..... 3-5

*Kilkenny scorers:* Dermot Lawlor (2-3); John Shefflin (1-2).

## JULY 4 AT CARLOW — LEINSTER SEMI-FINAL REPLAY

**Kilkenny** ..... 3-14      **Wexford** ..... 0-10

*Kilkenny scorers:* Patrick Farrell (1-4); Dermot Lawlor (1-2); Canice Brennan (1-0); P. J. Delaney, John Shefflin, Andy Comerford (0-2 each); Sean Ryan, James McDermott (0-1 each).

## JULY 8 AT CROKE PARK — LEINSTER FINAL:

**Kilkenny** ..... 3-15      **Laois** ..... 0-15

*Kilkenny scorers:* Dermot Lawlor (1-7); Sean Ryan (1-1); Austin Cleere (1-0); Andy Comerford (0-3); P. J. Delaney (0-2); Patrick Farrell, John Shefflin (0-1 each).

## AUGUST 8 AT TULLAMORE — ALL-IRELAND SEMI-FINAL

**Kilkenny** ..... 2-10 (16 pts)      **Galway** ..... 1-12 (15 pts)

*Kilkenny scorers:* Dermot Lawlor (1-6); John Shefflin (1-0); Andy Comerford (0-2); Sean Ryan, Robert Shortall (0-1 each).

## SEPTEMBER 2 AT CROKE PARK — ALL-IRELAND FINAL DRAW

**Kilkenny** ..... 3-14      **Cork** ..... 3-14

*Kilkenny scorers:* Patrick Farrell (1-6); Sean Ryan (1-2); Dermot Lawlor (0-4); P. J. Delaney (1-1); John Shefflin (0-1).

## SEPTEMBER 30 AT THURLES — ALL-IRELAND FINAL REPLAY

**Kilkenny** ..... 3-16      **Cork** ..... 0-11

*Kilkenny scorers:* Dermot Lawlor (1-6); P. J. Delaney (2-0); Patrick Farrell (0-4); John Shefflin (0-3); Andy Comerford (0-2); James Dermott (0-1).



# Remembering the Golden Days Of the Thirties

Recollections by  
Johnny Ivory

**F**OLLOWING Kilkenny's great displays in the three All-Ireland games of 1931, there was a great spirit and expectation of success in the county for 1932. So, when we got over Dublin in the Leinster Final at Portlaoise, we were in the 1932 All-Ireland final.

We were all looking forward to the first Sunday in September. This would be my second visit to Croke Park, the first was in 1931 for the first drawn game against Cork. Kilkenny's opponent in the '32 decider were Clare.

There was no trouble about transport for the '32 final, unlike the previous year when many supporters had to travel on a late special from Ballyragget, arriving in Croke Park just as the senior game was commencing. I remember we had a great view of the game, from the embankment near Hill 16 where the Cusack Stand is now situated.

My first impression of the teams was that Clare were the heavier team. They had many big men — Pat "Fowler" McInerney, Falvey and Gleeson at midfield and veteran Tull Considine at full-forward. Clare were well in the game during the first half and led at half time by 0-3 to 0-2. Clare, I remember, hit many wides during the half.

The second half saw Clare on top at midfield, but again they drove many wides mainly from midfielder Gleeson. In a Kilkenny attack, there was a clash between Martin White and "Fowler" McInerney, with the ball evading both players before it eventually reached the in-rushing Matty Power who met it shoulder high and crashed home a great goal.

Shortly after that, a great line ball by Lory Meagher, from under the old Hogan Stand, deceived the Clare goalkeeper and went into the net under the crossbar. Lory Meagher was again to the fore in another Kilkenny attack when he passed a great ball to Martin White who goaled to leave the score at 3-2 to 0-3 in favour of Kilkenny.

With fifteen minutes remaining, Clare attacked strongly and amid some great hurling had goals by Considine and Burnell to cut Kilkenny's lead to two points. A Matty Power point for Kilkenny concluded the scoring.

In a last minute Clare attack, Tull Considine broke through, but Podge Byrne blocked the shot with his body and the ball was cleared. The final whistle came leaving the scores Kilkenny 3-3, Clare 2-3.

Kilkenny won the 1932-33 league beating Limerick in the final and were firm favourites to retain the All-Ireland final on the first Sunday in September.

They had a good 5-5 to 2-3 win over Meath in the first round played at Nowlan Park. Kilkenny's opponents in the Leinster Final were again Dublin and the game was played in Wexford Park.

Getting to the match was a big problem for Kilkenny. It appears that the team travelled by rail via Waterford, but a delay on route meant they were late arriving in Wexford. The late Paddy Phelan had travelled to the game by car carrying the jerseys. On arrival at the pitch he realised the team had been delayed and decided to take some drastic action. Spotting Tom Nolan's bus outside the grounds, he jumped in through a window and drove to the Railway Station to pick up the Kilkenny team. The team then togged out in the bus on the way back to the pitch.

Kilkenny were a very disorganised team in the first half, not surprising considering the delay in getting to the grounds, and Dublin took full advantage to lead 5-4 to 2-1 at the break.

Kilkenny though were a different team in the second half, with points by Martin Power and John Fitzpatrick and goals by Johnnie Dunne, Matty Power and John Fitzpatrick. The Kilkenny supporters were now on their toes. Another goal by Johnnie Dunne and a point by Lory Meagher levelled the scores. Amazingly, Dublin's only score of the half was a point by J. Walsh and this gave them the narrowest of leads.

Kilkenny again attacked strongly and were awarded a 21 yards free on the left wing out on the side line. Just as the referee laid down the ball Johnnie Dunne raced over to Lory Meagher, spoke to him, and raced back to his position. Lory raised the ball and crashed it to the back of the net. A neighbour of mine at the game, Tom McEvoy, felt the Dublin players thought Lory was going to pass the ball to Johnnie Dunne but decided instead to shoot for goal himself. Another goal by John Fitzpatrick and a point by Jimmy Walsh completed the scoring, leaving Kilkenny winners on the score of 7-5 to 5-5.

The 1933 All-Ireland semi-final between Kilkenny and Galway at Birr was a tough encounter. Galway got off to a good start and led by 1-4 to 0-0 early in the first half. However, goals by Lory Meagher and Jimmy Walsh helped Kilkenny to get going. Kilkenny eventually ran out winners on a score of 5-10 to 3-8.

Kilkenny who had beaten Limerick in the League Final were fancied to repeat the performance in the All-Ireland Final. It was a dour struggle, with the

backs on both sides well in control.

The first incident of note happened after five minutes when a long ball from the Limerick half back line came over the Kilkenny half backs, but Peter O'Reilly jumped out in front of his man, big Paddy Ryan from Bruree, and met the ball in a drop-stroke as it touched the ground. It landed down among the Kilkenny forwards and was sent over the bar by Johnnie Dunne. The teams went into the break all square at four points each.

Limerick attacked strongly when play resumed and added a further point, but Matty Power replied with one for Kilkenny to again level the scores. Excitement was high at this stage and we felt that whoever got the first goal would win the game. The great Mick Mackey pushed Limerick ahead once again with a point, to which Martin Power, at left-half-forward, replied with a similar score. The same player was again on the mark moments later, gathering a long puck out from goalie Jim Dermody.

With about ten minutes remaining, Limerick attacked strongly, forcing the Kilkenny forwards to come back and defend on occasions. Kilkenny withstood the pressure and in an attack of their own the fleetfooted Johnnie Dunne collected the ball out near the sideline, rounded the Limerick full-back, McCarthy, and scored a great goal. The pressure was now off Kilkenny and the game ended with the final score: Kilkenny 1-7, Limerick 0-6.

Jim Dermody in goal had a good game, as had all the backs. Eddie Doyle was captain and had a wonderful game. Peter O'Reilly, who was ill before the game, got a new lease of life after clearing that great ground stroke early in the game and continued to play rings around big Paddy Ryan. Paddy Larkin and the half-backs Podge Byrne, T. Leahy and Paddy Phelan were wonderful. Lory Meagher and Eddy Byrne controlled midfield. Jimmy Walsh, Jack Duggan, who replaced the injured Martin White, Martin Power, Matty Power and Jack Fitzpatrick were outstanding in attack. Johnnie Dunne was the hero of the day for Kilkenny. A large number of ladies in the big stand were chanting "Lovely Johnnie Dunne". There was big headlines over the report of the game the following day praising the "Lovely Johnnie Dunne".

Sadly nearly all of these great men who played in 1931, 1932, 1933 are gone to their eternal reward. God have mercy on them. Martin White who resides in Dublin and John Fitzpatrick of Carrickshock are still with us.



# CLARA WILL JUST HAVE TO PICK UP THE PIECES

CLARA deserved better in the end, but when they most wanted things to happen for them, they simply didn't. It was the opposite, everything went wrong.

Clara's heavy defeat in the county senior hurling final was outstanding for one thing — it was their worst hour's hurling of 1990. Even bearing in mind they were beaten by a very good side, Clara failed to do themselves justice, and that, even more than the loss itself, was what hurt most.

Paddy Prendergast, Tom Ryan, Lester Ryan, Anthony Prendergast, Eamonn Whearty, Joe Casey, Johnny Ryan and company toiled honestly throughout, and made the year into something. A county final appearance is not to be sneezed at, but because of the way things turned out, Clara would rather forget about the whole affair.

They are being hard on themselves. The players, team officials Paddy Johnston, Gerry Nolan, Michael Prendergast and the late Padraig Lennon made a valuable contribution to Kilkenny hurling this term. They did something 10 other senior clubs couldn't do — they got to the county final.

And Clara's record was more than respectable. They played nine senior matches. They won five, drew two and lost two. The balance favours them. The two defeats were against Glenmore, in the second round (2-13 to 2-10) and in the final itself.

While Clara won all two games in the preliminaries — they also played a 1-12 each draw with Graigue-Ballycallan — they didn't really discover themselves until the replayed semi-final against Tullaroan. They got over Erin's Own (Castlecomer) in the quarter-final without sparkling, and played a dour draw the first day with Tullaroan (1-10 to 0-13).

## WORKED A TREAT

The team handlers went away and thought about that one. They decided on a reshuffle. The changes worked a treat, and inexperienced Tullaroan were easily dismissed (1-17 to 0-6) in the replay.

That performance suggested Clara would really put it up to Glenmore in the county final. It didn't happen. Clara just couldn't get a rhythm going. Their world fell apart.

Now it is up to Clara to pick up the pieces. And it is worth trying to patch up the team, because there is a lot more in the players than they showed on the last day of the season.



**CLARA — Runners-up Kilkenny Senior Hurling Championship 1990**

**Back Row:** Lester Ryan, Paddy Prendergast, John Nolan, J.J. Ward, Philip Murphy, Anthony Prendergast, Tom Ryan, Stephen Whearty. **Front Row:** Eamonn Whearty, Kevin Ryan, Pat Campion, Joe Casey (Capt.), Eugene Byrne, Johnny Ryan, James Langton.

After the defeat in the replayed semi-final, Tullaroan were also shattered. Understandable, but this championship was definitely one of progress for them. They were there until near the end. They hammered the All-Ireland club champions, Shamrocks, on the way, and upset another of the big guns, James Stephens.

Liam Keoghan, Bill and Paul Hennessy, Derek Gaffney, Richie Walsh and promising goalkeeper, Edward Holland, who at one time went four hours without conceding a goal, will all be better for this year's experience. Trainer Declan Connolly suggested all along inexperience could prove Tullaroan's undoing. It certainly didn't help.

The Fenians' finest memory of the season was the evening at Nowlan Park when they sent Shamrocks packing from the quarter-final. Without doubt, that was their best performance of the year, and with John and Ger Henderson, a superb Matty Walsh, Briain Ryan, Pat McCormack, Billy Purcell and a deadly Billy Fitzpatrick all starring, they had some speaking about them as possible champions. The quality of that 3-10 (19) to 1-14 (17) win was good right enough.

But in the semi-final, lack of physique and experience of the big time, proved fatal. Still, it was a year when the appetite of youngsters was whetted. We await the next instalment with interest.

## SCORING A PROBLEM

Lack of scoring power was a problem for quarter-finalists, Erin's Own (Castlecomer). Without their season ever taking off, they made the knock-out stages. James Brennan and Brian Young were their sharp shooters, but they lacked deputies when it came to the kill. Christy Brennan, Pasty Brophy, Peadar

Healy and Kieran Bergin, and the ageless Mick 'Cloney' Brennan, here and there, were others who didn't look out of place in the hottest company.

Inconsistency was Graigue-Ballycallan's Achilles heel. They could be very good one day, ordinary the next and downright useless the next. An injury carried most of the season by Adrian Ronan didn't help. Probably their most spirited performance was the day Johnny Ronan got injured, and the sight of him leaving the field inspired them to a 2-11 to 1-12 win over Fenians. Next time out they flopped. That was typical of their season.

Age would appear to have caught up on St. Martin's (Muckalee), despite lively showings from young players like Eamonn Morrissey, Dick Dooley and Dermot Lawlor. Their defence looked frail all season, and they were into their third match before they got a win. The season was virtually over for them then.

The exertions in the All-Ireland club championship probably took a lot of the bite out of the Shamrocks. They were like a toothless lion for much of the campaign. Their experience kept them there. Then a defeat against Tullaroan was the beginning of the end. Lack of appetite after being on the road so long probably contributed to their downfall.

James Stephens never looked up to much, which was a surprise. Usually a good each way bet for inclusion in the shake-up, they never figured at all. It was much the same with Graignamanagh, who played well on occasions without threatening the big fish.

Mullinavat found life difficult, as did Conahy Shamrocks. In the end Conahy and Graigue-Ballycallan ended up fighting out a relegation battle. Conahy lost out, and dropped back to the intermediate grade.



# Oh! for a transistor!

By:  
BISHOP LAURENCE FORRISTAL



The purpose of the seminary, they tell us, is to form young men for the priesthood. However, it can happen that seminar formation can have some extraordinary, unforeseen, long-term side-effects.

For example, take my attitude to going to hurling matches. In 1949 I entered a seminary which shall remain nameless. Let us say that it was – and still it – within the length of two good long pucks from Croke Park. It was to be my home for the next three years. At that time its ground had not yet become the clerical car park for Croke Park which it remained until it was 'laicised' two or three years ago!

During my time there the seminarians were not allowed to go to matches. We were allowed visits on week-days, but never on Sundays. This meant that on Sundays, apart from walking to and from High Mass in the Pro-Cathedral in Marlboro Street, we had no contact with the outside world. In those days newspapers were absolutely forbidden and, with the transistor and the television as mere fanciful futuristic speculations, no seminarian could have access to a radio and, thus, it was impossible to get the results of games taking place just across the wall. It sounds incredible now but the seminarians were not allowed to listen to any sports programmes, apart from Senior All-Ireland Finals and Rugby and Soccer Internationals.

You can well imagine my problem being there in May 1950, as Tipperary played Kilkenny in a thrilling game for the League Home Final.

That was the day Shem Downey was considered to have given one of the best ever displays by a member of a losing team in Croke Park. Many of my fellow seminarians knew nothing of Kilkenny hurling and most had never seen a hurling match. There were some other very experienced and enlightened men – usually native of certain counties – who, from the volume of the applause, claimed they could distinguish between a goal or a point. I soon discovered that this was misleading as it did not allow for dramatic saves or unexpected misses. There was

the added problem generally that one had no idea which side was scoring, though there were those who said they could distinguish between Kilkenny shouts and Tipperary shouts!

I was there in 1951 when Laois beat Kilkenny in the Leinster Championship and again in 1952 when Wexford were our conquerors. Officially we were not supposed to know who had won, but thanks to a very understanding priest-member of the staff, who, though he had absolutely no interest in G.A.A. matters, somehow or other always just happened to turn up the volume knob on his radio every Sunday night just as Seán Ó Ceallachain (not to be confused with his son, Seán Óg Ó Ceallachain) began his report on the results. The seminarians living in the adjoining rooms were morally obliged to rebroadcast the vital information! The following day those of us attending the university somehow or other accidentally managed to come across stray sports pages of the Monday newspapers with amazing regularity.

At that time we were told that we were obliged to observe every rule and regulation because every element in our training, no matter how irrelevant or insignificant it seemed, would be a help to us in our future lives. I spent well over thirty years pondering the significance or value this training had for me – apart from preparing me to cope with frustrations. It was only in 1981, when I became Bishop of Ossory, and discovered that celebrating Confirmations and fulfilling other engagements on Sundays each Spring and early Summer meant that I would miss many important games involving Kilkenny, that I realised how far-sighted those people were in that Dublin seminary over 40 years ago. Weren't they really inspired to prepare me so thoroughly for such disappointments. It just goes to prove that seminary training is extraordinary!

Maybe I should admit that this article is only a roundabout way of saying that in 1990 – the year in which Kilkenny won six All-Irelands – I was not able to be at the League Home Final.



**KILKENNY G.A.A. YEARBOOK COMMITTEE**

**Back Row:** Barry Hickey (County Board Development Officer), Barry Henriques (Chairman Southern Board), Tom Doheny, Ted Carroll (County Secretary), John Knox. **Front Row:** Tom Ryall (County P.R.O.), Tom Waldron (Gaelic Officer), Nickey Brennan (Yearbook Editor), Tommy Murphy (Chairman, Yearbook Committee). Missing from picture: Paddy Buggy (Chairman County Board).



# G.A.A. - Wife or Widow?

By HELEN CARROLL

**T**HE G.A.A. has always been an organisation run by men - for men. When established in 1884, its role was to organise and promote Gaelic Games in Ireland, and up to now it has succeeded and flourished.

But where would this historical organisation be without the help of its nation's women.

"Behind every great man there is a great woman". And behind the stalwarts of the G.A.A. is a band of inconspicuous, hardworking and undemanding women.

The administration of the Association lies in the hands of our menfolk — where will the next match be held? . . . who will referee? what if we win? . . . what if we lose?

Admittedly these tasks are difficult and time consuming, but the rewards can be great. Those of you who have played a part in guiding a team to victory are more than familiar with the feeling of success and the rewards that accompany it.

But what about the behind-the-scenes work, the little details that are so easily forgotten — washing and mending jerseys, togs and socks that any washing machine would hesitate to accept, tending to the bruises (physical and emotional) of our sportsmen and being subjected to many cold, monotonous hours of standing at a sideline, giving the expected support, at everything from a street league to an All-Ireland final.

Amazingly enough, these tasks are often carried out with a quiet pride, as is the expected role of the G.A.A. wife.

But what of the outsider who marries into a G.A.A. family? With no knowledge of or interest in the association, will she carry out these tasks with the same aplomb?

Would the Sunday dinner willingly be sacrificed until after the big match? Would nights out be unbegrudgingly given over for the sake of training? In other words would the newcomers be willing to become "hurling/football widows" in order to be the ideal G.A.A. wife?

# A Salute to Kilkenny hurlers

By: SEÁN Ó SIOCHÁIN

**M**Y introduction to Kilkenny hurling was on a very auspicious and inspiring occasion, that of the 2nd drawn game between Cork and Kilkenny in the historic 'three games' All-Ireland Hurling Final of 1931. I attended the match with Micheál Ó Riagáin from Cape Clear, a fellow-student in the De La Salle Preparatory College, Mallow.

I have many happy memories of the great occasion, and one of the clearest is that of "the player with the long back" — my apt description of the outstanding, superb centre-field player — the tall, slim Lory Meagher — whose long back was emphasised by the vertical Black and Amber striped jersey being worn outside his knicks!!

Kilkenny's greatness in the hurling world has not depended on the super performance of Lory Meagher — the 30's and succeeding decades have been liberally sprinkled with the artistry of the wearers of the Black and Amber — Matty Power, Paddy Phelan, Jim Langton, Terry Leahy, Eddie Keher, Ollie Walsh, to mention but a few, and each one demonstrated what Arthur Griffith said of the game in the early days of the G.A.A. — "Hurling is one of the fine arts".

In keeping with Arthur Griffith's very correct description, I would expand on same, and state without fear of contradiction that hurling is the most scientific, most skilful and most exciting field game in the world. I would go further and say that the hurler, conscious of his own artistry, is fully alive to the artistry of his opponent and this is the basis on which the sportsmanship in true hurling is founded.

During my days at G.A.A. headquarters I saw many instances which affirm that affinity between fellow-artistes. At the function for teams on the Monday following a Hurling Final, it was usual and quite normal to see the two who had hurled hardest against one another the day before having a quiet drink of Coca Cola, or maybe of something stronger, in a quiet corner — each artiste respecting and saluting the artistry of the other.

Finally, as a Corkman and imbued with that spirit of our hurlers, may I make this sincere appeal to the youth of Kilkenny, based on the fact that both of our counties, along with, unfortunately, too few others, are the inheritors of one of the most precious traditions of the Irish race. Let it not be said that Kilkenny or Cork or Galway, Tipperary, Offaly, Limerick, Wexford, Clare, Antrim, Dublin or Waterford will fail to pass on that tradition, in all its glamour and glory, to the next generation.

The Kilkenny minor hurlers of this year set a very high standard in their drawn game and victorious Final. They are worthy wearers of the proud mantle of Kilkenny artistry. My appeal to all teenagers and youngsters in Kilkenny is that you become fully conscious of that mantle of greatness which will shortly be passed on to you, provided that, in the meantime, you prepare diligently in perfecting yourselves in the many artistic and exciting skills of the game.



# Ducksie and Downey - Deadly Duo

Report By Tommy O'Brien

**T**HE big handball stories have, for quite a number of years now, revolved around the marvellous exploits of Michael "Ducksie" Walsh. He is not Kilkenny's only successful handballer, but a review of Ducksie's year is yet another chapter in his "Roy of the Rovers" career.

His year began with the 40 x 20 championships. Those terms, "40 x 20" and "60 x 30", might appear confusing to those not so well acquainted with the game, but they simply refer to the length and width in feet of the two different courts. The American type court of 40 feet long, 20 feet wide and 20 feet high — like those at O'Loughlin's, Windgap, Goresbridge etc., is played in the first half of the year — while the old Irish type court, like Talbot's Inch, Killfane, Mullinavat etc., is 60 feet long and 30 feet wide.

Few players manage to conquer both — in fact, few really like playing both — but Ducksie is equally adept in both courts. His Leinster championship efforts in 40 x 20 saw him race into the singles final but his doubles efforts, in partnership with Michael Reade, collapsed at Ballymore Eustace when they were well beaten by the Meath pairing, Walter O'Connor and Egin Jensen.

This did not auger well for his year but Ducksie is nothing if not resilient and he came back to beat O'Connor in the Leinster final before an overflowing gallery at Ballymore Eustace.

His Leinster efforts were the only ones to really worry him. He hammed Ulster champion, Billy Silcock from Antrim in the semi-finals and, although forced to travel over to Mickey Walsh's backyard in Ballaghaderreen, he annihilated the luckless Roscommon player in two fast games.

After some tournament play he returned to training in the bigger court. Play in this court needs different techniques but Ducksie adapted easily and ran through his singles championship without any bother. Once more it was Mickey Walsh in the final. Once more it was utter humiliation for the Roscommon man.

However, this easy victory was a great triumph for Ducksie — he had set a record in Coca Cola Senior Singles of six-in-a-row. Now his sights are set on the overall record — eight-in-a-row by Roscommon's Paddy Perry.

Then it was on to the doubles with Eugene Downey. They looked near certain to be winners. Downey, who does not play in the 40 x 20 court, had been defeated in the singles semi-final by

Ducksie but he looked very sharp — in fact they were by far the best two of the four on view on semi-final night.

They had no bother going through the earlier rounds — even though Ducksie found himself in Mickey Walsh's home court once more — this time Eugene and Ducksie had to play the All-Ireland semi-final at Roscommon but they still won with conviction.

## DOWNEY BEST

In the semi-final victory, Eugene Downey showed that his singles form was no flash in the pan. He was the steadier of the two and this did his confidence a world of good as they faced Meath (Tom Sheridan and James McGovern) in the doubles decider in Croke Park.

It was the eve of the Football All-Ireland and Meath saw themselves on the verge of a treble, combining a senior doubles handball championship with two football victories that day.

This looked unlikely when Kilkenny ran out easy winners in the first game. Undaunted, Meath came back to lead Kilkenny well in the second game and although Kilkenny rallied well, they could not force Meath into submission and the game went to a final set.

Kilkenny's lapse in form was expected to be left aside in the third game but Meath was now in rampant form. Ducksie was dependable on his left but not scoring with his kills. Eugene Downey on his right was in magnificent form and his reactions were among the best ever seen in Croke Park — field or court.

Even Downey's great display failed to stop the Meathmen who went 18-12 ahead in the clinching game. It looked like curtains for Kilkenny but showing typical Black and Amber heart, they fought back to bring the deficit to 18-15 before losing both hands. Meath went on to 19-15 before they missed two great chances of kills. This gave Kilkenny a second bite at the cherry and they went on to level at 19-all.

The excitement was heartstopping as Meath strove for victory. However, Tom Sheridan, was out on his feet — not surprising considering the pace of the game — and the super-fit Kilkenny pair went on to win a notable victory 21-19.

This was four-in-a-row for them and they are also on the trail of an historic number of victories, trying to overhaul the record — five titles in-a-row — held jointly by Tipperary and Kerry. The year's success will revolve around the three great victories of Michael Walsh — his tally of 17 senior All-Ireland medals is just 7 short of the all-time record of the late John Joe Gilmartin, Kilkenny's handball legend — but Ducksie would be the first to admit that, but for the fantastic form of Eugene Downey, that 17th medal would have slipped from his grasp.

## D. J. CAREY LED THE REST

If Ducksie Walsh and Eugene Downey were Kilkenny's leading handball lights through their great senior victories, there were many more victories at Leinster and All-Ireland level which merit special notice.

Chief among these was the victory of D. J. Carey, one of Ireland's most respected handballers, in winning senior status for himself by beating the best juniors around.

He had many tough games throughout Leinster but his toughest by far was a magnificent All-Ireland final victory over Sligo on the same Ballaghaderreen programme as Ducksie Walsh.

If Ducksie's final was a handy one, D. J.'s was a titanic struggle which brought a capacity crowd to their feet at the end to acknowledge the efforts of two great sportsmen.



Michael "Ducksie" Walsh with his namesake, Michael Walsh, from Roscommon, whom he defeated in this year's All-Ireland singles final.





D.J. Carey with his opponent, Francis McCann, from Sligo, whom he defeated in the All-Ireland Junior Singles final.

Doc Hennessy, named as "Handballer of the Year" by the Kilkenny Handball Board won himself a doubles victory. He won the Silver Masters Singles championship and then partnered Jim O'Neill, former Barrow Rangers hurler, to victory in the Silver Masters Doubles.

Pat O'Keeffe, Mullinavat's evergreen player, dominated the Golden Masters Singles championship and then partnered former O'Loughlin's hurling star Eddie Leahy to victory in the doubles.

Indeed, Leahy came out tops in Leinster in the Golden Masters Singles in the 60 x 30 court, but failed to win All-Ireland honours in this code.

Some of our juveniles also proved themselves to be the best in Leinster. Goresbridge player, David Gardiner, was the best Under-13 player in the province, while Windgap trio Alan Hawe, his brother Enda and his partner Niall Kenny were also unbeatable at Leinster level.

Kilkenny's juvenile league team won the Leinster league for the 6th time in-a-row. This was an especially welcome victory for Kenneth Cottrell who was on all six teams, while his team-mates were Alan Hawe (5 in-a-row), Adrian Walpole, Timmy Clifford and Perry Holden.

On the colleges scene, Joe Daly and Paul Geoghegan won a particularly well contested Senior Doubles Colleges All-Ireland for Kilkenny CBS.

### KILKENNY CHAMPIONSHIPS

As usual, Kilkenny Handball Secretary Con Moore got through his mammoth list of championships with the minimum of fuss.

Perhaps the most fiercely contested championships were the Masters A Championships where such stars as Willie Pratt, Anthony Greene and Seamus Reade won medals. Hurlers who gained county handball honours were Johnny Brennan (St. Martin's), Tom O'Keeffe (Thomastown), Sammy Kirwan (former James Stephens goalie), Paul Geoghegan (O'Loughlin's new young goalkeeper), Billy O'Keeffe (Thomastown) and Christy Heffernan (Glenmore).

Con organised almost 60 championships and must rank as one of the county's most efficient and courteous officials.

The current officials of the Kilkenny Handball Board are:

Chairman: Eamonn Hanrahan (Kilfane)  
 Vice-Chairman: Liam Mahon (Goresbridge)  
 Secretary/Treasurer: Con Moore (O'Loughlin's)  
 P.R.O.: Con Moore (O'Loughlin's)

#### Juvenile Board:

Chairman: Pat O'Keeffe (Mullinavat)  
 Vice-Chairman: Tom O'Neill (Goresbridge)  
 Secretary: Nicky Hawe (Windgap)

### KILKENNY HANDBALL CHAMPIONS 1990

<i>Under-11 Singles:</i>	D. Love (Clogh).
<i>Under-12 Singles:</i>	E. Hawe (Windgap)
<i>Under-12 Doubles:</i>	A. Walpole and E. Hanrahan (Kilfane)
<i>Under-13 Singles:</i>	P. Holden (Kilfane)
<i>Under-13 Doubles:</i>	B. Reade and C. Pratt (Talbot's Inch)
<i>Under-14 Singles:</i>	A. Hawe (Windgap)
<i>Under-14 Doubles:</i>	W. Murphy and T. Hanrahan (Kilfane)
<i>Under-15 Singles:</i>	B. Walpole (Kilfane)
<i>Under-15 Doubles:</i>	M. Clifford and J. Power (Talbot's Inch)
<i>Under-16 Singles:</i>	F. Cantwell (O'Loughlin's)
<i>Under-16 Doubles:</i>	D. Fitzgerald and K. Cottrell (Glenmore)
<i>Under-17 Singles:</i>	J. Daly (O'Loughlin's)
<i>Minor Singles:</i>	G. O'Brien (Mullinavat)
<i>Minor Doubles:</i>	G. O'Brien and D. Law (Mullinavat)
<i>Junior Singles:</i>	P. Maher (Clogh)
<i>Junior Doubles:</i>	P. Parsons and C. Moore (O'Loughlin's)
<i>Intermediate Singles:</i>	J. Brennan (Mothel)
<i>Intermediate Doubles:</i>	T. O'Keeffe and J. Holden (Kilfane)
<i>Senior Singles:</i>	M. Walsh (Talbot's Inch)
<i>Senior Doubles:</i>	P. O'Keeffe and G. O'Brien (Mullinavat)
<i>Special Novice Singles:</i>	N. Holden (Kilfane)
<i>Special Novice Doubles:</i>	M. Maher and C. Love (Clogh)
<i>Under-21 Singles:</i>	D. O'Brien (Mullinavat)
<i>Under-21 Doubles:</i>	T. O'Keeffe and W. Holden (Kilfane)
<i>Masters "A" Singles:</i>	W. Pratt (Goresbridge)
<i>Masters "A" Doubles:</i>	A. Greene and S. Reade (Talbot's Inch)
<i>Masters "B" Singles:</i>	S. Kirwan (Talbot's Inch)
<i>Masters "B" Doubles:</i>	S. Kirwan and T. O'Brien (Talbot's Inch)
<i>Silver Masters Singles:</i>	D. Hennessy (Talbot's Inch)
<i>Silver Masters Doubles:</i>	J. O'Neill and E. Leahy (O'Loughlin's)
<i>Golden Masters Singles:</i>	J. Caulfield (Kilfane)
<i>Golden Masters Doubles:</i>	J. O'Meara and M. O'Brien (Mullinavat)

#### Teams of 4:

*Novice:* J. Galvin, L. Roche, J. Bourke, T. Comerford (O'Loughlin's)

*Junior:* M. Holden, T. O'Keeffe, J. Holden, W. Holden (Kilfane)

*Féile na nGael:* W. Murphy, T. Hanrahan, P. Holden, A. Walpole (Kilfane)

#### Teams of 6:

*Novice:* N. Holden, G. McGrath, M. Holden, R. Ryan, A. Skehan, B. O'Keeffe (Kilfane)

*Junior:* P. Walsh, D. Hennessy, S. Reade, M. Reade, J. Neary, P. Savage (Talbot's Inch).



# Shamrocks - a cocktail to make your head spin

By JOHN KNOX Kilkenny People

**Striking the right balance in a team is never an easy thing to do. The runner must be accommodated alongside the stylist. The exuberant, inexperienced one can complement the less active experienced man. The brave, the not so brave and the worker can all be part of a winning formula.**

ONE would suggest there was a mishmash of all that in the Shamrocks (Ballyhale) team that won the club's third, and county's sixth All-Ireland club senior hurling championship in the season just ended.

The cocktail with the sting in the tail that was the Shamrock's team that won Leinster with a bit of ease, then surmounted an almighty challenge against the Galway champions in the All-Ireland semi-final. But it was in the final against debutants, Ballybrown (Limerick) that the true value of having different types of players within a team really showed up for the Shamrocks.

The daddy of them all that overcast day in Croke Park was Ger Fennelly — not the fastest on the field, but yet the most effective. The pace was a bit hot at midfield for Ger during the first half and he was switched to wing-forward. During the break he took stock of what happened, and in the second half positioned himself between midfield and his own half-back line. He took on a type of sweeper role, and you know what, he cleaned-up.

One of the most experienced men on the field was able to have more influence on proceedings than any number of faster colleagues or opponents. By the hour's end he had 1-5 to his credit, which, from a total of 1-16, to Ballybrown's 0-16 wasn't a bad day's work at all.

But if Ger Fennelly used experience to make his presence well and truly felt, others used different attributes. Dermot Fennelly finished strongly and was there for the kill during the closing 10 minutes when a two-point Shamrocks' lead was turned into a one point deficit. Dermot didn't shirk his responsibility to the unit, and when the Shannonsiders threatened to spoil the party, he rolled up his sleeves and got stuck-in.

## DID FETCHING

Brendan Mason and Tommy Shefflin had youth and speed on their side and for most of the afternoon they did the fetching for others to apply the finish. Jimmy Lawlor, another with young legs, put himself around the park and was

disruptive . . . to the opposition. Brendan Fennelly brought those around him into the play when moved to centre-forward.

Another of the not so old crew, Paul Phelan, was very solid in the heart of the defence, and with the assurance that Ger Fennelly was always behind him anyway, had the confidence to attack oncoming ball with aggression and less abandon than might otherwise be the case. He won a lot of ball that way.

And then these two great servants of the club, 'corner boys' of a different ilk, Michael Fennelly and team captain Watty Phelan, put in capital performances. They won practically every battle in this particular war.

The Shamrocks have put a lot of miles in the legs down the years. Up to 1989 they contested 10 of the previous 12 Kilkenny finals. Still the team selectors — Michael Hoynes, Patrick Holden and Bobby Aylward (snr) — knew there was a bit more in the players, and with placid trainer, Tommy Hearn, helping to get it out of them, they climbed to the top of the ladder in Ireland.

Getting over Ballybrown took some effort. The Limerick champions had won their first championship at home and had boundless enthusiasm. With well-known hurling and soccer trainer, Dave Maheady, in their corner, and county players Terence Kenny, Ollie O'Connor, Christy Keyes, Pat Davoren and Tony Hall in the ranks, they packed a lot of punch.

Ballybrown swarmed all over their opponents during the opening half but a shock goal engineered out of the blue by Ger Fennelly meant their half-time lead of 0-12 to 1-5 was a lot less than they deserved. The Shamrocks, with Ger Fennelly always prominent, ran the second half, and still Ballybrown wouldn't accept defeat.

## FANCY IN TIGHT FINISH

During the closing 10 minutes the losers hit the front. The Shamrocks have been involved in so many tight finishes in their time that you always have to fancy them. They came up trumps. When a team has to dig deep and find 'something

special' they have to go very far to outdo the shrewd Shamrocks.

Galway's best, Sarsfields, learned that too in the All-Ireland semi-final in their own backyard. At the finish there, two points separated the sides, but it wasn't the Noresiders who had reason to speak about what might have been afterwards.

With 4,000 fanatical fans roaring them on, Sarsfields, Joe Cooney, Michael McGrath and all, ran up a half-time lead of 0-7 to 1-0. This time the Shamrocks had different heroes. Kevin Fennelly was glorious in goal and Frank Holohan was so good at full-back that afterwards there was speculation of a return to the county team.

Brendan Mason and Sean Fennelly were to the fore as well, and if Sarsfields had less than kind words to say about the referee afterwards, the Shamrocks were without a care in the world. They won a tough game away from home by 2-8 to 0-12. Again in a tight situation the Shamrocks showed they were made of the 'right stuff'.

In Leinster, it was a happening outside the Shamrocks' control that made all the difference. The Noresiders beat Trim, not without some trouble mind you, in their first outing, and then saw off Portlaoise in the semi-final. However, a surprise in the other semi, in which Cuala (Dublin) tripped-up Buffers Alley (Wexford), threw the final wide open.

The 'Alley were the defending champions and All-Ireland champions and their physical style would have presented the nimble Shamrocks with extreme difficulty. The more open approach of Cuala suited Shamrocks down to the ground and they had no bother taking Leinster honours on a 2-11 to 0-7 scoreline.

## BIG FACTOR

Experience was again a big factor and without it Cuala were lost, even with an oh so willing spirit. The entire Shamrock's 15 hit form together but a second half switch between Liam and Brendan Fennelly made a difference. With the pair dragging defenders all over the place and making space for others, the winners



had the trophy in the bag at the end of the third quarter when they led by 2-9 to 0-4.

Yes, the mix within the Shamrocks' team was all important. The day one man was 'off', another was capable of picking up the slack. They did their parish, Kilkenny, and hurling in general proud.

The Shamrocks team in the all Ireland was: Kevin Fennelly, Michael Fennelly, Frank Holohan, Wattie Phelan (capt.), Dick Walsh, Paul Phelan, Sean Fennelly, Ger Fennelly, Tommy Shefflin, Tommy Phelan, Jimmy Lawlor, Dermot Fennelly, Brendan Fennelly, Liam Fennelly, Brendan Mason. Subs: John Shefflin, Bobby Aylward, Seamus Ryan, Patrick Phelan, Sean Reid, Seamus Mason, John Keneally.

## ROLL OF HONOUR

- 3 - Shamrocks in 1981, 1984 and 1990.  
Blackrock (Cork) in 1972, 1974 and 1979.
- 2 - James Stephens in 1976 and 1982.  
Glen Rovers (Cork) in 1973 and 1977.  
St. Finbarr's (Cork) in 1975 and 1978.
- 1 - St. Martin's (Kilkenny) in 1985.  
Borris-Ileigh (Tipperary) in 1987.  
Buffers Alley (Wexford) in 1989.  
Castlegar (Galway) in 1980.  
Kilruane McDonagh's (Tipperary) in 1986.  
Loughiel Shamrocks (Antrim) in 1983.

Midleton (Cork) in 1988.

Roscrea (Tipperary) in 1971.

The Shamrocks' previous victories in finals were over St. Finbarr's (Cork) in 1981 by 1-15 to 1-11, and over Gort (Galway) after a replay in 1984 by 1-10 to 0-7. The first day the teams drew 1-10 each.

The Shamrocks were beaten in the first final they contested, in 1979, against Blackrock (Cork). The score was 5-7 to 5-5. The losers conceded a couple of goals early on and did well to cut the difference down to two points at the finish. That was the only final they lost.

## The climb to the summit

### NOVEMBER 5, 1989, AT TRIM:

**Shamrocks** ..... 2-13 **Trim** ..... 1-4

Scorers: Dermot Fennelly (1-3), S. Fennelly (1-0), Brendan Fennelly (0-3), Jimmy Lawlor (0-2), Tommy Phelan, Sean Reid, Ger Fennelly, Tommy Shefflin, Brendan Mason (0-1 each).

### NOVEMBER 19 AT DR. CULLEN PARK, CARLOW — LEINSTER SEMI-FINAL:

**Shamrocks** ..... 1-12 **Portlaoise** ..... 2-6

Scorers: Liam Fennelly (1-3), G. Fennelly (0-3), J. Lawlor, B. Fennelly (0-2 each), T. Phelan, D. Fennelly (0-1 each).

### DECEMBER 10, AT ATHY — LEINSTER FINAL

**Shamrocks** ..... 2-11; **Cuala (Dublin)** ..... 0-7

Scorers: G. Fennelly (1-2), B. Mason (1-1), L. Fennelly (0-3), D. Fennelly, J. Lawlor (0-2 each), B. Fennelly (0-1).

### FEBRUARY 11, 1990, AT BALLINASLOE, ALL-IRELAND SEMI-FINAL

**Shamrocks** ..... 2-8 **Sarsfields (Galway)** ..... 0-12

Scorers: G. Fennelly (0-4), D. Fennelly (1-1), J. Lawlor (1-0), B. Mason (0-3).

### MARCH 17, AT CROKE PARK — ALL-IRELAND FINAL

**Shamrocks** ..... 1-16 **Ballybrown (Limerick)** ..... 0-16

Scorers: G. Fennelly (1-5), J. Lawlor, D. Fennelly (0-3 each), B. Mason, T. Shefflin (0-2 each), B. Fennelly (0-1).

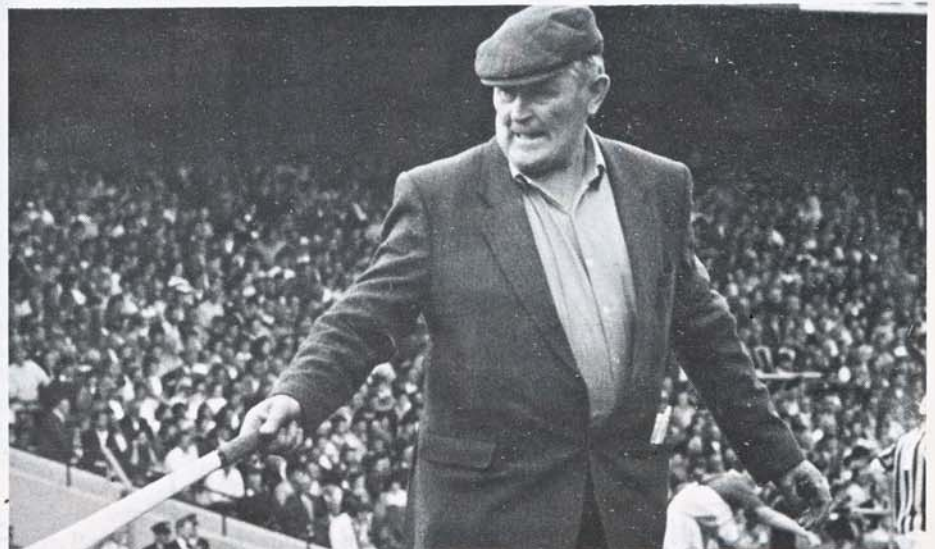
## Stephen Kinsella — as lifetime of service

By TED CARROLL

STEPHEN Kinsella first came on the scene in the early Sixties. The renowned "Chew" was the ready wit who relieved the tension before the big matches, whereas Stephen was the silent worker who made sure that all players had everything in order from names on spare hurleys (vital to any hurler) to sound bootlaces. "Chew" sadly departed the scene in 1971 and Stephen thankfully has soldiered on to the present day.

"Hurler Carrier", "Jersey Checker and Minder", "Reliable money carrier" for the team members are just some of the "caps" that fit the obliging Stephen. On a personal basis I could have no more loyal and reliable helper and friend. On Monday mornings I know before opening the bag that the full complement of jerseys are there. Win, lose or draw, when some of us may get carried away and forget something, Stephen can be relied upon to keep his feet on the ground and tie up all the loose strings.

Many of my own hurling contemporaries still cherish the souvenirs of matches, provided by the man from Ferrybank. In those days when almost



Stephen Kinsella — Hurley at the ready

all photographs and action shots from matches were in black and white he invariably turned up with a collection of tinted photographs which he himself had meticulously hand-painted. These he distributed to us, delighted and appreciative players.

Long may this man from Ferrybank and former employee of Hills

Wholesalers, Waterford, continue to travel the length and breadth of the country in all weather to all matches, be it Championship, League or challenge. When the chairman, Paddy Buggy, arrives Stephen won't be far behind. Indeed, long may he continue to be our best and most loyal supporter.

Thank you Stephen.



# Bob has sporting romance with county

**E**VERY county has its fanatical followers. The men or women who wouldn't miss a game for the world. Life wouldn't be the same without an injection of hurling at the weekend.

Most of us know someone from within the county who fits the bill. But outside Kilkenny, there are legions who admire the black and amber. To them, Kilkenny and its sports people mean everything.

One such devotee of Kilkenny is Yorkshire born Bob McMunn, who currently lives in Shankill, Dublin. Born of a Kilkenny mother — a Miss Delaney from the Jail road — and Sligo father, his is a true romance with the county, and the sports people therein.

He admits to being brought up in a household where the message was plain and simple: "Kilkenny are the aristocrats, the greatest". Today the hurling Gospel according to Bob is the same.

Be it a Kilkenny hurling or camogie team in action, Bob will be there. Same with handball. He travels with friends, by public transport, and once or twice he has even thumbed. But he always gets there.

Antrim, Ballinasloe and Cork have all been visited in his travels. And he rarely misses a game at Nowlan Park, hurling or camogie, and all are not necessarily inter-county matches.

## SPECIAL WELCOME

These times when Kilkenny clubs go to Dublin for the Kilmacud Crokes sevens on the eve of all-Ireland hurling final, he has a special welcome for them. Standing over 6'1" and mightily built, he is an imposing figure, and a well-known and respected one as far as Kilkenny people are concerned.

He has been an official steward at Croke Park since 1970, and in Centenary year was elevated to the Green Blazers, a group given extra

responsibility on big match days.

Apart from the games, Bob with his wife, Monica in tow — he has a son Robert and daughter Ann — visits Kilkenny regularly.

"I always like to spend some holiday time in the city", he reveals. "It is the nicest city in the whole country. I love the place, the people and everything about it".

He recalls one such visit to Kilkenny years ago after an all-Ireland senior hurling victory. "Follow Ollie to the Cullie", was the message he never really understood on a sign in one of the streets. Current manager, Ollie Walsh was the inspiration behind the message. Ollie was at the height of his career then.

Bob hopes he will have to 'Follow Ollie' to Kilkenny again at the end of next Summer, for an all-Ireland victory celebration.

"I have never lost faith in Kilkenny", he admits. "We will be back. I have no doubt about that".



**KILKENNY 1982/'83 which played in the Fitzpatrick's Liver Transplant Benefit game**

**Back row:** Pat Henderson (coach), Christy Heffernan, Matt Ruth, Paddy Prendergast, Kieran Brennan, Ger Henderson, Billy Fitzpatrick, Billy Purcell, Tom McCormack, Brian Cody, Gordon Ryan, Nickey Brennan. **Front row:** Richie Power, Paddy Neary, Joe Hennessy, Billy Walton, Noel Skehan, Liam Fennelly, Mick Brennan, John Henderson.

## "OLD TIMERS" SHOW THE WAY

THE greatness of the Kilkenny 1982/83 team was underlined during the year when they dished out a hurling lesson to the 1990 team in a game in aid of the Fitzpatrick Liver Transplant Fund.

The crowd of over 1,000 were treated to a fine exhibition by the "old timers", who ran riot in the final quarter and got through for some class scores.

All the heroes were on the 1982/83 team. Their star players were John Henderson, Ger Henderson, Kieran Brennan, Billy Fitzpatrick, Richie Power

and Liam Fennelly.

Others who did well were Noel Skehan, who made a great save at the start; Paddy Neary, who improved as the game progressed; Brian Cody, who caught some great balls in his usual style; Nicky Brennan, who finished in attack where he scored a fine point, and Billy Walton, who hit a couple of great points. Paddy Prendergast, Gordon Ryan, Billy Purcell, Matt Ruth, Mick Brennan, Frank Holohan and Tom McCormack all contributed handsomely.

Best for the losers were John Power,

Bill Hennessy, Pat Walsh, John McDonald and Adrian Ronan in the first half.

**Kilkenny 1982/83:** N. Skehan, J. Henderson, B. Cody, P. Neary, N. Brennan, G. Henderson, P. Prendergast, G. Ryan, B. Walton, R. Power, M. Ruth, K. Brennan, B. Fitzpatrick, L. Fennelly, M. Brennan. *Subs:* B. Purcell, T. McCormack, F. Holohan.

**Kilkenny 1990:** D. Bourke, B. Hennessy, P. McCormack, S. Fennelly, P. O'Neill, P. Dwyer, J. Power, M. Cleere, P. Walsh, L. Ryan, M. Phelan, A. Ronan, L. McCarthy, E. Morrissey, J. McDonald. *Subs:* R. Heffernan, T. O'Keefe, S. Foskin, B. Ryan, J. Walton.



# THE MEDAL

By: SEAN LAWLOR

***I WAS rooting through my tool-box with the young lad a couple of nights ago, looking for the head of the hammer, when I came across my medal. There it was, lying under a blanket of half-rusted nails, its shine long-dulled, but evoking the brightest of memories from a not too-accomplished past.***

“WHAT’S that?”; asked the young lad.

