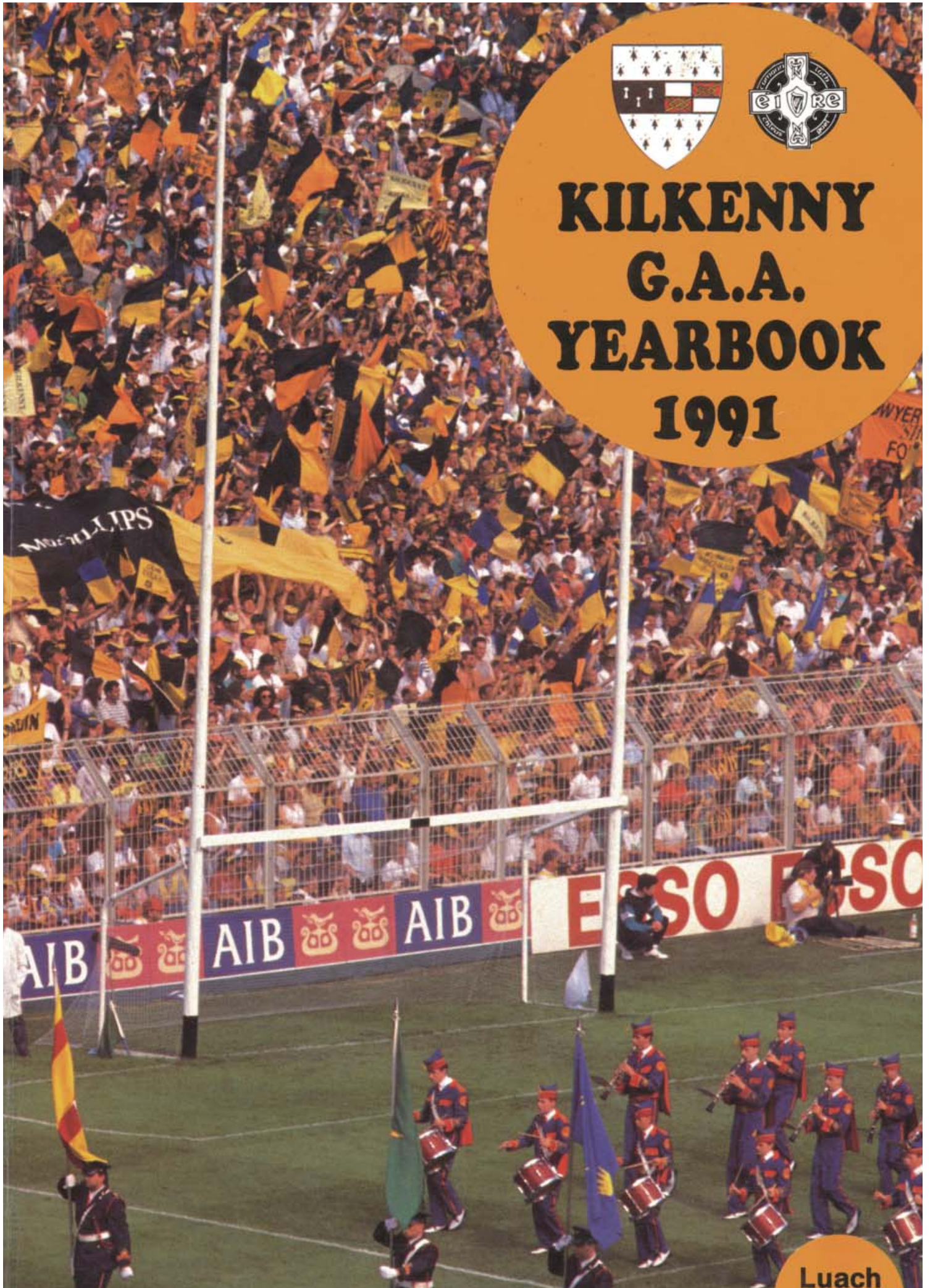




KILKENNY G.A.A. YEARBOOK 1991



Luach

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Kilkenny G.A.A. Yearbook 1991

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*The Black and Amber
Army defend the Hill.*

(Cover pic by Sportsfile)

Editorial

WHEN I succeeded Nicky Brennan as Editor of the Kilkenny G.A.A. Yearbook, little did I realise the onerous task I had unwittingly accepted. Although I acted as Nicky's aide-de-camp – Paddy Buggy's words, not mine – last year, I must admit that the book you have before you has afforded me a great degree of pride and satisfaction. We have endeavoured to cover the many activities of the clubs within our county, and in addition, to pay glowing tribute to our national winners in hurling, handball and camogie.