“That’s my hurling medal!” said I with as much modesty as I could muster.

“Jay! I never knew you could hurl”, he said, the tone of his voice conveying surprise that I was ever able to do anything, let alone hurl.

“Listen son”, I hissed. “There’s a story attached to that medal and I think you’re just about old enough to hear it now”.

It happened way back in the early forties. There was a war going on in Europe at the time, and, by all accounts, it was a rough and bloody affair. But the story going the rounds in Duramuckie at the time was, that the European conflict would be as harmless as a Macra field-day, compared to the slaughter that would be inflicted when the hurlers of the aforementioned parish took on the men of Tubberbrack, in that team’s own field, in the final of that team’s own medal tournament.

Now it was so long since Duramuckie had won anything in the line of hurling medals that even the ancient participants in that distant victory had given up recounting the tale for want of believers. So, naturally, high excitement and even higher expectations ran feverishly throughout the parish as the day of the impending confrontation approached.

I too, though no sporting man, was caught up in the excitement, and, when the great day arrived I set off with the best of them on my bicycle to negotiate the hazardous three miles that separated us, Christians of Duramuckie, from the heathen savages of Tubberbrack.

The field where the combat was to take place was a huge, recently cut meadow. The actual playing area was marked off by small flags and these were already beginning to disappear under the feet of the eager spectators as they pressed forward for an ever closer view of the proceedings.

Being a bit on the short side myself, I had to push my way to the front of the mob and found myself within a few yards of the prancing players impatiently waiting to join battle. The Duramuckie trainer, agitation and concern all over his face, seemed to be searching the crowd with his eyes. Suddenly, his eyes met mine and he brightened”.

“Ag J....! Mickey! Will you do umpire for us?”

I must explain here that the system of match supervision at the time was to appoint a referee who would contrive to be neutral, and each of the opposing factions would nominate two umpires and a linesman, thus guaranteeing the minimum of fair-play to everybody. I must also explain that the Duramuckie trainer was a close neighbour of mine to whom I owed a few bob, so I couldn’t give a direct refusal.

“God, Pat! I’d love to!” I lied, “only th’aul sight isn’t the best with me”.

Blast it, Mickey, sure you are not drawing the blind pension or anything!”

“Not yet”, says I, “but I have the application forms ready to bring down to the master to fill in for me”.

“Damn it to hell!” roared Pat, “what does it matter! Sure isn’t every f...ing umpire in the country blind anyway”.

With this I couldn’t disagree, so I reluctantly took up my position at the goal nearest the road, mentally plotting a quick escape route.

The referee played a few trills on his whistle and the Tubberbrack defenders began to drift down towards my goal.



Even from seventy yards away he attracted my attention and my heart sank. The Tubberbrack fullback was going to be a troublemaker. At least six feet in height and a little less in width, he ambled towards the goal area with all the grace of a caveman. A belly, nurtured on endless pints of beer, hung over the strained elastic of his enormous baggy togs, which flapped about his knees, giving his legs an incongruously skinny look. He was long and curved in the back, short and bent in the legs and I got the distinct impression that his kneecaps were to the sides rather than the front of his legs. The word “gorilla” immediately entered my mind, but as he

drew closer my poor eyes discerned that his face did scant justice to the good looks of that poor brute.

As he approached the square he glared at me and spat in my direction. The spit landed too far away from my boots to be taken as a direct assault, but near enough to be construed as a dire warning.

The two men at either side of him were of similar proportions, but without the same air of menace. These he now proceeded to rally.

“Now lads!” he roared, more for the benefit of the opposition than of his companions, “any ball that comes in here higher than a daisy, pull knee high and cut the heads off the ----”.

The game was only two minutes old when this defensive ploy was brought into action. A high ball from our centrefield dropped towards the square. Ash flashed indiscriminately. Gasps, grunts, groans, prayers and curses mingled together in a fearsome din, but I held down my panic and raised my hand for a seventy because I’d seen the ball accidentally glance off the Gorilla’s ankle and trickle over the line.

He approached slowly and with great menace. He bent down and stuck his face into mine, his breath fumigating me with the stink of last night’s beer. His voice was low, calm and controlled, like a sentence of death.

“You little fart”, he whispered. “If you do that again, what’s left of you will be brought home from this match in a ‘slop-bucket”.

The rest of the match went cosy enough, because our centrefield, realising that our full-forward line had no further taste for action, concentrated on long range points, which was okay by me, because I was on the green flag and had no further decisions to make. And, clever enough I changed goals with the teams at half time, in the hope that if the action was steered well clear of the Gorilla, I might yet live through the day.

Time was running out, and with it the hopes of Duramuckie, for, with one minute left, we were two points behind. The Gorilla, sensing victory and impatient to be near the centre of the imminent jubilation had strayed some thirty yards from his square. Little



Mickey Carney, the Duramuckie full-forward remained rooted in his dejection at the edge of the square. Suddenly a high ball sailed over the Gorilla's head and its anticipated trajectory led little Mickey backwards until he stood on the goalie's toes. This distraction forced the goalie's eyes away from the flight of the ball and it dropped, unhindered, beneath the bar.

As I reached for the flag, the sound of the Gorilla's raging voice checked me.

"Hey boy! Don't touch that f---ing flag! He was in the bloody square!"

I hesitated, torn between honesty and patriotism. Then, in a flash of inspiration, I shouted, "How could he be in the square when there's no bloody square marked?" and I lunged for the flag.

I felt no pain at first. Just a crimson flash and then reality receded from me on an orange cloud which rapidly darkened to pale black.

Slowly, awareness tunnelled its way back to my brain through a pain in my jaw. Off in the distance I could hear the raucous sounds of jubilation and congratulation. A thought bubbled up through the cauldron of my suffering.

"J.....! they're cheering the bloody b....., and he nearly after murdering me".

Inexpert hands probed my damaged jaw and the shock restored my vision. I was lying in that part of the ditch which had been reserved as the visitor's dressing room. Pat Costigan hovered over me in concern.

"Are you alright Mickey? he inquired.

"I'm dying", I moaned.

"Thank God!" sighed Pat. "Be God! Only for you we'd never have won. The bloody ref. was going to disallow the goal until the big ape hit you, and then he let it stand. Good man yourself, boy!"

In those days a doctor was called in only for such things as death and disease, but for such minor ailments as jaw-break the mid-wife was your only man. So I was dumped into Stapleton's ass and car and carted off to the angel of deliverance. She painted the jaw with iodine, sprinkled me with holy water. gave me a rub of a relic of Blessed Martin and sent me home for my tea.

That night I went to the victory dance. I mean, I had a broken jaw and bruised ribs so where else could I go?

At the drunken hour of midnight Pat Costigan, trainer, selector, mentor and

bottle carrier of Duramuckie Hurling Club and pre-cursor of such modern day greats as Busby, Clough, Giles and Healy, silenced the music and mounted the stage. His speech was a stirring one of past glories, present glories, and even greater future glories.

One by one, the victorious team members were called by name, and they walked to the stage amid tumultuous applause to be presented with their medals. Then the subs were called, but by this time the applause was dying of impatience, and just when things had subsided to a disturbed murmur, like a sudden peal of thunder, I heard my name called.

"Mickey Meaney! Come up here for your medal!"

Slowly, through a barrage of jeers, cheers, cat calls and whistles I made my way to the platform.

"Blast it, Pat" I mumbled, "sure I wasn't playing at all".

"I know that, Mickey boy!" says he. "But there was no man did more than you to win it for us today. Drumamuckie will never forget you".

"And that, son", I concluded, "is how I came into possession of this here medal".

## The St. Kieran's Hurling Tradition

SINCE 1906, St. Kieran's College has had an enormous influence on the development and promotion of hurling. In that year the College played its first official hurling game against Newbridge College.

Kieran's was founded in 1782, making it the oldest Catholic secondary school in Ireland, yet it had a relatively late entry into Gaelic games — the dominating game in the school at the turn of the century was rugby.

In a short article like this it would be impossible to pay tribute to more than a few names who later found fame in their respective county colours. The winning of 38 Leinster Senior College titles bears ample testimony to its dominance of Leinster Colleges Hurling and has provided a springboard to dozens of top class inter county stars.

The 1938-40 era provided two giants of the game, namely Nicky Rackard, the inspiration of the Wexford hurling revival of the 'fifties, and Fr. Tommy Maher, often seen as the father of modern coaching, who led Kilkenny to 7 Senior All Ireland hurling titles from 1957 to 1975.

The late 1950's produced the incomparable Eddie Keher, winner of two All-Ireland Colleges' medals in 1957 and

1959, who went on to become one of the game's all-time greats, captaining Kilkenny to All-Ireland victory in 1969. Ted Carroll captained St. Kieran's to victory in 1957 and won the Texaco "Hurler of the Year" Award in 1969. Tom Forrestal was a stylish Kilkenny forward in the 60's during which decade the Alleys from Durrow and the Creaghs from Rathdowney wore the Laois colours with distinction. Current secretary of the Leinster Council, Michael Delaney, won an All-Ireland medal in 1965 with Mick Crotty, the teak tough Kilkenny forward of the 1969/70 era, were other stars of the 60's.

In the late 60's and early 70's the numbers attending the College increased dramatically with a corresponding increase in influence on Kilkenny teams.

Brian Cody, Kilkenny's captain in glorious 1982, was a superb centre half back in the 1971 All-Ireland victory over Farrenferris while the great Billy Fitzpatrick's five goals in that final is still a College record.

Indeed few Corkmen will be able to forget either from their performances in 1982 and 1983 as indeed they will have cause to remember Nickey and Kieran Brennan from those two years. The

Brennan brothers won All-Ireland Colleges medals in 1971 and 1975 respectively.

Lester and Harry Ryan and Paddy Prendergast won medals in 1975 against Coláiste Iognáid Rís led by Cork's Dermot McCurtain. Adrian Ronan, Briain Ryan, D.J. Carey and man of the match in this year's National Hurling League final, Eamon Morrissey, all starred in the St. Kieran's colours in recent years.

The influence of former Kilkenny coach Dermot Healy led St. Kieran's to two Colleges' victories in 1971 and 1975. Healy became best known as the coach to the Offaly hurling team of the 1980's whom he coached to All Ireland victories in 1981 and 1985.

Even though the nature of boarding schools has changed dramatically to a five-day week where many students now see the school only from 9.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. before hurrying home by bus and the ferocious inter-class leagues are no more, we still had St. Kieran's College contesting its fourth successive All Ireland Colleges' hurling final this year.

This feat is a tribute to the dedication the school staff. It is, equally, a tribute to the great well of hurling talent and commitment in the Diocese of Ossory.



# Historic Year for Kilkenny Primary Schools Board

By: JOHN KNOX, Treasurer, Kilkenny Primary Schools Board



Pictured at the launch of the book "Caoga Bliain Óg" - a history of Kilkenny Primary Schools Board 1939-1989 at the Newpark Hotel were (from left to right): Tom Waldron (Founder member of Schools Board); John Knox, Treasurer; Micheál Ó Muircheartaigh, R.T.E. sports commentator; Joe Dunphy, Editor; Brendan O'Sullivan, Chairman Schools Board; Very Rev. Dr. Laurence Forristal, Bishop of Ossory; Paddy Buggy, Chairman of Kilkenny County Board; Paul Kinsella, Secretary Schools Board.

## CAOGA BLIAN OG

THE highlight of this year for the Kilkenny Primary Schools Board was the publication of their history of the Board's *Caoga Bliain Og*. The launch of the book in May at the Newpark hotel was a very enjoyable affair with G.A.A. members from every parish in the county present. Popular R.T.E. personality Micheal Ó Muirheartaigh officially launched this record of fifty years of Cumann na Bunscoileanna.

The attendance also included Rev. Laurence Forristal, Bishop of Ossory, Mr. Tom Waldron and Mr. Michael Moore, both founder members of the Board. This superb book containing 366 pages, 37 chapters and numerous photographs of school teams is a tribute to the hard-working Editor Joe Dunphy and is an indispensable guide to Gaelic Games in the county.

## PRESENTATIONS

During the year the Board made presentations to two of its long serving officers. Rev. Bro. Healy a former chairman of the Board was honoured on the occasion of his departure to Mitchelstown, for his outstanding work on behalf of the Board.

A presentation was also made to Fr. Liam Dunne C.C., Mullinavat to mark his Silver Jubilee. A former chairman of the Board he has ministered in the parishes of Castlecomer, Fethard, Callan and Mullinavat and each has won championships during his time.

## SPONSORSHIP

This year the Roinn A Leagues in hurling and football were sponsored by former Kilkenny hurling great Mick Crotty. The hurling league is in the name of "Educational Supplies" and the football is in the name of "Toymaster".

## I.N.T.O. SEVENS

The playing activities of the Board commenced with the "I.N.T.O. Sevens" Competition in hurling and football. Piltown once again won out the Kilkenny football section and they travelled to Longford for the Leinster section. Kilmanagh defeated Urlingford and travelled to Carlow.

The Leinster section is non-competitive and all the players were divided into various teams. Ten players were selected to play in Croke Park on All-Ireland Final day and these included John Hoyne, Paul Hoyne and Pat Marnell all from Kilmanagh.

## HURLING

Kilmanagh continued their amazing run of appearing in every Roinn A hurling final since 1984. They won the title in 1986 and 1987 but were denied the three in a row by Kilkenny C.B.S. in 1988. This made their victory this year all the sweeter when they defeated the C.B.S. 3-7 to 1-0.

Both the Roinn B and Roinn C titles travelled south. Ballyhale won the Roinn B cup when they defeated the Rower/Inistioge 3-3 to 1-4. This

continued a great run for the Shamrocks lads as they won Roinn C in 1989 and were finalists in that division in 1988. This particular clash saw great family rivalry as the losers were trained by Dermot Dunphy a son of Joe the trainer of Ballyhale. Dermot himself won a Roinn B medal in 1976 playing for Ballyhale.

Dunamaggin captured their first Roinn C title when they defeated Mullinavat. In contrast the Roinn D was an all northern affair when Conahy Shamrocks maintained an unbeaten run to defeat neighbours Lisdowney.

## KILMANAGH CHAMPIONS

In a close and exciting match Kilmanagh defeated Kilkenny C.B.S. 3-7 to 1-0 to win the Roinn A title. The final score-line does no justice to the C.B.S. who were in the game until eight minutes from the end. At half time the winners were ahead 0-4 to nil. In the second half Brian Maher had a goal for the C.B.S. to leave 1-0 to 0-6, but after a great goal by John Hoyne, Kilmanagh raced ahead in the closing stages.

**Kilmanagh:** Dermot Hoyne, John Kenny, Michael Hoyne, Martin Burke, Niall Egan, Paul Hoyne, Pat Marnell, Tommy Manogue, (0-2 frees), Brendan Comerford, Joseph Young (0-1), Paul Dermody, Edward Brennan (0-1), John Hoyne (1-3), Sean Millea (2-0). **Subs:** Laurence Maher, Vincent O'Halloran, Patrick Nugent, David Maher, Jimmy Lynch, Michael Dillon, Vincent O'Dea, Patrick Casey.

**C.B.S.:** Niall Hoyne, Oisín Dawson, Paul



Ryan, James Phelan, Mark Gaffney, David Carroll, Diarmuid Herlihy, Richard Barry, Owen Moore, Stephen Murphy, Brian Maher (1-0), Paddy Walsh, Brian Power, Anthony Fitzgerald, Cathal McDonald.

**Subs:** Alan Barry, Graham Doyle, Stephen Bourke, Philip Mockler, William Duggan, Canice Pratt, Thomas Kelly, Wayne Gibbons, David McCormack, Robert Falsey, Joey Murphy, John Butler, Oliver Hennessy, James Brennan.

**Referee:** Paschal Long.

### VICTORY FOR BALLYHALE

In the Under-13 Roinn B final Ballyhale won their first title in this grade when they defeated the Rower-Inistioge 3-3 to 1-4.

This was a very exciting and tense contest with the sides level at the interval 0-2 to 0-2. The losers had the use of the breeze in the second half and they took an early lead with a goal from a 65 by Michael Doyle, after a deflection deceived David Harrington in the Shamrock's goal.

Both sides traded points but a goal from Luke Moloney put Ballyhale ahead and Ger Cottrell added another. The Rower narrowed the gap with a point from Michael Doyle and with John Kavanagh at midfield driving his side forward they tried in vain to come back. Edmond Holohan completed the scoring with a goal for the winners driving his side forward they tried in vain to come back. Edmond Holohan completed the scoring with a goal for the winners.

**Ballyhale:** David Harrington, Richard McMahon, John Drennan, Paschal O'Farrell, Frank Holohan, Andrew Connolly, Paul Fennelly, Edmond Holohan (1-2), Bobby Ayleard, Tomás Kelly, Henry Shefflin (0-1), Ger Cottrell (1-0), Michael O'Sullivan, Brian Murphy, Luke Moloney (1-0).

**Rower/Inistioge:** Liam Galavan, Thomas Digby, Neil Walsh, Derek Walsh, Richard Barron, Keith Carroll, John White, Bill Cottrell, Martin Burke, John Griffin, John Kavanagh, Michael Doyle (1-1), James Mackey (0-2), Andrew Proctor (0-1), James Tierney. Sub: Patrick Brennan.

Referee: P. Butler.

### FIRST TITLE FOR DUNNAMAGGIN

Dunnamaggin won their first Roinn C title when they defeated Mullinavat 2-3 to 1-0.

The scoreline does nothing to portray how nail-biting this all southern affair was. Having been defeated in 1987 and 1989 Dunnamaggin made no mistake on this occasion, but their supporters could never relax as they had to withstand sustained pressure from Mullinavat throughout the second half. Both sides served up tremendous hurling despite the poor conditions.

William Kearnes and Andy McCormack gave the winners the lead early on with a point a piece. Paul Conway the Mullinavat keeper made several fine saves but he was finally beaten when a 65 from Captain Noel



### LISDOWNEY — Under-13 Roinn "D" Finalists 1990

**Back Row** (l. to r.): John Paul Blanchfield, Michael Bergin, Tommy Bergin, Stephen Tallis, John Moore, Niall Drennan, Pat Kennedy, John White. **Front Row** (l. to r.): Michael Bowden, Brian Kelly, Brendan Blanchfield (capt.), Raymond Tallis, Nigel Crosbie, Bill Fitzpatrick, Damien Sheehy. **Front:** Seamus Nolan.



### CONAHY SHAMROCKS — Under-13 Roinn "D" Champions 1990

**Front Row:** Mark Mooney, Shay Healy, Pdraig Conway, Dermot Mulhall, Jimmy Purcell. **Middle Row:** Denise Ryan, Eamonn Morrissey, James Nolan, Clive Flynn, Brian Maher, Liam Hovey, John Brennan, Brian Heverin, Paul Buggy, Colm Healy. **Back Row:** Paucic Healy, Brendan Griffith, Eoin Flynn, Niall Corrigan, Joe Gamble, Liam Byrne, Seamus Comerford (Capt.), Fionain Brennan, Mark Downey, Tomás Lawless, Darragh Keogh.



### DUNNAMAGGIN — Under-13 Roinn "C" Champions 1990

**Back Row** (l. to r.): Ciaran Moore, Niall McCormack, Brian O'Shea, Patrick Drennan, Andrew Hickey, J. P. O'Neill, John Hickey, Andrew O'Neill, Richard Wallace. **Middle Row:** Dermot Maher, Matthew Enright, Brendan Moore, William Kearney, William Drennan, Noel Lahart (Capt.), Raemi Cahill, Brian O'Shea, Anthony McCormack, Fergal O'Shea. **Front Row:** Jim Butler, Noel Hickey, Pat Egan, David O'Connor, James McCormack, Niall Brett.



### BALLYHALE — Under-13 Roinn "D" Champions 1990

**Back Row:** Edmund Holland, Paschal O'Farrell, John Drennan, Richard McMahon, Paul Fennelly, Tomás Kelly, Henry Shefflin, Brian Murphy. **Front Row:** Gerard Cottrell, Joseph O'Brien, David Harrington, Michael O'Sullivan, Andrew Connolly (Capt.), Bobby Aylward, Luke Moloney, Frank Holohan.





### KILMANAGH — Roinn "A" Champions 1990

**Back Row** (l. to r.): Sean Millea, Paul Dermody, Joseph Young, Edward Brennan, Michael Hoyne, Tommy Manogue, Joseph Cody. **Front Row** (l. to r.): John Kenny, Martin Bourke, Brendan Comerford, Dermot Hoyne, John Hoyne, Paul Hoyne, Niall Egan, Pat Marnell.



### MULLINAVAT — Roinn "C" Finalists 1990

**Back Row:** David Coughlan, Alan Wall, Kevin Walsh, Liam Murphy, Jim Freyne, Eoin Delahunty, Niall Madigan, Declan Wall, Seamus Holden, Kenneth Butler, Sean Hogan. **Middle Row:** Colm Kenneally, Richard Butler, Oliver Dalton, Patrick Delahunty (Capt.), Paul Conway, Pat Aylward, Jonathan Duggan, Paul Aylward, Ciaran Laharty, Joe Tynan. **Front Row:** Eamonn Sutton, Richard Delahunty, Kenneth Slattery, Philip Maddock, Brian Walsh, Colm Coady.



### KILKENNY C.B.S. — Roinn "A" Finalists 1990

**Back Row:** Anthony Fitzgerald, Brian Maher, Richard Barry, Paddy Walsh, Owen Moore, Stephen Murphy, Cathal McDonald, Brian Power, Gráham Doyle. **Front Row:** Alan Barry, Diarmuid Herlihy, Niall Hoyne, David Carroll (Capt.), Oisín Dawson, Mark Gaffney, Paul Ryan, James Phelan.

Lahart went straight to the net. Both sides enjoyed periods of sustained pressure but Mullinavat finally scored when Niall Madigan goalied to level the half time score: Dunnamaggin 1-2, Mullinavat 1-0.

The second half saw Dunnamaggin extend their lead with a goal from Anthony McCormack. The losers enjoyed long periods of intense pressure but the winners' defence was equal to all demands with some fine saves from keeper Niall McCormack. Mullinavat captain Richard Butler saw a great shot come back off the post when a goal seemed certain.

On the night Dunnamaggin deserved their victory, particularly on their ability to take scores and their fine defensive work, but Mullinavat had enough possession to win.

**Dunnamaggin:** Niall McCormack, Matthew Enright, John Hickey, Brendan Moore, William Kearney, (0-1), Andrew Hickey, Fergal O'Shea, Brian O'Shea, Ramai Cahill, Anthony McCormack (1-2), Noel Lahart, (1-0), Dermot Maher, J.P. O'Neill, William Drennan, Patrick Drennan.

**Mullinavat:** Paul Conway, Kenneth Butler, Pat Aylward, Paul Aylward, Sean Hogan, Eoin Delahunty, Liam Murphy, Pat Delahunty, Richard Butler, Jonathan Duggan, Declan Wall, Oliver Dalton, Colm Kenneally, Niall Madigan (1-0), Ciaran Laharty.

Referee: Paschal Long.

### LOCAL DERBY

The Roinn D final was an all Northern tussle with neighbours Conahy and Lisdowney in contention. Conahy were unbeaten in the League section and they had already defeated Lisdowney. As expected they took an early lead and led 3-1 to 0-0 at half time.

Lisdowney, who were enjoying one of their best campaigns in recent years, dominated the second half for long periods but their only reward was a goal from Tommy Bergin. Both teams deserved great credit for their displays despite the atrocious conditions.

**Conahy:** C. Flynn, L. Byrne, J. Brennan, B. Heverin, T. Gambell, S. Comerford (0-1), C. Healy, T. Lawless, N. Corrigan (0-1), P. Buggy, F. Brennan, J. Nolan (0-1), L. Hovey (2-0), M. Downey (1-0), B. Maher.

**Lisdowney:** N. Crosby, D. Sheehy, B. Kelly, S. Tallis, N. Drennan, B. Blanchfield, J. White, B. Fitzpatrick, J. Moore, P. Kennedy, M. Bergin, J. P. Blanchfield, R. Tallis, T. Bergin (1-0), M. Bowden. Sub: Ger Bergin.

Referee: P. Long (Carrickshock).

### INTER COUNTY GAMES

The annual inter county games between Kilkenny and Wexford were held in Oulart. The elements were most unkind and heavy rain and a strong wind made conditions very difficult.

The Wexford footballers had a dream start when with first use of the wind they took the lead with a goal in the opening minutes. They continued to dominate the first half and led 1-8 to 0-0 at half



time. Kilkenny had looked dangerous on their intermittent attacks and they lined out for the second half in a reasonably optimistic mood.

However, while they held Wexford scoreless in this period, they could get no closer than 1-2 to 1-8 against the home side. Star of the Kilkenny side was Thomas Dowd (St. Canice's) who had a great game at midfield and scored a goal and a point.

Richard Barron (Rower Inistioge) had Kilkenny's only other score of a point. Barry Gahan (St. Canice's) also combined well with his partner and contributed to Kilkenny's attacking efforts. The standard of football was of a high order throughout. Goalkeeper Aidan Drennan (Gowran) made several excellent saves. The Kilkenny defence was under almost continuous pressure during the first half, but despite this they gave a very creditable performance and Paul Carroll (St. Pat's), Donal Cahilane (Thomastown), Joe Young (Kilmanagh), Michael Gorman, William Kearney and Cathal McDonald did well.

Thomas O'Dowd and Garry Gahan were effective at midfield, while Denis Brennan, Oisín Dawson, and Mick Stapleton were the pick of the forwards.

**Kilkenny:** Aidan Drennan (Gowran), Cathal McDonald (C.B.S.), Paul Carroll (St. Pat's), Michael Gorman (Piltown), William Kearney (Dunnamaggin), Donal Cahillane (Thomastown), Joe Young (Kilmanagh), Thomas O'Dowd (St. Canice's), Barry Gahan (St. Canice's), Richard Barron (Rower-Inistioge), Raymond Cahill (Dunnamaggin), Brian O'Shea (Dunnamaggin), Denis Brennan (St. Canice's), Mark Stapleton (Thomastown), Oisín Dawson (C.B.S.). Subs: John Hickey (Dunnamaggin), John Minihan (Piltown), Sean Millea (Kilmanagh), Henry Shefflin (Ballyhale), Graham Doyle (C.B.S.), Dick Carroll (Gowran).

Referee: Jack O'Brien.

### HURLERS COME BACK TO DRAW

The hurling was a very closely fought affair. Again Wexford had first use of the wind. They took a long time to score, thanks to a great defence and some fine goalkeeping by Noel Hoynes.

At half time they led 1-3 to 1-0, with Owen Behan getting a great goal very near to half time. Wexford had a great start to the second half when they had an early goal to leave the score 2-3 to 1-0.

But it was all Kilkenny after that. The Kilkenny halfback line of Brian Dempsey and Gerard Kirwan both moved into attacking positions and had a point each. Owen Behan did well when moved to full forward and ended up his side's top scorer with 1-1 to his credit.

Vincent Coonan at corner forward had a good goal. But while Kilkenny held the home side scoreless for the last twenty minutes, they could not get ahead. Eamon Holohan and Thomas Minogue starred at midfield. The

fullback line of Paul Hoynes, Michael Hoynes and Brian Donoghue could not be faulted.

Michael Kennedy, Kevin Power, and Wesley Sinnott did well when introduced. Up front Richard Barry, Brendan Comerford, Martin Burke and John Hoynes did well.

**Team:** Noel Hoynes (C.B.S.), Paul Hoynes (Kilmanagh), Barry O'Donoghue (St. Patrick's), Brian Dempsey (Thomastown), Gerard Kirwan (Mooncoin), David Carroll (C.B.S.), Eamon Holohan (Ballyhale), Thomas Minogue (Kilmanagh), Richard Barry (C.B.S.), Owen Behan (Johnstown), Martin Burke (Rower-Inistioge), Brendan Comerford (Kilmanagh), John Hoynes (Kilmanagh), Vincent Coonan (St. Patrick's). **Subs:** Michael Kennedy (Tullaroan), Kevin Power (Johnstown), Wesley Sinnott (Mooncoin), Ray Kennedy (St. Patrick's), Andrew Connolly (Ballyhale), Richard Mullally (Glenmore).

Referee: Dickie Murphy.

### DUBLIN FESTIVAL

Once again Kilkenny travelled to the Dublin Under-12 Festival of Hurling at Malahide. The boys in the black and amber maintained their unbeaten record in this tournament when they won out their section.

**Kilkenny Squad:** Owen Hall (Tullaroan), Niall Walsh (Rower-Inistioge), Barry Donohue (St. Patrick's), William Kearney (Dunnamaggin), Richard Mullally (Glenmore), Ger Kirwan (Mooncoin), Neville Synnott (Mooncoin), Richard Barry (C.B.S.), Ramie Carroll (Dunnamaggin), Brian O'Shea (Dunnamaggin), Henry Shefflin (Ballyhale), Jimmy Coogan (Tullaroan), Michael Doyle (Rower-Inistioge), Tomás Dowd (St. Canice's), Paud Delaney (Johnstown), Richard Barron (Rower-Inistioge), Bob Aylward (Ballyhale), Diarmuid Herlihy (C.B.S.), Philip Shore (Coon), Aidan Drennan (Gowran), Michael Gordon (Piltown).



### ROWER-INISTIOGE — Roinn "B" Finalists 1990

**Back Row:** Tomás Digby, Richard Barron, Paul Sheehan, John Kavanagh, Martin Burke (Capt.), Pat Brennan, James Tierney, John White. **Front Row:** James Mackey, Michael Doyle, Derek Walsh, Neil Walsh, Keith Carroll, Liam Galvan, John Griffin, Andrew Porctor, Bill Cottrell.



### KILKENNY C.B.S. Under-13 Football

**Back row:** (left to right) Stephen O'Shea, Mark Donnelly, James Cullinan, Pádraig Lacey, Aidan Drennan, Mark Gaffney, Damien O'Connell, Patrick Gleeson, James Brennan, Enda Cuniffe, Robert Falsey, Brian Kenny, Jerrard Hayes. **Front row:** (left to right) Joseph Murray, Oliver Hennessy, Alan Dowling, John Butler, Brian Power, Stephen Murphy, Michael Falsey, Dermot Eardley, Alan Dowling, Padraig Devlin, Jason Delaney.



# No Improvement on inter-county scene

By Nickey Brennan

1990 saw no improvement in the fortunes of Kilkenny football, though the splendid showing of Muckalee in the county final against Glenmore gave some hope for the future.

Despite the hard work of trainer Tom Walsh, his fellow selectors and players, the results from the league games generally made depressing reading. An early win against Carlow offered some hope, but thereafter it was defeat after defeat. The Leinster Junior Football championship has been Kilkenny's most realistic chance of any degree of success in recent years. Kilkenny were unfortunate (once again) to be drawn against Dublin in the first round this year and to make matters worse they had to travel to Parnell Park to take on the Dubs in their own backyard.

Again, defeat was to be their lot and thus ended another football season. With little or no training done for the game (through no fault of the trainer and team officials), the result was inevitable and although the players gave their all, the difference in class and basic football knowhow was clear to be seen.

The Under-21 and minor teams also made early exits at the hands of Kildare and Laois respectively. The minor team to their credit had prepared well for their game, having competed in the South Leinster league. In this regard the efforts of the team trainer and his selectors are noteworthy.

## FIRST INTERMEDIATE TITLE FOR BARROW RANGERS

The local football scene had a change in format this year with the introduction of the Intermediate championship.

Barrow Rangers and Lisdowney qualified for the first final with the latter emerging victorious on a score of 4-7 to 1-3. In their semi-finals Barrow Rangers defeated Tullogher, while Lisdowney defeated Graignamanagh.

The final was played in a downpour, but despite the dreadful conditions, both teams served up a high standard of football. The final scoreline did scant justice to the part played by Lisdowney, but in the end it was the more direct play of the winners which paid off on the night.

### SCORERS:

**Barrow Rangers:** P. Drea (1-1), P.

Murphy (1-1), P. Purcell (1-0), C. Purcell (1-0), S. Hennessy (0-3), G. Purcell, M. Doyle (0-1) each.

**Lisdowney:** L. McEvoy (1-4), T. McEvoy (0-1).

**Barrow Rangers:** M. Whitely, D. Donoghue, S. Brennan, L. Gittens, S. Gittens, T. Brennan, G. Lawlor, Syl Hennessy, C. Purcell, P. Murphy, P. Drea, G. Purcell, P. Purcell, M. Doyle, M. Whitely.

**Lisdowney:** S. Downey, M. O'Gorman, T. Brennan, T. Hogan, P. Grace, A. Drennan, P. Murphy, S. Kennedy, L. McEvoy, M. Carroll, T. McEvoy, K. Wall, M. Walsh, M. McEvoy, L. Downey.

*Referee:* Tommy Duggan (Mullinavat).

Chairman of the Football Board, Kieran Meally, presented the Meally Cup to the captain of the Barrow Rangers team, Gerry Purcell. This trophy was presented by the Meally family in honour of the late Mr. M. Meally, who was chairman of the Football Board for a long number of years.

## MUCKALEE STYLE WINS SENIOR FINAL

Muckalee captured their fourth Kilkenny senior football title following a 1-11 to 0-4 victory over Glenmore in October. On a windy Sunday afternoon, both teams served up some fine football, particularly Muckalee who approached the game in a determined frame of mind. Glenmore were hoping for a double having won the hurling title a week earlier. The game clearly showed the additional preparation by the winners, whereas the losers had concentrated all their efforts on winning the hurling crown.

Perhaps this sums up the precise problem of football in Kilkenny; a team in with a chance of winning a hurling title will put everything into their preparation, paying little attention to the fact that they may also be in a county football final. You cannot really fault Glenmore; it is no contest when it comes to deciding in Kilkenny which title players and supporters prefer to win.

Despite playing with a stiff breeze in the first half, Muckalee only led 0-6 to 0-1 at the break. A couple of classy points by Jim Moran and another by Eamonn Breen, which would have done justice to any Meath or Cork player, were the highlights of the half. Glenmore's reply

was a splendid 45 metre point by Christy Heffernan. Kieran Brennan, the Muckalee goalkeeper, was prominent during the opening half, saving a couple of dangerous situations.

It was all Muckalee in the second half and they seemed to relish playing against the wind. Glenmore looked tired from their exertions of the previous week and had no answer to the fresher Muckalee team. The winners carried the ball well when playing against the breeze and the ability of their players to move into space and receive a low ball had their opponents in big trouble. Perhaps with a little more direct play in front of goal the final margin of victory might have been greater.

The introduction of county minor hurler, Dermot Lawlor, to the Muckalee attack had the desired effect and he was instrumental in setting up the all-important goal which finally decided the game. That score capped a fine afternoon's work for Muckalee. The standard of football they produced was good and one could see the efforts of the couple of weeks training paying dividends. They had capital performers in John Morrissey, man-of-the-match Dermot Comerford, Ciarán Hayes, Eamonn Morrissey, Dick Dooley (a great man to carry the ball), Mikey Maher, Eamonn Breen and Jim Moran. Glenmore's best were Des Ennett, Liam Walsh, Eddie O'Connor, Denis Mullally and Michael "Foxy" Phelan.

### SCORERS:

**Muckalee:** L. Dowling (1-1), J. Moran (0-3), J. Brennan (0-3) frees, D. Dooley, E. Breen, B. Shore, D. Lawlor (0-1) each.

**Muckalee:** K. Brennan, J. Morrissey, A. Maher, D. Coonan, D. Comerford, C. Hayes, P. Kehoe, E. Morrissey, D. Dooley, E. Breen, M. Maher, J. Brennan, L. Dowling, J. Moran, B. Shore. *Sub:* D. Lawlor.

**Glenmore:** P. J. O'Connor, D. Ennett, E. Aylward, P. Phelan, L. Walsh, C. Heffernan, E. O'Connor, D. Heffernan, P. Barron, D. Mullally, M. Phelan, M. 'Foxy' Phelan, D. Duggan, F. Kirwan, J. Flynn.

*Referee:* Podge Butler (O'Loughlin Gaels).

Muckalee's subsequent display in the Leinster club football championship against Cooley Kickhams from Louth gave a much needed boost to the fortunes of Kilkenny football. The Kilkenny





**MUCKALEE — Kilkenny Senior Football Champions 1990**

**Back Row:** Jim Moran, Dermot Comerford, Tony Maher, Paddy Kehoe, Eamonn Morrissey, Ciarain, Hayes, Eamonn Breen. **Front Row:** Dick Dooley, Danny Coonan, Johnny Brennan, Mickey Maher (Capt.), Kieran Brennan, John Morrissey, Liam Dowling, Bobby Shore. **Mascot:** Shane Coonan.



**GLENMORE — Kilkenny Senior Football Finalists 1990**

**Back Row:** Christy Heffernan, Des Ennett, Denis Mullally, Michael Phelan, Francis Kirwan, Donie Duggan, Pat Barron. **Front Row:** Eddie Aylward, Michael "Foxy" Phelan, Pat Phelan, Liam Walsh, P.J. O'Connor, Eddie O'Connor (Capt.), Des Heffernan, John Flynn.

champions made the long journey to Louth to play the game and were very unlucky to lose by two points on a score of 0-11 to 1-6. A couple of missed chances in the first half when playing with the wind proved costly for the Kilkenny men. Two late points by the Louth champions secured a somewhat fortunate victory over a supremely determined and gallant Muckalee team. The absence of the injured Mickey Maher was sorely felt by the losers. On the day their star players were Ciarán Hayes, Dick Dooley, Eamonn Morrissey, Tony Maher, Johnny Brennan and Jim Moran.

Muckalee scores: Johnny Brennan (1-

3), Dick Dooley, Ciarán Hayes, Jim Moran (0-1 each).

**COLLEGES GIVE HOPE FOR FUTURE**

St. Kieran's and Castlecomer Community School gave a big boost to future football prospects in Kilkenny when they both gave outstanding performances in this year's juvenile championships. Castlecomer had a splendid 2-4 to 1-6 victory over Dublin School, Synge Street, in the 'C' final. St. Kieran's can also be pleased with their display despite losing the 'A' final to Gormanston on a score of 1-10 to 1-5.

**BORD na nÓG AND SCHOOLS SHOW THE WAY**

Once again Bord na nÓg ran a splendid Under-16 football campaign with both the league and championship completed on schedule. The Under-14 campaign got underway in mid-October and was completed in November.

The popular Under-13 schools League took place again this year. The playing of games after school does limit the number of teams taking part, but nevertheless it is thoroughly enjoyed by all the boys taking part.





**John lays down the law!**  
**WHAT IS JOHN SAYING?**  
*Prizes to the best three entries.*  
*Send your entries to:*  
**NICKEY BRENNAN, Suttonsraah, Jenkinstown, Co. Kilkenny.**  
 (Closing date for entries — January 15, 1991.)

**Surviving members of the 1939 Kilkenn Team at the 1989 County Final.**  
 From Left: Dinny Keane, Bobby Hinks, Bobby Brannigan, Jimmy Phelan, Billy Burke and Joe Gargan (representing his brother Jack who now resides in the U.S.A.).



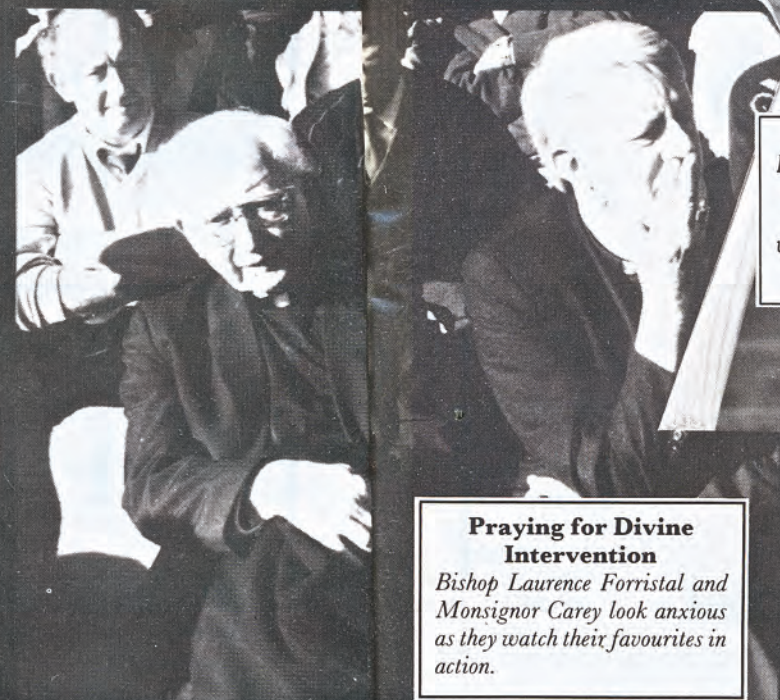
**A Helping Hand from the Chairman**  
 David Beirne leaves the field injured in the All-Ireland Minor Hurling Final against Cork in Croke Park - being carried by Larry O'Neill (left) Selector and Paddy Buggy (Chairman Co. Board). On right is Sean O'Neill (physio.).



**Pictured at the presentation of the Ciba-Geigy G.A.A. Awards**  
 From left: John Dowling, President G.A.A.; Ned Quinn, Mooncoin, winner of the Kilkenny Clubman of the Year Award and Dick Hickey, Managing Director Ciba-Geigy Limited, sponsors of the awards.



**Fifty Years Later . . .** at a dinner in their honour in Newpark Hotel are members of the Threecastles Hurling Team who won the 1940 Junior League and Championship. Seated (from left): Larry Neary, Graignamanagh; Jack Donegan, Troyswood; Paddy Dowling, Vicar Street; Tom Murphy, Threecastles. Behind: Jack Cleere, Ballydaniel, Threecastles; Dan Egan, Threecastles; Mick Egan, Vicar Street; Jack Egan, Kennyswell; Willie Kerwick, Cloran, Kilkenny. Two other surviving members of the team are Joe Hennessy, U.S.A. and Tom Shortall, Bermingham.



**ABOVE:**  
 Fan Larkin keeping an eye on proceedings during Kilkenny's victory over Galway in Tullamore.

**Praying for Divine Intervention**  
 Bishop Laurence Forristal and Monsignor Carey look anxious as they watch their favourites in action.



**Going for the Book — Ger Henderson**  
 encountering the wrath of the referee in the Minor Final.



Hey, you're next - John Knox of the 'Kilkenny People' with Adrian Ronan after the Under-21 All-Ireland Final.



**Surviving members of the 1940 Carrickshock Hurling Team taken at the 1990 County Final.**  
 From left: Tom Walsh, Mick Walsh, Martin Brennan, Neddy Hogan (R.I.P.), Jimmy O'Neill, Bobby Hinks, Paddy Hearne, Larry O'Keefe, Luke Gaule. A couple of weeks after this photo was taken Neddy Hogan lost his life in an unfortunate accident. May he rest in peace.



# Football glory for Thomastown and Callan

**Thomastown** ..... 4-4  
**Kilkenny** ..... 0-3

THE ROINN A Under-13 Schools Football Final saw Kilkenny C.B.S. try their best to retain the title but Thomastown proved just too good on the day. Des Walsh gave the winners a dream start with an early goal and they continued to dominate the first half to lead by 2-2 to 0-1 at the interval.

The winners began the second half by scoring another goal, this time by Martin Hughes and they added a point moments later. But the C.B.S. came storming back to narrow the gap with points from Enda Cunniffe and Joey Murray. However, a goal from Paul Hearne and another point from Des Walsh put Thomastown well ahead.

The city boys came back to dominate possession but they could not breach the Thomastown defence ably marshalled by Declan Dempsey and Sean Walsh.

*Thomastown:* Derek Ryan, Tony O'Neill, Declan Dempsey, Owen Hanrahan, Niall Cody, Sean Walsh, Perry Holden, Niall Nevin, Noel Sugrue, Michael Dempsey (0-1), Paul Hearne (1-0), Brian Blanchfield, Martin Hughes (2-1), Des Walsh (1-2), Adrian Walpole.

*Kilkenny C.B.S.:* Oliver Hennessy, James Brennan, Mark Gaffney, Damien O'Connell, Patrick Gleeson, Brian Power, Aidan Drennan, James Cullinane, Stephen Murphy, Alan Barry, Alan Dowling (0-1), Michael Falsey, John Butler, Enda Cunniffe (0-1), Joey Murray (0-1). Subs: Robert Falsey and Michael Doheny.

**Callan** ..... 4-4  
**Castlecomer** ..... 0-3

IN THE ROINN B Under-13 final sponsored by Toymaster, Callan C.B.S. proved too strong for Castlecomer. Callan stormed into an early lead with points from Kevin Fitzpatrick, Christopher Vaughan and Andrew Power (free).

Then against the run of play Castlecomer had a goal from Oliver Meally to draw level. Callan soon went ahead with a goal from Joey Gormley to leave the half-time score Callan 1-3, Castlecomer 1-0.

Castlecomer tried very hard in the second half but they had no real answer to Callan's dominance at midfield. Despite the best efforts of goalie James Byrne and Patrick Shore, Callan went on to win by 2-7 to 1-0.

*Callan:* Gerry Tobin, Denis Nolan, P. J. Cody, Damien Burke, Michael Hennessy, Shane Whelan, Fintan Hennessy, Andrew Power (0-1), John Norris, Coinleth Nolan, Christopher Vaughan (0-1), Joseph Gormley (2-1), Stephen Byrne, Kevin Fitzpatrick (0-3), Brian McCormack (0-1). Subs: J. P. Corcoran, Declan Burke, Michael Dunne, Darrell Doheny, Trevor Kirwan.

*Castlecomer:* James Byrne, William Brennan, Michael Kealy, David Lynch, William O'Gorman, Charlie Brennan, Stuart O'Neill, David Dunne, Paul Hurley, J. B. Harding, Patrick Shore, Damien Knox, Cathal Davis, Brian Coogan, Oliver Meally (1-0). Subs: John Smith, Charles Quinn and Darren Nolan.

## What's wrong with Scór?



By: JIM KEARNS (Kilkenny Scór Chairman)

**I** COULD answer the above question in many ways and lay the blame in many areas, but putting the blame on anyone for the way Scór is at the moment would not solve our problems. To put it mildly, Scór is in a very bad state, so it can and must improve in the future.

A few years ago we had some very good competitions and big crowds attending. So what has gone wrong in the meantime? Look at what most of the other counties have achieved in recent years with Scór.

Personally I feel we must all, at club and county level, encourage the young and not-so-young to promote our culture and heritage, of which we should all be proud. Surely our Irish songs and dances are worth promoting and encouraging among all G.A.A. members. It must be remembered that the promotion of such cultural activities is one of the prime aims of Cumann Lúthchleas Gael.

Finally, I would like to sincerely thank all the hard working people who kept Scór going over the years. Our thanks must also go to the loyal people who took part in all competitions in recent years.

Scór is for all G.A.A. members. I would appeal to all G.A.A. clubs to participate. Please make an honest effort — that's all we ask.

Go raibh maith agat.

### ☆ Snippets ☆

#### ANN & ANGELA FETED IN TORONTO

KILKENNY camogie stars, Ann and Angela Downey, were guests of the Kilkenny Association of Toronto during the St. Patrick's Day festivities in the city this year. The festivities coincided with the visit of Tipperary, Dublin, Tyrone and the GAA Hurling All Stars to play exhibition games of hurling and football in the world famous Sky Dome.

During the parade through the city, the Downeys rode in the back of the car with former Kilkenny hurling star, Frank Cummins, in the front, and the group of association members marching behind. The Association's vice-president, Noel Rohan, carried the flag for the two mile march, during which the group sang *The Rose of Mooncoin* several times.

Liam Walsh (Glenmore) was Kilkenny's sole representative on the All Star team, which was managed by Kilkenny's Diarmuid Healy (Conahy Shamrocks).

#### ANYONE FOR GOLF?

THE progressive Piltown GAA club achieved another milestone this year with the opening of a new Pitch and Putt course at their splendid premises. The 18 hole course is the latest project undertaken by the club, who have been to the forefront in community development over the past seven years.

The club also received £10,000 from National Lottery funds to develop further the sports complex at their site opposite Kildaton College.

#### CHRISTY FAILS TO STOP GER

KILKENNY hurling star, Christy Heffernan, was one of the contestants in this year's All-Ireland Poc Fada competition in the Cooley Mountains on the August Bank Holiday Monday. The Glenmore attacker was one of ten trying to stop Cork's Ger Cunningham completing a record breaking 7 wins in a row. Despite Christy's best effort, Ger duly achieved his record.

#### KILKENNY STARS IN A.I.B. BOSTON TRIP

FOUR Kilkenny players were included on the A.I.B. All-Ireland hurling team which travelled to Boston to play the local All Stars in Boston College, on Easter Saturday.