It is only right that we should do so, as we owe so much to all our players and supporters. We in Kilkenny are very proud of our heritage and tradition. We are also very conscious of our responsibility of upholding and fostering those hard won traditions that have been handed down to us for preservation. To that end we take great pride in producing this history of our year's activities. I sincerely hope you enjoy it.

The publication of this book would never have been possible without the assistance of many dedicated people. I am particularly indebted to my yearbook committee of Tommy Murphy (chairman), Barry Hickey, Ted Carroll, John Knox N.T., Tom Ryall, Tom Doheny and Tom Waldron. There is one other member of the committee who is the epitome of all that is great about our Association. I refer, of course, to our County Chairman Nicky Brennan, without whose dedication and sheer professionalism this book would never have been possible.

There are many and varied articles in this yearbook, and I am extremely grateful to all the contributors. I owe a debt of gratitude to our professional journalists – John Knox (*Kilkenny People*) and Enda McEvoy (*Kilkenny Standard*) for their contributions. I also inveigled Peter Houlihan – a man synonymous with the Kilkenny G.A.A. scene – to contribute to the book, for which I am grateful. As with last year's edition, photographs, a "must" in any publication, play an increasingly vital role. To all our "camera men and women" I say simply "thank you". I wish to pay due regard to the people who finally helped me with "proof reading", distribution, and sale of this book, and I am particularly mindful of people like Brendan O'Sullivan N.T., Helen Carroll and Ann O'Brien, Gerry O'Neill N.T. and Ned Kennedy N.T.

You will appreciate that a venture like this is expensive, and to this end I thank all our advertisers who supported the book, and hope that their interest and investment may prove a lucrative one.

Finally I wish to thank our publisher, *Kilkenny People*, and its staff – especially Martin Brett and Tom Beirne whose advice and courtesy were evident and available at all times.

I do hope that our efforts will give you many hours of enjoyment through the coming months.

Tá mé cinnte go mbainfidh sibh taitheamh as an leabhar seo. Táim cinnte freisin go mbeidh bliain an-shásúil ag Contae Cill Chainnigh sa bhliain 1992. Go n'éirí an bóthair libh go léir i 1992.

BARRIE HENRIQUES
Editor

Foreword

AMHUINTIR Chill Chainnigh agus a cháirde i gcéin agus i gcóngar, tá súil agam go mbainfidh sibh taitneamh as Irlislabhar Chill Chainnigh 1991. Is liosta le háireamh é ainmneacha na ndaoine a chabhraigh chun an t-iriseabhar seo a fhoilsiú. Gabhaimse buíochas díobh go léir. Beimid ag súil le bhúr tacaíocht sa bhliain atá romhainn. Táimse ag guí go mbeidh athbhliain faoi mhaise daoibh go léir.

Kilkenny G.A.A. County Board is very pleased to publish its second Year Book. Our first effort last year was particularly well received, necessitating a second print. We have continued with the same format in 1991 and I hope this publication brings you many hours of enjoyable reading.

While the past year will not compare with 1990 in terms of success, it was nevertheless a year to remember, particularly for our minor hurlers. The county is still to the fore at Colleges and Vocational Schools level and our fantastic Camogie girls continue to reign as queens of the camán. It was a particularly memorable year once again for our handballers with Kilkenny prominent at the highest level.

The disappointment of the year was the failure of our senior hurlers in the All-Ireland Final. It will take a major effort and no little sacrifice to bring Kilkenny back to the top again. We have no shortage of talent here in Kilkenny and our many successes at underage level in recent years underlines this. However, the



transition to senior status can be difficult for many players. Therein lies Kilkenny's dilemma at present. 1991 will be a big test for hurlers and team officials alike.

Any good publication requires a strong back-up team and the County Board is deeply indebted to the Year Book Committee under the chairmanship of Tommy Murphy for their work during the year. I must in particular thank the Editor, Barrie Henriques, for his tremendous work, not alone in compiling the material, but for also securing the vast bulk of the advertisements.