Joe Hennessy (James Stephens), Jimmy Prendergast (Faughs, Dublin - formerly Clara), Paul Cleere (O'Loughlins) and Ger Fitzpatrick (Mount Sion, Waterford - formerly O'Loughlins) were joined on the trip by Eddie Keher (Rower-Inistioge) as team manager, and Michael Sharkey (Johnstown) as one of the mentors. Captain of the A.I.B. team was Tipperary star Nicholas English.



# Classy 'Cats' on the prowl and looking for more

By John Knox, (Kilkenny People)

*THE wonder of it all doesn't seem to have struck home! Another win. Another pat on the back. But not total recognition for it all. Success would appear to have bred its own form of indifference, a sort of taking for granted.*

Year after year as the trophies pile up, it becomes harder and harder to adequately describe the wonderful bunch that make up the Kilkenny senior camogie squad. For six years now they have been at the top. For six years they have been beating all around them.

And this unparalleled group of sports people from the Noreside aim to go on winning. During the past six years there have been half-a-dozen All-Ireland wins on-the-trot, and five National League/Championship doubles.

Still, it is not enough. The night after the latest success in the all-Ireland, this time over Wexford, driving captain, Breda Holmes revealed the ladies were not finished yet.

"We want the seven-in-a-row next year", the skilful St. Paul's attacker declared. A warning to the rest of the camogie world. 'The Cats' are prowling. And when these ladies say they will do something, they are usually true to their word.

Everyone in Kilkenny loves to see the women winning, but how many have ever gone to watch them play? Imagine the scramble there would be for All-Ireland tickets if the senior hurlers were on such a roll? The women put as much into their game, but they simply can't stir the majority to go out and watch them. Perhaps some day! Admiration from afar at least shows people do take notice, and, in their own way, they do care.

## SIGHTS SET

But if there is a certain taking for granted of these ladies, that is only on the Noreside, certainly not among any of their opponents. The camogie fraternity has, as with dominant teams in any sport, set its sights on downing Kilkenny.

Dublin, Cork and Wexford have tried to down them in All-Irelands in recent years. Different tactics and approaches have all floundered in the face of Kilkenny's surging wave of camogie. After two successive defeats in All-

Ireland finals, Cork came up with a plan in 1988. They crowded midfield by taking a player from attack. During the first half, when playing against the wind, the Leesiders looked like achieving something.

They didn't. When forced to come out of their shell after the change around, they were taken asunder. Given the room to freely express their enormous camogie talents, 'The Cats' destroyed Cork.

This year then Wexford had a different approach. They followed a woman-to-woman marking system. The approach was rigid. It took a lot of attractiveness from the match. They were within shouting distance going into the final straight. Then they were blown away, beaten by 1-14 to 0-7.

No doubt, there will be a new plan tried in a bid to trip-up the Noresiders come 1991.

"But that will take some doing", assured diligent Kilkenny trainer, Tom Ryan, who has been with the team during the last six glorious years. "These women are incredible. They are all natural competitors. Even in training they are competitive, and love beating each other in tussles.

## TAKE BEATING

"When it comes to the all-Ireland series next year, and if these girls put their minds to it, they will take all the beating again", assured Tom, who will celebrate his 60th birthday next July. Indeed Tom's enthusiasm for the job, which sees him running and chasing around the field with the women, typifies the togetherness within the squad. Tom looks on the players as "his family". The ladies look on Tom as their camogie "dad".

The all-Ireland final was a tough, bruising and dour game. In the end, inexperience caught up with Wexford, who were nippy and determined, but lacked that little bit of know-how when it came to the closing stages.

	<b>1974</b>	
Kilkenny 3-3		Cork 1-5 (replay)
Kilkenny 3-8		Cork 4-5 (draw)
	<b>1976</b>	
Kilkenny 3-4		Wexford 1-3
	<b>1981</b>	
Kilkenny 1-9		Cork 0-7 (replay)
Kilkenny 3-9		Cork 3-9 (draw)
	<b>1985</b>	
Kilkenny 0-13		Dublin 1-2
	<b>1986</b>	
Kilkenny 2-12		Dublin 2-3
	<b>1987</b>	
Kilkenny 3-10		Cork 1-7
	<b>1988</b>	
Kilkenny 4-11		Cork 3-8
	<b>1989</b>	
Kilkenny 3-10		Cork 2-6
	<b>1990</b>	
Kilkenny 1-14		Wexford 0-7

Kilkenny made most of the running, but there was never much between the teams. After 22 minutes the winners opened out a 0-6 to 0-1 lead, but that wasn't a true reflection of how the exchanges were going. They were a lot closer than that score would suggest. The 0-7 (K) to 0-4 (W) half-time score was a truer indication of things.

Early in the new half dependable Kilkenny 'keeper, Marie Fitzpatrick brought off a crucial save from Siobhan Dunne, and in the 56th minute she repeated the act when faced by Eileen Kehoe. Those stops, and some powerful out-field hurling by final debutant, Gillian Dillon, who turned in a truly powerful showing, Ann Downey, Deirdre Malone and Bridget Mullally, another in her first senior final, helped tilt the balance in Kilkenny's favour.

And only as expected in any camogie show put on by Kilkenny, Angela Downey had a big say before the finish.





Bridge Mullally in action against Wexford in the All-Ireland Camogie final in September.

Two minutes from the end Marina Downey and Breda Holmes knifed through the Slaneyside defence, and when put in the clear, Angela buried a shot in the net. Kilkenny's 10th senior crown was wrapped-up.

#### REACH FOR MORE

The experience and will to reach out for more among the older players, and the hunger of up-and-coming players like Gillian Dillon, Bridget Mullally and Marina Downey, and others at junior and minor level, would suggest that Kilkenny would have many more good days in front of them.

Incidentally, in their other game, the All-Ireland semi-final, Kilkenny beat Cork by 4-4 to 3-5 down by the Lee. That was an acid test, in front of a hostile crowd. Again near the finish Angela Downey plucked a goal out of virtually nothing, and the score was crucial.

With players capable of pulling out such deeds in the most pressing circumstances, who could but look forward to more joyous times for the Kilkenny camogie queens. Roll on '91.

**The Kilkenny all-Ireland team was:** Marie Fitzpatrick (St. Brigid's); Biddy O'Sullivan (Tullagher); Deirdre Malone (St. Brigid's); Bridie McGarry (St. Paul's); Frances Rothwell (St. Brigid's); Claire Jones (St. Paul's); Ann Downey (St. Paul's); Gillian Dillon (St. Lachtain's); Breda Cahill (St. Brigid's);

Breda Holmes (St. Paul's) captain, Angela Downey (St. Paul's); Bridget Mullally (St. James'). Subs: Marina Downey (Lisdowney), Anna Whelan

(Lisdowney), Noelle O'Driscoll (St. Paul's), all used; Noreen Tierney (Tullagher); Bridget Barnaville (Lisdowney).

## Ladies now third in Roll of Honour

**K**ILKENNY created a bit of camogie history when they completed the six in-a-row of All-Ireland senior camogie victories at Croke Park.

The sure striking Noresiders shot 14 points, a record for a team in an All-Ireland final.

The previous best points tally was 13, which was again hit by Kilkenny in the decider of 1985.

These Kilkenny ladies have always been good at shooting points, and in other finals have had 12 and 10 to their credit.

The Downey twins, Angela and Ann collected their 10th All-Ireland medal each. They were in on the county's first win in the Blue Riband event in 1974, and they have been there ever since.

Such a fabulous haul still only leaves the Ballyragget ladies third in the camogie roll of honour. Ahead of them

are Kathleen Mills, Dublin (15) and Una O'Connor, Dublin (13).

But by comparison with the most honoured hurlers in Kilkenny, the ladies lead the way.

Noel Skehan, Bennettsbridge, won 9 All-Ireland senior hurling medals, the best by any player in the country. Behind him then another Kilkenny player, Frank Cummins has eight, and likewise with John Doyle (Tipperary) and the late Christy Ring (Cork).

Dublin still lead the camogie honours by a long shot. They have 26 all-Ireland wins to their credit. They are followed by Cork (14), and then Kilkenny.

Would you believe it, Dublin put 10 wins together between 1957 and '66. They also put eight victories back-to-back between 1948 and '55. And if they hadn't been beaten by Antrim in the final of 1956, the Dubs would have put an incredible 19 wins together.



**IT WAS as if the ground rules were laid down from the very beginning, and how they started was how they intended to continue. The Kilkenny camogie ladies — the finest group of sports people in the country, started the season with a win, and they couldn't nor wouldn't depart from well-known ways.**

**T**HE season for the ladies began one cold and dreary day in March, when they entertained rank outsiders Galway in the National Camogie League at Danesfort. The closing score of 6-12 to 0-11 against the Connacht side correctly showed the difference in class.

Anyone who dares mix with these particular Kilkenny players had better be prepared for the consequences. They take no prisoners, have no soft spot for easy targets. When there is a job to be done they get stuck in, and there is no nonsense from start to finish.

How seriously Kilkenny took the Galway game that would in no way stretch them was reflected in the scoreline. After five tough years on the road there were few absentees. Everyone was available, and mad for action.

Angela Downey led the charge and with 4-1 to her credit in that game sent out a message to the world that she was on the warpath again. She had a host of capable backers in Marie Fitzpatrick, Deirdre Malone, Biddy O'Sullivan, Frances Rothwell, Anna Whelan and, of course, her twin sister Ann Downey.

The beginning wasn't very taxing. The closing instalment — the final away to Wexford — was as different as chalk and cheese. In between there was a tough one against Cork (6-9 to 4-11) and Dublin were seen off, too.

#### NICELY RESTED

By the time the Noresiders started in this League they had four Leagues and five All-Irelands in the bag from the previous five years. Despite all the pain, suffering and sacrifices that went into winning those nine national titles, the ladies were all nicely rested and ready to start the long haul all over again last March.

Galway found out just how quickly, and well, the batteries had been recharged. The following month the Leesiders threatened to topple the champions. They went close, but in a tight finish they were edged out.

Another of the big name challengers, Dublin, made another fair effort in the semi-final. Here the Dubs were seen off on a 5-10 to 2-8 scoreline.

A 10th minute goal from Noelle O'Driscoll put the Noresiders on their way, although later the sides were level at 1-4 each. By half-time the visitors to Nowlan Park were 1-5 to 3-5 behind and wondering how that happened.

Points after the change-around from Breda Cahill, Bridget Mullally, just one of the up-and-coming players blooded during the competition, and Angela and Ann

# These women were born to win!

Downey left the visitors with little chance of staging a recovery. They had none after Ann Downey netted to stretch the difference to 4-9 to 2-7.

Meanwhile, the other half of the draw saw Wexford win through to the final. The

team that had promised more than it delivered in previous years enjoyed home advantage, and took the game to Bellefield. In the region of 1,000 people cheered on the challengers.

"Wexford showed in this game that they are within reach of the standard required to dethrone Kilkenny", wrote the author of the match report in the *Wexford People* subsequently. True enough. The Slaneysiders, in the true spirit of the county, fought like demons. Still they had to be content with second best.

At the finish stretched Kilkenny retained their title. The score was 1-10 to 2-4. They got it tough. Early in the second half Wexford had the temerity to take the lead. In the end, experience and strength built up over the years by Kilkenny helped overpower eager opponents.

#### DEFIANT

The champions created a few chances of goals, but the home 'keeper, Eilish Kavanagh, was defiant. There was nothing soft going anywhere, and at one stage two of the ladies exchanged blows and were booked.

There were but two points between the sides at midway, with the holders showing in front. When Siobhán Dunne had a Wexford goal in the new half Kilkenny looked a trifle edgy.

A scrambled goal from Jillian Dillon restored the expected order of things. The losers were still threatening, but after they had another point they were held scoreless for nearly 20 minutes.

During that shut-out, Kilkenny defenders Bridie McGarry and Frances Rothwell somehow managed to get up the field and shoot points. And with Bridget Mullally unerring from frees, the champions inched that bit further in front as time wore on.

However, in the 59th minute Wexford did score a goal. By this time the Kilkenny defence had soaked up too much to let it all go just on the line. That wouldn't be the way of these ladies. Bridget Mullally had the final say with a point.

Be it against the likes of outsiders Galway or ever-improving Wexford, the Noresiders are always ready. That is their strength. They love winning and, no matter how deep they have to dig, they can always find something.

The Kilkenny team in the final was: Marie Fitzpatrick, Biddy O'Sullivan, Deirdre Malone, Bridie McGarry, Frances Rothwell, Breda Cahill, Ann Downey, Jillian Dillon, Marina Downey, Breda Holmes (capt.), Angela Downey, Bridget Mullally. Sub. (used) Bridget Barnaville.

## WHEN THE TITLES WERE WON

<b>1978</b>		
Kilkenny .....	2-4;	Limerick 1-5
<b>1980</b>		
Kilkenny .....	3-8;	Tipperary ..... 1-3
<b>1982</b>		
Kilkenny .....	2-5;	Cork ..... 1-4
<b>1985</b>		
Kilkenny .....	4-7;	Dublin ... 2-13 (draw)
Kilkenny .....	4-7;	Dublin ... 3-6 (replay)
<b>1987</b>		
Kilkenny .....	4-8;	Dublin ..... 1-5
<b>1988</b>		
Kilkenny .....	3-10;	Dublin ..... 2-4
<b>1989</b>		
Kilkenny .....	6-7;	Cork ..... 1-11
<b>1990</b>		
Kilkenny .....	1-10;	Wexford..... 2-4



# CAMOGIE STARS ON THE AMERICAN TRAIL

Report by JOHN PHELAN

*On October 9th at 2.45 p.m. flight E1105 took off from Shannon Airport heading for New York. This was no ordinary flight – a little bit of history was being created. On board were the members of the Kilkenny and Cork camogie teams, en route to play exhibition games in the U.S.A. This was the first occasion any county camogie team travelled to the States and in Cork and Kilkenny the exiles would find true exponents of the great Irish game.*

The credit for organising the trip lay mainly with the Young Irelands Camogie Club in New York and once the arrangements were made, both counties set about the task of fund raising. The trip was a tremendous success and all who travelled were fine ambassadors for both their country and the sport of camogie. The only disappointing aspect of the trip was the fact that Kilkenny were not allowed to bring the All-Ireland trophy, the O'Duffy Cup, with them on this historic occasion.

The official travelling party were given an official reception by the President of the Borough of Manhattan, Ruth Messinger. Each team member received a special proclamation from the President, who thanked the exiles for their contribution to the life and culture of the U.S.A. She also designated the period 'Camogie Week' in honour of the visit.

Another reception was arranged with the offices of the Mayor of New York, Mr. Dickens. The Mayor was unavailable at the time, but his assistants took care of all the formalities.

The tour received extensive coverage in the Irish-American press and also on radio and television. Indeed the tour also managed to get the famous American early morning show, *Good Morning America*, to broadcast live from Gaelic Park, promoting the game.

The trip was certainly not 'all work and no play'. During the two weeks many famous locations were visited and very hospitable American hosts arranged a number of special functions for the teams, where many new friendships were made.

The trip did have a serious side also, with Kilkenny playing four games during the two weeks. The first game was between Kilkenny and the host club, Young Irelands. The game was scheduled for Gaelic Park but because of the state of the pitch the party had to adjourn to the nearby Van Courtland Park instead. Kilkenny's skill was very evident in the game and they ran out easy winners. Among those on the Young Irelands' team were Ann Coleman, sister of Galway star Michael Coleman, Jo Holden, sister of former Dublin star Mick



## CHAMPS IN AMERICA

*Ann Downey, Kilkenny Captain, being presented with the Terry Leahy Memorial Trophy by Mrs. Leahy. On left is John Byrne, Irish Echo newspaper.*

Holden, and Brid Linnane, cousin of Galway star Sylvie Linnane.

**Kilkenny:** Marie Fitzpatrick, Biddy O'Sullivan, Deirdre Malone (0-1), Bridie McGarry, Frances Rothwell, Anna Whelan, Ann Downey (0-2), Claire Jones, Marina Downey (1-2), Breda Cahill, Angela Downey (2-1), Noreen Tierney (2-2). *Subs:* Noelle O'Driscoll and Breda Ryan.

Cork beat the U.S.A. All-Stars in their first game 3-4 to 0-3.

The second game pitted Kilkenny against Cork. The teams would meet twice over the two weeks and at stake was the Helen O'Donnell Memorial cup. Kilkenny were sure of a big following at the game as the New York based Kilkenny junior team were playing Westmeath in the local final. That game, incidentally, ended in a draw.

The first clash of those great rivals, Cork and Kilkenny, was camogie at its best — fast, furious, sporting — with

some great personal duels throughout the field. Kilkenny entered the break leading by two points but they took command in the second half to emerge winners by twelve points. Noreen Tierney was in brilliant form for Kilkenny, while others to star were Marie Fitzpatrick, who kept a clean sheet; Deirdre Malone, Frances Rothwell, Breda Cahill, Marina Downey, Angela Downey and Biddy O'Sullivan.

**Kilkenny:** Marie Fitzpatrick, Biddy O'Sullivan, Deirdre Malone, Bridie McGarry, Frances Rothwell, Breda Cahill (1-0), Ann Downey (0-2), Claire Jones, Marina Downey (0-1), Noreen Tierney (1-1), Angela Downey (1-2), Noelle O'Driscoll (0-1). *Subs:* Anna Whelan, Annette Stapleton and Breda Ryan.

The third game was played between Kilkenny and the USA All-Stars and at stake was the Terry Leahy Memorial cup. Kilkenny possessed too much craft



and skill for the locals and emerged handsome winners.

**Kilkenny:** Marie Fitzpatrick, Biddy O'Sullivan, Deirdre Malone, Bridie McGarry, Frances Rothwell, Claire Jones, Ann Downey (0-5), Breda Cahill, Marina Downey (1-1), Noell Tierney, Angela Downey (3-2), Noelle O'Driscoll (0-1). *Subs:* Breda Ryan, Anna Whelan and Annette Stapleton.

After the game the cup was presented to the winning captain, Ann Downey, by Terry Leahy's wife.

The final game of the trip was against Cork. Kilkenny assumed the aggregate result of both games would decide the winners but were surprised to learn that, should Cork win the second game, extra time would have to be played to decide the overall winners of the Helen O'Donnell Memorial cup. A big crowd was present in Gaelic Park, as a number of local football and hurling finals were also being played.

Cork approached the game in a determined mood and the placing of their team indicated as much. During the first half both defences dominated and with the play switching from end to end, the big crowd were treated to a great exhibition of camogie.

Cork led Kilkenny by two points at half-time. The hectic pace continued in the second half and the introduction of former star, Liz Neary, helped Kilkenny.

Cork, however, were not to be denied and at the final whistle they had the minimum margin, one point, to spare over Kilkenny.

The organisers of the trip could not have wished for more and the extra time would see two great teams give everything in the quest for glory. With such pride at stake, neither team now wanted to lose, particularly on such an historic occasion.

A great individual point by Noreen Tierney was the only score of the first period of extra time. The second period at last saw the great Angela Downey come into her own and when twin sister Ann drove over two points from frees, the Cork effort was foiled. Kilkenny were victorious and how the whole party cherished that win. On the day, Kilkenny had many stars, the best of whom were Marie Fitzpatrick, Deirdre Malone, Breda Cahill, Noreen Tierney, Angela Downey, Claire Jones and Marina Downey. For a gallant Cork the stars were Irene O'Leary, Betty Joyce, Collette O'Mahony, Paula Goggins, Val Twomey, Liz Dunphy and Marian McCarthy.

**Kilkenny:** Marie Fitzpatrick, Biddy O'Sullivan, Deirdre Malone, Bridie McGarry, Frances Rothwell, Claire Jones (0-1), Ann Downey (0-2), Breda Cahill, Marina

Downey (0-2), Noreen Tierney (0-1), Angela Downey (0-2), Noelle O'Driscoll (0-1). *Subs:* Breda Ryan and Liz Neary.

**Cork:** Marian McCarthy, Liz Dunphy, Paul Goggins, Margaret Finn, Liz Towler, Therese O'Callaghan, Ann Brady, Collette O'Mahony (0-2), Irene O'Leary (0-1), Liz O'Neill, Betty Joyce (1-1), Val Twomey. *Sub:* Brid Walshe.

After the game the Helen O'Donnell Memorial Cup was presented to a delighted Kilkenny captain, Ann Downey. The late Helen O'Donnell was daughter of the famous John Kerry O'Donnell, a legend in Gaelic Games in New York.

Kilkenny travelled to New York without four members of this year's successful All Ireland winning side — Breda Holmes (Captain), Gillian Dillon, Bridget Mullally and Bridget Barnaville. Cork travelled without star players Linda Mellerick, Cathy Landers, Claire Cronin, Ger McCarthy and Sandie Fitzgibbon.

How right it was that this all-conquering Kilkenny camogie team should have graced the hallowed turf of the USA with their silken skills. The trip was just reward for the thrills and excitement these gifted sportswomen have given Kilkenny followers in recent years. Let's hope this trip is the start of a new era for camogie in Ireland.



# CUMANN LÚTHCHLEAS GAEL

The greatest games on earth.

Hear your heart beat, follow you team to victory.

*The Central Council of the G.A.A. wishes Kilkenny teams  
and their supporters every success for 1991.*



# Camogie goes from strength to strength

Report by Tom Ryall

**K**ILKENNY is now regarded as the greatest camogie county in Ireland. The senior team recently took their sixth successive All-Ireland title and their tenth title in all when they beat Wexford by 1-14 to 0-7. The minor team contested the All-Ireland for the third successive year, just failing by two points — 2-11 to 3-6 to Tipperary.

The Noresiders had won the title for the two previous years and would probably have equalled Cork's record of winning three All-Ireland minor titles in succession but for the intervention of fate. This happened on the day after Kilkenny had routed Offaly in the Leinster Final. One of the sides scoring aces, Sinead Millea, was taken to hospital and had to have an operation which ruled her out of the All-Ireland semi-final and final. It was a blow that the team was not able to overcome.

## SCORING RECORD FOR BRIDGET

Kilkenny took the 1989 minor title in Semple Stadium, Thurles, when they turned in a great second half performance to beat Tipperary by 9-10 to 3-8. It was a thrilling first half with the Noresiders lucky to go in at the interval leading by 2-7 to 2-4. Bridget Mullally, who won a senior All-Ireland medal in 1990, went 'to town' in the second half, finishing with a personal tally

of 6-7, the highest score ever recorded by a player in a camogie All-Ireland final in any grade. Sinead Millea hit 2-1 which shows the loss she was in 1990. The other scorers were Gillian Dillon (another senior medal winner in 1990), (0-1) Ashling Cullen (0-1) each, Anita White (1-0).

The victorious Kilkenny team was: Siobhán Holden, Bridget Barnaville (another senior medal winner in 1990), Bridget Wall, Una Murphy, Áine Dunne, Ashling Cullen, Tracey Millea (captain), Gillian Dillon, Bridget Mullally, Orla Ryall, Anita White, Sinead Millea. Subs: Patricia Treacy, Edel Murphy and Vanessa Butler.

After waltzing through Leinster in 1990, the Kilkenny minor team were hard pressed to beat Galway in the All-Ireland semi-final in Nowlan Park. The Noresiders scraped through by 1-10 to 2-6. A late point by Bridget Mullally from a free was the winning score. Bridget Mullally got all but one point of the winners total. The other point was scored by Siobhán Dooley.

In the All-Ireland final played in Nowlan Park, Kilkenny started poorly and it was a disastrous first half that lost them the title. The Premier County girls led by 1-9 to 0-2 at the interval. Kilkenny started well in the second half and a goal by Bridget Mullally had them right back in contention.



### KILKENNY - All-Ireland Minor Camogie Champions - 1989

**Back row:** Elaine Nolan, Edel Murphy, Áine Dunne, Bridget Wall, Ashling Cullen, Vanessa Butler, Fiona Dalton, Orla Ryall, Bridget Mullally, Patricia Treacy, Paula Dowling. **Front row:** Margaret Hanley, Catherine Dowling, Siobhán Holden, Anita White, Sinead Millea, Tracy Milles (captain), Bridget Barnaville, Una Murphy, Siobhán Dermody, Gillian Dillon, Catherine Keogh, Siobhán Dooley.

### KILKENNY MINOR CAMOGIE TEAM - Narrowly beaten by Tipperary in the All-Ireland Minor Camogie Championship at Nowlan Park.

**Back row:** Patricia O'Keeffe, Vanessa Butler, Bridget Mullally, Orla Ryall. **Front row:** Elizabeth Dermody, Imelda Kennedy, Siobhán Holden, Paula Dowling (captain), Áine Dunne, Janet Sweeney, Marie Maher.





Almost immediately Tipperary came back for a soft goal and this was the deciding score of the game. Kilkenny piled on the pressure in the last ten minutes and despite goals by Vanessa Butler and Siobhán Dooley time ran out. As already stated, Sinead Millea's loss was keenly felt. As well the side was short Ediel Murphy, who had come on as a substitute the previous year. She received a bad injury in the first round against Carlow.

Scorers for Kilkenny: Bridget Mullally (1-5), Vanessa Butler (1-0), Siobhán Dooley (1-0), Patricia O'Keeffe (0-1).

The team was: Siobhán Holden, Paula Dowling (captain), Imelda Kennedy, Marie Maher, Bridget Wall, Patricia O'Keeffe, Áine Dunne, Janet Sweeney, Elizabeth Dermody, Orla Ryan, Vanessa Butler, Bridget Mullally. Subs: Siobhán Dooley and Margaret Comerford.

### JUNIORS FAIL TO KILDARE

The Junior camogie team fought their way into the final of the National League but were well beaten by Kildare on a score of 2-12 to 1-3. Kildare later won the All-Ireland junior title for the third time in four years. Dublin beat the Noresiders by two points in the championship, 3-7 to 3-5.

The team was: Deirdre Lannon (Sinead Millea played until her illness), Bridget Barnaville, Una Murphy, Esther Kennedy, Joan Aylward, Tracey Millea, Stella Nolan, Gillian Dillon, Elaine Butler, Mary Lyng, Geraldine Ryan, Bridget Mullally. Subs: Mary McGrath, Anita White, Kay Dunphy, Catherine Neary, Ann Marie Hughes and Ann Harrington.

### SENIORS WIN LEAGUE

The senior team had a hard earned league victory over Wexford in a game played in Enniscorthy. The Black and Amber girls came out on top by 1-10 to 2-4. They later beat the same opposition in the All-Ireland final. (see separate report).

### COLLEGES LEAD THE WAY

The rise of camogie in Kilkenny owes a lot to the Colleges and also the organisation of juvenile competitions. Kilkenny schools were to the fore in the All-Ireland competitions with Mercy Convent (Callan) winning the All-Ireland Colleges Junior title and Presentation Convent (Kilkenny) regaining the Leinster Colleges title after a lapse of twenty years.

Mercy Convent (Callan) powered by Sinead Millea, swept through their section to easily defeat Donaghies Community School (Dublin) in the Leinster final. Then followed an All-Ireland semi-final against the holders, St. Raphael's (Loughrea) in Callan. This was a close contest with the Callan girls coming through on a 1-4 to 1-1 scoreline. Sinead Millea got all the Callan scores.

The All-Ireland final took place in O'Toole Park (Dublin) and the opposition was provided by St. Patrick's (Maghera), the team that had beaten them in the previous year's semi-final. This time the Callan girls made no mistake and at the interval led by 3-4 to 0-2. The game was a personal triumph for Sinead Millea who scored 4-7 of her sides total. That is the highest score ever recorded by a player in a colleges All-Ireland final in any grade of camogie.

Others to play well were Margaret Comerford, Olive O'Sullivan, Janet Sweeney, Marie Maher, Ethel Ann Maloney and Breda Maher. As a result of her performances in this game, Sinead Millea was awarded the Hotel Kilkenny/Kilkenny People Sports Star of the month award.

The winning team was: Margaret Comerford, Marie Maher, Mary Brennan, Nicola Rice, Janet Sweeney, Ethel Ann Maloney, Frances Holohan, Olive O'Sullivan, Sinead Millea, Aoibhlinn Dunphy, Eleanor Walsh, Breda Maher. The team was trained by Noelle O'Driscoll, the county senior player and Mary Fitzgerald.

Presentation (Kilkenny) won the Leinster senior colleges title for the third time when they beat local rivals Mercy Convent (Callan) in the Leinster final played in Danesfort. The Kilkenny girls won by 4-3 to 0-2. Gillian Dillon, who won a senior All-Ireland medal with Kilkenny later in the year, was the star of the winning side, scoring 3-1 of her sides total.

The other scorers were Siobhan Dermody (1-0), Orla Ryall (0-2). Scorers for Mercy Convent (Callan) were: Sinead Millea (0-1) and Tracey Millea (0-1). The midfield trio of Siobhán Dermody, Mary McGrath and Orla Ryall, when she switched to the area, were best for the winners.

**Presentation Convent (Kilkenny):** Siobhan Holden, Margaret Dalton, Patricia Treacy, Esther Kennedy, Mary Ryall, Ann Power, Mary McGrath, Siobhán Dooley, Helen McGrath, Orla Ryall, Siobhán Dermody, Gillian Dillon (captain).

**Mercy Convent (Callan):** Sinead Millea, Rita Ronan (captain), Abigail Sheppard, Marie Aylward, Catherine Keogh, Marie Ann Cleere, Tracy Millea, Ethel Ann Maloney, Clodagh Purcell, Ciara Holmes, Patricia Cleere, Geraldine Brennan. Subs: Margaret Comerford and Marie Maher.

The Kilkenny girls lost the All-Ireland semi-final when they travelled to Loughrea and were beaten by the local St. Raphael's by 3-5 to 1-3. St. Raphael's went on to beat Presentation (Cashel) in the final to win their sixth successive All-Ireland senior colleges title.

### ST. BRIGID'S COLLEGE (Callan) - All-Ireland Colleges Junior Camogie Champions - 1990

**Back row:** Mary Brennan, Olive O'Sullivan, Aileen Dermody, Georgina Cleary, Ethel Ann Maloney, Margaret Comerford, Caroline Campion, Sharon Aylward. **Middle row:** Frances Holohan, Janet Sweeney, Breda Maher, Sinead Millea (captain), Marie Maher, Eleanor Walsh, Aoibhlinn Dunphy, Nicola Rice. **Front row:** Olive Holohan, Joanne Kenny.





## ST. PAUL'S STAY WINNING

On the local front St. Paul's won the senior county championship and maintained their record of never having lost in Kilkenny since their formation in the mid-sixties. It was expected that St. Brigid's (Ballycallan) would give them a close game in the final but they proved no match for the city based side who won by 9-9 to 1-5.

Powered by county players Ann Downey, Bridie McGarry, Claire Jones, Breda Holmes, Noelle O'Driscoll and Angela Downey who scored 6-3, the winners dominated from start to finish. St. Brigid's had good displays from county stars Frances Rothwell, Breda Cahill, Marie Fitzpatrick, Deirdre Malone and also from Tracey Millea and Mary Ryall.

**St. Paul's:** Maria Lawlor, Caroline Holmes (captain), Claire Jones, Bridie McGarry, Helen Holmes, Ciara Holmes, Ann Downey, Geraldine Ryan, Breda Ryan, Breda Holmes, Angela Downey, Noelle O'Driscoll.

**St. Brigid's:** Margaret Comerford, Philomena Byrne, Deirdre Malone, Frances Rothwell, Mary Ryall, Angela Cleere, Tracey Millea, Mary McGrath, Orla Ryall, Breda Cahill, Kay Dunphy, Marie Fitzpatrick.

St. Paul's have since collected the Leinster title beating Buffers Alley (Wexford) in Nowlan Park by 1-14 to 2-5 and Marino (Dublin) in the St. Vincent's G.A.A. Grounds by 5-8 to 3-4 in the Leinster Final. St. Paul's thus collected their fifth Leinster title on the trot and now set out to equal a record of four All-Ireland titles in succession, a feat achieved once by Buffers Alley (Wexford).

## ST. LACHTAIN'S DOMINATE UNDERAGE CAMOGIE

St. Lachtain's (Freshford) have been the dominant force at under-age level. They have already taken the under-18, minor and under-14 county titles. They are in the final of the under-21 championship. St. Lachtain's beat Thomastown in the under-18 final by 6-4 to 1-0.

**Scorers: St. Lachtain's:** Elizabeth Dermody (2-3), Imelda Kennedy (2-0), Margaret Kavanagh (2-0), Gillian Dillon (0-1). **Thomastown:** Vanessa Butler (1-0).

**St. Lachtain's:** Helen McGrath, Paula Dowling, Siobhán Dermody, Esther Kennedy, Sinead Costello, Esther Dermody, Margaret Hickey, Hilda Butler, Elizabeth Dermody, Gillian Dillon, Imelda Kennedy, Caroline Muldowney. *Sub:* Margaret Kavanagh.

**Thomastown:** W. Whelan, Brigid Morrissey (captain), Susan Laherty, Ashling Cullen, Irene Gibbons, M. Comerford, Anita White, Patricia O'Keeffe, M. Holden, Elizabeth Fitzpatrick, Vanessa Butler, Deirdre Lennon. *Sub:* Rhonagh Bookle.

St. Lachtain's took the minor Roinn "A" (Under-16) title for the second year in succession when they beat local rivals Lisdowney by 2-4 to 0-1 in a downpour in Danesfort.

**Scorers: Freshford:** Elizabeth Dermody (1-4), Imelda Kennedy (1-0). **Lisdowney:** Mary Brennan (0-1).

## ST. LACHTAIN'S

Kathleen Ryan, Paula Dowling, Sinead Costelloe, Margaret Hickey (captain), Patricia Dalton, Moira Maxwell, Hilda Butler, Kathleen Dooley, Caroline Muldowney, Imelda Kennedy, Elizabeth Dermody, Margaret Kavanagh.

**Lisdowney:** Ger Thornton, Olivia Donnelly, Bridget Wall, Deirdre Delaney, Cora Mackey, Veronica Thornton, Mary Brennan, Pauline Tallis, Brigid Blanchfield, Áine Dunne, Angela Carroll, Jane Roberts. *Subs:* P. O'Reilly and N. Lawlor.

St. Lachtain's won the under-14 title when they beat St. Brigid's (Ballycallan) by 4-4 to 0-0. Remarkably, the game was scoreless until ten minutes from the finish. The introduction of Margaret Kavanagh in the second half was the turning point as she scored 3-1 of her sides total. The other scorers were Ann Wall (1-0), Sinead Costelloe (0-3). A remarkable feature of this victory was the fact that St. Lachtain's did not concede a single score when winning the championship for two years.

**St. Lachtain's:** Kathleen Ryan, Patricia Dalton, Breda Dooley, Sinead Costello, Margaret Dooley, Sinead Hurley, Elaine Shortt, Catriona Delaney, Ann Marie Butler, Teresa Doyle, Catherine Anderson, Ann Wall. *Sub:* Margaret Kavanagh.



**THOMASTOWN - Intermediate Camogie Champions -1990**

**Back row:** Caroline Malone, Danny White (selector), Ger Skehan, Aisling Cullen, Margaret O'Keeffe, Deirdre Lannon, Olive Lannon, Brigid Morrissey, Paddy O'Keeffe (selector), Breda O'Shea, Nickey Bookle (selector), Sheila O'Connor. **Front row:** Mary Butler, Patricia O'Keeffe, Rynagh Bookle, Jenny Lannon (mascot), Maura Kirwin, Vanessa Butler, Anita White.

**St. Brigid's:** Elaine Dalton, Laura Drohan, Sheila Manogue, Kay Hearne, Ashling Byrne, Breda Maher, Ann Marie Ryall, Martina Muldowney, Miriam Fitzpatrick, Linda Hayes, Sonya Ronan, Olivia Cuddihy.

St. Lachtain's followed up this victory by winning the Féile na nGael in Thurles for the second successive year. They had a tremendous tussle with Killeagh (Cork) in the final. The teams were level at the finish — St. Lachtain's 2-1, Killeagh 0-7. During the extra time period the Freshford girls scored two goals to run out convincing winners.

**Scorers:** Margaret Kavanagh (4-0), Sinead Costello (0-1). The team was the same as played in the county final except that Margaret Kavanagh played instead of Ann Marie Butler. Ann Marie came on for the second half and did well. The other members of the panel were Sinead Butler, Amanda Bowden and Deirdre Byrne.

## THOMASTOWN ATTAIN SENIOR STATUS

Thomastown won their way into the senior grade as a result of their 3-5 to 1-8 victory over the Shamrocks to take the Intermediate title. Tullogher atoned for their junior defeat of the previous year when they beat their neighbours St. James' (Glenmore) by 4-9 to 0-3. County stars Bidy O'Sullivan and Noreen Tierney starred for the winners as did Una Murphy, Catherine Murphy, Ellen O'Gorman and Sandra Ashe. Bridget Mullally did well for the losers as did Valerie Boyle and Joan Aylward.

Carrickshock staged a great rally to beat Clara in the under-14 Roinn B county final on a score of 5-2 to 3-1.

The Carrickshock panel was: Michelle Fennelly (captain), A. Cuddihy, S. J. Hoyne, P. Duggan, C. Irish, G. Cleary, E. Murphy, E. Duggan, Y. Maher, M. Maher, L. Tennyson, C. Phelan, K. Cuddihy, Y. O'Meara, N. Cummins, Y. O'Dwyer, N. Rohan, Gillian Cleary.

Mullinavat took the under-14 Roinn C title when they beat James Stephens, taking part for the first time, by 2-1 to 0-0.

Tullaroan won the Primary Schools Roinn A title for the second successive year when they beat Mullinavat by 2-2 to 1-2. The Roinn B title was won by Kilmanagh who beat Clara by 5-0 to 4-1. A feature of this game was that sisters of under-21 hurlers were on opposite sides. Sonya Ronan, a sister of Adrian Ronan, played with Kilmanagh, while Catriona Carey, a sister of D. J. Carey, played for Clara.

The winning team was: Pauline Comerford, Laura Drohan, Mary Hearne, Ashling Byrne, Angela Marnell, Martina Muldowney, Ann Marie Ryall, Patricia Delaney, Ellen Hanley, Elaine Dalton, Pauline Ryall, Sonya Ronan.

## FIRST CAMOGIE TITLE FOR ROWER

The Rower-Inistioge won their first ever schools title when they beat Tullogher in a replay by 2-0 to 1-0 after the sides had finished all square on a 1-0 each scoreline.

## UNLUCKY CLARA MAKE AMENDS

Clara made amends for a number of unlucky championship defeats when they took the Minor Roinn B camogie title by beating St. James' (Glenmore) by 4-7 to 3-3. This final produced a determined performance from both teams with plenty of skill





**ROWER-INISTIOGE - Schools Roinn C Camogie Champions - 1990**

**Back row:** Mairead Galavan, Anne Bolger, Pauline Wilmot, Valerie Minogue, Catriona Murphy, Bredinn Holohan, Ann Marie Corcoran, Miriam Lyster, Ella Foley, Mary Roche, Sheila O'Connell (trainer). **Front row:** Catherine Kelly, Mairead Holohan, Mary McDonald, Nora Barron, Clare Bolger, Siobhan White, Deirdre Brennan, Catherine Naddy, Mairead Kelly. **Missing from photo:** Michelle Murphy, Sinead Mooney, Valerie Doyle, Jenny Fitzpatrick and Marie Fitzpatrick.

evident throughout the field. After some early pressure from the St. James' team, Clara took control to emerge deserving winners. Best for Clara were Edel Murphy, Elizabeth Dowling, Joanne Dowling and Teresa Carroll. County senior player, Bridget Mullally, was in great form for the South Kilkenny side and emerged as her team's top scorer.

Clara did the county proud in September when they won the finals of the Community Games in Mosney beating Kinvara from Galway. It took a late point from Catriona Carey to secure victory for the Kilkenny side. Clara played outstanding camogie throughout the entire series and while the sudden death of their faithful coach, Padraig Lennon during one of their games saddened the team, it nevertheless made them all the more determined to succeed. Their eventual victory was an occasion these young girls and the team mentors are ever likely to forget.



**CLARA - Minor Roinn B Camogie Champions - 1990**

**Back row:** P. Dowling (secretary), D. Dowling, S. Foley, E. Dowling, R. Mullins, E. Murphy, E. Dowling, E. Murphy, M. Hanlon, N. Phelan, A. M. O'Connell, C. Comerford, Padraig Lennon (R.I.P.) (coach/trainer). **Front row:** M. Langton, A. Hickey, C. Carey, C. Dowling, T. Carroll, J. Dowling, C. Nolan.

**Clara:** Susan Brennan, Denise Dowling, Bríd Foley, Deirdre Dowling, Marie Langton, Annette Nolan, Niamh Phelan, Evan Dowling, Brid Corr, Anne Hickey, Gillian Meaney, Catriona Carey, Collette Roche, Elaine Brennan, Deirdre Brennan and Edwina Dowling.

**UNDER-14s LOSE LEINSTER FINAL**

The Kilkenny under-14 camogie team lost the Leinster final to Dublin by 1-4 to 0-2. Kilkenny had been the champions for the previous five years. The Noresiders had good players in Julie Ann Coogan, Sinead Costelloe, Catriona Carey, Michelle Fennelly and Pauline Duggan.

**Kilkenny:** Julie Ann Coogan (Castlecomer), Ann Sunderland (Dicksboro), Niamh Phelan (Clara), Sinead Costelloe (St. Lachtain's) captain; Patricia Dalton (St. Lachtain's), Elaine Duggan (Carrickshock), Catherine Butler (Mullinavat), Marie Sweeney (Tullaroan), Catriona Carey (Clara), Pauline Duggan (Carrickshock), Louise Slevin (Castlecomer), Michelle Fennelly (Carrickshock). **Subs:** Martina Maher (Tullaroan), Cora Mackey (Lisdowney).



**CLARA-CASTLEWARREN - Camogie Community Games National Winners - 1990**

**Back row:** P. Dowling (secretary), C. Roche, B. Corr, E. Dowling, N. Phelan, A. Nolan, D. Dowling, M. Langton, Padraig Lennon (R.I.P.) coach. **Front row:** G. Meaney, B. Foley, A. Hickey, C. Carey, E. Dowling, S. Brennan, E. Brennan, D. Dowling, D. Brennan.



**KILMANAGH - Primary Schools Camogie Champions Roinn B - 1990**

**Back row:** Mary Hearne, Ashling Byrne, Sonya Ronan, Laura Drohan, Margaret Delaney, Angela Marnell, Elaine Dalton (captain), Martina Muldowney. **Middle row:** Elaine Murphy, Ellen Hanley, Anna McHardy, Áine Fitzpatrick, Michelle Dermody, Ashling O'Halloran, Patricia Delaney. **Front row:** Andrea Murphy, Ellen Murphy, Sharon Trayer, Pauline Ryall, Louise Young, Pauline Comerford, Ann Marie Ryall.



**CARRICKSHOCK - Under-14 Roinn 'B' Camogie Champions - 1990**

**Back row:** A. Cuddihy, S. J. Hoyne, P. Duggan, C. Irish, Georgina Cleary, E. Murphy, E. Duggan, Y. Maher, M. Nolan. **Front row:** L. Tennyson, M. Fennelly (captain), C. Phelan, K. Cuddihy, Y. O'Meara, N. Cummins, Y. O'Duylar, N. Rohan, Gillian Cleary.

Presentation Convent (Kilkenny) won the Leinster colleges seven-a-side competition and qualified for the All-Ireland series where they lost out to St. Raphael's (Loughrea). It was two Kilkenny colleges who contested the Leinster final. The Kilkenny city girls were opposed by Thomastown Vocational school. The Presentation girls triumphed by 2-2 to 0-2. Orla Ryall got all the Presentation scores.

The Noresiders were handicapped for the All-Ireland as they lost top midfielder Edel Murphy with a knee injury. The Presentation (Kilkenny) panel was:

Siobhán Holden, Patricia Treacy, Kathleen Dooley, Orla Ryall (captain), Siobhán Dooley, Shirley Morrissey, Edel Murphy, Catriona Dowling, Elizabeth Dowling, Michelle Fennelly and Deirdre Phelan.

**DICKSBORO - Kilkenny Junior Roinn 'B' Camogie Champions - 1990**

**Back row:** Tom Donoghue (trainer), Brenda O'Reilly, Kiera Morrissey, Mary McEvoy, Marian Tallis, Leona Fitzpatrick, Laura Butler, Emily Coyne, Mary Fry, Siobhán Dooley, Michelle Gaine, Claire Meaney (captain). **Front row:** Anne Sunderland, Suzanna Kavanagh, Sinead Fry, Ellen Maher, Patricia Treacy, Anne Stapleton, Margaret Wall, Julie Fry, Dara Stapleton, Edward Donoghue, Niamh Donoghue.





# Beware the sleeping Shamrocks

By **BARRY HENRIQUES**



**SHAMROCKS Officials with their vast array of silverware at the club's annual social**

**Back Row:** Sean O'Sullivan, Patrick Holden, Pat Aylward, Pat Bookle, Sean Reid, Brendan Fennelly. **Front Row:** Sean Walsh (R.I.P.), Joe Dunphy N.T., Kevin Fennelly, Patrick Reid, Michael Hoynes.

**W**HEN the mighty Fenians from Johnstown lowered the Ballyhale Shamrocks colours at the quarter-final stage of the Senior Championship in Nowlan Park, last August, many so-called aficionados were loud in the proclamation "I told you the Shamrocks were finished".

Similar sentiments were expressed in 1981, 1984 and again in 1985. Sooner or later such harbingers of doom and disaster will be right. If these forecasters were employed as tipsters, the Shamrocks' records would have made their earnings rather frugal indeed.

You either loved the Shamrocks or you hated them. You certainly ignored them at your peril. Like the cobra, they struck with awesome ferocity, when it was assumed they were sleeping. Many teams, since the Shamrocks' train started rolling way back in 1978, were lulled into a false sense of security, only to be crushed into submission by their skill, dedication and uncanny teamwork.

Reams and reams of print have scribed the great story that is the Shamrocks. How they have thrilled the many thousands who were privileged to watch them play. Here was a team of young lads, products in the main of a small National School, coming together and taking the supreme award of Kilkenny hurling in 1978. Young — some very — brash, articulate, gifted and skilful, they brought a new breath of fresh air into the hurling arena.

## FIRST TITLE

On a score of 0-15 to 0-10 the Tom Walsh Cup was going down the road that

was to become very familiar over the pending decades.

The rapier-like thrust of the quicksilver forwards, the stoic dominance of its midfield powerhouse, and the utter dependability of its back division fortified by such stalwarts as Liam Dalton and Maurice Mason boded well for future campaigns. In racing parlance, "the Shamrocks were up and running".

If ever a team personified the idiom "let the ball do the work", then surely it was the Ballyhale men. Their vision was radar-like. Their famous flicks and mesmeric cross-field play was a joy to behold.

I remember taking an English friend of mine to the 1982 county final versus James Stephens. The match itself epitomised everything that was good in our National Game. Great scores were logged on both sides and sportsmanship was of the highest order. Suddenly Liam Fennelly got a ball on the 21 yard line at the scoreboard end. He "shimmied" to his right, wheeled to his left and bulleted the ball into the top right-hand corner of a bemused Mick Moore's net. There upon my friend remarked, "He must 'ave a flippin' telescopic sight on that 'ockey stick".

I said at the outset you either loved or hated the Shamrocks. Well, that's not entirely true. Because their severest detractors couldn't but "roar them to the line" when they took on the lion, that is St. Finbars of Cork in Thurles in 1981 in the All-Ireland Club Championship Final and beat them by four points.

By any stretch of the imagination that was a Titanic achievement when you compare the sizes of both clubs. That was the day Dermot, the baby of the Fennelly clan, came of age.

## RECORDS GALORE

The Shamrocks' record speaks for itself. In 13 years they only failed to win the County Senior Hurling title five times. They won the senior football title three times. They have so many All-Ireland gold medals down there that if the Central Bank ran out of gold they wouldn't have far to go.

The Fennelly lads alone have set records that will never be broken. But the game isn't about setting records or such trivia. It's an art form perfected by amateur sportsmen and witnessed by mere mortals like myself. To that end the Shamrocks were artistes.

There have been great teams down the years — Glen Rovers of Cork, Ahane of Limerick, Tullaroan, Éire Óg, Bennettsbridge, Mooncoin and Carrickshock of Kilkenny. Their achievements and lore have been etched into the annals of history. As good as they were, it's a safe bet that there was none better than the Shamrocks of Ballyhale.

Even the stalwarts who prophesied the demise of the lads from Ballyhale last August shouldn't be too hasty.

The Shamrocks "are finished", — don't bet on it because you too could be like the lad who was asked to explain why he was sporting a beautiful black eye. He replied, "sure I opened my big mouth when I should have been listening".