I would ask all our readers to remember our advertisers. Without their help this publication would not have been possible. I sincerely thank also all those who contributed articles and loaned photographs for inclusion in this Year Book. We are very fortunate to have many fine photographers' material available to us.

This Year Book will undoubtedly find its way to many parts of the globe. Wherever you are, I take this opportunity to wish you well and hope this book will bring back many happy memories for you.

To all our readers I extend the compliments of the season and like you, I look forward with hope and anticipation to 1992.

Slán agus beannacht.

NÍOCLÁS Ó BRAONÁIN,
Cathaoirleach, Coiste Contae Cill Chainnigh

Teachtairéach ón Uachtarán

Is onóir agus cúis áthas dom a bheith in ann an teachtaireacht seo a chur chuig Muintir Cumann Lúthchleas Gael Cill Chainnigh. Is cúis áthas dom mo bhuíochas a gabháil do gach éinne sa chonae do sheirbhís dílis do C.L.G. agus ar an obair mór a rinne siad le linn na mbliana.

I am very pleased to have been afforded the opportunity of extending this message in the Kilkenny G.A.A. Yearbook. For many of us, Kilkenny form an essential part of any hurling year. This year was no exception. There may be some disappointment in the county that the McCarthy Cup did not return to the banks of the Nore, but virtually every other county would be delirious with pride if they had matched Kilkenny's achievements over the last year.

All-Ireland Minor, Junior Finalists, Club, Camogie and Vocational Schools Champions, Leinster Senior Champions and All-Ireland finalists are mighty achievements by any standards. These achievements allied to the national and international handball successes form formidable statistics indeed. More importantly, however, they are meaningful barometers that Gaelic games continue to flourish in Kilkenny and that the traditions and legacy of a century are being faithfully maintained and used.

Kilkenny commands the respect of all who follow Gaelic



the county has provided the organisation and leadership that has constantly given the Association great teams, great individuals, outstanding administrators and style and grace both on and off the field of play.

No county could have reached Kilkenny's stature without the collective commitment and selfless dedication of very many people at all levels, but particularly at club and underage level. These are the anonymous people who expend time and energy for the benefit of youth, their club and parish. They are what constitutes the essential G.A.A. and they are the reason that we have the greatest games there are, that give so much enjoyment to all of us.

I would like to record my eternal gratitude to all of you. Your investment in time and energy is the most rewarding and effective investment of all. It is an investment in the moulding of youth in the ethos of the G.A.A.

and sport for the ultimate benefit of a society under many pressures and threats from influences unheard of just a short few years ago.

Mo bhuíochas ó chroí díobh uile, agus tá súil agam go mbeidh ár gcluichí agus cultúr níos láidre fós i gCill Chainnigh sna blianta atá romhainn.

PEADAR Ó CUINN,

Michael “Chew” Leahy

By PETER HOLOHAN

The mascot ethos in Kilkenny began with Peter Dunne, who flourished in Kilkenny's golden era from 1904 to 1913 when they won seven All-Ireland titles. The next heir to the 'mascot' mantle was Jack Grace, and he was followed by Joe Grace and then 'Chew' Leahy.

'Mascot' is, of course, a complete misnomer. It is defined in the dictionary as 'a figurine; a person, creature or thing likely to bring good luck'. It might have some relevance in Peter Dunne's day when people, including men, were more susceptible to superstition; it wouldn't surprise me one bit if Peter Dunne was given some credit for Kilkenny's remarkable run of successes.

'Chew's' job was looking after the players' jerseys; he had to have them in readiness for every game in which the county senior team was involved. When the jerseys were numbered to make identification easier for the members of the media, he had no difficulty in assigning the right numbers to the right players.

He was totally committed to hurling. He lived for the game; he had his good days and bad days; there were occasions of elation as well as of disappointment.

'Mascots', to use the term loosely, as applied to people like Chew Leahy, were part and parcel of most — if not all — the county teams; they were in the past, at any rate. Few, if any, could have had the same remarkable experience of Peter Dunne of having been involved with seven winning All-Ireland sides in a decade. That decade could actually be narrowed down to eight years.

When Kilkenny won their first victory, the 1904 final, this game was not played until June 1906. It was not until 1912 that the All-Ireland Championships were completed within the year.

The reason I was somewhat dismayed

when I got Barry Henriques' invitation to write about Chew Leahy was that even though we were good friends, I realised I know nothing about his background; that is until I met Mick Neary.