# CHAMPIONS OF 1990



## KILKENNY — National Hurling League Champions 1990

*BACK ROW: Christy Heffernan, John McDonald, Liam Fennelly, Michael Phelan, Pat Dwyer, John Power, Lamonn Morrissey, Richie Power, John Henderson. FRONT ROW: Mick Cleere, Paul Phelan, Kevin Fennelly, D. J. Carey, Lester Ryan, Bill Hennessy. (Absent from photo: Team captain Sean Fennelly, who did not travel to New York).*



## GLENMORE — Kilkenny Senior Hurling Champions 1990

*BACK ROW: Michael "Foxy" Phelan, P. J. O'Connor, Des Ennett, Denis Mullally, Michael Phelan, Christy Heffernan, Des Heffernan. FRONT ROW: Eddie O'Connor, Liam Walsh, Michael Deady, Ray Heffernan (Capt.), Willie O'Connor, John Heffernan, John Flynn.*

## ST. KIERAN'S COLLEGE — All-Ireland Senior Colleges "A" Champions 1990

*BACK ROW (l. to r.): Eddie Dwyer, Philip Larkin, John Joe Drennan, Clive Kenny, Ger Power, Pat Purcell, Philip Carroll, Sean Ryan, Joe Dermody. MIDDLE ROW (l. to r.): Tommy Lanigan (Trainer/Coach), Michael Owens, Niall Skehan, Brian Hanrahan, P. J. Delaney, Noel Maher (Capt.), Barry Power, Andy Comerford, Ted Carroll, Eugene Somers, Conor Minogue. FRONT ROW (l. to r.): Larry Mahony, Tobias White, Canice Brennan, David Walsh.*



## BALLYHALE SHAMROCKS — All-Ireland Club Champions 1990

*BACK ROW (l. to r.): Ger Fennelly, Frank Holohan, Liam Fennelly, Michael Fennelly, Dick Walsh, Sean Fennelly, Jimmy Lawlor. FRONT ROW (l. to r.): Dermot Fennelly, Kevin Fennelly, Brendan Fennelly, Tommy Phelan, Watty Phelan (Capt.), Tommy Shefflin, Paul Phelan, Brendan Mason.*



# JUNIORS WIN OVER DOUBTING THOMAS'

By John Knox "Kilkenny People"

*THERE ARE times when something happens, and although you might be there to witness it, you still find it hard to believe. One would suggest there were many in that frame of mind when Kilkenny won the Junior All-Ireland hurling final in August.*

A team that had plodded along like an old and weary cart-horse for much of the campaign, suddenly looked like a nimble thoroughbred in the final against defending champions, Tipperary.

The Munster champions victory of 1989 had been their first in the division since 1953 and they travelled to Portlaoise ready, and with a firm belief that they could defend the title. But they met Kilkenny in nothing short of brilliant form, and were walloped to the tune of 16 points.

"We got a good two weeks together to work with the players, and that made all the difference", said team trainer, Ollie Walsh when asked to explain the amazing turn around. "This was Kilkenny hurling at its very best. When Tipp, came at us, the players responded magnificently".

It has to be admitted that that win, that performance, the way the players were turned out, their attitude on the evening all must have contributed in the end when Mr. Walsh was appointed manager of the senior county team in October.

The winners performance was all the better because Tipp. had a good, seasoned team. It wasn't that the Noresiders walked over a burned out side. Far from it. This showing had to be the best performance of the year from any Kilkenny team. It just had to be.

## CLICKED

The entire 15 players clicked. Pat Ryan raced around like a man on castors, and his striking was like Ronan Rafferty's golf drive — long and accurate. He looked a hurling genius, but he wasn't alone. He blasted over five points from midfield. Mooncoin's Tom Murphy did likewise. Another glorious performer.

Young Charlie Carter, promoted to the team to add zest up front after the Leinster final had been drawn, showed it wasn't always necessary to see a lot of the ball if you could be efficient when on it. He tormented Tipp. John Mahon, Liam Simpson and captain Paudie Holden was so sure-footed in defence that during the entire next week people in Kilkenny were

talking about them in terms of the senior team.

Pat Walsh showed the hurling know-how of a man capable of greater things on a higher stage. And then there was this guy from Slieverue named Michael Walsh — one of three with the same name in the panel, the others being from Dicksboro and Mooncoin — who had never been heard of before at inter-county level, but suddenly showed dazzling class. He scored 3-2. All his goals were the result of good approach work, and he was clinical in his finishing.

Trainer Ollie Walsh and selectors Michael Carroll (Mullinavat), Jim Carter (Young Ireland's), Joe Dunphy (Mooncoin), John Healy (Tullagher-Rosbercon) and Ned Moran (Chairman North Board) can suggest what they like, but not even they could have foreseen the way Tipp. were tossed aside in a roaring Kilkenny storm.

No matter, this was Ollie Walsh's fourth success with the juniors. The other wins were in 1984, 1986 and 1988 and while the latter was a memorable one too, it paled by comparison with the August 3 epic in Portlaoise.

With two goals from the prowling Walsh, the Leinster champions led by 2-8 to 0-6 at half-time. Twice during the

second half Tipp got within sight of their opponents. The losers fought courageously to get the difference back to 1-11 to 2-13 after 45 minutes. Once threatened, Kilkenny found a new gear and before the opposition had another score, they had increased theirs to 2-18.

## PUT DOWN

That was the way it was over the hour. Tipp. would look like getting something together. Instantly they would be put down.

This just didn't look like Kilkenny, certainly not the team that had struggled to get a draw with a very ordinary Wexford in the Leinster final. The venue was the same, but the hurling was worlds apart.

In the provincial decider the fare was poor, downright awful at times. A point from a difficult free from Michael Dunphy two minutes into injury-time drew the match at 1-9 (K.) to 0-12. Pat Walsh was the only Kilkenny player who showed any class.

For the replay the Noresiders introduced some new blood, including the nippy Carter. The infusion of new blood did the trick, and there was a marginal improvement. Enough, anyway, to see off Wexford.

### MAY 27, AT DR. CULLEN PARK, LEINSTER SEMI-FINAL:

Kilkenny ..... 4-25 Carlow ..... 0-5  
 Scorers: Michael Dunphy (2-6); Michael Rafter (0-7); Michael Walsh, Slieverue (1-3); P. Hogan (0-4); Gerry Drennan (1-1); Pat Ryan (0-2); Tommy Bawle, Tom Murphy (0-1 each).

### JUNE 10, AT PORTLAOISE, LEINSTER FINAL:

Kilkenny ..... 1-9 (12 pts.) Wexford ..... 0-12  
 Scorers: M. Dunphy (0-3); M. Rafter (1-0); T. Murphy (0-2); Pat Walsh, P. Ryan, T. Bawle, Charlie Purcell (0-1 each).

### JUNE 23, AT DR. CULLEN PARK, LEINSTER FINAL REPLAY

Kilkenny ..... 3-10 Wexford ..... 1-10  
 Scorers: M. Dunphy (1-3); M. Walsh (1-1); Denis Carroll (1-0); Charlie Carter (0-2); P. Ryan, Eamon Maher, T. Murphy, T. Bawle (0-1 each).

### JULY 14, AT ATHLETIC GROUNDS, ARMAGH, ALL-IRELAND SEMI-FINAL:

Kilkenny ..... 3-20 Armagh ..... 1-2

### AUGUST 3, AT PORTLAOISE, ALL-IRELAND FINAL:

Kilkenny ..... 4-12 Tipperary ..... 2-11  
 Scorers: M. Walsh, Slieverue (3-2); M. Dunphy (1-4); P. Ryan, T. Murphy (0-5 each); C. Carter (0-3); T. Bawle (0-2).



The All-Ireland semi-final against Armagh wasn't a match at all, just a heavy burden on finance as it involved a long trip to Northern Ireland. With that background, few expected the fire and brimstone which burned Tipp. away. The Noresiders were simply high on hurling, and they sent followers home happy, with heads held high.

Long after many of the deeds of 1990 are forgotten, the wonders of Portlaoise on August 3, will be recalled. Doubting Thomas' were made to believe.

The Kilkenny all-Ireland team was: Michael Walsh (Dicksboro); Tony Byrne (Young Ireland's); Paudie Holden (Mullinavat) (captain); Liam Simpson (Bennettsbridge); Joe Murphy (Mooncoin); Pat Walsh (Windgap); John Mahon (Mooncoin); Pat Ryan (Emeralds); Tommy Bawle (Dicksboro); Michael Dunphy (Mullinavat); Tom Murphy (Mooncoin); Charlie Carter (Young Ireland's); Michael Rafter (Emeralds); Jimmy Lennon (Bennettsbridge); Michael Walsh (Slieverue). Subs: Michael Walsh (Mooncoin); Pat Hoban (Mullinavat) used; John Dunphy (Mullinavat); Tom Lyng (Rower-Inistioge); Sean Caulfield (Kilmacow); Denis Carroll (Black and Whites); Gerry Purcell (Barrow Rangers); Tom Murphy (Tullagher-Rosbercon); Gerry Drennan (Galmoy); Charlie Purcell (Barrow Rangers).



*Kilkenny supporters in full voice at the Junior Hurling All-Ireland Final against Tipperary.*

## In changing event, 'Cats' now second

**T**HERE IS a bit of a twisted tale behind the roll of honour in the All-Ireland junior hurling championship.

At different times, this competition involved a marriage between the Junior and Intermediate championships and later again Division III of the National League.

Because of the War and travel restrictions, the competition was suspended between 1917 and 1922 and later between 1942 and '45.

In 1971 a new format was introduced, and the so-called strong counties were put in an Intermediate competition, and the weaker ones in a Junior event. This separation only lasted until 1974, when it was decided to incorporate the championship in Division III of the National League.

Nine years on, in 1983, the Junior championship returned to its original format. Since Kilkenny won the title four times and now lie second in the overall honours list.

### ROLL OF HONOUR

10. — Cork in 1912, 1916, 1925, 1940, 1947, 1950, 1955, 1958, 1983, 1987.
8. — Kilkenny in 1928, 1946, 1951, 1956, 1984, 1986, 1988, 1990.
8. — Tipperary. — Tipperary in 1913, 1915, 1924, 1926, 1930, 1933, 1953, 1989.
5. — London in 1938, 1949, 1959, 1960, 1963.
4. — Limerick in 1935, 1941, 1954, 1957.
3. — Dublin in 1932, 1937, 1952.
3. — Warwickshire in 1968, 1969, 1973.
3. — Meath in 1927, 1948, 1970.
2. — Kerry in 1961, 1972.
2. — Kildare in 1962, 1966.
2. — Offaly in 1923, 1929.
2. — Waterford in 1931, 1934.
2. — Roscommon in 1965, 1974.
2. — Louth in 1976, 1977.
2. — Armagh in 1978, 1979.

2. — Mayo in 1980, 1981.
2. — Wicklow in 1967, 1971.
2. — Derry in 1975, 1982.
1. — Clare in 1914.
1. — Down in 1964.
1. — Galway in 1939.
1. — Westmeath in 1936.
1. — Wexford in 1985.

As the Intermediate championship is also tied in with this, it is only right that the records should be added here:

4. — Tipperary in 1963, 1966, 1971, 1972.

2. — Wexford in 1961, 1964.
2. — London 1967, 1968.
1. — Kilkenny in 1973.
1. — Carlow in 1962.
1. — Cork in 1965.
1. — Kildare in 1969.
1. — Antrim in 1970.



# CHAMPIONS OF 1990



## KILKENNY — All-Ireland Under-21 Hurling Champions 1990

**BACK ROW (l. to r.):** Brian Ryan, John Teehan, John Conlon, Tom Murphy, Brian McGovern, Jimmy Lalor, Paul Treacy, Declan Forristal, Patsy Brophy, Donal Carroli, Adrian Ronan, John Buggy, Ger Henderson. **FRONT ROW (l. to r.):** Pat O'Grady, Brendan Mason, Johnny Holohan, James Brennan, Charlie Carter, Jimmy Conroy, Tommy Shefflin, D. J. Carey, Pat O'Neill, Jimmy Walton, Declan Roche.



## KILKENNY — All-Ireland Junior Hurling Champions 1990

**BACK ROW:** Michael Dunphy, Liam Simpson, Pat Ryan, Tommy Bawle, Tom Murphy, Paudie Holden (Capt.), Jimmy Lennon. **FRONT ROW:** Michael Walsh, Joe Murphy, John Mahon, Charlie Carter, Michael Walsh, Tony Byrne, Michael Rafter, Pat Walsh.



## KILKENNY — All-Ireland Minor Hurling Champions 1990

**BACK ROW (l. to r.):** Declan Gahan, Pat Purcell, John Shefflin, Canice Brennan, Sean Ryan, Alan Behan, Niall Lacey, Dan O'Neill, Austin Cleere, Paddy Farrell, James Carroll, Philip Larkin, Sean Meally, Barry Power, Joe Dermody. **FRONT ROW (l. to r.):** Keith Behan, Seamus Dollard, Michael Holohan, Paul Long, Andy Comerford, Dermot Lawlor, James McDermott (Capt.), P. J. Delaney, Larry Mahony, Brian Hanrahan, Anthony McEvoy, David Beirne, Philip Carroll, Robert Shortall.



## KILKENNY — All-Ireland Senior Camogie Champions 1990

**BACK ROW:** Claire Jones, Noelle O'Driscoll, Marie Fitzpatrick, Biddy O'Sullivan, Frances Rothwell, Ann Downey, Breda Cahill, Deirdre Malone, Tom Ryan (Trainer/Coach). **FRONT ROW:** Angela Downey, Marina Downey, Bridget Barnaville, Bridget Mullally, Breda Holmes (Capt.), Gillian Dillon, Bridie McGarry, Anna Whelan, Noelle Tierney.





**TALLIS BROTHERS - All-Ireland Junior Inter-Firm Champions - 1989**

**Back Row:** Tony Thornton, Paul Hennessy, Eamonn Holland, Michael Rafter, Martin Walsh, James Farrell, Murty Kennedy, Tommy Drennan. **Front Row:** Eddie Wall, Bobby Dillon, Shay Downey, Joe Norton, Pat Ryan, Jody Dwyer, Tom Beckett.

# Long wait over for Tallis Brothers

**T**ALLIS BROTHERS, after long years of waiting, finally made the breakthrough when they won the All-Ireland Inter-Firm Junior Hurling title in dramatic fashion at Nowlan Park on Easter Monday. This was the 1989 final of the competition and their opponents were Markey Builders - Nenagh Traders. The Noresiders' won by 1-8 to 1-6.

One minute into "injury time" Joe Dermody, who had come on as a substitute, scored the goal that put them into the lead for the first and only time in the game. Tallis Brothers deserve credit for hanging in when the Nenagh side were on top in the second half.

Murty Kennedy was the saviour for the winners. Time and time he beat back attack after attack. Shay Downey was magnificent at full-back, with Edward Holland doing well in goal except for one mistake. Joe Norton did well against Tipperary county player, Michael Cleary. Bobby Dillon, Tommy Drennan and Eddie Wall also played soundly.

Pat Ryan and Michael Walsh had their moments at midfield. Michael Rafter was the dangerman in attack while Paul Hennessy was also to the fore. Jodie Dwyer had his moments against another Tipperary county player, Conor O'Donovan. Tony Thornton, Tom

Beckett and James Farrell tried hard, with Joe Dermody paying his way with that match winning goal.

**Tallis Brothers:** Edward Holland (Tullaroan), Tommy Drennan (Galmoy), Shay Downey (Lisdowney), Eddie Wall (Bennettsbridge), Bobby Dillon (St. Lachtain's), Murty Kennedy (St. Lachtain's), Joe Norton (Tullaroan), Pat Ryan (Emeralds), Michael Walsh (St. Lachtain's) (0-1), James Farrell (St. Lachtain's), Jodie Dwyer (James Stephen's), Tony Thornton (Lisdowney), Paul Hennessy (Tullaroan) (0-2), Michael Rafter (Emeralds) (0-5), Tom Beckett (St. Lachtain's). *Sub:* Joe Dermody (St. Lachtain's) (1-0).



# Kieran's go top after their first hat-trick

**H**ARD to image after all this time and after all the wondrous deeds down through the years that St. Kieran's college, one of the finest hurling nurseries in Ireland, continue to break new ground in schools competitions.

Kieran's were part of the first act of colleges hurling in 1944, when they lost the historic initial All-Ireland senior final against St. Flannan's, Ennis, by 5-5 to 3-3.

That same pair contested the 1990 final, and how appropriate it is that both now sit on top of the honours list with 10 successes each to their credit.

Victory for the Kilkenny nursery this year gave them another bit of history, their first three-in-a-row. Believe it or not, until the start of this current run, Kieran's hadn't even put wins back-to-back, but when they got into their stride it was almost as if they said 'here we go, we will go for the big one'.

Flannan's did better than three together between 1944 and '47. The Ennis establishment are out on their own. They are the only college who have completed four wins on-the-trot.

On all counts Flannan's and Kieran's dominate the senior championship, and in three of the past four years they clashed in the All-Ireland.

Kieran's took home the Croke Cup on a 2-10 to 0-7 scoreline, and although the final wasn't one of the best, what the Kilkenny boys achieved was magnificent. Who knows, a couple of this year's team could go on to be an Eddie Keher, Billy Fitzpatrick or Brian Cody of the future.

## BRIGHT FUTURE

Team captain, Noel Maher enjoyed a terrific campaign, the high point being a majestic performance against Kilkenny C.B.S. in the Leinster final. He is a strong, well-built hurler who would appear to have a bright future. He won this third All-Ireland medal on the field this season, a distinction he shares with three Flannan's players. Team-mates Barry Power, Canice Brennan and Joe Darmody also won three All-Irelands together, but they didn't make the First XV in all the championships.

If the latter trio achieved something out of the ordinary, they had the talent to stand out on the field. They all made the Kilkenny minor team subsequently,

## College boys top of the class

**10:** St. Kieran's College in 1948, 1957, 1959, 1961, 1965, 1971, 1975, 1988, 1989 and 1990.

**10:** St. Flannan's, Ennis in 1944, 1945, 1946, 1947, 1958, 1976, 1979, 1982, 1983, 1987.

**5:** St. Finbarr's, Farrenferris, Cork in 1963, 1969, 1972, 1974 and 1984.

**4:** St. Peter's College, Wexford in 1962, 1967, 1968 and 1973.

**4:** North Monastery, Cork, in 1960, 1970, 1980, 1985.

**2:** Limerick C.B.S. in 1964 and 1966.

**1.** Kilkenny C.B.S. in 1981; St. Colman's, Fermoy in 1977; Templemore C.B.S. in 1978; Birr Community School in 1986.

and in the replayed all-Ireland final against Cork young Brennan was truly outstanding. Incidentally, Noel Maher was over-age for the Kilkenny team.

Having the skill to live with the best at senior colleges level can make an awful difference for players in the long run. Hence, it has always been beneficial for Kilkenny that St. Kieran's turned out good teams. The link between schools and county hurling can never be over-stated.

Who can argue but the likes of Andy Comerford, P. J. Delaney, Sean Ryan, Larry Murphy, Philip Larkin and all the rest of the Kieran's boys who later wore the Kilkenny jersey were not better players for what they achieved with their school? Kieran's trainer, Tommy Lanigan brought his charges along nicely, and in the long run his painstaking work was of enormous benefit to the county. And the benefit of that school work could be useful for years to come. Habits you pick up when you are young and all that . . .

If Kieran's had a fault this year, it was they didn't win their games by big enough margins. Often, and particularly against the C.B.S. and St. Mary's colleges, they enjoyed more possession than their closing score might suggest.

The eventual champions started with an easy win over a young Castlecomer

Community School. Next to fall were Good Counsel (Wexford) and here Kieran's showed an important trait. They shot 14 wides, and although far superior, they couldn't put their opponents away. At the 45 minute mark the difference was just 1-4 to 1-7 (K) and 'Counsel had use of the strong wind.

## CUTTING EDGE

When their title looked in most danger, Kieran's rolled up the sleeves and showed a real cutting edge. P. J. Delaney and Comerford shot pressure relieving points, and 'keeper Conor Manogue brought off a crucial save. When they needed to, they were well able to do the job.

Bubbling enthusiasm wasn't enough from Kilkenny C.B.S. to prevent Kieran's taking their 38th Leinster title. The winners, thanks to a glorious Noel Maher at midfield, and top showings from Pat Purcell, Philip Larkin, Comerford, Brennan, Mahony, Power and Delaney won easily. even after shooting 16 wides.

The C.B.S. were hampered by injuries to goalkeeper, James McGarry and Niall Lacey (shoulder), but they simply hadn't got the hurling know-how to match their determined city rivals.

The only time Galway's St. Mary's college led in the all-Ireland semi-final was between the 14th and 16th. minutes (1-2 to 0-4). A fine goal from Canice Brennan won back the lead for Kieran's, who led by 2-4 to 1-3 at half-time. Eddie Dwyer was another who nosed in among the stars this time as the Noresiders won by 10 points.

The all-Ireland final in Mitchelstown was dominated by Kieran's, but again, the forwards couldn't match their exciting inter-play on the scoreboard. From frees and open play chances were missed. Flannan's trailed by 0-5 to 1-5 at half-time.

## NO CHANCE

In the second half the losers once looked like getting on terms. 'Keeper Manogue denied them. Noel Maher then rallied his forces, and robbed a threatening Flannan's forward. He launched a Kieran's attack. P. J. Delaney won the delivery. A goal. It was only a matter of Kieran's holding out after that, and with Maher, Comerford, Canice Brennan and Delaney firing on



all cylinders, there was no chance of them letting a bit of history slip from their grasp.

Kieran's college have always been one of the kings of colleges hurling. This year they stretched their dominion such that they stand in the shadow of no one.

The St. Kieran's team in the all-Ireland final was:

Conor Manogue (Graigue-Ballycallan); Barry Power (O'Loughlin-Gaels); Larry Mahony (Danesfort); Brian Hanrahan (Clara); Philip Larkin (James Stephens); Pat Purcell (Graigue-Ballycallan); Eddie Dwyer (Carrickshock); Noel Maher (Graigue-Ballycallan) captain; Philip Carroll (Conahy Shamrocks); Andy Comerford (O'Loughlin-Gaels); Canice Brennan (Conahy Shamrocks); Sean Ryan (Dunnamaggin); P. J. Delaney (Fenians); Ger Power (Danesfort); Joe Darmody (St. Lachtain's). Subs: Tobias White (James Stephens), used; Ted Carroll (Dicksboro); Niall Skehan (Bennettsbridge); David Walsh (Danesfort); J. J. Drennan (Danesfort); Martin Carey (Young Ireland's);

## The matches, the scorers

### AT BALLYRAGGET:

**St. Kieran's college** ..... 1-16 **Castlecomer C.S.** ..... 1-6  
Kieran's scorers: P. J. Delaney (1-6); Andy Comerford (0-4); Canice Brennan (0-2); Noel Maher, Clive Kenny, Joe Dermody, Ger Power (0-1 each).

### AT ATHY, LEINSTER SEMI-FINAL:

**St. Kieran's college** ..... 1-10 **Good Counsel** ..... 1-5  
Kieran's scorers: A. Comerford (0-4); Sean Ryan, P. J. Delaney (0-2 each); J. Darmody (1-0); Philip Carroll, Pat Purcell (0-1 each).

### AT NOWLAN PARK, LEINSTER FINAL:

**St. Kieran's college** ..... 2-9 **Kilkenny C.B.S.** ..... 1-7  
Kieran's scorers: P. J. Delaney (2-1); A. Comerford (0-5); P. Carroll, C. Brennan, P. Purcell (0-1 each).

### AT BIRR, ALL-IRELAND SEMI-FINAL:

**St. Kieran's college** ..... 4-7 **St. Mary's college (Galway)** ..... 2-5  
Kieran's scorers: A. Comerford (1-5); P. J. Delaney, C. Brennan, Martin Carey (1-0 each); Philip Larkin, S. Ryan (0-1 each).

### AT MITCHELSTOWN, ALL-IRELAND FINAL:

**St. Kieran's college** ..... 2-10 **St. Flannan's** ..... 0-7  
Kieran's scorers: P. J. Delaney (2-0); A. Comerford (0-3); J. Dermody (0-2); N. Maher (0-2); P. Purcell, S. Ryan, C. Brennan (0-1 each).

Michael Owens (Erin's Own); Eugene Somers (James Stephen's); Clive Kenny

(James Stephen's); John McNena (Mooncoin).

## THE BANNER!

**O**IBRÍ feirme de'n chéad scoth ba ea Aindí. "Seod amach's 's amach é" diereadh Seán Ó hUallacháin, an feirmeoir a mbíodh Aindí ag obair dó. Níorbh ionadh san mar d'oibríodh sé go fonnmarh dó gach Domhnach a mbíodh cluice iomána mealltach ann. Ní raibh suim dá laghad ag an oibrí san iomáint.

Mí na Samhna 1967 a bhí ann. Tráthnóna amháin tháinig Aindí chugam le h-ualach aoiligh dom' gháirdín beag glasraí. Thairg mé nóta púint do de bharr a dhua ach dhiúltaigh sé gan glacadh leis. Níor thug se an t-eiteachas dom áfach nuair a dúras leis go seasóinn deoch dó sa tigh tábhairne ba ghiorra dúinn. Bhí tart ar an bhfear bocht tar éis sclábháiochta an lae.

Ana-bhliain iomána ba ea 1967 do Chill Chainnigh. Bhí buaite acu ar an sean-namhaid Tiobraid Árann, i gCraobh na h-Éireann agus bhí an fhoireann díreach tar eis fillleadh ó Mheiriceá tar-éis scathamh a chaitheamh ann. Thosnaigh an tabhairneoir ag comhrá liom faoi chraobhcluiche an Oireachtais a bhí le bheith i bPáirc an Chrócaigh ar an Domhnach dar gcionn idir Cill Chainnigh agus An Clár. Bhí sceitimíní ar mhuintir an Chláir a mheas ag an am go raibh foireann fhiúntach acu sa deire ag éirí as dríodar na mblianta.

Chuir Aindí leathadh súl ar an mbeirt againn nuair d'iarr se orm slí a dhéanamh sa charr dó. Nuair a tháinig m'anál chugam arís duras go ndéanfainn agus fáilte. Ach cad faoin mháistir? "Is

## THE BANNER!

### Le Tómas De Bháldraithe

mithid dom saoire a fháil" arsa Aindí. "Bí lasmuigh dem'thig ar a h-aon déag a clog, ma's ea" arsa mise, gan coinne ar bith agam go mbéadh.

Ach bhí a chulaith Dhomhnaigh air capiín maiseach ar a cheann agus dradgaire go cluasa ar a bhéal aige. Níorbh fhada go rabhamar ar imeall na cathrach. Theasbáineas Sráid Ó Conaill dó ach be ba mhian leis Margadh na mBeithíoch d'fheiscint rud a dheineas.

Chuamar i muinín na gcos agus chaitheamar tamall ag iniúchadh an Mhargaidh tré na barraí iarainn. Bhí sé tógtha leis an áit.

Bhí deoch againn agus d'fhiafraigh Aindí d'fhear an tabhairne an raibh aithne aige ar Sheán Ó h-Uallacháin, feirmeoir a thugadh an-chuid cuairteanna ar an margadh. Thárla go raibh agus bhí Aindí ar na starthaibh. Ach thit an lug ar an lag orm nuair dúirt Aindí nach rachadh se go dtí an cluiche ar aon chor ach go bhfanadh sé ag faoileáil i gcomharsanacht an Mhargaidh go mbeadh deire leis an gcluiche. Ní éisteoinn leis agus charnaíos é isteach sa charr ar eagla go gcaillfinn é.

Bhí furmhór mór de'n tinnreamh 16,000 i bPáirc an Chrócaigh an lá san as Contae an Chláir. Iad fuíoch, fagharta, glórach, béiceach, callánach. "The Banner, The Banner, The Banner" a scairt na Cláirínigh ar gach taobh dinn, d'aon

## THE BANNER!

ghuth. Cluiche dian géar, teasaí ar uairibh, ba ea e. Bhí Ollie Walsh ar iarraidh agus Noel Skehan mar cúlbaire ina ionad. Rug Pa Dillon bárr gaisce ar a raibh ann, é fuaraigeanta misniúil, é ag cosc ruathair i ndiaidh ruathair; Paddy Moran i lár páirce i mbar a réime agus Noel Skehan sa chúl mar a bhéadh doras sciobáil. Ba mhínic an dá thaobh cothrom. Bhí muintir An Chláir ar mire ag spreagadh agus ag gríosadh a bhfoirinne agus "The Banner, the Banner, the Banner" ar mbodhradh i gcónaí. Bhí Aindí chomh corraithe le h-éinne acu ach a mhalairt de phort aige. Bhí An Clár ar an ionsaí go fíochmar agus gan ach tri nóimeat féigtha. Ach d'iompaigh an taoide agus bhí Cill Chainnigh ag déanamh ar chúl An Chláir go faobhrach. I measc an rí-rá go léir:

"What the hell is this Banner they're shouting about?" arsa Aindí liom. Ní raibh sé d'uain agam stair an Banner a mhíniú dó.

"Oh!" arsa mise "The spuds. The Arran Banners. The seed comes from Clare".

Rug Cill Chainnigh cúl agus cúilín eile. Bhí deire leis an gcluiche agus an bua ag ár bhfoireann 4-4 do 1-8. Thit na Cláirínigh ina dtost. D'iompaigh Aindí chuig an dream a bhí laistiar dinn.

"Now you know what to do with your ol' spuds" ar seisean go nimhneach. "Stick them up your jerseys". "Ach ní jerseys adúirt se.

Níor thuig éinne sa pháirc é — ach mé féin amháin.



# Great year for Colleges' G.A.A. in Kilkenny

Report by Tommy Lanigan and Frank McKenna

## SENIOR HURLING

### St. Kieran's hat trick

**E**XPECTATIONS for the 1990 Colleges hurling campaign were high and followers were not to be disappointed. The three Kilkenny Schools St. Kierans, Kilkenny C.B.S. and Castlecomer Community School were all expected to figure prominently in the quest for glory.

Kilkenny CBS had won the Leinster Colleges Junior Hurling title in 1989 and seemed a fair bet to dethrone St. Kieran's, the reigning Leinster and All-Ireland hurling champions for the past two years. Much was also expected of a strong Good Counsel team from New Ross and a physically hard St. Peter's College team from Wexford.

In the end it was that famed hurling nursery, St. Kieran's, who clinched an historic three titles in a row and so joined another famed hurling nursery, St. Flannan's from Ennis, at the top of the roll of honour with ten titles each. (See separate report elsewhere in the Year Book on the Colleges' senior hurling campaign).

## LEINSTER COLLEGES JUNIOR 'A' HURLING

### Good Counsel surprise winners

**T**HE Leinster Junior (Under-16) Colleges championship has been a very exciting competition in recent years. Patsy Brophy, one of the stars of this year's Kilkenny Under-21 team, led the Presentation Convent, Castlecomer, to victory in 1988. Last year Kilkenny CBS defeated St. Kieran's after two excellent games of hurling.

This year's competition saw St. David's from Artane reach the semi-finals only to be well beaten by an in-form St. Kieran's. Good Counsel, New Ross, accounted for Kilkenny CBS in the other semi-final and went into the final as underdogs.

St. Kieran's had beaten them rather easily in the League earlier in the year but in the final the boys from Wexford had a dream start with a well-taken goal from Ger Walsh (Graigenamanagh). This score rattled St. Kieran's and further points for Good Counsel left the Kilkenny boys in a bewildered state. Try as they might, they could never get into

the game against their eager beaver opponents.

Seamus Dollard (Glenmore) was inspirational at centre half-back for Good Counsel. He was well assisted by Ger Walsh, Jimmy Kelly (Rower-Inistioge) and J. Brennan (Rower-Inistioge). The final score was Good Counsel 3-7, St. Kieran's 0-8.

The standard shown in this year's Junior campaign augurs well for the coming year's Senior championship when St. Kieran's put their crown on the line as they attempt a fabulous four in a row.

The stars of the 1991 championship are likely to be James Phelan, John O'Dwyer, Francis Cantwell, Dan O'Neill and Robert Shortall (Kilkenny CBS), Martin Carey, Shane Doyle, Philip Holohan, P.J. Delaney and Barry Power (St. Kieran's) and Jim Hickey, Denis Byrne and Ger Ronan (Callan CBS).



**ST. KIERAN'S COLLEGE — Leinster Juvenile Colleges Hurling Champions — 1990**

**Back Row:** Billy Quinn, Martin Phelan, Denis Drennan, Ollie Byrne, Seamus Knox (coach), Tom Brophy, Pádraig Ryan, Eoin Casey. **Front Row:** Fergal Cantwell, Brendan Dalton, Brian Kelly, Kyran Vaughan (captain), Ken Hughes, Joe Ryan, James Langton, Oliver O'Connor.



# Footballers steal the limelight

TO go through the full list of schools who participate in juvenile hurling and football would take a whole section of this Year Book. This fact alone is a tremendous tribute to the dedication of the many teachers in the county who foster our Gaelic games through winter and summer, after school, often on muddy pitches.

We are fortunate in Kilkenny that our games are well supported by the various school authorities, despite cutbacks in school funding and staff. However, in many ways the teacher who promotes Gaelic games is a kind of "Larry McCann of Knockavanna Gaels", who is Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, lone selector, team manager and jersey washer. He must represent the school at Provincial Council meetings and probably sits in on a sub-committee of that body too!

This year, in a much neglected area of under-age sport, Kilkenny post-primary schools played forty-five games in juvenile football, with two teams reaching Leinster finals. Castlecomer Community School defeated Synge

Street CBS in the 'C' final and St. Kieran's just lost out to Franciscan College, Gormanston, in the 'A' final.

Castlecomer's feat in defeating Synge Street CBS by 2-4 to 1-6 was a fine achievement, defeating nine other schools along the way.

St. Kieran's, led by a remarkably young talent, Kyran Vaughan from Mullinahone, defeated ten teams in the preliminary stages before a marvellous win over St. Declan's from Cabra, the Dublin champions, in the semi-final.

However, Gormanston, coached by former Down star of the 'Sixties, Joe Lennon, proved physically stronger and ran out 1-10 to 1-5 winners.

Niall Connolly from Johnstown has coached St. Kieran's juveniles to three Leinster football finals in consecutive years, winning the "B" competition in 1988.

Much valuable promotion of football is being done in the schools of the county, particularly by Aeneas Daly in Kilkenny CBS, Ted Browne and Fr. Richard Marnell in Castlecomer Community School and by Nicky McGrath in the Kilkenny Vocational School.

## Easy victory for St. Kieran's

The Juvenile Colleges 'A' hurling competition has been dominated for the past ten years by St. Kieran's. The only real threat to St. Kieran's during that time came from the other Kilkenny schools.

The first of this year's semi-finals was played between St. Kieran's and Callan C.B.S. A brave performance by the Callan boys was not enough to prevent defeat.

Castlecomer Community School defeated Kilkenny CBS by 3-5 to 0-6 in a splendid game in Portlaoise in the other semi-final. The 'Comer boys took the game to their opponents from the start and the unusually hesitant city boys had no answer on the day.

St. Kieran's proved much too strong for 'Comer in the final. The losers were severely hampered by the loss through injury of two of their best players and this loss was to be a major factor in their 6-11 to 1-4 defeat.

## Changes in format of Colleges' competition

THE last two years have witnessed a radical transformation in the Colleges' hurling scene in Leinster. Gone, almost, are the traditional divides between secondary and vocational schools, and Community and Comprehensive schools. Instead we now have an innovative competition integrating all types of schools at both juvenile and junior level.

In the inaugural year, the family of the late Dr. Tom Barry, a noted Kilkenny hurling star in his youth, presented a magnificent trophy for the Juvenile competition. It was fitting that in Tom Barry's home town of Callan that the local Edmund Ignatius Rice College should do battle with that famed nursery of hurling that is St. Kieran's College.

After a close contest the city side emerged victorious and are still the only winners, having retained the Dr. Barry cup again this year with a comprehensive victory over the Castlecomer Community school.

With the obvious success at juvenile level it was inevitable that the concept be experimented with at junior level. October 1990 saw its introduction and the dominance of Kilkenny schools can be gauged by the fact that all four secondary schools are represented at 'A' level. They are joined this year by Mooncoin Vocational School, giving

Kilkenny five out of the eight Junior 'A' teams competing.

In Section B of this competition Kilkenny is also well represented with the Vocational Schools in Ballyhale, Johnstown, Kilkenny and Thomastown all competing in the same group. Without doubt, the Leinster Colleges, with the help of generous backing from the A.I.B., have come up with a winning formula.

The traditional divide has not entirely disappeared, however. This year for the last time Callan CBS will play in South Leinster at 'B' level, despite strong urgings from Leinster Colleges to play in the 'A' grade. During the 1980s

Castlecomer won All-Irelands at all levels in the 'B' division. Callan CBS lost two senior 'B' All-Ireland finals in 1982/83 but were to taste success at Juvenile level in 1987.

On the strength of the many trophies at 'B' grade, Castlecomer have established themselves alongside St. Kieran's and Kilkenny CBS in Senior 'A'. It seems that Callan will soon follow suit.

It is to be hoped that the integrated basis will be applied at senior level in the near future. Unfortunately, the rest of Ireland is still operating along the old divide so there is no chance of the Leinster schools going forward to All-Ireland success for the time being.



**CASTLECOMER COMMUNITY SCHOOL — Leinster Juvenile Football Roinn "C" Champions 1990.**

**Back Row:** Seamus Loughlin, Raymond Hurley, Ian Brennan, John Dowd, Damien Walsh, Niall Clancy, Shane Coogan, Eoin Maher. **Front Row:** Jason Dunne, Martin Phelan, John Buggy, Ken Brennan (Capt.), Michael Coogan, John Maher, Adrian O'Neill.



# AROUND THE CLUBS

During the year, all G.A.A. clubs in Kilkenny were asked to submit a brief résumé of their activities during the year. We are grateful to all the clubs who took the time to send us material.

## MOONCOIN

IN January of this year the club launched its long awaited history entitled *The Mooncoin Story*. Written by local man Tommy Ryan (since deceased, R.I.P.), the book was launched in the club's new complex by G.A.A. President John Dowling. Included in the 400 attendance were two former Presidents — Paddy Buggy and Pat Fanning. The book traces the history of the club since its foundation and lists all the club's achievements and the 117 teams which contested county finals in all grades of hurling and football. It also reveals the players from the club who won a total of 56 All-Ireland hurling medals with Kilkenny.

The development of the new pitch and indoor complex is now virtually completed and the official opening is scheduled for early 1991. The diligent efforts of the development committee has managed to bring the debt down to a manageable proportion.

This year the club embarked on its third social employment scheme and to date a total of 29 people have been employed by the club.

Four players from Mooncoin helped Kilkenny to victory over Tipperary in this year's All-Ireland Junior Hurling Final. They were the Murphy brothers, Tom and Joe; John Mahon and Michael Walsh. Another Mooncoin man, Joe Dunphy, was a selector on the team. It was a memorable year for Tom Murphy, who also starred with the Kilkenny Under-21 team in their defeat of Tipperary in the All-Ireland and he was a member of the Kilkenny senior panel which captured the National League title against New York in New York. Club mate David Burke was also a member of the same panel.

And another triumph for the parish in 1990 was the winning of a senior All-Ireland camogie medal by Frances Rothwell, who was outstanding in defence against Wexford in the final. Her brothers, Derek and Brendan, have played under-age hurling with Kilkenny also.

The attaining of senior status once again by the club brought immense joy to the parish. The victory in the Intermediate final against Thomastown

was just reward for the big efforts of the players in the past year. The team will approach the 1991 senior championship in an optimistic mood.

Another notable achievement by a Mooncoin clubman this year was the selection of Ned Quinn as G.A.A. clubman of the year in Kilkenny. Ned went on to represent Kilkenny at the annual Ciba-Geigy award ceremony in Dublin. Another hard-working clubman, Billy O'Keefe, was elected vice-chairman of the Kilkenny Football Board.

## ERIN'S OWN (Castlecomer)

TWO Erin's Own players were to the fore when Kilkenny defeated Tipperary in the All-Ireland Under-21 final. James Brennan captained the team from midfield and Patsy Brophy played at right half-back. A third player from the club, John Buggy, was among the substitutes. Another Erin's Own connection with the team was Martin Brennan who was one of the selectors. Martin was the team manager of last year's successful Erin's Own Under-21 winning side. His other selectors were Michael Holden, Dinny Brennan and Peter Boran.

The Kilkenny All-Ireland winning minor hurling team also had a Castlecomer connection with Larry O'Neill one of the selectors. This was Larry's second success as a selector with a Kilkenny minor hurling team, having also been involved in 1988.

The Erin's Own senior hurlers suffered

a defeat in their first round game of the championship against neighbours Conahy Shamrocks, but picked themselves up later to eventually reach the quarter-finals where they played poorly before losing to Clara. The junior hurlers had a poor championship but were successful in the annual Michael O'Kelly Memorial tournament when they beat neighbours Clonee on a score of 0-13 to 2-5. This tournament is in memory of former club officer Michael O'Kelly and is played between local junior hurling teams.

The club's minor hurling team operated in Roinn 'B' this year and reached the North semi-final where they lost to Barrow Rangers. The club organised a special minor hurling tournament in 1990 and received generous sponsorship from the local Bank of Ireland. Once again local clubs were invited to take part and in an exciting final Conahy Shamrocks defeated host club Erin's Own by 0-9 to 0-8.

The other teams in the tournament were Ballyragget and Ballinakill from Laois. In the Leinster minor hurling league, won by North Kilkenny, Erin's Own Brian Judge and Colm Meagher were members of the North panel.

The Under-16 team, playing in Roinn 'A', had a poor year despite the best efforts of team officials John Buggy and Eamonn Holland. The year started for the Under-14 squad in February when they were hosts to an Under-14 team from Craughwell (Galway).

This is an annual event for Under-12's and Under-14's with Erin's Own travelling to Galway on alternate years.



**ERIN'S OWN — Kilkenny Under-21 Hurling Champions — 1989**

**Back Row** (left to right): Martin Brennan (Trainer/Coach), Eamonn Connery, Paddy Brennan, Michael Brophy, Michael O'Shea, James Breen, Peter Breen, John Buggy, Peter Boran (Selector), Michael Holden (Selector), Aidan Coonan (Mascot). **Back Row** (left to right): Cormac Young, Patsy Brophy, Victor Smith, Liam Slevin, Michael O'Neill, James Brennan, Christy Brennan, Fergal Slevin, Dinny Brennan (Selector), George Boran (Mascot).



The Under-14 team went to the final of the Paddy Grace Memorial tournament where they met Glenmore. The Southerners were the better team on the day and emerged victorious and qualified to represent Kilkenny in the annual Féile na nGael hurling festival in Tipperary.

The club supplied two players, Raymond Hurley and Adrian O'Neill, to the county Under-14 panel which played in the Tony Forristal memorial tournament in Waterford.

The club once again hosted the annual Tara Ryan memorial hurling tournament for local Under-14 teams. This tournament is in memory of the late John Ryan from Marymount who worked tirelessly for under-age teams in Castlecomer. This year's final was won by St. Martin's who defeated Erin's Own by 2-4 to 1-4 in the final. The other teams taking part were Conahy Shamrocks and Cloneen.

A number of Erin's Own players figured prominently on colleges' teams during 1990. Michael Owens was a member of the victorious St. Kieran's College hurling team while the club had many players on the Castlecomer Community School team which won an historic Under-14 'C' Leinster football title against Synge Street (Dublin).

1990 proved to be a very good year off the field for three long-time members of the Erin's Own club. Jim Bollard, Seamus Walsh and Tom O'Shea were part of a group which scooped a large prize in the National Lottery draw.

A very sad loss for the club during 1990 was the death of Jimmy Farrell. Jimmy was a member of the successful Under-21 team from last year and had hurled for the club at all under-age levels. Having just completed his first year at University, he was a young man with a bright future. The huge attendance at his funeral was indicative of the esteem in which Jimmy was held by all the people of Castlecomer and in particular the members of the Erin's Own G.A.A. club.

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## FENIANS (Johnstown)

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DESPITE the disappointment of a defeat in the County Senior Hurling semi-final, the Fenians had many high points in 1990. The club was very strongly represented in this year's minor All-Ireland hurling final victory, with five members in the squad. James Carroll, P. J. Delaney and goalkeeper Alan Behan turned in fine performance while Anthony McEvoy and Keith Behan were substitutes. P. J. Delaney won a colleges medal with St. Kieran's earlier in the year.

Congratulations also to Briain Ryan who won an Under-21 All-Ireland medal with Kilkenny in their great win over Tipperary. Johnstown was also represented in Kilkenny's 'six in a row' of

camogie titles. Bridget Barnville, who plays her camogie with Lisdowney, was on the Kilkenny panel.

The death of Paddy Fitzpatrick on the 7th November was a sad loss to his wife Margaret and family. Paddy was a staunch member of the Fenians club and along with his brothers, Martin and Billy, figured in the club's greatest successes.

The club would like to thank all the other G.A.A. clubs in Kilkenny and elsewhere who supported Paddy's Liver Transplant Fund Campaign during the summer. The help was greatly appreciated, particularly by the members of Paddy's family.

Finally, the club would like to extend deepest sympathies to the families of Bobby Tobin, R.I.P., and Joan Delaney, R.I.P., who died during the year. Both were avid G.A.A. supporters and will be greatly missed. *Go ndearna Dia trocaire ar a nainmeacha.*

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## ST. LACTAIN'S (Freshford)

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ON the playing fields, the under-age teams provided the only highlights of 1990. The Scoil Lachtain hurlers continue to fly the flag in Roinn 'A'. The Under-14 team were promoted to Roinn 'A', having won the Roinn 'B' title in 1989. Their sojourn in the top division was not happy but may pay off in the future.

The Under-16 team provided one of the highlights of the year following their great run in the championships. In the Northern final St. Lachtain's and Barrow Rangers served up a great hour's hurling before the Freshford boys emerged winners on a score of 4-11 to 3-9. The county final, which was played in Callan, never reached the standards of the semi-final, with the strong wind making conditions difficult for both teams. St. Lachtain's opponents were the Rower-Inistioge. Despite the conditions, it was an exciting final with excellent individual performances from a number of players. Goalkeeper Joe Ryan, full-back T. J. Kelly, Lorcan Carroll at centre half-back, Damien Hurley, Brian Cahill and Oliver O'Connor all played exceptionally well.

The most pleasing aspect of winning the Under-14 (1989) and Under-16 (1990) titles has been that St. Lachtain's have reversed a losing trend which seemed to haunt the club in these grades during the last decade. Of course, the minor hurlers qualifying for the Roinn 'B' county final against Kilmacow has been the icing on the cake.

The under-age success compensated somewhat for the disappointment of the adult teams. The Intermediate hurlers lost to Tullogher in the relegation play-off, and so for the first time in 30 years the club will play in the Junior championship in 1991.

A number of club players figured on schools team during the year. Joe Dermody won his third colleges medal when helping St. Kieran's to success. Joe played at corner forward against St. Flannan's and was a sub. on the two previous occasions. He was also a sub. on this year's Kilkenny All-Ireland winning minor side.

Damien Anderson and Martin Maher were subs. on the Kilkenny Vocational School's team which lost to Tipperary in the All-Ireland final. Damien played in the closing minutes of the game. Damien Hurley, Brian Cahill and Oliver O'Connor were members of the St. Kieran's College junior hurling team beaten by Good Counsel in the Leinster final. Joe Ryan and Oliver O'Connor were on the successful St. Kieran's juvenile hurling team which defeated Castlecomer Community School in the Leinster final. The same players were also members of the college's juvenile football team which narrowly lost to Gormanston in the Leinster final.

Eamon Maher was a member of the successful Kilkenny junior hurling team while club players Murty Kennedy, Tom Beckett, Christy Hickey, James Farrell, Michael Walsh, Bobby Dillon and Joe Dermody helped Tallis Brothers in their memorable march to All-Ireland honours in the Inter-Firms junior hurling championship.

Other than the promotion of Gaelic games, the development of the new playing field is the most important work under way in the club at the moment. During 1990 a new entrance was put down and the senior pitch was enclosed. The next stage will be the building of suitable dressing rooms. The new field has been a welcome development for St. Lachtain's in the last five years. While acknowledging this, the club also acknowledges the remarkable contribution made by the Harrison family to Gaelic games in Freshford and North Kilkenny over the last half century.

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## LISDOWNEY

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AFTER celebrating its Golden Jubilee in 1989, Lisdowney looked to the future with optimism. This optimism gathered strength as the juniors soared through the championship with a 100% record. In the dying moments of the Northern semi-final, victory was snatched from their grasp by Barrow Rangers, in what was, arguably, the best match in Nowlan Park this year. In the Intermediate football final they fell to the same opponents in a match spoiled by a downpour.

Two under-age teams also gave a good account of themselves. The Under-13 team were beaten by Conahy Shamrocks in a County Final also played in a



downpour. The Under-16 team bowed out to the same opposition in the County semi-final. In spite of these two defeats both under-age teams can keep optimism alive in the future.

The popular Lisdowney/Coca Cola Sevens is in its ninth year this year. Twenty teams from Kilkenny, Laois and Tipperary took part and in the final Durlas Óg were victorious over Kilmanagh. This competition is for Under-13 players and is organised by Tommy Maher, Eamonn Dunne, Larry Hamilton and Eamon Nolan (Coca-Cola).

## BARROW RANGERS

WHEN Laz Breen, Paddy Doyle and Joe English got together in the early 1970s to promote under-age hurling in Paulstown/Goresbridge, never in their wildest dreams could they have foreseen the ultimate benefits of the many hours spent with those young people, teaching them the skills of this great game.

The big breakthrough came in 1977 when the Under-16 players won the first ever hurling championship for the parish. The foundations had been laid and the smell of success was sweet. Since then the

clubs in the parish have won eleven more championships in all grades. Proof, if any was required, that in order to have success within a club there must be a special effort made to coach and encourage the youth.

Gerry and Charlie Purcell, members of the Barrow Rangers club, won Leinster and All-Ireland honours this year as members of the victorious Kilkenny junior hurling team.

Further success on the inter-county scene came when Pat Drea and Dermot Maher played with the successful North Kilkenny minor hurling team which won the Special Minor Hurling League.

Barrow Rangers created their own piece of history in 1990 when they became the first ever winners of the Intermediate Football Championship and thus the first holders of the Meally Cup.

On the juvenile scene it was a relatively successful year, even if no titles were won. The minor team, including twelve players who were Under-16, showed great commitment to reach the Northern final where they went down gallantly to St. Lachtain's. The Under-16 team reached the semi-final of the league competition where they narrowly lost to Kilmacow.

## PILTOWN

PILTOWN seven-a-side footballers hit top form when qualifying to represent Kilkenny in Longford last May. The competition was highly successful and the locals played some excellent football.

**Team:** Ger Maher, Richard Connolly, John Minahan, Aubrey Hovey (capt.), Alan Walsh, Michael Jordan, Andrew Norris, Philip Walsh, Paul O'Hara, Seamus O'Gorman, Paul Butler, Thomas Falconer.

Richard Connolly from the Piltown club had the honour of playing in Croke Park at the intervals in both the All-Ireland football semi-finals and final.

The under-13 hurlers stayed up in Roinn 'A' and with a bit more strength might have made the play-off stages. The under-14s reached the semi-finals of the championship and Paddy Grace Memorial tournament, the final of the Mooncoin Cumann Gaelach competition, the Leinster finals of the Community Games and the Ferrybank tournament. James Connolly and Michael O'Dwyer played on the Kilkenny under-14 team which took part



On The Double... officers and captain of Barrow Rangers G.A.A. Club proudly displaying the Bob Aylward Cup (junior hurling) which they won at Nowlan Park on Sunday and the Mick Meally Cup for County Intermediate Football which the club also won this year. Included are (from left) Jerry Purcell (football captain), Bobby Shortall (Secretary), Seamus Brennan (Chairman), Larry Doyle (Treasurer), Michael Shortall (PRO), Martin Hanlon (Hurling captain).  
Photo: Tom Brett



in the Tony Forristal Memorial tournament in Waterford.

Eamonn Kenny, who plays minor, under-21 and special junior with Piltown, was a sub. on the successful Tipperary Vocational Schools' side which defeated Kilkenny in the All-Ireland final in Croke Park in May.

The Piltown Enterprise Centre established during the year was the brainchild of the G.A.A. club. The centre has an area of 6,500 square feet and is divided into three units. A full-time manager, sponsored by FÁS, is now employed in the complex.

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## GLENMORE

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**T**HE club enjoyed a great year in 1990. Among its many achievements were:

Winners Senior Hurling County Final.

Winners Under-14 Roinn 'C' championship and representing Kilkenny at the 1990 Féile na nGael.

Contested Senior Football County Final.

Junior hurling team reached the Southern semi-final and the Special junior hurling team lost narrowly in the Southern final.

Under-16 hurling team reached the championship final.

Further development work was carried out at the GAA sportsfield. A new bank for spectators was erected along with dugouts and a new wall around the pitch.

Seamus Dollard won a minor All-Ireland medal with Kilkenny. Christy Heffernan, Willie O'Connor, Michael Phelan, Liam Walsh were members of the successful Kilkenny National League winning side. Liam Walsh travelled with the GAA All-Stars on their trip to Toronto to play Tipperary in the world-famous Sky Dome.

Bridget Mullally completed a great year for the club by playing in the camogie All-Ireland final for Kilkenny against Wexford. Although still under 16 years of age, Bridget was outstanding and will make many more appearances in Croke Park for Kilkenny.

The Glenmore handball club continues to prosper with club members giving many great performances during the year.

Glenmore clubman Watty Long was recently appointed a selector for the Kilkenny senior hurling team.

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## ROWER-INISTIOGE

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**T**HE past year has been a very successful and productive year for the Rower-Inistioge Hurling and Football Club. Great progress has been made in

the area of development and it was also quite a rewarding year for some of our teams.

The purchase of a seven-acre site in the village of Inistioge was a major undertaking. This site is located by the banks of the river Nore. The building of dressing rooms, meeting room and other facilities at the new Gaelic Park is now in full swing. It is hoped to have these buildings completed early in 1991, in time for the new G.A.A. season.

The adult teams in the club disappointed in 1990 but our under-age teams more than compensated with some notable successes. The Under-16 hurlers captured the Roinn 'B' league title in convincing fashion, beating Kilmacow. It was the club's first league success at this grade. Success in the league made the team favourites for the championship. However, the elusive double was not achieved when the team lost to St. Lachtain's in an exciting final Callan.

The minor hurlers have qualified for the concluding stages of the league.

The Rower-Inistioge has a good football tradition, and the late Paddy Mackey (R.I.P.), who won four All-Ireland football titles in a row with Wexford, was a native of the parish. Up to this year the Rower-Inistioge had never won a football title but how things changed in the past year.

In January the Under-16 team created history by capturing the 1989 Roinn 'B' title when defeating Ballyragget. Then in September, with ten of the 1989 team available, they created one of the biggest shocks in under-age football in Kilkenny when defeating the powerful city side, Dicksboro, in a thrilling final by one point. The achievements of our under-age teams leave the club well equipped for the future.

Intermediate team player Tom Lyng was a member of the Kilkenny Junior hurling panel which captured the All-Ireland title. Other club players involved with Kilkenny teams during the year were Richard Bolger at Under-21 level, Jim Kelly, Brendan Bolger, Richie Kelly and Kevin Kennedy with the South Kilkenny Under-16 team; Paul Cottrell and Tom Brophy with the Kilkenny Under-14 team and Michael Doyle, Richard Barron, Noel Walsh, Derek Butler and Martin Burke with the Kilkenny Under-13 hurling and football teams.

The Rower-Inistioge Under-13 camogie team brought the first under-age camogie title to the parish when they defeated a gallant Tullogher-Rosbercon side in a thrilling Roinn 'C' final.

Another milestone was reached this year when the club's monthly publication, *The Nightingale*, celebrated its tenth anniversary. Much credit is due to the Editor, Eddie Keher, and his team of writers for their efforts in ensuring the success of the magazine.

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## MULLINAVAT

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**T**HE 1989 Intermediate championship victory was the first time the club had secured victory at this level and ensured senior status for the first time in over 40 years. The 1990 senior campaign proved difficult and it required a play-off game against Conahy Shamrocks to survive in the grade for another year. Hopefully, the experience of playing in the senior grade will stand to the players, who will approach 1991 in a more optimistic mood.

Senior player John McDonald became the first Mullinavat player to win a National League medal. John played a prominent role in the half-forward line for Kilkenny.

Having won the Intermediate title in 1989, Mullinavat were awarded the captaincy of the Kilkenny junior hurling team for 1990. Paudie Holden thus became the first Mullinavat player to captain an All-Ireland winning team and among his team mates were fellow clubmen Michael Dunphy, John Dunphy and Pat Hoban. Another Mullinavat clubman, Michael Carroll, was one of the Kilkenny selectors.

Mullinavat under-age team continued to excel in 1990, reaching under-16 and under-18 county finals.

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## THOMASTOWN

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1990 will go down in history as one of the most significant years for the Thomastown club with the official opening of the club's grounds and dressing rooms at Grennan. The Vice-Chairman of the Leinster Council, Jack Boothman, performed the opening ceremony. The new premises were blessed by Bishop Laurence Forristal, a native of Thomastown, assisted by Monsignor Paul Fitzgerald, Fr. Martin Tobin and Rev. Aidan Foster, New Ross, representing Bishop John Willoughby. To mark the occasion a challenge game between Cork and Kilkenny was played.

The famous South Kilkenny club spent in the region of £150,000 purchasing and developing the excellent Grennan grounds. The near 20 acres was purchased in 1984, and following a very generous response to fund-raising efforts, the debt was paid off quickly. The grounds now house two adult playing pitches and it is hoped to add a juvenile pitch shortly. Much work has also gone into making viewing as comfortable as possible for spectators and ample car parking has also been provided.

The Thomastown club has supplied many famous players to Kilkenny teams over the years. Among these are Peter Prendergast, Ollie Walsh, Tom Walsh, Cha Whelan, Dick O'Hara and Paudie Lannon.



Another milestone for the club came in October when local hero Ollie Walsh was appointed trainer/coach to the Kilkenny senior hurling team.

## DUNNAMAGGIN

AS has been the case for the past number of years, the under-age teams kept the flag flying for Dunnamaggin Hurling Club. The Under-12's had a great win over Mullinavat in the 'C' championship.

The under-14s, led by Mick O'Neill in midfield, had a superb eight-point winning margin over a determined St. Martin's in the 'B' championship.

The under-16 team this year were a very young side and found the going tough, but these lads should be winners in the year ahead.

The minor team, which included All-Ireland minor medallist Sean Ryan, had high hopes for the 'B' championship. They impressed in the South semi-final, defeating Glenmore by fourteen points. The team started slowly in the South final against Kilmacow and despite the advantage of the strong wind only led by five points at the interval.

An improved second-half display saw the team lead by six points with ten minutes remaining. A determined Kilmacow fight-back brought the margin back to two points. In a titanic finish a scrambled goal for Kilmacow left a shattered Dunnamaggin team with no time to make a come-back. The team will have a chance to redëem themselves in the minor hurling league.

The junior hurling team reached the semi-finals of the Southern championship for the first time in five years. The absence of a number of key players through injury proved costly and the team eventually went under to junior county finalists Kilmacow.

The junior team did create a bit of history during the year by winning the first junior hurling Open Draw competition and the opposition was once again Kilmacow. The team had some tough matches along the victory route and the historic win was a big boost to the club.

The Special Junior team, who trained as hard as anyone else, had little luck in the Southern semi-final, losing out to Glenmore.

## WINDGAP

THE past year brought little improvement to the fortunes of the Windgap G.A.A. club. The junior hurlers disappointed in the Southern championship but they did display good form in the Junior Hurling Open Draw



### OFFICIAL OPENING OF NEW COMPLEX FOR RAILYARD GAA CLUB

*From left: Rev. W. Purcell C.C., Kieran Meally, Chairman Kilkenny Football Board and Railyard GAA Club; Paddy Buggy, Chairman Kilkenny County Board GAA; Dick Brennan MCC, Chairman Kilkenny County Council; Sean Mansfield, Railyard GAA Club, and Charlie McCarthy, Railyard GAA Club.*

competition before eventually bowing out to Kilmacow in the semi-final.

The lack of numbers at under-age level has badly hit the club and it has been almost impossible to field teams at under-16, minor and under-21 age levels in recent years. The lack of competitive games for the few players available at these age groups is a major problem for the club.

The current under-14 team is one of the best for some time, achieving a number of good results during the year, the most notable being a tournament victory. The hard-working committee and trainer Shem Power are to be congratulated for their efforts. The club's last good run at juvenile level was in 1979 but most of this team have now either emigrated or moved to live elsewhere.

During the summer the club returned to their playing field following the completion of two years' work, during which extensive drainage was undertaken. The boundary fences were also completed. The club greatly appreciates the huge voluntary effort from members during the past few years.

Perhaps the most innovative move during the year undertaken by the club was the planting of 1,000 ash saplings for hurley making. The club will undoubtedly achieve the benefits of this work in future years.

The highlight of the year on the inter-county scene was the sterling performances of Pat Walsh for the Kilkenny junior team in their Leinster and All-Ireland victories. Another clubman, Tommy Hearne, also had a memorable year when guiding the Shamrocks to the All-Ireland club title on St. Patrick's Day. Tommy's son, Alan, was a member of this year's Kilkenny Under-14 team which took part in the Tony Forristal memorial tournament in Waterford.

On the handball scene, brothers Alan and Enda Hawe along with Niall Kenny continued to establish themselves in both 40 x 20 and 60 x 30 alleys at under-age levels. Between them they have won

fifteen county championships, five Leinster championships, seven Leinster leagues and one inter-provincial championship. They were joined by Alan Hearne in winning their second Féile na nGael, whilst Alan Hawe won the Féile na nGael skills title and a place in the All-Ireland under-14 40 x 20 final. The achievements of Alan Hawe in 1990 were recognised by the Kilkenny Handball Board when he was selected as juvenile handballer of the year in November.

Other handball club stars during the year were Tony Nolan and Stephen Hawe winning the masters doubles and Fintan Kenny and P. J. Hawe winning the under-11 40 x 20 title.

## GRAIGUENAMANAGH

IT was a case of what might have been for the Graiguenamanagh senior hurlers when they were narrowly pipped for a place in the quarter-finals of the championship. With good wins over St. Martin's and Graigue-Ballycallan, the team were unlucky to lose to the Fenians. The fact that most of the team are still relatively young augers well for the future.

The special junior hurlers reached the Southern final but had to give second best to a craftier Shamrocks team who emerged victorious by three points.

The club contested a magnificent Southern final at under-16 level against Mooncoin and but for a great display by the Mooncoin goalkeeper, Graiguenamanagh might well have won. The minor hurlers also reached the Southern final where their opponents were also Mooncoin. Both teams produced another exciting game which ended in a draw. Despite the best efforts of team trainer Orla Bolger, the under-14 team found the going tough but the commitment of the young boys will surely bring success in the future.

A major problem at the moment for the club is the delay in providing playing



facilities at the local National School. Graigue-amanagh has a proud tradition in contesting schools' finals in Kilkenny, but in recent times they have barely managed to win a game during a whole season.

Pride of place in 1990 must go to the under-16 footballers who reached the Roinn 'B' county final where their opponents were St. Patrick's (Ballyragget). Despite a great second-half effort, victory went to the North Kilkenny club.

For some members of the Graigue-amanagh club 1990 was a significant year. Well known local referee Denis "Rackard" Cody became the first clubman to referee a senior county final when he took charge of the Kilkenny final between Glenmore and Clara. Paddy Corbett was one of the five selectors on the victorious Kilkenny minor hurling team.

Further afield, former clubmen Tom "Bishop" Whelan and Jim Coady helped their club, St. Gabriel's, in London to win the local championship. Tom also had the honour of captaining the team. Both Tom and Jim also played significant roles for London in their All-Ireland quarter-final against Galway in Ballinasloe. Another former player, Jim Doyle, was a member of the Cloughbawn team which lost to Rathnure in the Wexford county final.

## RAILYARD

**K**ILKENNY'S most distinguished football club, the Railyard, opened their plush new £50,000 clubhouse in

August. It was a day when local pride was very much to the fore. A proud community looked back with joy on past achievements and faced the future full of hope.

Most of the materials used in the project was acquired locally and the work was carried out by local contractor John Allen. The Railyard club, an exclusive football outfit, has been on the go for nearly 50 years. Those times have been laced with success and along the way 17 Kilkenny senior football championships have been won.

County Board Chairman Paddy Buggy performed the official opening and was loud in his praise of all concerned with this fine project. He also spoke glowingly on the contribution made by Railyard players over the years to Kilkenny football and he looked forward to the club continuing to promote football in Kilkenny.

1990 was another disappointing year for the club on the playing fields with the senior team falling at the semi-final stage to Glenmore.

## TULLOGHER-ROSBERCON

**A**FTER all the excitement of winning the Kilkenny Junior Hurling Championship in 1989 for the first time since 1957, it was a rude awakening in the higher ranks of the Intermediate grade this year. The team suffered defeat after defeat and in the end it was down to a relegation play-off with St. Lachtain's to decide who would make the drop back to the Junior grade. Displaying tremendous commitment and fighting spirit, the team

had a comfortable 4-14 to 2-4 victory and the experience of playing in the Intermediate grade should benefit the team in 1991.

As Kilkenny Junior champions of 1989, Tullagher were invited to represent the county at the inaugural All-Ireland Junior Hurling Sevens which were staged in Dublin. Tullagher opened impressively, winning against St. Mark's (4-5 to 3-1). Further victories followed against Ahascragh from Galway (1-4 to 0-3), Clydagh Rovers from Cork (1-7 to 2-3) and Whitehall from Dublin (5-9 to 0-5).

The team was now through to the semi-final where their opponents were Mullinahone from Tipperary. The game produced tremendous fare with thrilling hurling from end to end. Entering the final moments of the game Tullagher held a narrow 2-5 to 2-3 lead. Just when it looked as if Tullagher would reach an historic final, up popped Tipperary inter-county star John Leahy to crash home the clinching goal. Mullinahone went on to win the final. Despite the huge disappointment of losing out in such a dramatic fashion, the Tullagher players can be proud of their splendid performances throughout the tournament. The Tullagher panel that took part in the tournament were: Ed. Walsh, Ed. O'Sullivan, Seamus Phelan, John Murphy, Seamus Bookle, Eamonn Bookle, Shem Cummins, Seamus Murphy, Tom Murphy and John Murphy (Castle).

The Intermediate football team were strongly fancied for honours in this newly inaugurated grade. Good wins over Conahy Shamrocks and Graigue-amanagh saw the team qualify for a semi-final spot against Barrow Rangers. An impressive first-half showing saw the team leading at half-time by 0-7 to 1-1, but the second half was a big let-down. A brace of goals for Barrow Rangers were the crucial scores of the half and they eventually ran out winners on a score of 3-5 to 1-9. Barrow Rangers went on to defeat Lisdowney in the county final.

Under-age teams had mixed fortunes in 1990. The minor hurlers had no luck but the under-16 team got to the league semi-final where they were beaten by Conahy Shamrocks. The under-16 football team went under to Graigue-amanagh.

The under-14 team also had a difficult campaign, securing one victory over Danesfort. The under-13 school's team had a good year under the guidance of headmaster Frank Madigan. Good wins in the early rounds saw the team qualify for a semi-final game against Northern side Lisdowney. The loss through injury of star player Paul Culleton was a bitter blow to Tullagher. Two goals early in the second half helped clinch victory for Lisdowney.

A sad ending to the year was the serious



### DUNNAMAGGIN — Junior Open Draw Hurling Champions

**Back Row:** (l-r) S. Moore, E. Kennedy, P. Fleming, R. O'Neill, J. Carroll, S. Ryan, M. Kelly, M. Hogan. **Front Row:** (l-r) L. Brett, J. Ryan, S. Martin, J. Fitzpatrick, E. Dunne, L. Costelloe, R. Cuddihy, J. Dunne.



injury suffered by one of the club's star under-age players, Donnacha Doyle. He is wished a speedy recovery by all club members.

Tom Murphy (Castle), a member of the club's Intermediate team, won an All-Ireland medal with the successful Kilkenny junior hurling team, which had another Tullogher clubman, John Healy, as a selector. And for the seventh time, star camogie player Bidy O'Sullivan gave another brilliant display in helping the Kilkenny camogie team to victory.

## CONAHY SHAMROCKS

THE disappointment of losing senior status was compensated somewhat by the outstanding showing of the club's juvenile teams.

After a great opening game when they defeated neighbours Erin's Own, the senior team totally lost their way and despite the team's best efforts in the relegation games against Mullinavat and Graigue-Ballycallan it is back to the Intermediate grade in 1991.

The juvenile success began with the under-13 team who impressed all through their campaign, culminating in a decisive victory over Lisdowney in the county final. The under-14 hurling team had a tough year but the performance of the under-14 football team late in the year was encouraging.

The under-16 hurling team had a great year, winning both the league and championship. A unique feature of the team was the playing of two girls, Hilda Butler and Aine Dunne, on the championship winning side. Both justified their selection with outstanding displays during the year. The under-16 football team reached the league final but badly missed the services of Tom Brennan.

The minor hurling team gave some very impressive performances during the year, winning both the league and the championship and building up high scores in most of their games. The team were also victorious in the Bank of Ireland sponsored tournament in Castlecomer when they defeated the home side by one point.

One of the undoubted highlights of the year for the club was the staging of the first ever senior hurling championship game in the Polo Grounds. Club members made a big effort to ensure that all was ready for the big game between Tullaroan and Erin's Own and patrons were not to be disappointed. The crowd was probably the biggest at any club game in Kilkenny during the year and the club received glowing praise for the arrangements for the game.

Further development work was undertaken at the Polo Grounds during the year and the facility is now one of the finest in Kilkenny.

The club had a number of notable achievements on the inter-county scene during the year. Canice Brennan gave a great display when helping Kilkenny to victory in the All-Ireland minor final. Philip Carroll was a substitute on the team. Both players played significant roles for St. Kieran's earlier in the year in the winning of the All-Ireland colleges' title. Club member Nickey Brennan also had a year to remember when he helped guide the Kilkenny under-21 team to an exciting victory over arch rivals Tipperary in the All-Ireland final.

## BENNETTSBRIDGE

ALTHOUGH the Bennettsbridge adult teams failed to make any notable impact in hurling or football at championship level during the year, the under-14 hurling side bridged a forty-six year gap when they reached the county final in Roinn C.

Their first outing was against Carrickshock where they scored three points but were shocked when the opposition goaled in the final moments to draw.

Victories over Slieverue and Dicksboro followed and in the game against Cloneen there was a marked improvement in this young side. They had a good win over James Stephens and then it was on to the semi-final against Tullaroan.

Tullaroan showed great character, but the 'Bridge boys pulled back the early deficit to achieve a memorable draw. The replay was a real test of fitness, skill and ingenuity, with the crowd on their toes to the finish. At the finish it was the 'Bridge boys who emerged victorious. The final against Glenmore was a big disappointment for the young men from Bennettsbridge, with the Southerners the dominant team. However, even in defeat they were a credit to their club.

Tributes must be paid to the team's joint managers, Gerry Freyne and Martin Furlong, who put in trojan work with these young players during the year. The Bennettsbridge club is confident that this commitment on the part of the managers and the young players will reap handsome benefits for the club in future years.

Club members won a number of awards on the playing fields during the year:

John Conlon — All-Ireland Under-21 medal.

Jimmy Lennon and Liam Simpson — All-Ireland Junior medals.

Niall Skehan — All-Ireland Colleges medal with St. Kieran's.

Michael Cullen, David Cullen and Eoin Cahalane — Leinster medals with Thomastown Vocational School.

A sad note for the club was the death in August of Very Rev. Patrick Bergin, P.P.,

a former President of the club and a staunch supporter of the G.A.A. *Go nearna Dia trocaire ar a n-anam.*

## GRAIGUE-BALLYCALLAN

THE death took place during the year of Bob Woodgate, one of the stalwarts of the 1949 senior county winning side. Bob was regarded as one of the best corner-backs in hurling in his day and the late Jimmy Walsh of Carrickshock said years later that it was only the amount of talent available at the time that kept him off the county team. He played with the Kilkenny junior team, winning a Leinster medal in 1939. They lost the All-Ireland final to Galway after a replay.

Bob won the first of two junior county medals with Ballyline in 1938 and his second with Graigue in 1946. To show his versatility, he was goalkeeper on the 1946 winning team. He won a Byrne Cup medal and a senior championship medal in 1949.

A great judge of hurling, he always looked at the skill factor in a player's make-up. He also played in the junior final of 1944 with Danesfort, but they were beaten in the final by the Rower. May he rest in peace.

Club members created many firsts during the year: Noel Maher became the first player from the parish to captain an All-Ireland winning side. In addition, he became the first player in history to play on three Croke Cup winning sides. Pat Purcell and Conor Manogue also played starring roles for St. Kieran's. Pat Purcell collected an All-Ireland minor medal in September with Kilkenny.

Padraig McCluskey helped U.C.C. to win the Fitzgibbon Cup. This was the first occasion since 1947 that a Fitzgibbon medal came to the parish. In that year Nicholas Purcell and Bill Cahill helped U.C.C. to victory.

Adrian Ronan and John Teehan collected All-Ireland Under-21 medals with Kilkenny in September — the first ever to come to the parish. Adrian Ronan also won a National League medal with Kilkenny earlier in the year and in doing so he became the first member of the local club to achieve such an honour. Other parish natives who won National League medals were Paddy Dowling in 1933, John Teehan in 1966 and Matt Ruth in 1976.

Tomás Comerford helped North Kilkenny to win the Leinster minor hurling league, while Ger Ronan, Denis Byrne and Eddie O'Dwyer were members of the North Kilkenny Under-16 team which won the Leinster blitz.

Damien Cleere and Alan Hoyne were on both the county Under-14 hurling and football teams during the year. Damien Cleere was voted the 'player of the



tournament" in the Tony Forristal Memorial tournament in Waterford.

Camogie players from the parish were also very much to the fore in 1990 with many brilliant individual performances. Sinéad Millea captained St. Brigid's College (Callan) to win the All-Ireland Junior Colleges camogie final. Other club players on the team were Margaret Comerford, Olive O'Sullivan, Olive Holohan and Joanne Kenny.

Deirdre Malone, Marie Fitzpatrick, Frances Rothwell and Breda Cahill played in the All-Ireland senior camogie final, helping the Noresiders to win their sixth successive title.

Orla Ryall, playing in her third final, and Margaret Comerford were members of the Kilkenny minor camogie team which lost the All-Ireland final to Tipperary. The loss through injury of club player Sinéad Millea was badly felt by Kilkenny.

Tracey Millea, Mary McGrath and Kay Dunphy played on the Kilkenny Junior camogie team which lost the National League final to Kildare. Once again the injured Sinéad Millea was badly missed.

Mary Ryall, Mary McGrath and Orla Ryall helped the Presentation Convent (Kilkenny) to regain the Leinster Colleges senior camogie title after a lapse of twenty years.

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## JOHN LOCKES

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THE past year could best be described as the year "the Lockes" nearly got there. At the start of the Intermediate campaign enthusiasm was good and hopes were high — after all, the club had spent 1988 consolidating their newly won Intermediate status. So with their new trainer/coach, Fr. Tommy Murphy, they set out on the "road to riches" against Mooncoin down in Piltown. They went within two points of the eventual champions.

They beat Piltown by the narrowest of margins in the next round and then on to Bennettsbridge to play O'Loughlin's. This was probably the game that sounded the death knell of the club in the Intermediate championship for 1990. The Lockes that night did everything right, but could not score. They drove at least twenty-four wides on the evening from the easiest of positions and with that kind of wastage defeat was inevitable.

The fourth round saw the team secure a comprehensive victory over Tullagher. Then it was crunch time in Hugginstown against Thomastown. The winners would qualify for the play-off stages of the championship. On the evening the Thomastown lads just about made it by the narrowest of margins.

The John Lockes minor hurlers made a promising opening to their league campaign but faded and failed to make

the knock-out stages. They failed at the Southern semi-final stages in the championship having defeated Thomastown in the first round. A number of the team figured on the Soffth Kilkenny team which participated in the Leinster Minor League.

The Under-16 team never got going, being beaten by Graiguenamanagh in the first round of the championship.

Probably the most successful team in the club were the Under-14 lads. They beat strong teams from Castlecomer, Kilmacow and Paulstown to reach the county semi-final. Here they ran up against a very strong St. Martin's team in St. John's Park. The smaller Callan boys gave a great display before eventually losing by four points. Most of the team will be under-age again next year.

Paul Morrissey won the county Féile na nGael skills title during the year and went on to represent Kilkenny at the National Finals in Thurles.

Declan Roche from the Club was a member of the Kilkenny Under-21 team that won the All-Ireland championship this year. This was the first Under-21 medal to come to the club.

Another first for the club during the year was the winning of a National League medal by John Power.

The loss of former Kilkenny senior player Liam Egan was badly felt by the club during the year. Liam emigrated to Australia.

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## O'LOUGHLIN GAELS

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THE Intermediate team had an excellent year, just losing out at the semi-final stage to the eventual winners of the championship — Mooncoin. A poor start cost O'Loughlin's the game but they played some excellent hurling in the second half. In the closing stages it was anyone's game but the Southerners just held out for a county final clash with Thomastown.

The Special Junior team had a memorable year, reaching the county final where their opponents were Piltown. The first game ended in a draw. The team's outstanding display was against a fancied Tullaroan in the Northern final.

The club's minors made a welcome return to form before eventually bowing out to city neighbours Dicksboro. The game took place in very windy conditions with O'Loughlin's gaining an early advantage. However, their arch-rivals produced the better second half display to run out winners and a county final clash with Graiguenamanagh.

The Under-21 team gave a very poor display before losing out to Dicksboro.

Club players won many honours with various Kilkenny teams during the year: Johnny Holohan had a great game at corner-back with the Kilkenny Under-21

team in their victory over Tipperary. Barry Power, Michael Holohan and Andy Comerford played prominent roles with the Kilkenny minor hurling team in their All-Ireland victory. Both Andy and Barry were also members of the St. Kieran's College team which won the Colleges' All-Ireland title earlier in the year. Michael Cleere was a member of the Kilkenny National League winning side which won the title in New York.

During the year the club lost a dedicated and devoted member with the death of Mrs. Catherine Skehan. Mrs. Skehan was mother of former O'Loughlin's player and current team mentor, John Skehan. She will be sadly missed by all club members.

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## JAMES STEPHENS

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PLAYERS from the James Stephens club won many honours during 1990 with various teams. These were: Jimmy Conroy and Declan Forristal won All-Ireland under-21 medals with Kilkenny; Philip Larkin won a minor All-Ireland medal with Kilkenny; Colleges All-Ireland medals were won by Philip Larkin, Tobias White, Clive Kenny and Eugene Somers when playing with St. Kieran's.

The successful North Kilkenny under-16 team had Francis Cantwell (captain), Liam Smith, Vincent O'Brien, Shane Doyle and Eugene Somers on the team and fellow clubman Timmy Grogan was a selector. Jody Dwyer, the James Stephens senior player, played a significant role for Tallis Brothers who won an historic first Inter-Firm Junior All-Ireland title against Markey Brothers from Nenagh.

During 1990 a number of loyal clubmen and supporters went to their eternal reward.

In March, Peter Conroy died suddenly at his home in Beech Park, having just returned home from Nowlan Park where Kilkenny and Tipperary had played an exciting draw in the National Hurling League. A native of Laois, Peter was father of Jimmy Conroy, the goalkeeper on this year's successful Kilkenny under-21 team. Peter was a leading figure on the James Stephens Field Committee.

In June, Paddy Foley from St. Fiacre's Place died after a long illness. Paddy was a member of the club's 1929 championship winning teams in both junior hurling and minor hurling and football. Mr. Foley was a life-long member of the St. Patrick's Brass and Reed Band. He played as a drummer for years and then took over as a hard-working Chairman. Along with his great friend Jimmy Morrissey, he was instrumental in the formation of the majorettes for the band in 1970.

A few short months after the death of



Paddy Foley came the death of another member of the 1929 team, Mick Carroll from the Waterford Road.

On a happier note, former Kilkenny stalwart Phil "Fan" Larkin created a record of his own by playing for the senior team in the Carrickshock tournament in Hugginstown. Due to a mix-up Fan was asked to play in goal and he duly obliged. This meant that the genial Fan had played senior hurling for the James Stephens club in five decades. And it was no fault of Fan's that his team lost as he kept all attacks at bay with the final score Mooncoin 0-9, James Stephens 0-8.

The Larkin family also created another piece of history during the year when Philip won an All-Ireland medal with Kilkenny. He thus became the third generation of the family to win All-Ireland medals with Kilkenny.

The club's junior hurling team became the first holders of the Paddy Cahill memorial cup when they narrowly defeated the Blacks and Whites in an exciting game in Nowlan Park in October.

THE James Stephen's club extends best wishes for a full recovery to Bobby Brannigan following his serious operation during the year. Mr. Brannigan was a prominent player with the club during the '30s and '40s.

## DICKSBORO

THE beginning was back in 1909, but this year the Dicksboro club set itself up for the challenges of the new century and beyond, when their new playing fields and clubhouse was officially opened by Seán Ó Dubhlainn, Uachtarán Cumann Lúthchleas Gael, on Sunday, 3rd June.

The clubhouse includes a meeting room, kitchen, games room and a lounge bar, facilities which will help to improve the administration of the club and will also provide an ideal venue for members past and present to meet for social occasions. The development also includes four dressing rooms, shower facilities and a referee's room.

The 'Boro club has made a valuable contribution to the growth of the G.A.A. in Kilkenny since being founded at the beginning of the century by Bill Lennon.

On September 20, 1980, the then Chairman, Jimmy McGarry, called a special meeting of all members and supporters in the Metropole Hotel. Sixty-five people turned up — on the agenda was a massive £100,000 development project.

There and then it was decided to proceed with the venture but what the willing people didn't know was that by the time things would come to fruition the costs would have more than doubled.



Pictured at the official opening of the Dicksboro G.A.A. Complex. **From left:** Tony Dunning (Committee), Tom Cantwell (T.C. Tyres — Sponsor), Joe Delaney (Kiely's Bread — Sponsor), Seamus Fitzpatrick (Committee), John Dowling (G.A.A. President), Brian Desmond (Bank of Ireland, Parliament Street — Sponsor), Ned Buggy (Club Secretary) and Seamus Tynan (Tynan Electric — Sponsor and Club vice-chairman).



Pictured at the official opening of the new Dicksboro G.A.A. Complex. **From Left:** Paddy Buggy, Chairman Kilkenny County Board, Eugene Begley, Chairman Dicksboro G.A.A. Club and John Dowling, President, G.A.A. who performed the official opening ceremony.

It was hard, there were times when it was a downright struggle, but the club survived and now the outstanding debt is within reason.

Current Chairman Eugene Begley, and fellow officers Seamus Tynan and Seamus Fitzpatrick, vice-chairmen; Anna Walton and Tony Dunning, joint treasurers, and Ned Buggy, secretary, never allowed interest in the project to flag.

And while all this building was going on the club in general was growing furiously. A thriving juvenile section has guaranteed the flow of players through to adult teams.

The new clubhouse surely stands as a fitting monument to all those members who down the years played their part.

## THREecastles

ALTHOUGH success again eluded the club during the year, it could have been so very different if the team had only taken some of the chances that presented themselves in the various games in the Northern championship.

After an early five-point victory over Ballyragget, they lost to O'Loughlin's by a point in the next round. A draw with Cloneen in the third round kept the team on course, but they slipped up again in the next round losing to Galmoy by the narrowest of margins. A heavy defeat by Lisdowney in the last round ended the team's hopes of advancing to the latter stages of the championship.

Good weather and a tremendous amount of voluntary effort made the annual Pattern of the Dinan festival another outstanding success. In conjunction with the Pattern Festival, the club also held a highly successful tournament for the Rock Cup. A number of local teams took part with some exciting games which attracted big attendances. In a well-contested final, Graigue-Ballycallan just pipped last year's winners, St. Martin's.

After their very enjoyable visit to Ballycastle, Co. Antrim, last year, the club went North West to Co. Donegal for this year's outing. The party were based in Ballyshannon where the Donegal hospitality knew no bounds. A match was played against the local Aodh Ruadh club. Although the standard of hurling in



Donegal may not be very high, the enthusiasm displayed by the local club was commendable. Another striking feature of the visit was the beautiful playing surface which the club developed in recent years. It was indeed a credit to all concerned.

The club's annual Dinner Dance in early November was the social highlight of the year. During the evening a presentation was made to the surviving members of the 1940 junior championship side — 50 years ago. The occasion was particularly nostalgic with friends meeting for the first time in many years.

The surviving members of the 1940 team are: Joe Hennessy, Lar Neary, Jack Donegan, Tom Shortall, Willie Kerwick, Mick Egan, Jack Cleere, Jack Egan, Dan Egan, Tommy Murphy and John Dowling. The presentations were made by Mr. Ned Moran, Chairman Northern Board G.A.A.

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## SLIEVERUE

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**A** THIRTY-THREE year gap was bridged for the Slieverue club when Michael Walsh and Brian McGovern won All-Ireland medals with the victorious Kilkenny Junior and Under-21 teams respectively. Not since 1957 has a Slieverue man played on an All-Ireland winning team. In that year the club had three representatives on the Kilkenny senior team which defeated Waterford in a memorable final. Paddy Buggy and Mick Walsh played on the half-back line while Dick Rockett was at right half-forward.

Michael Walsh, playing at corner-forward in the Junior All-Ireland against Tipperary, had a dream game, scoring three goals and one point. He may not have realised it at the time, but he was avenging a defeat which his father, Willie, experienced at the hands of Tipperary sixty years previously in the Junior final of 1930.

Brian McGovern was midfielder this year on one of the best Under-21 teams to represent the county for years. Brian was superb all year, particularly in the All-Ireland semi-final against Galway where he could do no wrong.

The club and parish are proud that our two representatives played such a worthwhile part in these two significant championship successes.

A sad loss to the club during the year was the death of Michael Ryan (Snr.), Peafield, Slieverue. Michael had a lifelong love of hurling and he maintained an interest in the progress of the Kilkenny and Slieverue teams until his last illness.

Mr. Ryan became Secretary of the Slieverue club in 1920, all of seventy years ago, and held that position until 1932. At that stage his career took him to Dublin and he became involved with the

Kickhams club. When he resigned the secretaryship of Slieverue the club presented him with a watch in appreciation of his services.

The Ryan family have had a deep involvement with the G.A.A. Michael's brother, Willie, was also a prominent member of the Slieverue club in the '30s and '40s. He served as player, selector and committee member. Michael Ryan's son, Michael (Jnr.), has continued that interest. While living in Kilkenny he acted as Secretary of the Under-16 Board in 1970/71. Since he moved to Slieverue he has been closely associated with the local club.

Michael Ryan (Snr.) has now joined many of his team mates and hurling friends in the great beyond. May they all rest in peace.

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## MUCKALEE

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**T**HE highlight of the year for the Muckalee Football Club was the regaining of the County Senior Football title when the team had a great victory over reigning champions Glenmore in October. The team gave a great exhibition in the final with some lovely flowing football and fine individual scores. The hard preparation under trainer Ciarain Hayes and the selectors was instrumental in achieving victory.

In the Leinster club championship, Muckalee had to make the long journey to Louth to play the local champions Cooley Kickhams. This well known club were expecting an easy victory, but the Muckalee men had other ideas and gave a badly needed boost to the fortunes of Kilkenny football with a spirited display.

All who attended the game spoke of how unlucky Muckalee were to lose by two points to their more illustrious opponents.

The club's under-age teams also gave a number of great displays during the year and the future of Muckalee football is in good hands with these young players.

The club has now almost completed the development of its own grounds in Muckalee. The new pitch and dressing rooms will be opened next summer. This will leave the parish in the nice position of having two excellently equipped pitches.

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## ST. MARTIN'S

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**I**N 1990 St. Martin's failed for the first time for quite a while to capture a championship at any grade. Nevertheless, the year provided some great moments for the club, particularly the winning of the Senior Football championship by sister-club Muckalee, and the subsequent outstanding performance in the Leinster club championship.

Injuries to key players and a bit of ill luck told against the club's senior team in this year's championship. However, the team did show better form in reaching the Byrne Cup Open Draw Final where they lost out to city side James Stephens. The team did attain some success with wins over old rivals Buffers Alley in the Ballinabranna tournament and over Erin's Own in a tournament played in Coon. The junior team played some great games but were unfortunate to lose some key players to the senior team. However, they finished the year in style with wins in the Cloneen and St. Martin's Junior Hurling tournaments.

The minor hurling team found the going rather tough in the Roinn 'A' grade. The Under-16 and Schools teams won a number of games, with promising players showing up on both teams. The Under-14 team reached the Roinn 'B' County Final where they lost out to Dunnamaggin. They did, however, have some consolation when they won the Tara Ryan tournament in Castlecomer, beating the host club, Erin's Own.

1990 saw Eamonn Morrissey become the first player from the club to win the B & I award for his display for Kilkenny in the Home National Hurling League Final against Wexford. Indeed, his displays for Kilkenny during 1990 were a source of great pride to all involved with the St. Martin's club. The displays of Dermot Lawlor with the victorious Kilkenny minor hurling team were acclaimed far and wide. His great skill and scoring ability marks him down as a player with a great future who appears set for a long reign with Kilkenny.

The past year also saw great progress being made with the development of the pitch at Coon. The pitch has been reseeded and the building of dressing rooms completed. Both the Coon development and the other development by our sister club at Muckalee will provide up to date recreational facilities and it is hoped that the youth of the parish will make full use of them.

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## STARS OF THE PAST IN ACTION

**KILKENNY** and Wexford stars of the past turned out for three exhibition games during the year to raise funds for charities in both Kilkenny and Wexford. The games between the 1968 All-Ireland winning Wexford team and the 1969 All-Ireland winning Kilkenny team proved a major attraction and all the players contributed to the spirit of the occasion.

**The Kilkenny team of 1969 was:** Ollie Walsh, Ted Carroll, Pa Dillon, Jim Tracy, Willie Murphy, Pat Henderson, Martin Coogan, Paddy Moran, Mick Lawlor, Pat Kavanagh, Pat Delaney, Eddie Keher (Capt.), Joe Millea, Martin Brennan, Tommy Murphy. *Subs:* Jim Lynch, Seamus Cleere, Sean Buckley, Noel Skehan, Claus Dunne, Frank Cummins.

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**NORTH KILKENNY UNDER-16 TEAM — Winners Leinster Blitz 1990**

**Back Row:** Joe Phelan (Selector), Fergal Cantwell, Liam Corcoran, Declan Phelan, Denis Byrne, Adrian Stone, Mick Fitzgerald, Ger Ronan, Edward Drea, Philip Holohan, Martin Carey, Dermot Maher, Ciarain Connery, Richie Stone (Selector). **Front Row:** Timmy Grogan (Selector - partly hidden), Sam Morrissey, Liam Smith, Eugene Somers, James Phelan, Francis Cantwell, Shane Doyle, Eddie O'Dwyer, Vinny O'Brien, Sean Foley. **Mascots:** Paddy Phelan and Declan Byrne.

# North Kilkenny Blitz the Rest

**T**HE South Kilkenny Under-16 team won the Leinster Blitz in Enniscorthy in 1989. This year the North Kilkenny boys retained the title for the Noreside at the St. Vincent's G.A.A. grounds in Dublin.

In the first game, the Noresiders beat Dublin No. 1 by 3-5 to 2-1. Scorers for North Kilkenny were Denis Byrne (3-2) and Dermot Maher (0-3). The next outing was against Offaly, and the Black and Amber won by 4-8 to 1-3. Scorers for the team in this game were Denis Byrne (3-3), Dermot Maher (1-2), Fergal Cantwell (0-2) and Vinny O'Brien (0-1).

The North Kilkenny side got a jolt in the next round when they were beaten by Wexford by 1-9 to 2-2. The Kilkenny side found it hard to get scores in this tie and their marksmen were James Phelan (1-0), Denis Byrne (1-0), and Fergal Cantwell (0-2). Despite this defeat, the Noresiders had gained their place in the semi-final.

Here there were drawn against South Kilkenny, the holders of the trophy. The North side won by 3-6 to 0-3. Scorers for the North Kilkenny side were Denis Byrne (1-3), Vinny O'Brien (1-0), Martin Carey (1-0), Ned Drea (0-2) and Ger Ronan (0-1).

The North Kilkenny boys were determined to turn the tables on the Model County in the final and in the end ran out winners by 2-6 to 2-2. Scorers in the final were Dermot Maher (1-1), Liam Smith (1-1), Denis Byrne (0-2), Ger Ronan (0-1), Martin Carey (0-1) and Vinny O'Brien (0-1).

The selectors with the North Kilkenny side were Timmy Grogan (James Stephens), Joe Phelan (Dicksboro) and Richie Stone (St. Patrick's, Ballyragget).

**North Kilkenny Team:** Frances Cantwell (Capt. James Stephens), Declan Phelan (Dicksboro), Philip Holohan (O'Loughlins), Adrian Stone (St. Patrick's, Ballyragget), Shane Doyle (James Stephens), Michael Fitzgerald (Clara), Eddie O'Dwyer (Graigue-Ballycallan), Ned Drea (Barrow Rangers), Ger Ronan (Graigue-Ballycallan), Dermot Mahet (Barrow Rangers), James Phelan

(Dicksboro), Vinny O'Brien (James Stephens), Liam Smith (James Stephens), Denis Byrne (Graigue-Ballycallan), Martin Carey (Young Irelands). **Subs:** Fergal Cantwell (Dicksboro), Ciarain Cooney (Conahy Shamrocks), Sam Morrissey (Dicksboro), Liam Corcoran (Galmoy), Eugene Somers (James Stephens), Sean Foley (St. Patrick's, Ballyragget).



**CALLAN Under-13B** **Back row:** T. Kirwan, Conleth Nolan, J. Norris, F. Hennessy, D. Nolan, G. Tobin, Brother Hanley, S. Phelan, J. P. Corcoran, P. J. Cody, M. Hennessy. **Front row:** D. Doheny, D. Bourke, K. Fitzpatrick, C. Vaughan, A. Power, B. McCormack, J. Gormley, S. Byrne, D. Burke, M. Dunne.



**CASTLECOMER - Runners-up Under-13 Football - Roinn B - 1990**





**ST. LACHTAIN'S — Féile na nGael Champions — 1990**

**Back Row:** Patricia Dalton, Catriona Delaney, Margaret Kavanagh, Elaine Shortt, Teresa Doyle, Amanda Bowden, Brian Waldron (Trainer/Coach), Breda Dooley. **Middle Row:** Ann Wall, Sinead Hurley, Deirdre Byrne, Sinead Costello (captain), Kathleen Ryan, Margaret Ryan, Margaret Dooley, Catherine Anderson. **Front Row:** Ann Marie Butler, Sinead Butler.

# Double Féile success for St. Lachtain's

ON a memorable Sunday in June St. Lachtain's camogie players brought off a fabulous double in Semple Stadium by retaining their Féile na nGael title. In 1989 Freshford became the first Kilkenny team to win a Féile title when they emerged victorious in Portlaoise.

This year the action centred on Tipperary and Drom and Inch were the very hospitable hosts of the St. Lachtain's girls. Freshford beat their hosts in the first game by 7-1 to 0-0. The second game against Wolfe Tones of Shannon (Clare) was a hard fought encounter from start to finish. Catriona Delaney's crashing goal from thirty yards was the only score of the game. In the third match Freshford beat Holycross by 5-2 to 0-0.

Freshford now found themselves in the semi-final against Dublin champions, Ballyboden. Ballyboden led by 1-0 to 0-0 at half time. Sinead Costelloe narrowed the gap with two points for St. Lachtain's. With less than a minute to go Freshford were still trailing by that solitary point when a long range free by Sinead Costelloe was centred by Patricia Dalton and Margaret Kavanagh scored one of the great goals of the tournament.

In the final Freshford played Killeigh from Cork. It was generally agreed that of the finals played in Semple Stadium that day, it was the best and most exciting of the lot. At the end of full time the sides were level with the score Freshford 2-1, Killeigh 0-7. St. Lachtain's dominated extra time and eventually finished champions once again by 4-1 to 0-7.

Kathleen Ryan in the Freshford goal brought off many brilliant saves and the fact that only one goal went past her in

the entire Féile says a lot for her prowess between the posts. The Freshford defence of Patricia Dalton, Breda and Margaret Dooley and Sinead Costelloe were magnificent. Sinead Hurley, Elaine Shortt and Catriona Delaney proved the perfect midfield trio. They displayed tremendous energy and no little skill.

In attack Freshford had a trump card in Margaret Kavanagh who scored all four goals in the final. The half forward line of Ann Wall, Teresa Doyle and Catherine Anderson were always busy and got some great scores. Ann Marie Butler, Deirdre Byrne, Sinead Butler and Amanda Bowden also played a very important part in this great achievement.

Five members of the successful team

were winning their second Féile title in-a-row — Margaret Kavanagh, Patricia Dalton, Sinead Costelloe, Kathleen Ryan and Catriona Delaney.

Féile na nGael is a great experience for any young player, whether they win or lose. The Freshford girls arrived at The Ragg on Thursday. In between playing the games, the hosts brought the Freshford girls on tours of Holycross and the Rock of Cashel. On Sunday mass was celebrated for all Féile participants and then all teams marched in the monster parade through the streets of Thurles. The Freshford girls made some lasting friendships while representing Kilkenny at Féile and this after all is what the game is all about.