Chew began his 'mascot' career with Éire Óg, the great city side that brought an extra touch of elegance to Kilkenny's elegant style and graduated from there to the county team. He was subjected to most of the dressing-room banter. It is easy to imagine how high it went with Diamond Hayden around. But he took it all in his stride and gave as good as he got.

If it required a certain kind of temperament to enjoy the confidence and respect of the players, Chew had it. He was immensely popular with everyone, officials and players, and all involved in the game.

Chew Leahy was an exceptionally intelligent human being. Story has it that often when the "Master" (teacher) would be absent from the classroom in the "Tech", Chew had no trouble continuing classes as expertly and informatively as the teacher. Stories about Chew Leahy are legendary. Sadly, most of his great friends have departed this vale of tears. A few, like Mick Neary and Billy Sullivan, remember him with great regard and a fondness that was cultivated during a long friendship.

Chew was all things to all men. A friend, a confidante, a prankster, a good neighbour, an advisor, a helper and many others. Some of the stories I can repeat, more can only be told in conversation among men that knew Chew.

Billy Sullivan told me that before a Railway Cup match in Croke Park in the early 60's, the then secretary of the Leinster Council, Martin O'Neill (R.I.P. - Ciaran's father), gave Grace (Paddy) a customary bottle of whiskey prior to the match, whereupon Paddy gave the bottle

into the "safe" hands of Chew to mind until after the match.

The Leinster players, being aware of Martin O'Neill's custom, "touched" Paddy for a slug of the ould bottle. Paddy, remembering who he had given the bottle to, left the dressing-room to retrieve the bottle, and its carrier (Chew). He motioned Chew to come to the dressing-room. "Chew" started his journey from behind the goal via the small parallelogram. Just as he entered the small square, a combination of wobbly legs and an abundance of "Gold Label" forced Chew to fall flat on his back in the square.

It was the first time the Railway Cup was televised and prime target of the cameras was the bould "Chew" prostrate in the "Square", legs upward. On seeing the state of his friend, Paddy was heard to shout, "Jaysus, lads, give me a hand, 'Chew' is !!!!!", and he led a band of merry men who carried his great friend from the field of play. "Chew" was a great man in a dressing-room, especially on All-Ireland Final Day.

When the tension would be highest, "Chew" could be relied upon to deflate it with a well-timed yarn or the bar of a song. "Chew" was born in 1921. He died in 1971. One of his dying wishes to his friend Paddy Grace was to bury him facing Nowlan Park. Paddy arranged that all right — one of the few people who are facing Nowlan Park, in St. Kieran's Cemetery, is "Chew" Leahy.

He was never offensive and his personal character and integrity were above reproach. No one could be more dedicated to the game and he got great satisfaction from having served the teams over the years of his involvement.

Undoubtedly "Chew" Leahy was a legend in his own time. As the old saying goes, "When God made 'Chew' Leahy he threw away the mould".



Left to right: Sean O'Brien, Mick (Chew) Leahy, Billy Sullivan and Jim Langton celebrating Kilkenny's All-Ireland victory (1969) in Ned Langton's pub (now Eamonn's)

It will forever be remembered as a final that could have been won. And as is often the case, the further the match recedes into the recesses of the mind, the more convinced will people become that a gilt-edged opportunity was lost to bring our dear friend, the Liam McCarthy Cup, back to the Marble City.

Yes, it was an All-Ireland that could have been won

By: JOHN KNOX (Kilkenny People)

PEOPLE can say what they like about Kilkenny's up-and-down championship campaign this season, but on the day it really mattered, the first Sunday of September, they were there for the kill. And they had the opportunity to put



Oh! my aching back – John Henderson has words with an obviously aching Michael Walsh during the All-Ireland Final against Tipperary.

Photo: Sportsfile



Star defencer Eddie O'Connor gets the ball away to colleague Liam Walsh in the exciting All-Ireland semi-final over a gallant Antrim side.

down the old foe, Tipperary.

That Kilkenny didn't was due in part to their own shortcoming in attack, and in equal part to Tipp's strength of character formed during the past four years since their team crept out of the dark and back into the land of winners after nearly two decades of misery.

It was a final in which Tipperary were there for the taking. The Munster champions trotted out onto the Croke Park pitch with the scalps of Limerick, Cork and Galway hanging from their belts. Impressive credentials that saw them installed as white hot favourites, a tag never easy to handle, and particularly so in a showdown against the oldest of old enemies.