**Double Féile na nGael winners for St. Lachtain's in 1989 and 1990**

**From left:** Margaret Kavanagh, Patricia Dalton, Sinead Costelloe, Kathleen Ryan, Catriona Delaney.



# Dermot's departure shocks Kilkenny G.A.A. followers

*By Nickey Brennan*

**T**HE abrupt end of Dermot Healy's reign as supremo of the Kilkenny senior hurling team took many by surprise. The Kilkenny County Board at a meeting on September 24th turned down his request for a change in the process of picking the selectors. Despite intense pressure to change his mind, there was no way back for Dermot Healy.

The merits and demerits of Dermot Healy's proposal have been well debated. There was never an instant guarantee of success, which in Kilkenny GAA circles is measured only in terms of an All-Ireland Senior Hurling championship victory. How could we get rid of one of the country's top coaches? The public were in full cry. But democracy ruled and that was that. Exit Dermot Healy.

Dermot Healy's first taste of coaching success came in the famed St. Kieran's College hurling nursery. Here he helped to fashion some of Kilkenny's finest hurlers who were eventually to play a big part in some of his subsequent coaching highs and lows.

## **MINOR TITLE IN 1972**

His first inter-county success was with the Kilkenny minor hurlers in 1972. His reputation was now established. In the mid-Seventies he played no small part in helping his club, Conahy Shamrocks, to clinch a long overdue Junior Hurling Championship.

It's often said that a prophet is never accepted in his own country, but Conahy were glad of Dermot Healy. The club had so often promised to deliver only to fall close to the finishing line. Healy's approach with the players, young and old, brought a new thinking to the game in the parish and suddenly players produced displays that they previously only dreamed of.

The attaining of senior status by the club the following year was the icing on the cake. The Conahy club was now up with the big boys and for Dermot Healy it was sweet success. Achieving victory for his own parish team meant a lot to him.

During his own playing career with Conahy the team came close on many occasions to achieving the breakthrough. His stylish half back displays brought him to the notice of the Kilkenny Junior Hurling selectors. Perhaps, had Conahy been operating at a higher level in those



*A tense looking Diarmuid Healy during the Home League Final against Wexford.*

days Dermot Healy might even have tasted senior fare.

## **GLORY DAYS WITH OFFALY**

After the Conahy success in the mid Seventies the phone began ringing in Dermot Healy's house with on-going regularity. He was a wanted man.

Offaly eventually made the strongest case and so Dermot Healy began a reign that would eventually bring two All-Ireland titles and numerous Leinster championships to his adopted county.

Offaly in many ways were like his own parish team, Conahy. They promised so much, but their play lacked the skill and finesse required to capture championships. Healy got to work quickly with Offaly, and although success did not come immediately, the players began to realise the new approach would work.

The great 'plan' was put in place. The repetitive attention to improving the players skills would eventually pay off.

Players were asked to play in positions usually alien to them. Dermot's coaching focussed clearly on each player's attitude. There was little of the fire and brimstone associated with other well known coaches. It was all part of the process of bringing Offaly to the promised land. The first taste of glory would come in 1980 and against of all counties, Kilkenny. How ironic.

Dermot Healy always had a great admiration for Kilkenny hurling but his loyalties now lay with Offaly and their Leinster Final success in 1980 was phase one of the 'plan' completed.

The subsequent defeat in the All-Ireland semi-final only served to make the players more determined to go one further the following year. And go further they did, when, on a glorious September afternoon they duly defeated their neighbours Galway to record a famous victory.

Healy was worshipped in his adopted



county. The 'plan' had been completed. Surely Offaly would now be satisfied and let Kilkenny, Cork etc., get on with the task of competing in and winning All-Irelands. No way.

Offaly were now to be respected. They were a match for anyone. At last the Leinster championship was more than a two horse race and the games of subsequent years would even push the more renowned Munster Final into second place.

#### **KILKENNY HALT OFFALY'S GALLOP**

The Kilkenny team of 1982 and 1983 would eventually put a stop to Offaly's gallop for a couple of years. This team had a little bit of everything, not least a fierce determination to succeed. Led by a brilliant coach and tactician, Pat Henderson, they could not wait for the chance to get a crack at Offaly.

The All-Ireland victories of 1982 and 1983 were deeply cherished by the Noreside and placed Kilkenny on the top once again. Surely there was no way back for Offaly now. It would be Kilkenny and Wexford again in Leinster! But Dermot Healy and Offaly had other ideas.

#### **GLORY DAYS ARE BACK**

Offaly had been severely chastised in 1982 and 1983 but refused to lie down. A new 'plan' was put in place.

The exertions of the double League and All-Ireland victories eventually told on Kilkenny and Wexford were typically unpredictable.

Offaly took full advantage of the situation and notched up another Leinster Championship success. Although they eventually lost out rather heavily to Cork in the Thurles Centenary final, the hunger was back in the team and the disappointment of losing that final had a profound effect on Dermot Healy and his team. A victory next year seemed impossible. How could Offaly recover from such a hiding?

Well the prophets of doom were ignored and the glory days of 1981 were repeated in September 1985 with Galway again the victims. The second 'plan' had been completed. Offaly had every right to be placed with the best.

The first victory in 1981 was sweet but the 1985 victory was even sweeter. Offaly had achieved a second success against what many termed were impossible odds. Dermot Healy was at the top — again. Where could he go from here? Where was the next challenge?

#### **DERMOT COMES HOME**

Dermot Healy's departure from Offaly was amicable. He had achieved all he had set out to do and he was ready for a new challenge.



*Success At Last! — Dermot Healy savours victory over Wexford in the Home League Final.*

After a short rest from the rigours of inter-county fare the call would eventually come from his native Kilkenny. His appointment as coach/manager to the Kilkenny team was a proud moment for him. How he would love to win an All-Ireland title for his own county.

The 'plan' was put in place for Kilkenny. The Leinster final opponents for Kilkenny in 1989 were Offaly. Surely Dermot Healy knew these players inside and out. He knew their weaknesses and flaws. They couldn't succeed!

Well succeed they did and using the very same skills taught to them by Dermot Healy, they notched another Leinster title. This bitter blow made Dermot Healy all the more determined to succeed in 1990.

A bright league campaign resulting in eventual victory at last brought a smile to Dermot Healy's face. The 'plan' for

Kilkenny was also working well. Roll on Offaly and the Leinster championship. But alas disaster struck! What the hell went wrong. Kilkenny were slaughtered. It mattered little that Offaly went no further.

Kilkenny, under Dermot Healy's reign, had now lost for two years in a row to Offaly. How could this happen!

Dermot Healy wanted a change. He wanted his own selectors — no disrespect to the county champions. Other counties were trying it and achieving success. Why not Kilkenny. We had nothing to lose. It would break down the much talked about parochialism.

The Co. Board meeting on September 24th decided against Healy's request. As events turned out the request required a two thirds majority at the meeting to succeed. It failed. Exit Dermot Healy. How long will he have to wait for the next phone call.



# Consulting the Doctor: Bill Cuddihy on injuries, impersonations and life with the Kilkenny hurlers

By Enda McEvoy (Kilkenny Standard)

**I**T was all very well for Kieran Cuddihy — 30 years or so as team doctor with the Kilkenny hurlers, and ten All-Ireland senior titles as job satisfaction. Bill Cuddihy, following in his dad's stethoscope steps, has been there only three years. But, like the rest of the county, he's getting a little impatient waiting for the Black and Amber's 24th All-Ireland win!

"I'm a supporter first and foremost", the Parliament street GP admits. "And since this is as close as I'm going to get to hurling for Kilkenny — at minor and under-21 level, anyway! — it's fantastic being involved as the team doctor".

"The job does take away from your enjoyment of the game as a spectator sport and sometimes it's hard to balance the two: watching the match and watching the players. Any doctor who is involved with teams will tell you the same, that you have to balance your responsibility to the players with your enthusiasm for the match."

But 1990 was easy to enjoy. The league victory, the New York trip, the juniors, the under-21's, the minors. An excellent year — apart from the Offaly match!

Sweet recollections to add to Bill's personal memory bank of glory days going back to the 'sixties. With their father doing the needful for the county teams battered and bruised, he and his brothers were "brought up going to matches all over the place".

1963 was Bill's first All-Ireland and Keher, Martin Coogan ("I always thought he was a fantastic player") and Ollie Walsh and Tom Walsh his heroes. A league win of the time in Nenagh particularly sticks out in his mind as a great game, satisfying in an era when Kilkenny rarely beat Tipp. The year — he's not a hundred per cent certain of — "the winter of 1964-'65, I think" — but the final score he's never forgotten, Kilkenny 7-10, Tipperary 5-7.

The years went by, the times they changed, but the Black and Amber kept winning All-Irelands, Kieran Cuddihy kept doing his doctor number for them, and Bill kept going to the games. Came the summer of 1982 and Kieran

concluded that after nearly three decades of service he was getting a bit long in the tooth to be running around pitches tending to injured heroes. Enter Dr. Bill Cuddihy.

## DEBUT OUTING

The Leinster semi-final hammering of Westmeath was his first outing as team doctor, the provincial semi-final against Offaly his second (remember Matt Ruth's famous was-it-over-the-line or wasn't-it goal? Damien Martin certainly does!) Then he went off to Scotland to work for 12 months, with brother Johnny taking over as Doc in his absence. The two of them shared the job through 1985 and 1986 before Bill went solo three years ago.

At this stage he's become a regular fixture on the Kilkenny sideline during games, and attends a number of — though by no means all — training sessions. "In the lead up to championship matches I'd go along to training, especially if I'm asked and if there's a player I'd be worried about", he explains.

"A player won't come through the year without taking one or two knocks, so I get to treat them at one time or another, and some lads a lot more than others — Dan O'Neill and D. J. Carey for example had a succession of injuries all through this year.

You watch them in training to see how the injury reacts, you give individual tests for the individual's injury to see how he holds up and when it comes to match day there's always one or two players you're watching to see how they're coping. Which does diminish my enjoyment of the game, but then I'm not really there to enjoy it".

"Sometimes you're proved wrong. D. J. in the under-21 final, to take one instance. I didn't feel he'd last the sixty minutes, and the selectors took a gamble in playing him. But by putting him in at corner-forward they made sure his involvement was intermittent — though highly effective. He lasted the pace fine, whereas had he played in any other position he wouldn't have. I didn't mind being proved wrong in that case!"

That under-21 team's praises he's only too willing to sing. A lovely bunch of lads and a side of terrific promise, he says. "They showed great heart, great character, great fight. And the fact that they won the All-Ireland this year, when next year would be their year, speaks volumes — if they keep their heads they should retain the title in 1991".

The minors gave him endless pleasure, too, especially their thrilling semi-final clash with Galway. "They were lucky in their early matches but they certainly didn't deserve to lose in Tullamore that night, although Galway could count themselves unfortunate.

"The longer the year went on the better the minors got, and they finally arrived for the replay against Cork with the right combination — Canice Brennan was tremendous in the second half, Diarmuid Lawlor is obviously a fine prospect, and most of the defenders are under age again for next year".

## GOOD FUND

The Bill Cuddihy award for "match I most enjoyed in 1990" is a three-way tie between the All-Ireland under-21 final, the junior decider (also against Tipperary) and the aforementioned minor semi-final against Galway. Then there was New York.

An extremely enjoyable trip, he smiles with a hint of understatement. Much of the fun was provided by Bill Deegan, a fervent Kilkenny supporter who hails from the Castle Gardens area of the city and who opened an insurance brokerage office in Patrick Street during the year to add to his well-established business in New Ross. "Getting on the plane at Shannon, Bill was there before me, informed the stewardess he was the team doctor — and sailed into first-class! I arrived to find my seat was gone and ended up sitting way down the plane". "In New York we seemed to be spending the first three days going up and down to Gaelic Park, or waiting (for ages) in hotel foyers for the bus. The day before the league final we went down to the ground and they wouldn't let us train, so we nipped around the corner to a public park. The mounted policeman trotted



## HELMETS SHOULD BE MADE COMPULSORY

Talking of injuries, and recovery from same, Bill finds that expectations of recuperation are often simply too great. "Both players and supporters can be unrealistic about this. Rest is the best answer for a lot of injuries, and time the best cure. But sometimes people expect to be able to play with impossible injuries, and often you have to save a player from himself. It's the same for doctors involved with athletes".

The hardest part of it all for the doctor is diagnosing an injury on the pitch, especially in the middle of Croke Park with 50,000 people there! What you have to do is to diagnose for function: can the player stand or run? If not, he has to come off. The knock might turn out to be only a pulled muscle. It could be a torn or pulled muscle, which is very common, or it might be direct trauma — the belt of a hurl".

Hurling has however, far too many avoidable injuries, he contends. A study Bill and Michael Hurley, consultant surgeon at St. Luke's Hospital, Kilkenny, carried out over 12 months on sports injuries in the casualty unit there found that 40 per cent of hurling knocks were to the face and head, and therefore immediately preventable wearing a helmet with a visor. (This figure didn't include eye injuries, all of which would have gone to Ardkeen).

"Dr. Paddy Crowley's mycro helmet should be made compulsory for underage hurlers", he stresses. "Adults can make up their own minds, but if they were wearing them from a young age they'd probably stick with them.

The other interesting category were injuries to the hand and wrist, which made up 30 per cent of the total. These can involve weeks off work, loss of income and major disruption to a player. The thing is, we asked the injured player if they thought the blow was accidental, and 15 per cent said it wasn't.

"It transpired that in the vast majority of these cases — two-thirds in fact — the referee DIDN'T award a free, compared with soccer where two-thirds of fouls were spotted. As hurling is a faster game and has a bigger playing area, we'd suggest that the umpires and linesmen should be given more powers than they have at present — the referee can't spot everything. And once these late chops and fouls are identified, they should be penalised much more harshly than they are at present.

"Because", Bill Cuddihy concluded, choosing his words carefully, "there's a perception among hurling supporters that referees who do take strong action will simply not be backed up by the authorities".

up and asked had we paid our permit to play 'our game' in a public park. So Bill Deegan rose to the occasion, told them he was the manager and got everything sorted out beautifully!

In retrospect, he agrees the 'home' league final hammering of Wexford was just too easy for Kilkenny's own good; the losers were very poor on the day, Galway and Tipperary had taken no interest in the league, and Cork looked only half-hearted. "Our lads hadn't got New York out of their system by the time the Leinster semi-final came around I

think, and Offaly had played it low-key, not bothering about the league".

"I underestimated them as much as anyone else did, and it's certainly a lesson for the future. We in Kilkenny should know from experience that a league win means very little. Now we're at the stage — I don't want to become a selector here! that the league campaign should be used to try out younger players. Carey, Adrian Ronan and Willie O'Connor shouldn't be among them — what they need is a good rest during the winter to finally clear up their injuries".

## Recognition at home made Paddy proud

ONE of the proudest people in Ireland on Sunday, January 28, 1990, was former President of the G.A.A., Paddy Buggy.

The Slieverue official, after a lifetime involved in the Association as player, referee and administrator, was elected to the highest post in Kilkenny.

In a gripping three-way contest for the chair, Mr. Buggy came out on top after the near 400 delegates at Co. Board Convention cast their votes.

"This is a prouder and more emotional moment than when I was elected President", he conceded, before going on to deliver a firm and well thought-out acceptance speech that really set delegates thinking, and assured them they had made a good choice.

The 61-year-old official had been chairman of the Leinster Council in the past. But he never filled the top job in Kilkenny. Being accepted in his own native county obviously meant a lot to the All-Ireland senior hurling medal winner of 1957. Paddy played in the number 5 shirt that day.

Mr. Buggy spoke about the agonising times he went through before he allowed his name go forward for election. As a past President of the G.A.A. he couldn't afford to lose, because it would have caused embarrassment to himself, and the Association.

"I know I have a positive contribution to make to Kilkenny and the G.A.A.", he assured.

In all there were 365 valid votes and in the election they broke down thus — Paddy Buggy 159; Nickey Brennan (Conahy Shamrocks) 111; and outgoing chairman, Tommy Murphy (Danesfort) 95. The latter was then eliminated and in

the decisive vote, Mr. Buggy won by 195 to 170.

In his main address to Convention, Mr. Buggy said tradition would not be sufficient to bring Kilkenny back to the top of the hurling ladder. He called for a lot of hard work, and everyone working for the good of the county.

In his address, secretary Ted Carroll (Lisdowney) felt the composition of championships in Kilkenny should be restructured, because they simply didn't provide enough games for ordinary club members. He pinpointed that period between July and October as the best time for games for the ordinary club player.

He had in mind teams knocked out of championships, who would be left without matches. He called for more attention to be paid to club rather than inter-county competitions.

Kilkenny Co. Board officers elected at Co. Board Convention were: Paddy Buggy, Slieverue (chairman); Ted Carroll, Lisdowney (secretary); Jim Brophy, Piltown, and Jim Rice, O'Loughlin/Gaels (trustees); Pat Dunphy, Rower-Inistioge (treasurer); Ray Anthony (auditor); Barry Hickey, John Lockes (Development Officer); Eamonn Doyle, O'Loughlin-Gaels (youth officer); Tom Ryall, Graigue-Ballycallan (Central Council rep. and P.R.O.); Paul Kinsella, St. Martin's (hurling officer); Tom Waldron, St. Lachtain's (Irish officer); Tom Murphy, Danesfort, and John Healy, Tullogher-Rosberson (Leinster Council Reps.); T. Carroll, T. Murphy, Pat Henderson and Pat Delaney, both Fenians (Congress delegates, with Eamon Doyle the sub); T. Carroll, Seamus Delaney, P. Dunphy, P. Henderson, B. Hickey, T. Murphy (Leinster Convention delegates).



# Pop concert for Nowlan Park?

By **BARRY HICKEY** - Development Officer Kilkenny County Board

**W**HEN it comes to the development of the G.A.A. in Kilkenny, Nowlan Park is one of the biggest assets of the County Board.

Look at all the young lads around the county who would love to play in Nowlan Park, if only they could get the chance! We must give them the opportunity to play hurling at an early age. If we don't, we have failed in the development of our game and the future of our Organisation will be in doubt.

A full time coach would be a great help in the promotion of Gaelic Games in Kilkenny. Other counties are providing coaches and we should take the initiative and appoint someone on a three year basis.

In order to do this, we will have to look at the money involved in appointing such a person. The estimated cost would be in the region of £15,000 per annum including travelling expenses. As our present financial resources just about cover our expenses on a yearly basis, we would have to make changes in our present arrangements or look at the possibility of raising further money from other activities.

A yearly pop concert in Nowlan Park could be the real answer to this question. With a good promoter, Nowlan Park would be a great centre for a top class artist. The railway station is near Nowlan Park and just over an hour from Dublin. Kilkenny itself is very close to good centres of population such as Clonmel, Waterford, Carlow, Portlaoise and Thurles.

If the issue of pop concerts in Nowlan Park came up for discussion at a County Board meeting at present, it would probably be rejected because of old fashioned ideas. But we must be more broadminded on issues like this if we are to develop into the future.

If we are to attract young people to our games, we will have to modernise our image. Although 'the ban' disappeared a number of years ago, we still have an image of being conservative. The link between the G.A.A. and pop concerts at various locations around the country has done a lot to modernise our image in the eyes of young people. Large numbers from Kilkenny, including G.A.A. members, travel to concerts in Thurles, Cork and Dublin. What a pity we are not providing similar entertainment in Kilkenny and thus making money to fund the development of hurling at under-age level in the county.

It would be good to see some additional facilities at Nowlan Park, too. We should plan to put a small gymnasium at the O'Loughlin end of the stand under the bank and, when doing this, also put in a small kitchen with full cooking facilities and a tunnel to the pitch.

As an Organisation, we are not capable of funding such developments at present bearing in mind our obligation to all county teams where meals and travel have to be provided. The financial drain caused by the development of the game in the future means that we will have to manage our affairs more efficiently.

It would also be nice to have a Video Library in Nowlan Park where we could store videos of all finals. Most finals are filmed at present by various people on a commercial basis and the County Board should be given a copy of each video for its library. These could be properly labelled and kept in the library for future reference. Charges for copying could be taken to cover the costs of keeping these tapes.

Other areas of new finance to help these future developments would be the sponsorship of our Senior Championship at possibly £10,000 per annum, or sponsorship of the county teams at £15/20,000 per annum. Both of these possibilities are being explored at present.

The toilets at Nowlan Park need to be improved, as do all the boundary walls and entrances. We have received strong criticism recently concerning our facilities and this doesn't help our image.

The steel on our stand needs to be sand blasted and painted at a cost of £6,000 approx. and we must also look at the possibility of extending our stand. It would improve facilities for our followers and also improve our income on an on-going basis.

When Kilkenny's senior team was very successful on the field over the last twenty years, the development of Nowlan Park was neglected. This was a pity, as funds could have been collected without any great difficulty at that time and the cost of the

work would have been much less.

The Supporters' Club will be an asset to the G.A.A. in Kilkenny but it needs to be extended around the county. The people involved are doing a good job but they need to get more help. Kilkenny supporters are very critical of their teams when they lose a match. We must accept that things won't always go as we want them to and they must be more tolerant. However, the people of Kilkenny should row in behind the Supporters' Club and become official members now.

United on all fronts, we can be very successful in the future. Proper use of the funds raised is vital to the success of the Supporters' Club. With money we could achieve a lot but we must make the best use of the resources available to us.

We must keep our county teams on the winning trail and our young people with hurleys in their hands at an early age, and hurling will prosper into the future in Kilkenny.

## B + I stars feted

IT was another "Kilkenny day" at the B+I lunch which followed the outstanding personalities of two sports in 1989.

Twin sisters, Angela and Ann Downey, both of whom were outstanding in Kilkenny's All-Ireland victory, became the joint winners of the "camogie player of the year" award. Michael "Ducksie" Walsh, the dominating personality of handball, was named the B+I "Handballer of the year".

This was the second time the Downey sisters were honoured together in a camogie award. The first occasion was in 1986. Angela, of course, was also the B+I winner in 1977 and 1985.

Michael Walsh was a previous winner of the handball award in 1985 and 1988.



# Another eventful year at Under-16 level

Report by TOM RYALL

One of the pleasing features of the Under-16 championships is the spread of honours with only Conahy Shamrocks completing the double of league and championship in hurling Roinn C.

## LATE SCORE WINS LEAGUE FOR 'STEPHENS

**J**AMES STEPHENS, who were expected to walk away with the hurling and football league and championship, eventually only took the hurling league title. In this competition they were extended to the limit before coming out on top. In the semi-final they came back in the closing stages to draw with Graigue-Ballycallan. The city boys came out on top in the replay by six points.

The final against Mooncoin produced a game of all that is good in Kilkenny hurling. The pity was that there had to be a loser. Coming up to the final whistle, Mooncoin were leading by a goal and looked odds on to win. Francis Cantwell, who was operating at centre forward, soloed through for a brilliant equalising goal. Mooncoin came back to force a "65" which was dropped short. The clearance came to Liam Smith who put over the winning point.

Best for the winners were Brian Dooley, who was man of the match, Shane Doyle, Robert Kearney, Liam Smith, Kevin Grogan and Francis Cantwell. Mooncoin's best players were Oliver Dunphy, Trevor Dunphy, Noel Phelan, Eamonn Mackey and Owen Hennigan. The team and scorers were:

**James Stephens:** Michael Power, Conor Cleere, Barry Henderson, Martin Ryan, Eugene Somers, Shane Doyle, Brian Dooley, Robert Kearney, Liam Smith (0-2), Vincent Morrissey, Peter Barry, Vinny O'Brien, Stephen Drennan (0-2), Francis Cantwell (1-1), Kevin Grogan (1-4). *sub:* Vincent O'Shea.

**Mooncoin:** Mark Tyler, Derek Comerford, Brian Conway, Billy Quinn, Michael Fielding, Willie John Kinsella, Oliver Dunphy, Trevor Dunphy (0-4), Fintan Dermody, Paul Hally, Conor McCarthy, Michael Kinsella, Noel Phelan (1-0), Eamonn Mackey (1-2), Owen Hennigan (0-2). *Subs:* D. McGrath and Eddie Ryan.

The final score was: James Stephens 2-9, Mooncoin 2-8.

## MAGNIFICENT TREBLE FOR GRAIGUE-BALLYCALLAN

**G**RAIGUE-BALLYCALLAN Under-16 hurlers completed a magnificent year for the club when they took the Roinn 'A' championship for the first time with a 2-5 to 1-3 victory over



**GRAIGUE/BALLYCALLAN — Kilkenny Under-16 Roinn 'A' Hurling Champions 1990**

**Back Row:** P.J. Hogan, Dermot Ronan, Eddie O'Dwyer, Johnny Butler, Pat Comerford, Eamonn Marnell, Ger Ronan, Nicholas Teehan, Stephen Hennessy, Alan Hoyne, Alan Hoyne, Michael Byrne, Sean Dermody, Philip Cody, Maurice Ronan.

**Front Row:** Kieran O'Halloran, Paddy O'Dwyer, James Young, Damien Cleere, Thomas Dermody, Denis Byrne (Capt.), Philip Butler, John Manogue, Paul Ronan, Tommy Manogue, Michael Quirke (partly hidden).

Mooncoin. Having already won the Under-13 and Under-14 championships, this win completed a magnificent treble.

It was a marvellous final considering the heavy underfoot conditions. Graigue-Ballycallan took first advantage of the breeze and goals by Denis Byrne and Damien Cleere had them ahead by 2-0 to 0-0 after the first quarter. The winners held an interval lead of 2-3 to 0-1.

Mooncoin, with Trevor Dunphy dominating the midfield, held sway for twenty minutes of the new half and narrowed the gap to three points — 2-3 to 1-3. It took a magnificent display from the winners' full-back line to keep Graigue-Ballycallan ahead. None played better in this sector than Johnny Butler, who had a proverbial blinder, ably assisted by Nicholas Teehan and Paddy O'Dwyer.

The switch of Damien Cleere to defence and Denis Byrne to centrefield brought the winners back into the game and they had the final two points from frees by Denis Byrne to run out winners of a great contest.

In addition to those on the full back line, Graigue-Ballycallan had good performances from Thomas Dermody in goal, Eddie O'Dwyer, Alan Hoyne, Damien Cleere, Denis Byrne and Eamonn Marnell, while at centre forward.

Mooncoin had great players in Trevor Dunphy, who almost won the match on his own; Mark Tyler, a brilliant goalie; Willie John Kinsella, Billy Quinn, Brian Conway and Eamonn Mackey.

**Graigue-Ballycallan:** Thomas Dermody, Nicholas Teehan, Johnny Butler, Paddy O'Dwyer, Paul Ronan, Eddie O'Dwyer, Pat Comerford, Ger Ronan, John Manogue, Dermot Ronan (0-1), Eamonn Marnell,

Damien Cleere (1-0), James Young (0-1), Denis Byrne (Capt.) (1-2), Alan Hoyne (0-1). *Sub:* Philip Butler.

**Mooncoin:** Mark Tyler, Liam Sutton, Willie John Kinsella, Billy Quinn, Michael Fielding, Brian Conway (Capt.), Owen Dunphy, Trevor Dunphy (1-3), Fintan Dermody, Owen Hennigan, Conor McCarthy, Michael Óg Kinsella, Noel Phelan, Eamonn Mackey, Derek Comerford.

## REVENGE FOR ST. LACHTAIN'S

**S**T. LACHTAIN'S, who suffered a two point defeat against the Rower-Inistioge in the Roinn 'B' league semi-final on a score of 1-11 to 2-6, reversed the result in the championship final played in Callan. The North Kilkenny boys won by 1-9 to 1-6. Heavy rain in the first half left the pitch slippy, which did not help the standard of hurling. The second half produced a far better standard as both sides strove for victory.

The Rower-Inistioge squandered a lot of chances in the first half when playing with the breeze. An Oliver O'Connor goal in the 8th minute was crucial in giving the Freshford boys an interval lead of 1-3 to 0-3. At this stage it looked easy for St. Lachtain's as they had the assistance of the strong breeze in the second half. However, the South boys were right back in the game at the end of the third quarter when Richard Kelly tied the game at 1-5 each when he goaled from a penalty.

St. Lachtain's regained their composure and with Damien Hurley and Brian Cahill getting on top at midfield, they had four points from Oliver O'Connor, to which Tom Brophy replied with the last score of the game to leave the



laurels with St. Lachtain's on a three point winning margin.

Best for the winners were Joe Ryan, T.J. Kelly, Lorcan Carroll, Brian Cahill, Damien Hurley, Walter Kelly, Kevin Kennedy, Richard Murphy, John Dowling, Thomas Brophy, Michael Barron and Brendan Bolger.

**St. Lachtain's:** Joe Ryan, Davy Martin, T.J. Kelly, Pa Walsh, John Costelloe, Lorcan

Carroll, Pa Hurley, Brian Cahill, Damien Hurley, Paul Dowling, Richard Dawson, Walter Kelly, Brendan Cleere, Mark Butler, Oliver O'Connor.

**Rower-Inistioge:** John Downey, John Malone, Richard Murphy, Michael Murphy, Dermot Malone, Martin Kennedy, Martin Flood, Richard Kelly, Jim Kelly, Paul Cottrell, Brendan Bolger, Thomas Brophy, Jim Galavan, Michael O'Keefe, Michael Barron. *Sub:* Jim Murphy.



**ST. LACHTAIN'S — Under-16 Roinn "B" Hurling Champions 1990**

**Back Row:** R. Dawson, P. Walsh, B. Cleere, A. Dawson, J. Bowden, L. Carroll, D. Hurley. **Middle Row:** P. Hickey, B. Cahill, D. Butler, P. Dowling, W. Kelly, T.J. Kelly. **Front Row:** R. Carroll, J. Costelloe, M. Butler, D. Martin, J. Ryan, O. O'Connor, N. O'Connor.



**ROWER-INISTIOGE —** Kilkenny Under-16 Roinn "B" League Winners and Under-16 Football Champions 1990

**Back Row:** Jim Fitzpatrick (Selector), Brendan Bolger, Martin Flood, John Downey, Jim Kelly, Jim Murphy, Richard Murphy, Michael Murphy, John Malone, Richard Kelly, Michael Barron, Martin Barron (Selector). **Front Row:** Benny Holohan (Football Trainer), Dermot Malone, Jim Galavan, Paul McGrath, Richard Flood, Kevin Kennedy, Michael Kennedy, Michael O'Keefe, Paul Cottrell, Mark Kennedy, Billy Kennedy (Hurling Trainer).

**COMPENSATION FOR THE ROWER**

THE Rower-Inistioge, however, had some consolation when they won the league title beating Kilmacow in the final by 2-9 to 2-7. It was a great game with the Rower-Inistioge boys lucky to survive in a tight finish as Kilmacow junior goalie, Patrick Gahan, almost snatched a match winning goal in the last seconds. Best for the Rower-Inistioge were John Downey, Martin Flood, Brendan Bolger, Richie Kelly, Tom Brophy and team captain Kevin Kennedy. Kilmacow's heroes were Pat Gahan, Peter Ryan and Ian Callaghan.

**Rower-Inistioge:** John Downey, John Malone, Richard Murphy, Michael Murphy, Dermot Malone, Kevin Kennedy (Capt.), Martin Flood, Richard Kelly, Jim Kelly, Brendan Bolger, Jim Murphy, Jim Galavan, Michael O'Keefe, Michael Barron, Thomas Brophy. *Sub:* Paul Cottrell.

**SWITCHES PAID OFF FOR CONAHY**

CONAHY Shamrocks pulled off a great double in Roinn 'C' hurling. In the league final they had to pull out all the stops to beat Mullinavat. The boys from the Rod Iron village built up an interval lead of 2-4 to 0-1 after playing

with the strong breeze. When Kenny Dooley goaled within three minutes of the resumption, Conahy were on their way. Mullinavat rose to the challenge and it was ding-dong struggle to the end.

It looked as if Mullinavat might hold out when they still led by 2-5 to 1-3 at the end of the third quarter. The Conahy selectors then moved Ciarain Connery, who had already played in the senior hurling championship, from full back to midfield and he dominated the game. Goals by Shane Mulhall and Connery gave Conahy a point lead: 3-3 to 2-5.

It was the impressive Connery who clinched the title with two late points. In addition to Ciarain Connery, the winners had good players in Paul Byrne, who gave a marvellous performance at corner-back, Tom Brennan, when moved to defence, Shane Mulhall, Ciarain Muldowney and Kenny Dooley. Mullinavat had star performers in Paddy Roughan, a wonderful centre-back, Brian Conway, Eamonn Aylward, John Geary and Jimmy O'Keefe.

**Scorers:**

**Conahy Shamrocks —** Ciarain Connery (1-3), Shane Mulhall, Kenny Dooley (1-0 each), Ciarain Muldowney (0-2). **Mullinavat —** Jimmy O'Keefe (0-4), Francis Cleere (1-1), Raymond Carroll (1-0).

**Conahy Shamrocks:** Padraig Downey, Paul Byrne, Ciarain Connery, Willie Connery, David Muldowney, Ciarain Muldowney, John urley, Shane Mulhall, Liam Dooley, Tom Brennan, Kenny Dooley, Willie Lawless, Edward Comerford, Damien Lawlor, Brian Buggy.

**Mullinavat:** Brian Conway, T. Walsh, J. Butler, John Geary, Eamonn Aylward, Paddy Roughan, E. Slattery, K. Phelan, Jimmy O'Keefe, D. Duggan, Raymond Carroll, Francis Cleere, W. Atkins, R. Walsh, J. O'Keefe. *Sub:* Mossy Murphy.

**CONAHY GIRLS CREATE HISTORY**

CONAHY Shamrocks created a bit of history when they beat Glenmore by 5-6 to 1-4 in the Roinn 'C' championship final by including two girls in their side. The history-makers were Hilda Butler and Aine Dunne. Girls have won under-age county medals in younger ages but this was the first time that county medals were collected at Under-16 level.

Bridget Mullally, who helped Kilkenny to win the All-Ireland senior camogie final this year, played with Glenmore in last year's legue final but her side lost to Galmoy. Bridget was also eligible for this year's Glenmore Under-16 hurling team but did not play because of her camogie commitments.

Aine Dunne played on this year's Kilkenny minor camogie team. Hilda Butler's achievement was all the greater as she also won an Under-16 camogie county title with St. Lachtain's, thus getting Under-16 county medals in the same year in both hurling and camogie. When Hilda won her Under-16 camogie medal, St. Lachtain's beat Lisdowney in



the final. Playing with Lisdowney in the final was Aine Dunne. Certainly one for the record books.

Aine Dunne was one of the stars of this Under-16 hurling win scoring two of her side's goals. Played in terrible conditions, Conahy, powered by good displays from Pdraig Downey, who made several fine saves; Ciarain Connery, Ciarain Muldowney, Tom Brennan and Kenny Dooley, swept to an emphatic victory. Scorers for the winners were: Aine Dunne (2-0), Kenny Dooley, Ciarain Muldowney (1-3 each), Willie Lawless (1-0).

**Conahy:** Pdraig Downey, Willie Connery, Ciarain Connery, Paul Byrne, David Muldowney, Ciarain Muldowney, John Hurley, Shane Mulhall, Liam Dooley, Hilda Butler, Tom Brennan, Edward Comerford, Aine Dunne, Kenny Dooley, Brian Buggy. *Sub:* Willie Lawless.

### SHOCK FOOTBALL WIN FOR ROWER

THE Roinn 'A' football championship final produced the shock result of the year when the Rower-Inistioge defeated Dicksboro on a score of 2-3 to 1-5. Dicksboro were the reigning league champions and were seeking the double. They had staged a great rally to draw with James Stephens on a 1-8 to 3-2 scoreline. When the city boys beat their great rivals, James Stephens, in the replay by 0-9 to 0-4, it looked as if they would take their third title on the trot. No county team had taken the title since 1981 when Thomastown were victorious, while St. Lachtain's (Freshford) in 1957 were the previous team outside the city clubs to take the honours. For this reason the victory of the Rower-Inistioge was significant.

Back in January the club won its first ever football title when the Under-16 team defeated Ballyragget in the Roinn 'B' final. Now a few months later the club wins the Roinn 'A' title. Surely an outstanding achievement in such a short period of time.

The final against Dicksboro was a thriller from start to finish. A great first half display by the winners laid the foundation for victory. Their eagerness to get first to the ball and win vital possession totally unsettled the much fancied Dicksboro side. The city side applied fierce pressure on the winners' defence in the second half and with a few minutes remaining scored what seemed the decisive score to edge them in front. But the Southerners were not going to give in easily and in a Titanic finish, Brendan Bolger stabbed home a brilliant goal to clinch a famous victory and the second Under-16 football in a row.

**Rower-Inistioge:** Jim Murphy, John Malone, Richard Murphy (Capt.), Mark Kennedy, Dermot Malone, Martin Flood, Jim Kelly, Richard Kelly, Brendan Bolger, John Downey, Kevin Kennedy, Michael Barron, Tom Brophy, Jim Galavan, Richard Flood. *Subs:* Paul Cottrell, L. Naddy, M. O'Keeffe, M. Murphy, P. McGrath, M. O'Kennedy.

### COMPENSATION FOR DICKSBORO

DICKSBORO atoned for their championship defeat by taking the league title when they beat the holders, James Stephens, by 2-10 to 1-8. In 1989 Dicksboro were favourites to win the league but the Village boys beat them in their own grounds in Palmerstown. This year the position was reversed with Dicksboro

travelling to Larchfield and beating the home side.

A Brendan Dalton goal gave his side a 1-8 to 0-3 interval lead. Another goal by Kevin Woods set the Boro boys up for victory despite the best efforts of Shane Doyle and Brian Dooley. Best for the winners were John Ayres, Declan Phelan, Thomas Wall, David Gaffney, James Phelan and P. Mullins.

**Dicksboro:** John Ayres, Jim Kirwan, Declan Phelan, David Farragher, Aidan Begley, Thomas Wall, David Gaffney, James Phelan, P. Mullins, Kevin Woods, Gus Roberts, Fergal Cantwell, Rory Deevy, Brendan Dalton, Sam Morrissey. *Sub:* Alan Trait.

**James Stephens:** Vincent Morrissey, Kevin Grogan, Barry Henderson, Martin Ryan, Vincent O'Shea, Shane Doyle, D. Blanchfield, Brian Dooley, Eugene Somers, Richard Kearney, R. Holden, Francis Cantwell, F. Cantwell, D. Kerwick, M. Kennedy. *Sub:* W. O'Driscoll.

### THIRD TIME LUCKY FOR BALLYRAGGET

AT. PATRICK'S (Ballyragget), after going down in the previous two finals to Kilmoganny and the Rower-Inistioge in the Under-16 football championship, made it third time lucky when they beat Gaignamanagh by 4-5 to 2-4 in Callan. The winners set themselves up for victory when they led by 1-1 to 0-3 at the interval, thanks to an early goal by James Dowling.

A John Brett penalty goal early in the second half jolted the winners for a while but a brace of goals by Derek Butler and Nicholas Downey midway through the half gave Ballyragget their first ever Under-16 football title. Best for the



### BALLYRAGGET — Under-16 Roinn "B" Football Champions 1990

**Back Row:** M. Foley (Selector), T. Phelan (Selector), M. Gleeson, D. Walsh, F. Phelan, J. Dooley, A. Stone, S. Foley, T. Phelan, J. Glendon, N. Downey, S. Liston, D. Walsh, R. Stone (Selector), R. Breen, N. Cuggy (Selector). **Front Row:** D. Shiel, O. Culleton, B. Lacey, R. Stone, P. Dooley, L. Roberts, J. Dooley, G. Dooley, J. Culleton, T. Dowling, D. Butler.



winner were Joe Dowling, who dominated midfield; Sean Foley, a fine attacking wing back; Declan Walsh, Adrian Stone, James Dowling, Derek Butler, and Raymond Breen. Graignamanagh had good played in Declan Maher, Noel Kealy, Tommy O'Neill, Ger Walsh and super sub Fran Doyle.

**St. Patrick's:** Joe Dowling (0-5), Nicholas Downey, Willie Lacey, Derek Butler, James Dowling (1-0 each). **Graignamanagh:** Fran Doyle (1-1), John Brett (1-0), Declan Maher (0-2), Kevin Dunne (0-1).

**St. Patrick's (Ballyragget)** — Damien Shiel, John Glendon, Adrian Stone, Peter Dooley, Liam Roberts, Declan Walsh, Sean Foley, Joe Dowling, Damien Walsh, Ger Dooley, Raymond Breen, Derek Butler, James Dowling, Nicholas Downey, Willie Lacey. *sub:* Tomas Dowling.

**Graignamanagh** — Kenny Maher, K.

Walsh, Noel Kealy, L. Blanchfield, S. Byrne, Declan Maher, Tommy O'Neill, H. Roberts, Ger Walsh, L. Fogarty, D. O'Neill, John Brett, Kevin Dunne, John Flood, A. Fenlon. *Sub:* Frank Doyle.

#### GAHAN STARS FOR KILMACOW

**T**HE spread of honours continued when Kilmacow beat Conahy Shamrocks by 2-12 to 2-5 to take the Roinn 'B' Football League final. The game was a personal triumph for the winners' midfielder, Patrick Gahan, who scored a magnificent goal and nine points. Some of his long range points were great efforts. He got most assistance from Eamonn Gahan, Tomás Reddy who captained the side, Peter Ryan and

Dermot Tierney. Fourteen of the team had been on the hurling team which lost the league final to the Rower-Inistioge. Conahy played well to reach the final, but badly missed Tom Brennan, who was unavailable for this game.

**Kilmacow:** Michael Ryan, Kevin Dollard, Eamonn Gahan, Andrew Phelan, Tomás Reddy (Capt.), Trevor Sutton, Peter Ryan, Patrick Gahan (1-9), Niall Walsh (1-0), Brian Walsh, Dermot Tierney (0-2), Brendan Dalton, Darren Suffin, Ian O'Callaghan (0-1), Keith Butler. *Sub:* Brian O'Callaghan.

**Conahy Shamrocks:** John Hurley, Paul Byrne, Pdraig Downey, Willie Connery, David Muldowney, Ciarain Connery, Damien Lawlor, Shane Mulhall, Liam Dooley, Willie Lawless, Ciarain Muldowney (0-3), Noel Burke (0-1), Brian Buggy, Kenny Dooley (2-1), Paul Nolan. *Sub:* Edward Comerford.

## MACRA'S SWEET VICTORY

IN the first venture of its kind, Kilkenny Macra scored a facile win over Tipperary Macra in an interesting challenge in Piltown, in September.

The winners were in control from the throw-in, and after playing against the strong breeze, they led by 1-8 to 0-1 at half-time.

Kilkenny had star performers in man of the match Michael Aylward, Pat

Hayes, David O'Rourke, John Power and Lar McEvoy.

**Kilkenny Team:** E. Holland (Tullaroan), J. Lynch (Callan), P. Hayes (Tullaherin), M. Aylward (Glenmore), S. Phelan (Glenmore), J. Walsh (Piltown), J. Lawlor (Ballyhale), J. Power (Callan), L. McEvoy (Ballyragget), P. Hogan (Mooncoin), J. Lynch (Callan), J. Kearns (Mooncoin), B. Phelan (Ballyragget), D. O'Rourke (Castlecomer), S. Norris (Piltown).

## Pat on the mend

FORMER Kilkenny hurling coach and player, Pat Henderson, is happily recovered from major surgery during the summer. Pat was undoubtedly one of Kilkenny's greatest hurlers and his skill at motivating players was a major factor in Kilkenny achieving All-Ireland and League success in 1982 and 1983.

# Eamonn Langton



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the final. Playing with Lisdowney in the final was Aine Dunne. Certainly one for the record books.

Aine Dunne was one of the stars of this Under-16 hurling win scoring two of her side's goals. Played in terrible conditions, Conahy, powered by good displays from Pdraig Downey, who made several fine saves; Ciarain Connery, Ciarain Muldowney, Tom Brennan and Kenny Dooley, swept to an emphatic victory. Scorers for the winners were: Aine Dunne (2-0), Kenny Dooley, Ciarain Muldowney (1-3 each), Willie Lawless (1-0).

**Conahy:** Pdraig Downey, Willie Connery, Ciarain Connery, Paul Byrne, David Muldowney, Ciarain Muldowney, John Hurley, Shane Mulhall, Liam Dooley, Hilda Butler, Tom Brennan, Edward Comerford, Aine Dunne, Kenny Dooley, Brian Buggy. *Sub:* Willie Lawless.

### SHOCK FOOTBALL WIN FOR ROWER

THE Roinn 'A' football championship final produced the shock result of the year when the Rower-Inistioge defeated Dicksboro on a score of 2-3 to 1-5. Dicksboro were the reigning league champions and were seeking the double. They had staged a great rally to draw with James Stephens on a 1-8 to 3-2 scoreline. When the city boys beat their great rivals, James Stephens, in the replay by 0-9 to 0-4, it looked as if they would take their third title on the trot. No county team had taken the title since 1981 when Thomastown were victorious, while St. Lachtain's (Freshford) in 1957 were the previous team outside the city clubs to take the honours. For this reason the victory of the Rower-Inistioge was significant.

Back in January the club won its first ever football title when the Under-16 team defeated Ballyragget in the Roinn 'B' final. Now a few months later the club wins the Roinn 'A' title. Surely an outstanding achievement in such a short period of time.

The final against Dicksboro was a thriller from start to finish. A great first half display by the winners laid the foundation for victory. Their eagerness to get first to the ball and win vital possession totally unsettled the much fancied Dicksboro side. The city side applied fierce pressure on the winners' defence in the second half and with a few minutes remaining scored what seemed the decisive score to edge them in front. But the Southerners were not going to give in easily and in a Titanic finish, Brendan Bolger stabbed home a brilliant goal to clinch a famous victory and the second Under-16 football in a row.

**Rower-Inistioge:** Jim Murphy, John Malone, Richard Murphy (Capt.), Mark Kennedy, Dermot Malone, Martin Flood, Jim Kelly, Richard Kelly, Brendan Bolger, John Downey, Kevin Kennedy, Michael Barron, Tom Brophy, Jim Galavan, Richard Flood. *Subs:* Paul Cottrell, L. Naddy, M. O'Keefe, M. Murphy, P. McGrath, M. O'Kennedy.

### COMPENSATION FOR DICKSBORO

DICKSBORO atoned for their championship defeat by taking the league title when they beat the holders, James Stephens, by 2-10 to 1-8. In 1989 Dicksboro were favourites to win the league but the Village boys beat them in their own grounds in Palmerstown. This year the position was reversed with Dicksboro

travelling to Larchfield and beating the home side.

A Brendan Dalton goal gave his side a 1-8 to 0-3 interval lead. Another goal by Kevin Woods set the Boro boys up for victory despite the best efforts of Shane Doyle and Brian Dooley. Best for the winners were John Ayres, Declan Phelan, Thomas Wall, David Gaffney, James Phelan and P. Mullins.

**Dicksboro:** John Ayres, Jim Kirwan, Declan Phelan, David Farragher, Aidan Begley, Thomas Wall, David Gaffney, James Phelan, P. Mullins, Kevin Woods, Gus Roberts, Fergal Cantwell, Rory Deevy, Brendan Dalton, Sam Morrissey. *Sub:* Alan Trait.

**James Stephens:** Vincent Morrissey, Kevin Grogan, Barry Henderson, Martin Ryan, Vincent O'Shea, Shane Doyle, D. Blanchfield, Brian Dooley, Eugene Somers, Richard Kearney, R. Holden, Francis Cantwell, F. Cantwell, D. Kerwick, M. Kennedy. *Sub:* W. O'Driscoll.

### THIRD TIME LUCKY FOR BALLYRAGGET

AT PATRICK'S (Ballyragget), after going down in the previous two finals to Kilmoganny and the Rower-Inistioge in the Under-16 football championship, made it third time lucky when they beat Gaignamanagh by 4-5 to 2-4 in Callan. The winners set themselves up for victory when they led by 1-1 to 0-3 at the interval, thanks to an early goal by James Dowling.

A John Brett penalty goal early in the second half jolted the winners for a while but a brace of goals by Derek Butler and Nicholas Downey midway through the half gave Ballyragget their first ever Under-16 football title. Best for the



**BALLYRAGGET — Under-16 Roinn "B" Football Champions 1990**

**Back Row:** M. Foley (Selector), T. Phelan (Selector), M. Gleeson, D. Walsh, F. Phelan, J. Dooley, A. Stone, S. Foley, T. Phelan, J. Glendon, N. Downey, S. Liston, D. Walsh, R. Stone (Selector), R. Breen, N. Cuggy (Selector). **Front Row:** D. Shiel, O. Culleton, B. Lacey, R. Stone, P. Dooley, L. Roberts, J. Dooley, G. Dooley, J. Culleton, T. Dowling, D. Butler.



# Thomastown - so near and yet so far

IT was a case of so near and yet so far for Thomastown when they lost the All-Ireland Junior Vocational Schools Final against an impressive Borrisokane team from Tipperary. The Kilkenny boys were hoping to add the Junior title to the Senior title they won a few years ago.

Borrisokane took an early lead, and never looked back. They led at half time by 1-7 to 0-3. Again in the second half Borrisokane set the pace and scored three goals without reply in a devastating ten minute spell. But credit to the Kilkenny boys who rallied at the end to put a more respectable outlook on the score.

In the All-Ireland semi-final, Thomastown were made to fight all the way against De la Salle from Belfast before emerging winners on the score of 2-7 to 0-5.

The winners trailed by just two points at half-time and but for some brilliant goalkeeping by Rory Burke, this margin would have been much greater. The class and skill of the Kilkenny boys showed in the second half, despite the best efforts of the gallant boys from the North.

Thomastown produced their best performance of the championship when beating a strong and determined Kilcormac team from Offaly in the Leinster Final. At half-time Thomastown led by five points, but they had to face a stiff breeze after the break.



## THOMASTOWN TEAM

**Back Row:** David Malone, Kevin Kennedy, John Joe Kelly, Canice Bolger, Brendan Grace, Martin Bookle, Eoin Cahalane, John Lanigan, Richard Doyle, Vincent Walsh, Vincent Maher, John McDonald, Barry Morrissey, Mark Doyle, Richie Kelly.

**Front Row:** Andrew Hayden, Mark Malone, Michael Cullen, Rory Burke (Capt.), John Dempsey, Jimmy Doyle, David Cullen, Michael Walsh, Joe Mackey (Trainer).

In an exciting and tension filled second half, the Offaly boys came within a point of Thomastown, but a great rearguard display by the winner's defence carried the day for Thomastown. A late goal by Martin Bookle sealed the game for the 'Town.

Michael Cullen gave a fine display for Thomastown in defence. He was well supported by Dermot Malone, David Cullen, John Lanigan and Kevin Kennedy. Barry Morrissey, Brendan

Grace and Martin Bookle were the team's most consistent scorers. Richard Kelly and Jimmy Doyle had their moments at midfield.

**Thomastown:** Rory Burke (Capt.), Dermot Malone, Michael Cullen, Kevin Kennedy, Mark Malone, David Cullen, John Lanigan, Richard Kelly, Jimmy Doyle, Brendan Grace, Barry Morrissey, Vincent Maher, Martin Bookle, Canice Bolger, John Dempsey. *Subs used:* Michael Walsh and Vinnie Walsh.



## THOMASTOWN - Under-13 Roinn A Football Runners-up - 1990

**Back row:** Shane O'Keefe, Chris Daly, Michael Deniffe, Timothy O'Mahony, Tony O'Neill, Owen Hanrahan, Martin Hughes, Paul Hearn, Niall Nevin, Declan Dempsey, Noel Sugrue, Sean Walsh, Niall Kiely, Niall Cody. **Front row:** Barry Hoyne, Michael Dempsey, Killian O'Reilly, Wayne McMahon, David Walsh, Paul Dempsey, Adrian Walpole, Derek Lanigan, Dessie Walsh, Brian Blanchfield, Perry Holden.



# Unlucky Ballyhale - What might have been

Report by **JOE MACKEY** and **RONAN O'SULLIVAN**

**I**N the Vocational Schools' senior hurling campaign, Ballyhale carried the main hopes of Kilkenny. The first round saw a walk-over from Mooncoin, to qualify for a Leinster semi-final clash with Johnstown.

Played in St. James's Park, the South Kilkenny side had a good 2-10 to 2-0 victory over a much younger and smaller Johnstown team:

Despite the winner's supremacy, both teams served up a good standard of play but the result was rarely in doubt. Best for Ballyhale were Eoin Fleming, Seamus Ryan, Paddy Farrell, John Shefflin and Pat Fleming, while for Johnstown Alan Behan, David Moriarity and Keith Behan were most prominent.

**Ballyhale Team:** Pat Davis (Piltown), Pat Holden (Mullinavat), Willie Dempsey (Shamrocks), Nick Murphy (Carrickshock), T.J. Farrell (Shamrocks), Eoin Fleming (Dunamaggin), Peter Raftice (Mullinavat), Seamus Ryan (Capt. - Shamrocks), Paddy Farrell (Carrickshock), Pdraig Farrell (Shamrocks), John Shefflin (Shamrocks), Noel O'Keeffe (Shamrocks), Mattie O'Shea (Dunamaggin), Pat Fleming (Dunamaggin), Robert O'Neill (Shamrocks). *Subs:* Barry Hudson (Carrickshock), Richard Aylward (Mullinavat), Willie Delehunty (Mullinavat),

Paul O'Dwyer (Carrickshock), Rory Byrne (Dunamaggin), Paddy Cummins (Shamrocks), Dermot O'Shea (Dunamaggin), Liam Aylward (Mullinavat), Aidan Cottrell (Shamrocks).

**Johnstown Team:** A. Behan (Fenians), M. Queally (St. Lachtain's), Damien Anderson (St. Lachtain's), P. Phelan (Fenians), J. Burke (St. Lachtain's), D. Moriarity (Fenians), D. Behan (Fenians), J. Ryan (Galmoy), S. Grehan (Fenians), W. Walsh (St. Lachtain's), M. Phelan (Fenians), L. Corcoran (Galmoy), K. Behan (Fenians), M. Maher (St. Lachtain's), B. McEvoy (Fenians). *Subs:* B. Loneragan (Galmoy) for W. Walsh.

In a top class Leinster Final played at Rathdowney, Ballyhale came up against the Offaly champions, Banagher. Conditions were ideal and both teams duly responded with an exciting hour's hurling, after which the Offaly champions emerged victorious with the score 2-13 to 2-9.

Ballyhale played with the advantage of the wind in the first half and entered the break with a lead of two points. They received a major boost early in the second half when Robert O'Neill goaled to put them five points ahead. This score was also to prove a spur to the Offaly

champions who stepped up their game considerably and gradually pulled back the Ballyhale lead.

The Kilkenny boys contributed to their own downfall by conceding an inordinate number of frees during the second period — ten in total — and the Banagher freetaker pointed on each occasion.

On the day, Ballyhale's heroes were Seamus Ryan (Capt.), Pat Holden, Peter Raftice, Paddy Farrell and Pdraig Farrell.

**Ballyhale Team:** Pat Davis (Piltown), Pat Holden (Mullinavat), Willie Dempsey (Shamrocks), Nick Murphy (Carrickshock), Barry Hudson (Carrickshock), Eoin Fleming (Dunamaggin), Peter Raftice (Mullinavat), Seamus Ryan (Capt. - Shamrocks), Paddy Farrell (Carrickshock), Pdraig Farrell (Shamrocks), John Shefflin (Shamrocks), Noel O'Keeffe (Shamrocks), Mattie O'Shea (Dunamaggin), Pat Fleming (Dunamaggin), Robert O'Neill (Shamrocks).

Although Banagher went on to win the All Ireland Final, they subsequently lost the title on an objection. So, for unlucky Ballyhale it was a case of what might have been.

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# Like the Mounties, 'Rangers got their man, and he led them to victory

**LIKE THE Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Barrow Rangers (Paulstown) went out and 'got their man', and they ended up winning a major Kilkenny hurling championship. When 'Rangers signed-up Sean 'George' Leahy as trainer-coach for their junior hurling team, they gave themselves more than a fighting chance of taking home the Aylward Cup.**

IN the early part of the season the players, who have oodles of hurling talent but not always the application on the training field to march, just weren't getting things together. Concerned club officials reckoned something had to be done, so they went after their man.

And just like The Mounties, they got him, by virtually camping on the doorstep of George's comfortable home at Fiacre's Place. George, at that time, was also involved with Glenmore and St. Paul's camogie team amongst others. But as ever with this generous hurling man, he agreed to do his best, and from that day on 'Rangers were in a higher gear in their bid to win the Junior Hurling Championship.

"It is amazing, but no one can get the response from our players that George can", a 'Rangers official conceded. "Whatever it is that gets our players going, he has it. The players know there is no nonsense with George, and they would do anything for him".

Things threatened to fall asunder for the club early on, but with the injection of realism from Mr. Leahy, 'Rangers were a mighty crew by the time they won the title after a blistering replayed final with Kilmacow.

After the drawn game, Barrow Rangers were left wondering had they blown it. Seconds from the end of normal time they missed a 21 yards free to the left of the country end goal at Nowlan Park. A great opportunity to win their third junior title was lost — they also won it in 1982 and 1988.

## LOOKING WINNERS

They must have wondered was it to be their year when they fell 0-4 to 2-7 behind in the replay. Kilmacow were looking all over a winning team when they opened out that 8 point gap in the 35th minute.

Suddenly fortune favoured 'Rangers. A Kilmacow player tried to kill them off by going for a goal when a point was there for the taking. The ball was cleared up

the field. That clearance ended with a Dermot Maher goal, and the Paulstown-Goresbridge outfit suddenly erupted.

With Syl. Hennessy flying at midfield — he was a serious loss when injured before half-time in the drawn match — 'Rangers went on the march like well trained and disciplined troops. Leahy's work showed through. Again at the end of normal time they looked like doing it, but a last minute Dermot Haberlin point left the scores at 2-8 each after 60 minutes.

Extra time had to be played, and this turned out to be the platform on which Syl. Hennessy, a former Kilkenny minor, displayed his undoubted class. He was moved to corner-forward because he was tiring, and he shot 2-1 in additional time to help 'Rangers to a 6-9 to 3-10 victory.

It was some comeback by 'Rangers, because up until Maher's goal they struggled to get their game together. When they did, there was no holding them, and along with Hennessy, Tom Brennan, David Holmes, Martin Hanlon, Charlie Purcell and lively reserves, Dermot Maher and Pat Drea all showed a pride in themselves and the club that was born through hard work on the training field.

Of course, close things were nothing new to 'Rangers. They had an equally thrilling joust with Lisdowney in the Northern semi-final. Again they were in a tight corner with less than five minutes remaining, but a willingness never to give in saw them through in a seemingly impossible situation. That 'escape' was another gem of a memory from the championship.

## SUFFERED

In the Northern final against much improved Emeralds (Urlingford), the eventual champions always had to be on their guard. But they never got into the kind of trouble they faced, and surmounted, in the semi-final, and later in the county final and replay.

In the drawn match, 'Rangers suffered

through the enforced absence of Hennessy, but the slack was taken up by others. Ger Lawlor was truly tremendous at full-back that afternoon, and Paddy Murphy and daring full-forward, Michael Doyle — a great man to take a goal — were others who produced something special when most needed.

Barrow Rangers now return to the intermediate championship, for the third time in less than a decade. In the recent past they found life difficult there, which was surprising. And still it wasn't.

If 'Rangers look back on 1990, and examine the real reasons why they proved successful, they will also touch on the cause of their difficulties at the higher level. It wasn't lack of hurling. More the reason that saw them knock on George Leahy's door this year... a need for hard work on the training field.

If 'Rangers put their minds down to it, they can do very well in the intermediate division. They have promising young players coming up, and the majority of this year's team should have no difficulty coping with life just off the senior grade.

Barrow Rangers team in the replay final — Michael Staunton, Paddy Murphy, Ger Lawlor, Jimmy Hennessy, Gerry Purcell, David Holmes, Martin Hanlon (Capt.), Tom Brennan, Syl. Hennessy, Philip Maher, Charlie Purcell, Joe English, Michael Whitely, Michael Doyle, Pat Purcell. Subs: Dermot Maher, Pat Drea, John Gavin, Seamus Brennan (used); Martin Medlar, Ollie O'Neill, Joe Meaney, William Hanlon, Eoin Gavin, Ed. Drea, Michael Hennessy, Noel Kelly. **Selectors:** Jim Hennessy, John Doyle, Jimmy Staunton, Seamus Brennan and George Leahy.

**Kilmacow:** Paddy Gahan, Michael Flynn, Gerry Mulligan (Capt.), Thomas Quinlan, Andy Ryan, Liam Kinsella, Jim Kinsella, Dermot Haberlin, Sean Caulfield, Declan Gahan, Greg Power, Paul Long, John Forristal, Dick McNamara, Robbie Ryan. Subs: John Dalton, Toby Vereker, Nicky Grace (used); Sean Ryan, John Walsh, Peter Ryan, Liam Rockett, John Phelan, John Foskin, Seamus Ryan, Patsy Ghan, Andy Long.



# Born again Kilmacow made it a year of progress

**P**ROPER organisation and a new found spirit within the parish turned this into a season to remember for Kilmacow. Sure, they failed to take home the pot of gold, in the form of a county title, but by comparison with the last few decades, this year was a great one for Kilmacow.

The courageous South Kilkenny outfit went within an ace of winning the Junior Hurling Championship. That after a re-birth of the club at the beginning of the season. And the taking on board of a man who prepared and moulded the players into a slick fighting unit.

G.A.A. affairs were restructured in the parish at the beginning of 1990. Out went St. Senan's and St. Kieran's. A totally united outfit in the form of Kilmacow emerged. People from the area, and the rest of Kilkenny, will long remember the beginning for Kilmacow.

With a refreshing brand of stylish open hurling, Kilmacow swept to victory in the Southern Championship. It was only their second such success. The last was in 1956 (St. Senan's 6-2; Kilmacow 4-2).

A key man behind the revival was former Kilkenny goalkeeper, Noel Skehan, who trained and coached the team. Measured in any terms you like, his contribution was immense.

In the championship of 1989, St. Senan's failed to win a game. He got the players super fit. He got them to have a pride in themselves, and the club. And he moulded them into a good, well balanced team, with the help of selectors Michael O'Neill, the former chairman of Kilkenny Co. Board, Tom Caulfield and Dave Kenneally.

## SWARMED ALL OVER

They weren't in the match during the opening quarter, but once they settled, they gave as good as they got. Then in the replay they swarmed all over their opponents, but couldn't keep up the effort.

Still, it was a great year for the likes of Michael Flynn, who improved no end as a player, Gerry Mulligan, Liam and Jim Kinsella, Dermot Haberlin, Paul Long, Dick McNamara and the man with the goal scoring touch, Robbie Ryan, who helped the team through many a difficult period.

The high points of the year for Kilmacow were the appearance in the county final, victory in the Southern championship and an appearance in the newly inaugurated Open Junior Hurling Championship. A world of difference by comparison with 12 months earlier.



## BARROW RANGERS — Kilkenny Junior Hurling Champions 1990

**Back Row:** Philip Maher, Jim Hennessy, David Holmes, Paddy Murphy, Michael Doyle, Ger Lawlor, Charlie Purcell, Tom Brennan. **Front Row:** Gerry Purcell, Michael Whitley, Martin Hanlon (Capt.), Joe English, Pat Purcell, Syl Hennessy, Mickey Staunton.



## KILMACOW — Kilkenny Junior Hurling Finalists 1990.

Senior champions, Glenmore, also made a few people sit up and take notice. They had teams in the final of the special junior championship, and semi-final of the junior competition proper. Not bad going.

Slieverue were the losing Southern finalists, and with under-21 county player, Brian McGovern and Kilkenny junior, Michael Walsh always to the fore, they would have taken anyone but born again Kilmacow.

Dunnamaggin lost to the county finalists in the divisional semi-final, on a day when injuries spoiled their chances. County minor, Sean Ryan was even injured. Their one consoling thought was that they had beaten Kilmacow in the

Open Draw Championship. Could they be a team to watch next year?

Beaten Northern finalists, Emeralds (Urlingford) improved immensely on recent years. They turned in a few rousing performances, one in particular against Danesfort, when the teams simply tore into each other. If they can build on this year, they could be on the glory trail soon.

Lisdowney must be wondering what they have to do to make the breakthrough again in the North. They had Barrow Rangers beaten with less than five minutes remaining in their semi-final, but ended up being pipped on the line. It took a huge effort to shift them. With the same eagerness next term, they will take beating.



# Special Junior Titles for Clara and Piltown

— Clara too strong for Shamrocks —



**CLARA — Special Junior "A" Hurling Champions 1990**

**Back Row:** Pat Mulrooney, Dermot Langton, Pat Ryan, Brendan Barcoe, Gerry Nolan, Michael Nolan, Michael Murphy, T. J. Byrne, Liam Nolan, Pat Byrne, Andrew Carroll, Martin Prendergast, Padraig Lennon (R.I.P.). **Front Row:** Brian Hanrahan, Paschal Connolly, Robert Shortall, Danny Hoyne, Dan Ryan, Andy Casey, Declan Whearty, James Langton.

**CLARA** ..... 1-12  
**SHAMROCKS** ..... 0- 4

**C**LARA proved too strong for a youthful Shamrocks XV in an exciting Special Junior A county final played in Nowlan Park.

The Shamrocks made the more impressive start, with two early points from Sean Reid. Clara registered their first score after five minutes when Danny Hoyne pointed. Defences dominated during the opening half, leaving the interval score at 0-4 to 0-3 in favour of the Clara men.

Clara started the second half in determined fashion with Brendan Barcoe scoring two pointed frees. Danny Hoyne added another point moments later.

Meanwhile the Shamrocks were pressing hard but were not getting any change out of a good Clara half-back line of Dermot Langton, Pat Ryan and the ever-improving Brian Hanrahan, who really turned in a stormer.

The Clara pressure was paying off with two further points from Paschal Connolly and Declan Whearty. Seamus Grace had the Shamrock's only score of the second half when he pointed a free.

The losers were wasteful in front of goal missing easy chances from both play and frees. Had they scored some of these efforts the final margin of victory would have been much smaller.

Best for the winners were Dan Ryan, Pat Ryan, Dermot Langton, Brian Hanrahan, Brendan Barcoe and Robert Shortall. For the Shamrocks Michael Dempsey, John Walsh, Noel O'Keefe and Tom Murphy tried hardest.

**Clara:** G. Nolan, M. Nolan, T. J. Byrne, A. Casey, B. Hanrahan, Pat Ryan, D. Langton, D. Whearty, B. Barcoe, D. Hoyne, P. Barcoe, P. Connolly, R. Shortall, L. Nolan, D. Ryan.

**Shamrocks:** P. Harhan, S. Mason, G. Dempsey, J. Kenneally, J. Phelan, P. Phelan, P. Farrell, T. Murphy, N. O'Keefe, S. Grace, B. Aylward, M. Dempsey, J. Walsh, S. Reid, P. Connolly. Subs: J. Mason and R. O'Neill.



Barry Henriques presents the County Final Special Junior Roinn "B" Cup to Piltown Captain Jim Malone.





**O'LOUGHLIN GAELS — Kilkenny Special Junior "B" County Finalists 1990.**

## SUCCESS AT LAST FOR PILTOWN

**PILTOWN** ..... 2-10  
**O'LOUGHLIN'S** ..... 3-5

**P**ILTOWN atoned for losing last year's final when they emerged victorious over O'Loughlin's in this year's Special Junior B final played in Callan.

The Southerners started with the advantage of the stiff breeze and quickly opened up a six point lead. City side, O'Loughlin's, improved as the game

went on and managed to reduce the deficit to two points at the interval.

The winners although playing against the breeze in the second half continued to play well and increased their lead to six points again. O'Loughlin's at last began to take advantage of the breeze and the game produced some fine passages of play during the half.

Little separated the teams approaching the final moments of the game, but the better balanced Piltown side just held out for a merited win.

In their respective semi-finals Piltown

defeated Glenmore and O'Loughlin's beat Tullaroan.

**Piltown:** Jim Fitzgerald, Thomas Reid, Peter Brophy, John O'Brien, Michael Walsh, David O'Brien, David Phelan, David Cummins, Liam Kenny, Pat Davis, Pat Kirby, Tony O'Shea, Niall O'Brien, Nicky Culleton, Jim Malone (captain).

**O'Loughlin's:** Sean Casey, Gerry Buckley, Joe Earle, Simon Brennan, Barry Daly, Greg Holden, Pat Tobin, Colman Loughnane, Eamonn Cahill, Pat Geoghegan, Peter Dowling, Joe Daly, Anthony Driscoll, Pat Ward, John Grant. *Subs:* Michael Delaney, John Fitzgerald and Philip Holohan.

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# KILKENNY SUPPORTERS CLUB

(Sanctioned by Kilkenny County G.A.A. Board)



**T**HEY are all the go now . . . Supporters Clubs. And Kilkenny has one of its own.

The Kilkenny Hurling Supporters Club as it is officially known, has been there in some shape or other since 1983. It was dormant for a few years, but this season things were put on a firm footing, and the Club was officially sanctioned by the Co. Board.

It wasn't that it had been operating illegally up to this, just that a few interested people got together to try and do some good for county players. Of course, this enthusiasm had to be channelled in the right direction, and hence, the official blessing of the 'Board was sought, and received.

Like all Supporters Clubs, the Kilkenny one hopes to be of assistance to all sections of the G.A.A. It is a fund raising body, straight and simple, with absolutely no involvement with any team or team official.

It was decided to get a 'Club up and running in Kilkenny back in 1983. That was the time when the senior hurlers won the League/Championship double in 1982, and repeated the breathtaking act in 1983.

## REWARDED

It was felt the players should be rewarded for special achievements. They were. They were given a week's trip to Playa Del Ingles in the Canaries, courtesy of the Supporters Club.

Co. Board chairman of that time, Michael O'Neill and team manager Pat Henderson led the expedition, and as they

say, a great time was had by all. That was the beginning.

During the past 15 months the 'Club has been more active than ever before. In May of last year a successful Golf Classic was organised. Then a posh 'Night of Hurling Romance' was run at Hotel Kilkenny. Another Golf Classic was run in October. All funds generated have, or will be, pumped back into Gaelic games.

For example, for the trip to New York this year for the National Hurling League final proper, the 'Club sponsored the three day extension the players enjoyed in the Big Apple. That cost in the region of £2,500. Earlier, all players and team officials had been kitted out in slacks, shirt, tie and blazer for the home final.

Kilkenny county teams in All-Ireland finals were helped. The minors received track-suits, the juniors boots and the under-21 team track-suits. On top of that, the all conquering camogie ladies were given a £1,000 grant for their well deserved visit to New York in October.

Right now the 'Club has a **Patrons Scheme** open. Anyone can get involved in this. Basically followers of Gaelic games are being asked to make a £10 subscription to the 'Club, which will be used in some form or another to help Kilkenny teams.

## COUNTY COLOURS

The 'Club has its own official note paper and receipt books, and all donations will be receipted. Those who join the **Patrons Scheme** will receive a neck-tie (men) or neck scarf (ladies), which have

been specially designed and incorporate the Kilkenny colours.

The 'Club is accountable to the Co. Board, and can only operate within certain guidelines.

The officers of the Club are Eamonn and Jim Langton, John street; Eamonn Hennessy, Golf Links Road and John Knox of the 'Kilkenny People'.

The Club is open to all

Gaelic games followers all over the world, be they Kilkenny people or otherwise. If you would like further details, or would like to become a member of the Patrons Scheme you can do so by writing to Club secretary, John Knox, c/o 'Kilkenny People', High Street, Kilkenny or Ted Carroll, Secretary Co. Board, Granges Road, Kilkenny.

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# Thank You to our Sponsors

The success of the various Kilkenny teams in 1990 imposed additional expenditure on the County Board and we are indebted to our many sponsors who came to our assistance during the year:

To the following we say a sincere THANK YOU.

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*EAMONN Ó CEARBHAILL  
Rúnaí*

# JUNIOR HURLING Roll of Honour

- Mooncoin** (4) 1920, 1937, 1942, 1961.
- Mullinavat** (3) 1915, 1916, 1939, 1984.
- James Stephens** (3) 1924, 1929, 1955.
- Dicksboro** (3) 1910, 1914, 1922.
- Thomastown** (3) 1927, 1945, 1962.
- Glenmore** (3) 1923, 1953, 1980.
- Carrickshock** (3) 1928, 1954, 1979.
- John Lockes** (3) 1911, 1952, 1987.
- Barrow Rangers** (3) 1982, 1988, 1990.
- Knocktopher** (2) 1931, 1965.
- North Selection** (2) 1932, 1934.
- Bennettsbridge** (2) 1948, 1951.
- Danesfort** (2) 1925, 1930.
- Galmoy** (2) 1949, 1966.
- Clara** (2) 1969, 1977.
- Graigue/Ballycallan** (2) 1946, 1985.
- Windgap** (2) 1970, 1986.
- Tullogher-Rosbercon** (2) 1957, 1989.

One each —

- 1905 - Owen Roes (Urlingford); 1906 - Erin's Own (City); 1908 - Suirside Rovers (Mooncoin); 1913 - Mong; 1922 - Clonmore; 1926 - Knockmoylan; 1933 - South Selection; 1935 - Bonnettstown; 1936 - Éire Óg; 1938 Ballyline; 1940 - Threecastles; 1941 - Hugginstown; 1943 - Stoneyford; 1944 - The Rower; 1947 - Johnstown/Urlingford; 1950 - Slieverue; 1956 - St. Senan's (Kilmacow); 1958 - Erin's Own (Castlecomer); 1959 - St. Lachtain's (Freshford); 1960 - Lisdowney; 1963 - Rower-Inistioge; 1964 - Young Irelands (Gowran); 1967 - Coon; 1968 - Fenians (Johnstown); 1971 - Newpark Sarsfields; 1971 - Graiguenamanagh; 1973 - Shamrocks (Ballyhale-Knocktopher); 1974 - Muckalee-Ballyfoyle Rangers; 1975 - O'Loughlin's; 1976 - Conahy Shamrocks; 1978 - St. Patrick's (Ballyragget); 1981 - Piltown; 1983 - Tullaroan; 1984 - Mullinavat.

# JUVENILE CROSSWORD

## CLUES ACROSS:

1. Who was captain of the Kilkenny Under-21 team? (1, 7).
3. Mycro protection gear is worn where? (4).
8. The four brothers from Clara (4).
5. What club has its grounds at Palmerston? (9).
10. Who was the referee for the 1990 All-Ireland Hurling Final (5).
14. Who was the trainer of the Kilkenny Junior Hurling team? (1, 5).
12. Tipperary's corner-forward in senior hurling (3).
11. The advantage given to one team when the other commits a foul (4).
15. Which of the Fennellys captained Kilkenny in 1990? (4).
13. Which wood is the hurley usually made from? (3).

## CLUES DOWN:

1. What team did Paudie Holden captain in 1990? (6).
2. The club colours of Windgap are White and ..... (3)
7. What club won the All-Ireland hurling title in 1989? (9).
4. Former Kilkenny hurler now playing with New York? (5, 4).
3. Larry Mahony plays with what club? (9).
9. Score in handball (3).
6. Pet name for Kilkenny teams (4).

## FIRST PRIZE

£25

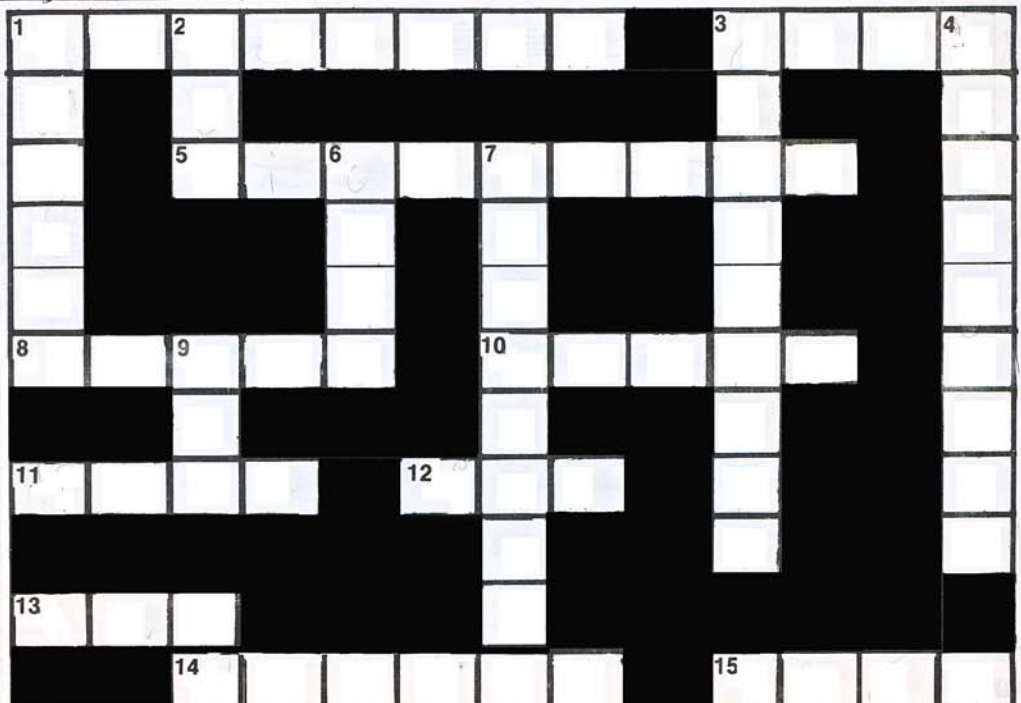
Send your crossword entry to:

**Nickey Brennan, Suttonsrath,  
Jeninstown, Co. Kilkenny.**

If there is more than one correct answer,  
the names will be put in a hat and the  
winner drawn.

**DEADLINE —**

**15th JANUARY, 1991**





# Minor Championships produce exciting fare

Reports by Tom Ryall and Nickey Brennan



**DICKSBORO — Kilkeny Minor Hurling Roinn "A" Champions 1990**

**Back Row** (l. to r.): Jim Kerwick, David Gaffney, Pat Murphy, Rory Knox, Adrian Trait, Brian Murphy, P. J. Trait, Eddie Morrissey, John Ayres, Thomas Wall, Michael Ryan, Tom Henderson, Eugene Begley (Chairman). **Middle Row** (l. to r.): Denis Philpott (Trainer), Sean Fitzpatrick, Niall Lacey, Michael Trait, Declan Phelan, Eoin Begley, John O'Dwyer, Mark Dowling, Ted Carroll, Joe Phelan (Selector), Martin Morrissey (Selector). **Front Row** (l. to r.): Shane Gannon, James Phelan, David Beirne (Capt.), Joe Philpott, Vinny Byrne, Sam Morrissey, Dan O'Neill.

## Sixth title for Dicksboro

CITY side Dicksboro captured their sixth minor county title when they overcame the strong challenge of Graiguenamanagh in a keenly contested final in Nowlan Park on Sunday, 11th November. The final score was:

**Dicksboro** ..... 0-10  
**Graiguenamanagh** ..... 0-5

Dicksboro entered the game as firm favourites having overcome strong challenges in the North from Graigue-Ballycallan, The Fenians and city neighbours O'Loughlin Gaels. Graignamanagh on the other hand had a less strenuous campaign in the South but they did record good victories over Piltown (after a replay) and Mooncoin (after another replay).

Dicksboro fielded with three members of the Kilkeny Minor panel, Dan O'Neill, David Beirne and Niall Lacey and they all contributed handsomely to this success, none more so than the excellent Dan O'Neill who showed supreme accuracy from frees scoring eight in total throughout the hour.

Graiguenamanagh were in no way overawed by the occasion and took the game to their more illustrious opponents. Outstanding defensive play from full back Rory Bolger and centre half back John O'Shea drove back attack after attack but the over zealous play was punished at times by the accuracy of Dan O'Neill from frees. Alan Byrne kept Graiguenamanagh in touch during the first half with some nice points but his team were dealt a severe blow coming up to half time when he developed a bad

pain in his stomach rendering him largely ineffective thereafter. The city side entered the break leading 0-6 to 0-3 but one felt they had plenty in store for the second period.

The second half produced some exciting hurling with both sides giving their all in the quest for glory. Little separated the teams in the first quarter of the second half with both sides scoring two points each. The final ten minutes saw the city side take a firm grip on the midfield exchanges and urged on by a



David Beirne, captain of the victorious Dicksboro minor hurling team, receiving the trophy from James Delehunty, Chairman Bord na nÓg.



powerful display from centre half back Mark Dowling they scored two sweet points from Niall Lacey and Sam Morrissey.

Graigenamanagh fought gallantly to the end and almost snatched a late goal when goalie Eoin Begley made a rare error. The ever dependable David Beirne cleared off the line to end any lingering hope the Southerners had of snatching victory.

Eoin Begley, apart from that late error, gave a fine display of goal keeping for the winners. David Beirne was a commanding full back with Ted Carroll also clearing a number of dangerous situations throughout the hour. Mark Dowling, after a slow opening half, really blossomed in the second half and kept a liberally supply of ball into his attack.

The winners can thank the sweet striking Dan O'Neill for this great win. Apart from his accuracy from frees he turned in a great hour's hurling and was to the fore when many of his colleagues were under pressure. Sean Fitzpatrick worked hard throughout having a particularly good last ten minutes. Niall Lacey played well in attack getting most support from Joe Philpott and Sam Morrissey.

Noel Dunne in the Graigenamanagh goal coped admirably with every ball that came his way. Full back Rory Bolger was an uncompromising full back while in the corner Ivan Morrissey was ever alert and made some great clearances. John O'Shea was a revelation at centre half back but tired in the closing stages. Ger Walsh and Martin Barcoe played some grand hurling at midfield but faded in the second half. The loss of Alan Byrne was a severe blow to Graigenamanagh. He was their scorer in chief and who knows what might have happened in the closing stages had he been on the field. Tony Farrell, Fran Doyle and Fergal Fenlon tried hard in the Graigenamanagh attack.

**Dicksboro:** Eoin Begley, Ted Carroll, David Beirne, Vinny Byrne, Dan O'Neill (0-8), Mark Dowling, Declan Phelan, John O'Dwyer, Sean Fitzpatrick, Shane Gannon, James Phelan, Joe Philpott, Michael Trait, Niall Lacey (0-1), Sam Morrissey (0-1). **Subs:** Brian Murphy, Cyril Keegan, Tom Henderson, Michael Ryan, John Ayres, Pat Murphy, Rory Knox, Dave Gaffney, Alan Trait, Thomas Wall, P.J. Trait.

**Graigenamanagh:** Noel Dunne, Henry Roberts, Rory Bolger, Ivan Morrissey, Liam Fogarty, John O'Shea, Declan Deddy, Ger Walsh, Martin Barcoe, Fran Doyle, Tony Farrell, Donie Murphy, Leo Bolger, Alan Byrne, Fergal Fenlon. **Subs:** Peter Whelan, Michael Ryan, Alan Morrissey, Noel Kealy, Ken Walsh, John Brett, Jamie Carroll.



**GRAIGNAMANAGH — Runners-up Kilkenny Roinn "A" Minor Hurling Championship 1990**

**Back Row:** Rory Bolger, Henry Roberts, John O'Shea (Capt.), Martin Barcoe, Liam Fogarty, Thomas Farrell, Fran Doyle, Donie Murphy. **Front Row:** Ivan Morrissey, Declan Reddy, Leo Bolger, Noel Dunne, Fergal Fenlon, Ger Walsh, Alan Byrne.

## First title for Kilmacow

**K**ILMACOW took their first ever minor county title when they defeated St. Lachtains (Freshford) in the Roinn B championship. It was one of the best games of the year, although conditions were far from good. Both sides threw caution to the wind and it was hell for leather throughout the game.

Conditions favoured defences and for that reason it was a low scoring game. The final score was:

**Kilmacow** ..... 1-5  
**St. Lachtains** ..... 1-4

Kilmacow had first use of the breeze and scored early through points from Tom Hearne and Patrick Gahan to lead 0-2 to 0-0 at the end of the first quarter. Joe Dermody opened the scoring for St. Lachtains with a point in the 17th minute.

Kilmacow got a vital goal two minutes later when a long centre from Kilkenny county minor player, Paul Long, was finished to the net by Ger O'Neill. John Walsh and James O'Neill added points for the winners before Joe Dermody pointed to leave the interval score — Kilmacow 1-4, St. Lachtains 0-2.

Richard Dawson, who had come on as a substitute, brought St. Lachtains right back into the game when he goaled. St. Lachtains were dealt a severe blow when their best forward, Joe Dermody, suffered a shoulder injury which reduced his effectiveness for the remainder of the game.

Oliver O'Connor (St. Lachtains) narrowed the gap to a point when he pointed a free with ten minutes left to play. Then Paul Long shot what proved to be the winning point when his free

came off the upright and he followed up to shoot a point. This was Kilmacow's only score of the second half and as it turned out, the vital one in the end.

Five minutes from the end, Oliver O'Connor pointed a "65" to leave the minimum between the sides. St. Lachtains did have two late chances to at least level the game, but Oliver O'Connor was wide on both occasions.

Kilmacow's best players were Brian O'Callaghan, their fourteen year old goalkeeper, the half back line of Robert Dalton, Denis Scully and Declan Gahan, county minor Paul Long who dominated midfield, but was wide with a few easy chances, Ian O'Callaghan, John Phelan and Patrick Gahan who was their best forward. St. Lachtains had fine players in George O'Shea, an excellent goalkeeper, Damien Anderson, Peter Hennessy, Brian Cahill, Lorcan Carroll, Martin Maher, Joe Dermody, until injured and Richard Dawson when he came on as a substitute.

**Kilmacow:** Brian O'Callaghan, John Phelan, Ian O'Callaghan, Edward Reddy, Robert Dalton, Denis Scully, Declan Gahan, Paul Long (0-1), Peter Ryan, Ger O'Neill (1-0), Tommy Hearne (0-1), P. Phelan, John Walsh (0-1), James O'Neill (0-1), Patrick Gahan (0-1). **Subs:** D. Tierney, N. Gahan.

**St. Lachtains:** George O'Shea, Martin Maher, Damien Anderson, Ian Colclough, Brian Cahill, Peter Hennessy, Lorcan Carroll, William Walsh, Marvyn Queally, Owen Dalton, Pat Doyle, Damien Hurley, Eamon Ryan, Joe Dermody (0-2), Ollie O'Connor (0-2). **Subs:** Richard Dawson (1-0), D. Martin and K. Gibbons.



## Conahy complete the double

**C**ONAHY Shamrocks regained a championship they last held in 1984 when they beat Mullinavat in the Minor Hurling championship Roinn "C". The game was played in Callan and the North Kilkenny side came through by 5-9 to 2-3.

Mullinavat came into this final without a game as Slieverue did not field in the South final. Conahy on the other hand beat Lisdowney, Galmoy and Dicksboro No. 2 on their way to the final.

Mullinavat had first advantage of the breeze but it was the winners who started the better with two points from Ciarain Muldowney. Richie Aylward opened the losers account with a point shortly afterwards. Liam Aylward put the Southerners ahead when he goaled but Ciarain Muldowney levelled from a free. Further points for Mullinavat by Pat Roughan and Paul Connolly left Mullinavat leading at the interval by 1-3 to 0-4.

Conahy Shamrocks got a good start to the second half when Ciarain Muldowney beat the Mullinavat goalie with a brilliant ground shot. Richie Aylward put Mullinavat back into the game when he levelled the scores with a goal from a free.

Mullinavat kept in touch until the last five minutes when only five points separated the sides. During the closing five minutes Conahy Shamrocks ran riot scoring three goals and a point, the goals coming from Kevin Healy (2) and Michael Healy.

Padraig Downey kept a safe goal for the winners. They also had star defenders in county minor Canice Brennan, Ciaran Connery, and James Lawless. The switch of Canice Brennan to midfield brought a big improvement to the winners play in this area. Phillip Carroll did far better when he moved to centre half back. Kenny Dooley was also very much to the fore for Conahy in the middle of the field.

Ciaran Muldowney was the winners scoring ace and he had a personal tally of 2-6. Michael and Kevin Healy took their goals in style.

Raymond Walsh did well in the losers goal until he was forced to retire through injury. Pat Holden, who moved to centre back, Peter Raftice, and Anthony Conway gave of their best. Paul Connolly and Willie Delehunty did well at midfield but faded when Canice Brennan moved to this area. Richie Aylward, Pat Roughan and Liam Aylward were best in attack.

**Conahy Shamrocks:** Padraig Downey, Brian Lacey, Ciaran Connery, James Loughlin, James Lawless, Canice Brennan (0-1), Philip Dunne, Philip Carroll, Kenny Dooley, Ciaran Muldowney (2-6), Martin Nolan.



**CONAHY SHAMROCKS — Minor Hurling Roinn C Champions 1990**

**Back Row:** Kevin Healy, Kenny Dooley, Martin Nolan, Canice Brennan, Val Gunner, Philip Dunne, Michael Healy, Ciarain Connery. **Front Row:** James Lawless, James Loughlin, Brian Lacey, Padraig Downey, Philip Carroll (Capt.), Tom Brennan, Ciarain Muldowney, Eoin Murphy.

Michael Healy (1-0), Tom Brennan (0-2), Val Gunner, Kevin Healy (2-0).

**Mullinavat:** Ray Walsh, K. Prendergast, Peter Raftice, Pat Holden, Anthony Conway, D. Guiry, D. Butler, Paul Connolly (0-1), Willie Delehunty, Richie Aylward (1-1), Pat Roughan (0-1), Raymond Carroll, Liam Aylward (1-0), J. Roughan, Jimmy O'Neill.

**H**OT favourites, Conahy Shamrocks, duly completed the double at minor level when they scored a comprehensive win over Mullinavat in the Minor Roinn 'C' County League Final.

The result of the game was never in doubt and the final margin of victory hardly reflected Conahy's overall superiority. The physically stronger Conahy boys adapted better to the heavy conditions and produced some fine flowing passages of play.

Mullinavat started in lively fashion and more than held their own in those early stages. They were quickly rewarded when Dan Guiry pointed from a very difficult angle. Remarkably this was to be their one and only score of the game. Once Kenny Dooley and the excellent Philip Carroll got on top at midfield Conahy were in the driving seat. A point after seven minutes from Kenny Dooley got Conahy going but the crucial score of the half was a goal by Michael Healy coming up to half time.

Mullinavat might have scored moments earlier when a shot for goal from a close in free was well saved by the winners defence who cleared the ball down the field. It was collected by Tom Brennan who drove it goalwards. With the defence failing to clear, in slipped Michael Healy to crash the ball to the net. This score was a devastating blow to the Southerners who trailed at the break by 1-6 to 0-1.

Conahy took up where they left off in the second half and were quickly into the attack. Two early points from Ciaran Muldowney extended their lead. The losers defence although under constant

pressure played superbly during the second half with the full back line being particularly effective. A second goal for Conahy late in the game by Eoin Murphy was just reward for all the second half pressure.

Padraig Downey had one of his quietest hours in the Conahy goal. Ciaran Connery was quite brilliant at full back and his timely interceptions and clearances were a joy to watch. Canice Brennan was unbeatable at centre back. Philip Carroll had one of his best games for some time at midfield while Kenny Dooley played great hurling over the hour. The Conahy attack had a tough tussle all through against the winners defence and had to work hard for all their scores. Most impressive were Michael Healy, Martin Nolan and Val Gunner.

R. Walsh had a good game in the Mullinavat goal and could do little about the two goals scored against him. He took a couple of heavy knocks during the game. P. Raftice was a steady full back and his two corner men K. Prendergast and E. Aylward gave little away and made many fine clearances. The half back line played their best hurling in the second half with P. Holden trying hard. N. Delehunty and P. Keneally started well at midfield but faded. The losers attack got little chance to impress and made no impression against the winners defence. Best efforts were put in by P. Rohan, R. Carroll and D. Guiry.

**Conahy:** Padraig Downey, Brian Lacey, Ciaran Connery, James Loughlin, James Lawless, Canice Brennan (0-1), Philip Dunne, Philip Carroll (Capt.), (0-1), Kenny Dooley (0-1), Ciaran Muldowney (0-6), Martin Nolan, Tom Brennan (0-1), Kevin Healy, Val Gunner, Michael Healy (1-3). **Subs:** Eoin Murphy and Shane Mulhall.

**Mullinavat:** R. Walsh, K. Prendergast, P. Raftice, E. Aylward, A. Conway, P. Holden, D. Butler, N. Delehunty, P. Keneally, J. Rohan, P. Rohan, R. Carroll, L. Aylward, R. Aylward, D. Guiry (0-1).





**JAMES STEPHENS — Kilkenny Under-14 Hurling and Football Champions and Féile na nGael Hurling Champions - 1989**

**Back Row:** Martin Ryan, Brian Wall, Robert Kearney, Kieran Mahon, Shane Doyle, Kevin Grogan. **2nd Row from Back:** Vincent O'Shea, Ken Maher, Conor Cleere, Wayne Kelly, John Moloney. **3rd Row from Back:** Rory O'Shea, Fergal Cantwell, Pdraig Hehir, Michael Power, Graham Carew, Eamonn Larkin, Eoin Delaney. **Front Row:** Stephen Drennan, John McEvoy, Liam Smith, Vincent O'Shea, Mark O'Brien, Vincent Morrissey.

## Under-14 G.A.A. Round-Up

# Third Féile for James Stephens in 1989

UNLIKE 1989 when James Stephens walked away with the Under-14 'A' hurling title, 1990 saw a very competitive championship. The reign of James Stephens was broken after three years as the dominant force in Under-14 hurling by the Noreside.

The nearest that any team could come to James Stephens in 1989 was in the final itself when they beat their city rivals Dicksboro by 4-8 to 0-1. This was a wonderful James Stephens side that swept to victory in the Féile na nGael and brought the Christy Ring Perpetual Trophy to Earchfield for the third time. When the title was won in 1981 and 1983, the team was known as St. Patrick's. Since then Under-14 teams carry the club name, so 1989 saw James Stephens being inscribed on the trophy for the first time.

James Stephens beat Coolderry —

their hosts — by 9-17 to 0-0. They played a real thriller with Na Piarasigh (Cork) in the second round coming out on top by 2-7 to 3-1. The next game was an easy victory over Birr by 8-11 to 0-0.

Their semi-final win was hard earned over Offaly side Kilcormac-Killoughey by 3-2 to 0-0. It was an all-Leinster final with St. Vincent's (Dublin) providing the opposition. The Noresiders led by 0-5 to 0-1 at the interval. After an exciting second half, the Kilkenny boys ran out winners by 0-9 to 0-2. Scorers for James Stephens in the final were Kevin Grogan (0-5), Liam Smith (0-3) and Stephen Drennan (0-1).

For the record the winning team was: Michael Power, Martin Ryan, Wayne Kelly, Kieran Mahon, Conor Cleere, Shane Doyle, Fergal Cantwell, Vincent O'Brien (captain), John Moloney, Robert Kearney, Liam Smith, Vincent

Morrissey, Stephen Drennan, Kevin Grogan, Brian Wall, Pdraig Hehir, Rory O'Shea, Eoin Delaney, John McEvoy, Eamonn Larkin, Mark O'Brien.

### FIRST KILKENNY FÉILE SUCCESS FOR GLENMORE

Glenmore, a Roinn 'C' team, created the shock of the year (1990) when they won the Paddy Grace Memorial tournament, the prize for which is representing the county at Féile na nGael.

One by one the Roinn 'A' teams bowed out of the competition as Glenmore and Erin's Own (Castlecomer) battled their way to the final. Erin's Own were a Roinn 'B' team.

The final was played in Callan and Glenmore ran out winners by 2-8 to 0-4. Glenmore had a brilliant midfielder in



John Phelan, while players like Paddy Mullally, Ciarán Lynch and Mark Mullally were top class.

Scorers in the final were:

**Glenmore:** John Phelan (1-2), Mark Mullally (0-4), Fergal Freyne and L. Doyle (0-1) each.

**Erin's Own:** D. Dunne, S. Brennan, R. Hurley, N. Wallace (0-1) each.

**Glenmore:** W. Fitzgerald, P. Fitzgerald, Ciarán Lynch (captain), R. Culleton, T. Griffin, P. Mullally, Richie Mullally, J. Phelan, F. Walsh, F. Freyne, D. Cody, M. Mullally, N. Doherty, L. Doyle, S. Hartley.

**Erin's Own:** C. Kelly, M. Owens, S. Loughlin, M. Walsh, D. Dunne, A. O'Neill, S. Brennan, R. Hurley, S. Purcell, W. Byrne, A. Brennan, M. Coogan, M. Buggy, F. Maher, F. Young. *Sub:* W. Wallace.

Arravale Rovers (Tipperary Town) played host to Glenmore for Féile na nGael. The Kilkenny boys lost to their hosts but won the remaining two games. But it was not enough to get them into the semi-finals.

### GRAIGUE/BALLYCALLAN BRIDGE 45 YEARS GAP

Graigue/Ballycallan bridged a forty five year gap when they won the Under-14 Roinn A hurling championship. They won all their games on the way to the final scoring an impressive 3-8 to 2-2 victory over Piltown in the semi-final.

Dicksboro beat their city neighbours James Stephens in the other semi-final by 1-4 to 0-6. Conditions were not good for the final and drizzle left the pitch greasy. Nevertheless both sides served up an exciting hour of all that is good in hurling.

The city side led by a point at the interval 0-4 to 0-3 after playing with the breeze. Graigue/Ballycallan's outstanding player, Damien Cleere, then put his stamp on the game and flashed home 1-3 to put his side ahead 1-7 to 0-5.

Dicksboro made great efforts to get back into the game and almost snatched a goal but the winners held out for an exciting win. In addition to Cleere, others to play well for the winners were Philip Butler, Paddy Dwyer, Alan Hoyne, Joseph Young, Michael Hoyne and goalkeeper John Comerford who had a couple of great saves. Aidan Begley, David Carroll, Mark Butler, Michael Gannon, Brendan Kennedy and Phil O'Hara were best for Dicksboro.

**Scorers:** Graigue/Ballycallan: Damien Cleere (1-5), Joseph Young (0-2). Dicksboro: Aidan Begley (0-2), Phil O'Hara (0-2), Wesley Egan (0-1).

**Graigue/Ballycallan:** John Comerford, Michael Hoyne, Paddy Dwyer, Philip Butler, Paul Hoyne, Alan Hoyne, Sean Dermody, Tommy Manogue, Brendan Comerford, Joseph Young, Damien Cleere (captain), John Hoyne, James O'Connor, Kieran O'Halloran, Sean Millea. *Subs:* Paul Dermody, Philip Cody.

**Dicksboro:** Alan Trait, John Maher, David Carroll, Berney O'Neill, Pat Delaney, Aidan Begley, Mark Burke, Michael Gannon, Dermot Beirne, Philip O'Hara, Wesley Egan,



Pictured at the presentation of the Paddy Grace Memorial Shield to Kilkenny Féile winners, Glenmore. **From Left:** Tom Ryall, Secretary Kilkenny GAA Bord na nÓg; Mrs. Maureen Grace, Ciarain Lynch, Captain Glenmore Team, and Mick Brophy, who donates the fine medals to the winners of this competition each year.



### GRAIGUE-BALLYCALLAN — Under-14 Roinn "A" Champions 1990

**Back Row:** Jim Neary (Trainer), Niall Egan, Pat Marnell, Paul Hoyne, Alan Trayer, Kieran O'Halloran, Paul Dermody, Paddy Dwyer, John Hoyne, Alan Hoyne, Tommy Manogue, Michael Hoyne, Sean Millea, Brendan Comerford. **Front Row:** Philip Coady, James O'Connor, Sean Dermody, Philip Butler, John Comerford, Damien Cleere, Joseph Young, Dermot Hoyne.



### DUNNAMAGGIN — Under-14 Roinn "B" Champions

**Back:** (l-r) A. Hickey, T. McCormack, S. Raggett, M. O'Neill, N. Lahart, W. Drennan, P. Moore, K. O'Shea, A. McCormack, J. Hickey. **Front:** (l-r) B. O'Shea, J.P. O'Neill, P. Drennan, N. Enright, W. Kearney, P. O'Shea, R. Cahill, N. McCormack, M. Enright, F. O'Shea, A. O'Neill.



Brendan Kennedy, Canice Coogan, Ian Burke, Stephen Campbell.

Referee: Paschal Long (Carrickshock).

## SWEET VICTORY FOR DUNNAMAGGIN

Dunnamaggin added the Under-14 Roinn B title to their Under-13 success when they beat St. Martin's in the final by 2-8 to 2-0 in a game played in Callan.

Although competing against a physically stronger team, they showed great skill and determination to dominate for long spells in the first half but yet for all their endeavour led by only five points at the interval by 0-5 to 0-0. This was mainly due to good defensive work by the St. Martin's team.

Dunnamaggin started the second half well adding a point and then a goal by Ramie Cahill to put them ahead 1-6 to 0-0. Midway through the half, the North Kilkenny boys fought back and got two goals in quick succession.

Dunnamaggin regained their composure to add two points to their tally. Just on the final whistle Willie Drennan struck home another goal to give his side an eight point winning margin.

Dunnamaggin's best players were Michael O'Neill, Andrew Hickey, Tom McCormack, Philip O'Shea, Brian O'Shea, Kenneth O'Shea and Noel Lahart. Best for the losers were Paul Maher, who made some great saves, Tommy Dowling, Martin Dooley, Nicky Butler, Philip Shore and Michael Murphy.

**Scorers:** Dunnamaggin: Ramie Cahill (1-1), Michael O'Neill (0-4), Noel Lahart (0-3), Willie Drennan (1-0).

St. Martin's: Ger Doyle and Martin Dooley (1-0 each).

**Dunnamaggin:** Anthony McCormack, John Hickey, Tom McCormack, Fergal O'Shea, Shane Raggett, Philip O'Shea (captain), Andrew Hickey, Michael O'Neill, Brian O'Shea, Ramie Cahill, Noel Lahart, Kenneth O'Shea, Willie Kearney, Willie Drennan, Noel Enright. *Sub:* Matthew Enright.

**St. Martin's:** Paul Maher, Lorcan Maher, Tommy Dowling, Ger Kinsella, Nicky Butler, Martin Dooley, Martin Somers, Laurence Brennan, Philip Shore, Michael Murphy, Ger Doyle, Philip Agar, Joe Dowling, Garret Comerford, John Maher.

Referee: Pat Hayes (Graigue/Ballycallan).

## GLENMORE TOO STRONG FOR THE REST

Glenmore after their exploits in the Feile na Gaeil were firm favourites to win the Roinn 'C' title and they duly obliged. It was a pity however that Glenmore were not in a higher grade as they had the ability to win the Roinn 'A' grade. Their victory in the Roinn 'C' grade, running away with every game, therefore gave them little satisfaction. In the final against Bennettsbridge, Glenmore played against the breeze in the first half but still led by 1-4 to 0-0 at the interval.

Led by their captain Paul Mullally, who was man-of-the-match, they piled on the scores in the second half to run out



### GLENMORE — Under-14 Roinn 'C' Champions

**Front Row:** (l-r) J. Barron, F. Freyne, P. Fitzgerald, N. Doherty, C. Lynch (Capt.), R. Mullaly, T. Griffin, W. Fitzgerald, D. Cottrell, D. Barry. **Back Row:** S. Hartley, M. Mullaly, D. Dowling, F. Walsh, J. Phelan, P. Mullaly, L. Doyle, D. Cody, R. Culleton, N. Mackey.

easy winners by 4-15 to 0-1. Glenmore only conceded 1-4 in all their games.

In addition to Mullally, others to play well for Glenmore were John Phelan, Paul Fitzgerald, Tommy Griffin, Fintan Walsh, Mark Mullally, Donal Dowling and Fergal Freyne. Bennettsbridge had an outstanding goalkeeper in Graham O'Brien. He got most assistance from Dean Deniffe, Tom Hanrahan, Ger Treacy, Wayne Dowling and John Drea.

**Scorers:** Glenmore: John Phelan (1-4), Mark Mullally (0-8), Donal Dowling, Noel Doherty, Shane Hartley (1-0) each, Paddy Mullally (0-1), Fergal Freyne (0-2).

Bennettsbridge: P. Lawlor (0-1).

**Glenmore:** Willie Fitzgerald, Paul Fitzgerald, Ciarán Lynch, R. Culleton, Tom Griffin, Paddy Mullally (captain), Richie Mullally, John Phelan, Fintan Walsh, D. Cody, N. Doherty, L. Doyle, Donal Dowling, Mark Mullally. *Subs:* N. Mackey, S. Hartley, S. Aylward, D. Cottrell, J. Barron.

**Bennettsbridge:** Graham O'Brien, Dean Deniffe, Tom Hanrahan, J. Gubbins, S. Dobyinn, C. Mulhall, Ger Treacy, Wayne Dowling, John Drea, R. McEvoy, P. Lawlor, B. Cleere, L. McEvoy, D. Malone, Adrian Walpole. *Subs:* R. O'Brien, N. Sugrue.

Referee: Pat Dunphy (Carrigeen).

### KILKENNY LOSE TO CLARE IN TONY FORRISTAL TOURNAMENT

Kilkenny's Under-14 team qualified for the final of the Tony Forristal Memorial

Tournament where they went down to Clare by 4-4 to 2-6.

Kilkenny beat Limerick and drew with Galway and Waterford. By virtue of their better scoring average they qualified for the final. The Noresiders conceded two soft goals in the first half and were well behind at the interval. They recovered in the second period to put in a terrific performance but the leeway was too much.

The introduction of Ray Hurley as a sub made a big difference. Kilkenny got some consolation when midfielder Damien Cleere was awarded the player of the tournament trophy. Others to play well throughout the tourney were Paul Mullally, Alan Hoyne, Billy Quinn, Michael O'Neill, John Phelan and Michael Purcell.

**The team in the final was:** Kenny Maher (Graignamanagh), Mark Dunphy (Lisdowney), Billy Quinn (Mooncoin), Ashley O'Keefe (captain), James Stephens, Paddy Mullally (Glenmore), Alan Hoyne (Graigue-Ballycallan), Aidan Begley (Dicksboro), James Connolly (Piltown), Damien Cleere (Graigue-Ballycallan), Michael O'Neill (Dunnamaggin), Michael O'Dwyer (Piltown), John Phelan (Glenmore), Adrian O'Neill (Erin's Own), Michael Purcell (Mooncoin), Alan Hearn (Windgap). *Subs:* Ray Hurley (Erin's Own), Alan Hosey (Cloneen), Pat Doyle (Emeralds), Brian Kelly (O'Loughlin/Gaels), Paul Cottrell (Rower-Inistioge), Thomas Brophy (Rower-Inistioge). **The selectors:** Sean Doyle (James Stephens), Tom Crowe (O'Loughlin Gaels), Eddie Tobin (Mooncoin) and Richie Stone (Ballyragget).



### DICKSBORO — Runners-up Kilkenny Under-14 Roinn 'A' Football Championship 1990

**Back Row:** John Gaine, Derek McKenna, Kevin Ryan (Selector), James Maher, Barnie O'Neill, Ian Bourke, Michael Gannon, Aidan Begley, Dara Bourke, Patrick Delaney, Philip O'Hara, Thomas Lynch, Noel Deevy (Selector). **Front Row:** Stephen Guidera, Patrick Trait, Mark Burke, Brendan Corcoran, Brendan Kennedy, Stephen Campbell, Alan Trait, Michael Slattery, David Carrol, Barry Jenkinson, Aidan Knox, Canice Coogan.



# Three-in-a-row for 'Stephens

**J**AMES STEPHEN'S won the Under-14 Roinn 'A' Football Championship when they scored a 3-6 to 2-2 victory over their city rivals Dicksboro. This was the winners third success in-a-row.

Dicksboro pressed hard early on and might have scored two goals. This though was the only real pressure from the Palmerstown outfit and the well-drilled 'Stephens were impressive winners.

'Stephens were well served throughout the field, and nowhere better than at half-back where James Kelly, Martin Phelan and Michael Leahy were rampant. Mark Campion was sound in goal. Padraig Ryan and Peter Cummins dominated midfield while in attack Peter Collins, Pat Crotty and Eoin Delaney were most prominent. Best for a disappointing Dicksboro side were Aidan Begley, David Carroll and Michael Gannon.



**JAMES STEPHENS — Kilkenny Under-14 Roinn "A" Football Champions 1990**

**Back Row:** Paddy Larkin (Selector), Eoin Campbell, Nicky Bennett, Martin Phelan, Peter Collins, Patrick Ryan, Shane Daly, Mark Campion, Ashley O'Keeffe, Paddy Crotty, Noel Maguire, Timmy Grogan (Selector). **Middle Row:** Mark Dowd, Jackie Mulcahy, Paul Cummins, Dermot Grogan, Eoin Delaney, James Kelly, Michael Leahy, Christy Hickey, Paudge Butler, Pauric Power. **Front Row:** David Mulcahy, Adrian Kenny, Paul Carroll, Barry O'Donoghue.

**James Stephens:** M. Campion, A. O'Keeffe, C. Hickey, J. Kelly, M. Phelan, M. Leahy, P. Ryan, P. Cummins, S. Daly (0-2), P. Collins (0-2), D. Grogan, E. Delaney (0-1), E. Campbell (0-1), P. Crotty (3-0).

**Dicksboro:** S. Campbell, D. Carroll, P. Delaney, B. Jenkinson, J. Maher, A. Begley, M. Burke, M. Gannon, B. Corcoran, P. O'Hara, M. Slattery, B. Kenneally, A. Trait, I. Bourke, T. Lynch. *Subs:* D. Bourke, B. O'Neill and C. Coogan.

# DID YOU KNOW?

THAT the longest recorded drive on a hurling ball was by Tom Murphy (Threecastles) in a long puck competition in 1906. His puck was driven 129 yards. The second man in the competition was Dan Kennedy of Tullaroan and Erins Own whose puck was 123 yards.

\*\*\*

THAT Kilkenny were the first team to beat Tipperary in an All-Ireland Hurling Final. The game took place in Cork in 1909. The score was Kilkenny 4-6, Tipperary 0-12.

\*\*\*

THAT the Railway Shield was first competed for in 1905 in the Interprovincial Hurling Competition. The first Province to win it three times or twice in succession took outright possession of the trophy. Leinster won it in 1907 and 1908 and the Kilkenny County Board presented it to the Corporation where it now hangs in the Town Hall.

\*\*\*

THAT in the late '40s the John Lockes club played Glenmore in Mullinavat in a championship fixture. The 'Lockes travelled in style on Nolan's bus. They brought with them the Callan fife and drum band and as many supporters as could be squashed into the bus. Hundreds more supporters cycled to the match.

When the band played their way up to the field the gates were thrown open to let them in. One of the gate men of the day remarked that it was the biggest fife and drum band he had ever seen in his life. He was nearly right in one sense. It was subsequently learned that a big number of the fife players were lads who used the pumps of their bicycles and pretended they were playing the fife.

\*\*\*

THAT in the early '50s Kilkenny were playing Tipperary in Croke Park. The Kilkenny full back of the day — that gentle giant Pat "Diamond" Hayden — had a slight altercation with the Tipp. full forward. The Diamond took a fierce exception to the full forward's action, so in his own words — "I levelled him into the net and leapt upon him. I had me hands around his neck when some of my own lads caught me by the legs and started pulling me off him, shouting: "let him go Diamond or you'll choke him!!!" To which the Diamond replied — "ah isn't that what I'm trying to do if ye'll leave me alone".

\*\*\*

THAT a Kilkenny corner back against Galway in the '70s was involved in the usual psyching during the match. The game was on about 20 minutes when the Galway forward said: "Hey, they're looking for you on the side-line, they're going to take you off". To which the redoubtable corner-back — never stuck

for a word — replied "they might as well, sure I have ....all to do here".

\*\*\*

THAT to complete the various championships in Kilkenny in 1990 from Under-21 grade (excluding Under-21 Football) upwards the following number of games were played:

Senior Hurling .....	37
Intermediate Hurling .....	37
Junior Hurling .....	58
Special Junior "A" Hurling .....	27
Special Junior "B" Hurling .....	66
Under-21 "A" Hurling .....	15
Under-21 "B" Hurling .....	16
Senior Football .....	15
Intermediate Football .....	23
Junior Football .....	23
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>317</b>

\*\*\*

THAT the Slate Quarry minors when winning the Leinster football championship of 1900 in Wexford against Louth had to use three modes of transport to get to the game. They travelled to Waterford by horse-drawn drey, by boat to New Ross and by train to Wexford.

\*\*\*

THAT between 1989 and 1990, 37 of the 41 clubs in Kilkenny competed in a County Final or Open Draw final at one grade or another. The exceptions were Tullaroan, Slieverue, Windgap and Carrigeen.



# A fair effort, and no complaints in defeat

IT was one of the few finals Kilkenny contested this year in which they failed to strike gold, but at least there was credit for effort and the new champions were made fight tooth-and-nail.

This was the story in the all-Ireland vocational schools senior hurling championship. Kilkenny, in their third consecutive final, were sent home empty handed by age old rivals, Tipperary.

There was no hard luck story, or anything like that. Tipp. were the better team, plain and simple, but it took them an awful long time to impose their will on opponents who had been trained to last the distance.

The Noreside trainer, Fr. Liam Barron C.C. and schools team manager for the past 25 years, Nicky McGrath had an amazing 33 get-togethers with their players before they walked out for the final, which was played as a curtain-raiser to the Home National League decider.

Those mentors, with county chairman, Jim Walsh knew they had a young team, and admitted the players weren't of the highest quality. But the players were a willing lot,

ready to listen and learn and Fr. Barron, later to become the Kilkenny minor trainer, worked on getting the best out of what he had.

By the time the Noresiders reached Croke Park, they had seen off Limerick and Galway, but in not nearly the convincing manner Tipp. had jumped over Wexford and Offaly in this open draw competition. Would you believe it, in their two games the Premier County ran up 44 points (27 v Wexford) and 17 v Offaly. By any standard, that was some scoring.

## UP AGAINST IT

So young Kilkenny knew they were up against it trying to hold onto the title they won the previous year at the same venue. Only Paddy Farrell (Ballyhale) and David Moriarty (Johnstown) survived from the 1989 side, and most of the rest would still be under-age come 1991.

Tipp. won eventually by 2-10 to 0-11. This time their shooting let them down, and as they threw away chances, their opponents made the best of everything that came their

way and were still in with a shout passing the 50 minute mark.

Then the victors got a big break. With the score standing at 1-7 to 0-9 (K) and Tipp. under pressure, a great ground stroke from Thomas Fogarty left the losers' keeper, Alan Behan stranded. That score decided the match. At half-time the Munster side led by 1-4 to 0-5.

The losers could have been a lot more behind were it not for some powerful hurling at midfield by Paddy Farrell. He dragged the team through bad times with a forceful display. When Tipp. threw chances away during the closing half, he kept driving Kilkenny on, and he brought the best out of Noel O'Keeffe, Barry Hudson, John Shefflin, later to star with the county in the minor all-Ireland and Derek Kennedy.

In trying circumstances, it was a fair effort from Kilkenny to try and capture the 8th title. Before the start injury robbed them of Donal Murphy (Graignamanagh) and Alan Byrne (Thomastown), but the fighting spirit driven into the players by team handlers helped compensate for certain shortcomings.

*Kilkenny:* Alan Behan (Johnstown); Derek Kennedy (Thomastown); Barry Hudson (Ballyhale); Tommy Carroll (Johnstown); Ian Atkins (Slieverue); Paddy Fleming (Ballyhale); Andy Phelan (Mooncoin); Paddy Farrell (Ballyhale); Noel O'Keeffe (Ballyhale); Pdraig Farrell (Ballyhale); John Shefflin (Ballyhale); David Moriarty (Johnstown); Pat Davis (Ballyhale); Keith Behan (Johnstown); Ger O'Sullivan (Thomastown). *Subs:* Damien Anderson (Johnstown) used; Donal Murphy (Graignamanagh); Alan Byrne (Thomastown); Robert O'Neill (Ballyhale); Jimmy Kelly (Kilkenny); Martin Maher (Johnstown); Paul Phelan (Johnstown); James Carroll (Graignamanagh).

In the order of merit, Kilkenny lie third behind North Tipperary (9) and Galway (8). The Noresiders seven wins were scored in 1963, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1976, 1977, 1989.

Tipperary scored their first win as a single unit in 1988. Prior to that the county was divided, with North Tipperary the dominant power.

## Brennans are Tops

IN perhaps one of the most unusual hurling games of the year in Kilkenny, a team composed entirely of Brennans played a team composed entirely of Walshs. It was all part of the Brennan Clan gathering which took place in Castlecomer in September. Despite the inclement weather, a fine crowd turned out in the Prince Grouunds. Indeed many spectators had come from far and wide to attend the weekend festivities and they thoroughly enjoyed the game.

Both teams to their credit rose to the occasion and played the game in a spirited manner and few could fault the big effort from both teams. The final score of 0-19 to 0-14 in favour of the Brennans reflected the overall quality of the game. The name Brennan has a long tradition in Gaelic games in Kilkenny and beyond and the team playing against the Walshs had players with over fifty All-Ireland medals in their collection.

For the record the teams were as follows:

**Brennans** — Martin "Goggy" Brennan (Erin's Own), Tom "Cloney" Brennan



**THE BRENNAN TEAM which played the WALSH'S TEAM in Castlecomer in September**

*Back row:* Thomas 'Cloney' Brennan, Terry Brennan, Kieran Brennan, John Brennan, Tommy Brennan, Willie "Jackie" Brennan, Eamon "Cloney" Brennan, Nickey Brennan. *Front row:* Johnny Brennan, Michael 'Cloney' Brennan, James 'Shiner' Brennan, Florence 'Cloney' Brennan, Martin 'Goggy' Brennan, Tom 'Cloney' Brennan, Christy 'Cloney' Brennan, Jimmy Brennan, P. J. Brennan.

(Cloneen), Nickey Brennan (Conahy Shamrocks), John Brennan (Thomastown), Thomas "Cloney" Brennan (Cloneen), Tommy Brennan (Erin's Own), Terry Brennan (Erin's Own), James "Shiner" Brennan (Erin's Own), Forence "Cloney" Brennan (Cloneen), Johnny Brennan (St. Martin's), Kieran Brennan (Conahy Shamrocks), Jimmy Brennan (Fenians), Eamonn "Cloney" Brennan (Cloneen), Mick "Cloney" Brennan (Erin's own), Christy "Cloney" Brennan (Erin's Own). *Subs:* Willie "Jackey" Brennan (Cloneen), P.J. Brennan (Ballinakill).

**Walshs** — Michael Walsh (Dicksboro), Tom Walsh (St. Martin's), Eddie "Heffo" Walsh (Faythe Harriers - Wexford), Martin "Coogan" Walsh (Erin's Own), Dick Walsh (Shamrocks), Pat Walsh (Windgap), John Walsh (Ballinakill), Joe Walsh (Mullinavat), Mattie Walsh (Fenians), Sean Walsh (Mullinavat), Christy Walsh (Kilmoyley - Kerry), Willie Walsh (Tullaroan), Michael Walsh (Slieverue), Jimmy Walsh (Windgap), Martin Walsh (Erin's Own). *Subs:* Donie Walsh (Carrickshock), Martin Walsh "Junior" (Erin's Own).



# Friends we lost in 1990

## JACK DUGGAN

**J**ACK DUGGAN first hit the national headlines as a member of the Kilkenny team that played three games to decide the historic 1931 All-Ireland final. Never before had such interest been generated in a hurling final as a result of those games.

Duggan came on as a substitute in the first game in 1931 and figured in the other two games.

In 1932 he was a member of the Kilkenny panel which took the title by beating Clare by 3-3 to 2-3. The following year Jack came on as a sub as the Noresiders beat Limerick by 1-7 to 0-6, thanks to a golden goal by Johnny Dunne. Jack was at centre forward on the 1935 winning team when Limerick were defeated by 2-5 to 2-4 in a downpour.

Jack's brother Larry, who is still hale and hearty in Enniscorthy, came on as a sub in that final. Jack was to play in two more All-Ireland finals in 1936 and 1937, when an ageing Noreside team were beaten by Limerick 5-6 to 1-5 and by Tipperary in a final played in Killarney by 3-11 to 0-3. He had the honour of captaining the Kilkenny team in that final.

In 1987 Jack was invited back by the Tipperary County Board to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of their victory in that game.

Jack Duggan also had a distinguished playing career on the local scene. He won five county senior medals with Mooncoin in 1927, 1928, 1929, 1932 and 1936. He won his sixth senior county medal when he helped a youthful Eire Og side to win their first final in 1939. On that day he partnered Jim Langton at midfield. Jack holds the unique distinction of winning county senior medals with four clubs.

He helped Tullogher win the senior football title in 1930 and 1931 and later helped Glenmore win two county senior football titles in 1938 and 1939. Jack achieved the unique distinction of winning six county senior medals in successive years: 1927, 1928, 1929 with Mooncoin; 1930 and 1931 with Tullogher, and 1932 with Mooncoin.

Jack played in the 1935 football final with Mullinavat but they were beaten by a combination of Glenmore and Slieverue known as Barrow Rovers. He had the honour of winning senior hurling and football county medals in 1939.

In 1933 Jack won a National Hurling League medal as a member of the Kilkenny panel. He toured America with the Kilkenny team of 1934 and was

presented with a gold watch by the Mayor of New York.

In conversation with Tom Ryall some years ago, Jack Duggan was asked why the scores were so low in the All-Irelands of the 1930's. He spoke of the toughness of the defenders in those days and he believed that present day forwards would not make any impression in that era.

Jack Duggan maintained his interest in Gaelic games up to the time of his death and he regularly attended games at Nowlan Park.

He was a star in an era of great players like Mick Mackey, Timmy Ryan, Phil Purcell, Charlie McMahon, the Wares, Jack Barrett, Matty Power, Paddy Larkin and the Byrnes.

Jack Duggan will forever be remembered in the annals of Gaelic games in Kilkenny. Go ndeanna Dia trocaire ar an am dilis.

## PADDY CAHILL

**K**ILKENNY G.A.A. lost one of its staunchest members with the passing of Paddy Cahill (Graigue/Ballycallan) during the year. Paddy had a long association with the Northern Junior hurling finals going back to the 1930's.

He figured in five finals (two of which were replays). Paddy played in his first final in 1938 when Ballyline beat Galmoy by 6-5 to 3-2. By a strange co-incidence all his appearances in Northern finals were against Galmoy.

In 1946 Graigue and Horse & Jockey (Galmoy) played a thrilling draw in Freshford on a 1-6 to 2-3 scoreline. The replay also finished level with both sides scoring 6-3. Extra time was played with Galmoy running out winners by 9-5 to 7-4.

It is now history that Graigue objected to the constitution of the winning team because they included in their side some players from Rathdowney. The Northern Board of the day awarded the game to Graigue who then went on to win the County Junior Hurling title.

Paddy won a senior medal with Graigue in 1949 but an injury curtailed his career. He missed a couple of years, but made a return to the junior team of 1952 which went to the Northern final where they drew with Galmoy 3-8 to 4-5. Galmoy ran out clear winners of the replay by 6-5 to 3-2. This was a combination team of Galmoy and Urlingford. It was remarkable that the score in this game was exactly the same as in the 1938 final.

Paddy Cahill helped Kilkenny to win the Junior All-Ireland in 1946. After his playing career ended he went into administration representing the Northern Board. When Graigue went out of the senior ranks, Paddy became a Northern Board delegate to the County Board where he represented the Board until Graigue/Ballycallan came back to the Intermediate grade in 1986 and Paddy was no longer eligible to be a Northern Board delegate.

In view of his outstanding contribution to the Northern Board as a player, administrator and a helper on big match days, the Board set up a new competition for the Paddy Cahill Memorial Cup to perpetuate his memory. That competition was played for the first time this year and it is hoped to have it as the curtain raiser to future Northern finals.

In this way the long association between Paddy Cahill and Northern Junior finals will continue. May the sod of St. Kieran's cemetery lie easily on his breast.

## SEAN WALSH

**T**HE sudden death of Sean Walsh, Ballyhale, in late September came as a shock to all G.A.A. followers. During the week he died, Sean had attended a County Board meeting on the Monday night, and two nights later attended another meeting, this time for Club Chairmen and Secretaries at the James Stephens Club complex.

Sean Walsh was a great G.A.A. man, who devoted his whole life to promoting Gaelic games. In recent years when he retired from business, his spare time was taken up with the development of the new field which the Shamrocks club purchased a couple of years ago.

Sean was the secretary of the Shamrocks club but he involved himself in all aspects of club affairs. He was the chief organiser of the Ballyhale minor teams which contested three county minor finals in successive years (1965 - 1967). They won two of these finals in 1965 and 1967.

His great delight was the joining of Ballyhale and Knocktopher to form the Shamrocks club in 1972. He was involved at all levels with the Shamrocks and saw them advance from winning the junior title in 1973, to winning the intermediate title in 1974 and later became senior county champions on eight occasions.

Mr. Walsh was closely connected with the Shamrocks winning three All-Ireland club finals. He was also involved with the



team when the Shamrocks won three senior football titles in 1979, 1980 and 1982 after winning the junior football title in 1975.

Following the success of the Shamrocks in the local championships, Sean served Kilkenny at all levels as a selector. He was always fair in his assessment of players.

Sean also served the Association as a referee. He refereed the Special Junior Hurling Final in 1960, and the Minor Football Final of 1958. He also refereed the infamous game between Conahy and Coon played in Ballyragget in 1962.

Nothing was too great a task for Sean if it was for the good of the Shamrocks, or of the G.A.A. in general. He will be missed not only in the Shamrocks club in Ballyhale, but in every aspect of community life. He was a wonderful community man in every sense. But, of course, he will, as a great family man, a loving husband and father, be missed most of all in the home in Knockwilliam.

Ar dheis De go raibh a anam uasal.

### JIM FARRELL

THE G.A.A. lost one of its most loyal and dedicated members in Kilkenny during the past 65 years or so, through the death of Jim Farrell (83) of Clinstown Road, Freshford.

Jim was a real G.A.A. man and literally ate, drank and slept Gaelic games. He got involved in the Association at an early age, and a few years ago was feted when he attended his 50th County Board Convention.

He was uncle of former Kilkenny senior players Pa Dillon (Freshford) and Billy and Martin Fitzpatrick (Fenians) and the sporting achievements of his nephews was a source of great joy to him.

Jim Farrell's playing career began with the now defunct Wellbrook club. At the formation of a club in Freshford he immediately got involved, and stayed with the outfit through thick and thin.

He contested the county junior hurling final with Freshford in 1939, and despite his prowess in goal, couldn't prevent Mullinavat taking the title.

Mr. Farrell promoted Gaelic games at all levels, and the youngest team was an important to him as any adult side. For years he represented the St. Lachtains club at Northern Board and County Board level, and earned the respect of peers who regarded him as an honest and hard working man who always had the good of the Association in mind.

A graveside oration was delivered by the County Board Gaelic Officer, Tom Waldron, who recalled fond memories of a man who had led an active life in farming and in sport. He said Mr. Farrell was a supreme conversationalist, and he was never at a loss for words. The area

had lost a traditionalist and 'character', who was a treasury of history and folklore.

Go ndeana Dia trocaire ar a anam dilis.

### PADRAIG LENNON

THE sudden death of Padraig Lennon in September was a sad loss to Clara G.A.A. Club. Padraig took ill during the Community Games Finals in Mosney when his own Clara camogie team were playing. Despite being rushed to the local hospital, Padraig passed on to his eternal reward.

Padraig was a man of unbelievable energy who gave freely of his time to all G.A.A. activities for the Clara club. It did not matter whether it was adults or juveniles, boys or girls — each was given the same attention as the other. His shrewd but constructive analysis of a game was always worth noting, because he was a Gael who spoke from experiences gained playing hurling with club and county.

Padraig's hurling career began with the now defunct city club Eire Og, with whom he won three senior championships in '44, '45 and '47. His displays with Eire Og would eventually bring him to the notice of the Kilkenny selectors and he was a member of the panel in '46 and '47, the year of Kilkenny's famous victory over Cork, often regarded as the best All-Ireland ever. Mr. Lennon was also a noted footballer, winning senior championships with St. John's in '46 and '48.

He was involved in coaching all Clara club teams at one stage or other. The success of the club in the 1982 Intermediate final gave him immense pleasure. He was also heavily involved

with the Clara camogie club coaching the young girls to a number of notable successes at county level. The performance of the team in reaching the finals of the Community Games was a just reward for the efforts of Padraig Lennon. How ironic that it should be at the same Community Games finals that Padraig should eventually hear "the final whistle". His death was a terrible shock to the Clara girls but it made them all the more determined to win the final for their mentor. Their subsequent success was both a joyful and intensely sad occasion for all connected with the camogie club.

Padraig was a genial man who found it easy to make friends. He will be sadly missed in Clara not alone by his wife Dollie and family but by all lovers of Gaelic Games in the parish.

May he rest in peace.

### JOHN ROUGHAN

JOHN Roughan was a well known and highly respected G.A.A. official of the John Lockes Club (Callan). He made his own niche as an able administrator, starting with the Ahenure Hurling Club (Callan) as secretary at the age of 17 years. He held many positions within the club over a long period of time. He was Chairman from 1963 to 1975.

He was deeply committed to the project that saw the present John Locke Park become a reality. He acted as a selector on both club and Kilkenny county teams. He was a selector on the Kilkenny minor team of 1968 and the Kilkenny Intermediate team of 1971. He was also on the committee when John Lockes won the senior hurling championship in 1957.

May he rest in peace.

### DO YOU AGREE WITH LARRY?

WE were all sorely disappointed at the collapse of our senior hurling team in this year's Leinster championship. The letters to our local newspapers reflected some of the disappointment of our supporters but they were not all about the team's performance.

What about this letter from Larry O'Shea (14) from Lismatigue, Knocktopher, Co. Kilkenny, to the *Kilkenny People* newspaper:

Sir — I am ashamed to be a Kilkenny supporter, not because of how the boys hurled, but because of some of the comments made, which were sickening.

When Kilkenny are winning, some supporters are all over them, but if they lose they are all a crowd of wasters.

You have to accept victory and defeat gracefully. Remember, this was the team which won the National League title.

Maybe the boys were burned out. After all, those good performances they

turned out in the League should not be forgotten, especially in those cold winter months.

Some people would suggest that Offaly have played their All-Ireland. But they are a good side and should go a long way.

I think it was a disadvantage that Kilkenny showed their full hand in the league campaign. Offaly knew too much about Kilkenny and knew exactly who to mark and who to stop hurling.

Poor D.J.! It was like Maradona in the World Cup. Everyone wanted to stop him hurling and hurl him out of it.

D.J. Carey, Eamonn Morrissey, Pat Dwyer, Bill Hennessy, John McDonald and John Power will be master hurlers in the future. How some people can sum up Kilkenny's performance in 20 minutes is sickening, because that's all the Sunday Game showed.

And the people who didn't go to the match are the ones dishing out the blame.



# IDENTIFY THE PERSONALITIES

Win two Stand Tickets for next year's All-Ireland Hurling Final



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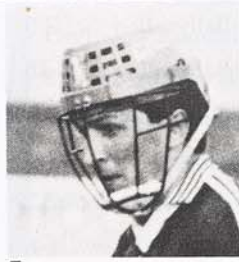
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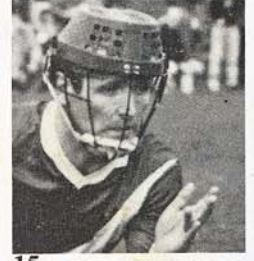
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Entries to: **Nickey Brennan, Suttonsrath, Jenkinstown, Co. Kilkenny**  
Closing date for entries: 15th January, 1991



# ROLL OF HONOUR 1989

COMPETITION	WINNER/SCORE	RUNNER-UP/SCORE
Senior Hurling	— Shamrocks ..... 2-11	Glenmore ..... 1-13
Intermediate Hurling	— Mullinavat ..... 2-13	Young Irelands ..... 0-14
Junior Hurling	— Tullogher ..... 2-15	Galmoy ..... 3-8
Senior Football	— Glenmore ..... 0-11	Railyard ..... 1-5
Junior Football	— Bennettsbridge ..... 2-9	Mullinavat ..... 2-6
Under-21 Hurling Roinn A	— Erin's Own ..... 2-9	Shamrocks ..... 1-5
Under-21 Hurling Roinn B	— St. Martin's ..... 2-6	Carrickshock ..... 1-5
Under-21 Football Roinn A	— Final not yet played between Dicksboro and Piltown	
Under-21 Football Roinn B	— Final not yet played between Erin's Own and Kilmoganny	
Special Junior Hurling Roinn A	Glenmore ..... 4-5	Young Irelands ..... 2-6
Special Junior Hurling Roinn B	Graigie-Ballycallan ..... 2-9	Piltown ..... 3-6
	Graigie-Ballycallan ..... 0-16	Piltown ..... 0-8
Special Junior Football	— Final not yet played between Erin's Own and Kilmoganny	
Minor Hurling Roinn A	— Young Irelands ..... 1-18	Mooncoin ..... 1-6
Minor Hurling Roinn B	— Clara ..... 2-7	Carrickshock ..... 2-2
Minor Hurling Roinn C	— Barrow Rangers ..... 2-8	Dunnamaggin ..... 1-9
Minor Hurling League Roinn A	Fenians ..... 2-14	St. Martin's ..... 4-7
Minor Hurling League Roinn B	John Lockes ..... 2-13	Shamrocks ..... 2-11
Minor Hurling League Roinn C	Dunnamaggin ..... 2-7	Barrow Rangers ..... 3-4
	Dunnamaggin ..... 2-6	Barrow Rangers ..... 1-2
Minor Football Roinn A	— Dicksboro ..... 2-6	Piltown ..... 0-4
Minor Football Roinn B	— Kilmoganny ..... 0-8	Muckalee ..... 1-2
Under-16 Hurling Roinn A	— James Stephens ..... 1-9	Mooncoin ..... 0-6
Under-16 Hurling Roinn B	— Clara ..... 4-4	St. Senan's ..... 1-4
Under-16 Hurling Roinn C	Danesfort ..... 2-8	Mullinavat ..... 3-5
	Danesfort ..... 2-5	Mullinavat ..... 0-4
Under-16 Hurling Lge. Roinn A	James Stephens ..... 0-15	O'Loughlins ..... 1-7
Under-16 Hurling Lge. Roinn B	Dunnamaggin ..... 2-11	Conahy Shamrocks ..... 1-10
Under-16 Hurling Lge. Roinn C	Galmoy ..... 1-7	Danesfort ..... 1-4
Under-16 Football Roinn A	— Dicksboro ..... 1-7	Kilmoganny ..... 0-1
Under-16 Football Roinn B	— Rower-Inistioge ..... 3-4	St. Pat's (Ballyragget) ... 1-3
Under-16 Football Lge. Roinn A	James Stephens ..... 2-8	Dicksboro ..... 1-5
Under-16 Football Lge. Roinn B	Piltown ..... 2-5	St. Pat's (Ballyragget) ... 2-2
Under-14 Hurling Roinn A	— James Stephens ..... 4-8	Dicksboro ..... 0-1
Under-14 Hurling Roinn B	— St. Lachtain's ..... 3-2	Piltown ..... 2-3
Under-14 Hurling Roinn C	— Mullinavat ..... 3-8	Danesfort ..... 2-6
Under-14 Football Roinn A	— James Stephens ..... 2-8	Piltown ..... 1-3
Under-14 Football Roinn B	— Graiguenamanagh ..... 1-6	Young Irelands (Gowran) .. 1-2
Under-13 Hurling Roinn A	— St. Patrick's ..... 3-5	Kilmanagh ..... 1-2
Under-13 Hurling Roinn B	— Mooncoin ..... 4-7	Urlingford ..... 2-5
Under-13 Hurling Roinn C	— Ballyhale ..... 3-4	Dunnamaggin ..... 1-2
Under-13 Hurling Roinn D	— St. Canice's ..... 2-6	Moneenroe ..... 1-4
Under-13 Football Roinn A	— Kilkenny C.B.S. .... 3-2	St. Patrick's ..... 0-4
Under-13 Football Roinn B	— Dunnamaggin ..... 4-7	Mooncoin ..... 1-1
Byrne Cup Open Hurling	— Shamrocks ..... 2-16	James Stephens ..... 0-7



# ROLL OF HONOUR 1990

COMPETITION	WINNER/SCORE	RUNNER-UP/SCORE
Senior Hurling	— Glenmore ..... 3-15	Clara ..... 2-6
Intermediate Hurling	— Mooncoin ..... 4-9	Thomastown ..... 1-9
Junior Hurling	— Barrow Rangers ..... 3-5	Kilmacow ..... 2-8
	Barrow Rangers ..... 6-9	Kilmacow ..... 3-10
	<i>(After extra time)</i>	
Senior Football	— Muckalee ..... 1-11	Glenmore ..... 0-4
Intermediate Football	— Barrow Rangers ..... 4-7	Lisdowney ..... 1-5
Junior Football	— Mullinavat in final. Clara and Dicksboro to replay North final	
Under-21 Hurling Roinn A	—	
Under-21 Hurling Roinn B	—	
Under-21 Football Roinn A	—	
Under-21 Football Roinn B	—	
Special Junior Hurling Roinn A	Clara ..... 1-12	Shamrocks ..... 1-4
Special Junior Hurling Roinn B	O'Loughlin Gaels ..... 2-8	Piltown ..... 2-8
	Piltown ..... 2-10	O'Loughlin Gaels ..... 3-5
Special Junior Football	—	
Minor Hurling Roinn A	— Dicksboro ..... 0-10	Graigue-amanagh ..... 0-5
Minor Hurling Roinn B	— Kilmacow ..... 1-5	St. Lachtain's ..... 1-4
Minor Hurling Roinn C	— Conahy Shamrocks ..... 5-9	Mullinavat ..... 2-3
Minor Hurling League Roinn A		
Minor Hurling League Roinn B		
Minor Hurling League Roinn C	Conahy Shamrocks ..... 2-13	Mullinavat ..... 0-1
Minor Football Roinn A	—	
Minor Football Roinn B	—	
Under-16 Hurling Roinn A	— Graigue-Ballycallan ..... 2-5	Mooncoin ..... 1-3
Under-16 Hurling Roinn B	— St. Lachtain's ..... 1-9	Rower-Inistioger ..... 1-6
Under-16 Hurling Roinn C	— Conahy Shamrocks ..... 5-6	Glenmore ..... 1-4
Under-16 Hurling Lge. Roinn A	James Stephens ..... 2-9	Mooncoin ..... 2-8
Under-16 Hurling Lge. Roinn B	Rower-Inistioge ..... 2-9	Kilmacow ..... 2-7
Under-16 Hurling Lge. Roinn C	Conahy Shamrocks ..... 3-5	Mullinavat ..... 2-5
Under-16 Football Lge. Roinn A	Rower-Inistioge ..... 2-3	Dicksboro ..... 1-5
Under-16 Football Lge. Roinn B	St. Pat's (Ballyragget) ... 4-5	Graigue-amanagh ..... 2-4
Under-16 Football Lge. Roinn A	Dicksboro ..... 2-10	James Stephens ..... 1-8
Under-16 Football Lge. Roinn B	Kilmacow ..... 2-12	Conahy Shamrocks ..... 2-5
Under-14 Hurling Roinn A	— Graigue-Ballycallan ..... 1-7	Dicksboro ..... 0-5
Under-14 Hurling Roinn B	— Dunnamaggin ..... 2-8	St. Martin's ..... 2-0
Under-14 Hurling Roinn C	— Glenmore ..... 4-15	Bennettsbridge ..... 0-1
Under-14 Football Roinn A	— James Stephens ..... 3-6	Dicksboro ..... 2-2
Under-14 Football Roinn B	— Mooncoin ..... 1-5	Muckalee ..... 0-7
Under-13 Hurling Roinn A	— Kilmanagh ..... 3-7	Kilkenny C.B.S. .... 1-0
Under-13 Hurling Roinn B	— Ballyhale ..... 3-3	Rower-Inistioge ..... 1-4
Under-13 Hurling Roinn C	— Dunnamaggin ..... 2-3	Mullinavat ..... 1-0
Under-13 Hurling Roinn D	— Conahy Shamrocks ..... 3-3	Lisdowney ..... 1-0
Under-13 Football Roinn A	— Thomastown ..... 4-4	Kilkenny C.B.S. .... 0-3
Under-13 Football Roinn B	— Callan C.B.S. .... 2-7	Castlecomer ..... 1-0
Byrne Cup Open Hurling	— James Stephens ..... 0-15	St. Martin's ..... 1-8
Junior Hurling Open Draw	— Dunnamaggin ..... 2-9	Kilmacow ..... 1-7
Paddy Cahill Cup (Hurling)	— James Stephens ..... 1-10	Blacks and Whites ..... 0-11
North Open Draw Junior Hurling	James Stephens ..... 2-4	Clara ..... 0-5



# COUNTY BOARD MEMBERS

Reports of County Board meetings regularly appear in the local press, but readers might like to know who precisely is entitled to attend such meetings. The Board has 74 members as follows:

NAME	REPRESENTING
<b>Paddy Buggy</b>	Chairman (Slieverue)
<b>Ted Carroll</b>	Secretary (Lisdowney)
<b>Pat Dunphy</b>	Treasurer (Rower-Inistioge)
<b>Tom Ryall</b>	Central Council Delegate (Graigue/Ballycallan)
<b>Tommy Murphy</b>	Leinster Council Delegate (Danesfort)
<b>John Healy</b>	Leinster Council Delegate (Tullagher-Rosbercon)
<b>Tom Waldron</b>	Oifigeach Gaelach (St. Lachtain's)
<b>Barry Hickey</b>	Development Officer (John Lockes)
<b>Paul Kinsella</b>	Hurling Officer (St. Martin's)
<b>Tom Cunniffe</b>	Football Officer (Dicksboro)
<b>Jim Rice</b>	Trustee (O'Loughlin Gaels)
<b>Jimmy Brophy</b>	Trustee (Piltown)
<b>Barry Henriques</b>	Chairman, Southern Board (John Lockes)
<b>Ned Moran</b>	Chairman, Northern Board (Black & Whites)
<b>Kieran Meally</b>	Chairman, Football Board (Railyard)
<b>James Delahunty</b>	Chairman, Board na nÓg (Mooncoin)
<b>Eamonn Doyle</b>	Youth Officer (O'Loughlin Gaels)
<b>Joe Pyke</b>	Bord na nÓg Representative (Clara)
<b>John Knox</b>	Schools Board Representative (Gowran)
<b>Johnny Brennan</b>	Handball Board Representative (St. Martin's)
<b>Nicky McGrath</b>	Second Level Schools Representative (unattached)
<b>Seamus Delaney</b>	Referee Committee Representative (unattached)
<b>Seán Tyrrell</b>	James Stephens
<b>Florrie McCarthy</b>	James Stephens
<b>Danny Coonan</b>	St. Martin's
<b>Patsy Murphy</b>	Muckalee
<b>Tom Ryan</b>	Glenmore
<b>Paddy Mackey</b>	Glenmore
<b>Bob Shortall</b>	Clara
<b>Kevin Fennelly</b>	Shamrocks
<b>Seán Walsh (R.L.P.)</b>	Shamrocks
<b>Billy Gaffney</b>	Tullaroan
<b>Larry O'Neill</b>	Erin's Own
<b>Michael Dermody</b>	Graigue/Ballycallan
<b>Nicky Teehan</b>	Graigue/Ballycallan
<b>Pat Henderson</b>	Fenians
<b>Michael Byrne</b>	Graignamanagh

NAME	REPRESENTING
<b>Denis Cody</b>	Graignamanagh
<b>Nickey Brennan</b>	Conahy Shamrocks
<b>Toddy Lacey</b>	Conahy Shamrocks
<b>Tommy Duggan</b>	Mullinavat
<b>Michael Carroll</b>	Mullinavat
<b>Martin Brennan</b>	O'Loughlin Gaels
<b>Michael Monagle</b>	O'Loughlin Gaels
<b>Richard Tierney</b>	Rower-Inistioge
<b>John Maher</b>	Piltown
<b>Pat Treacy</b>	Young Ireland's
<b>Liam Duggan</b>	Carrickshock
<b>John Lanigan</b>	Thomastown
<b>John Minogue</b>	Thomastown
<b>Eamonn Kelly</b>	St. Lachtain's
<b>Tom Doheny</b>	St. Lachtain's
<b>Martin Treacy</b>	Bennettsbridge
<b>E. J. Ryan</b>	John Lockes
<b>Dick Dunphy</b>	Mooncoin
<b>Ned Quinn</b>	Mooncoin
<b>Seán Doherty</b>	Galmoy
<b>Seamus Walsh</b>	Slieverue
<b>John Lacey</b>	St. Patrick's (Ballyragget)
<b>Paddy Tobin</b>	Emeralds
<b>Malachy Hogan</b>	Dunnamaggin
<b>Christy Whelan</b>	Kilmoganny
<b>Jim McGrath</b>	Danesfort
<b>Michael Shortall</b>	Barrow Rangers
<b>Seamus Phelan</b>	Tullagher-Rosbercon
<b>Gerry Murphy</b>	Black & Whites
<b>Nicky Grace</b>	Threecastles
<b>Jim Phelan</b>	Kilmacow
<b>Jimmy Walsh</b>	Windgap
<b>Jimmy Purcell</b>	Railyard
<b>John Cahill</b>	Dicksboro
<b>Charlie McCarthy</b>	Cloneen
<b>Pat Dunphy</b>	Carrigeen
<b>Lar Carroll</b>	Lisdowney



**Man of the Match** — Willie O'Connor of Glenmore receives his award from sponsor Frank Morrissey of Hennessy Sports, Parliament Street, Kilkenny.





**Kilkenny Delegates at G.A.A. Congress — Easter 1990**  
From left: Ted Carroll, Barry Hickey, Tommy Murphy, Pat Henderson, Tom Ryall, Paddy Buggy.



**The League Cup in Johnstown** — Kevin Fennelly with the trophy following Kilkenny's return from New York.





**"Shiner Shoots"** — Kilkeny Under-21 Captain James Brennan in action against Tipperary in this year's All-Ireland Final.



**Eyes on the ball** — John Conlon clears his line in the All-Ireland Under-21 Final.