The pressure got to the Premier County during the opening half. Kilkenny had them on the run. Richard Power was brilliant at midfield for the Leinster champions. Michael Phelan was a courageous partner who also took out his man. For a good part of the opening 25 minutes, half-backs Liam Walsh, Pat Dwyer and Eddie O'Connor cut the opposition in their sector down to size.

Better Platform

The Kilkenny forces up front couldn't have asked for a better platform from which to launch the county's bid for that 24th title. Big Christy Heffernan won an ocean of ball at centre-forward, but when he fulfilled his primary function, the support to take that possession off him and turn it into scores wasn't there.

John Power had the left side of the Tipp. defence in tatters, and the charge in the direction of the Ken Hogan guarded net was much more consistent than that towards the other end. When all that great work amounted to nothing more than parity at half-time (0-9 each) the signs

were not good for the Noresiders. They didn't make hay while the sun shone.

Yet they were still there with a chance, until the Gods decided to side with the favourites. Tipp. were lucky to be awarded a free after a debatable foul by Bill Hennessy on Nicholas English. The free about 30 yards out to the left as you look towards the Railway End goal was taken by Michael Cleary. His badly struck effort took a deflection off the heel of Liam Walsh's camán and somehow sneaked into the net between 'keeper Michael Walsh and Hennessy. Tipp. edged 1-11 to 0-10 clear in a tight match.

The big break that was needed went their way. The Cats prowled menacingly all the way to the line, but the ground lost in that earlier cruel moment, couldn't be reclaimed. And once the Gods had changed sides, they remained rigid.

In the dying moments Liam Fennelly crashed a low drive at Ken Hogan, who was unsure in his handling of the shot. The ball flew up in the air. D. J. Carey was rushing in, but when he needed the sliothar to run one way, it decided to go the other. A half-chance of a possible saving goal was lost.

There was dissatisfaction expressed in Kilkenny at the handling of the game by referee, Willie Horgan (Cork). Perhaps it wasn't one of Mr. Horgan's better games, but he wasn't the difference between winning and losing. The Leinster champions paid the price for not putting space between themselves and the opposition when they had them on the run.

Best of campaign

Irritating and frustrating then when you looked back on it, that Kilkenny's opening half hurling was probably their best of the entire championship. Manager Ollie Walsh had strived all season to get all sectors of

the team going well together. In earlier matches one part of the team functioned, and another didn't. This time, during the first period at least, the balance was right.

Had Kilkenny stopped Tipp. getting to 24 titles before them, it would have been one of the greatest upsets of all time. Instead, it was one of the greatest disappointments, from a Kilkenny point of view.

If the Noresiders had regrets concerning the championship, the Wexford surely had also. The Slaneysiders had Kilkenny beaten in the Leinster semi-final, but in the third minute of injury time, D. J. Carey showed the speed of sprinter Carl Lewis to zip through the defence before booting a goal. The effort – it was argued he overcarried – turned a possible victory into a hard to take 2-9 to 0-13 defeat for the Slaneysiders.

Wexford thought they had the measure of their opponents this time, seeing that they had earlier wiped the floor with them in a replayed National League semi-final. The Cats used up one of their nine lives.

A second of those lives was spent in the Leinster final against Dublin. In their quest for their first provincial title since 1987, the Noresiders were less than assured. The defence was great, with Michael Walsh and Liam Simpson top of the class. However, only half the attack clicked, with John Power, Adrian Ronan and Liam McCarthy left to make things happen.

During the second half there was never more than four points in it. Minutes off the end, Dublin were 1-9 to 1-13 down, but were far from dead. Points from Ciaran Hetheron and John Kearns threw the issue wide open again. During the furious closing moments, Dublin's John Twomey's long range free almost sneaked into the net.

Continued ►



Dashing Kilkenny forward John Power heads for goal against Wexford in the Leinster Hurling Championship.

Photo: SPorsfile

Lucky

The winners didn't celebrate that 1-13 to 1-11 victory. They knew they had been lucky, and they would have to do better.

The All-Ireland semi-final against Antrim provided the Northerners with a victory of sorts. They were beaten by 2-18 to 1-19, but on a day when the two semis were played together, it was generally accepted they had played the best team hurling of the four sides in action.

Terence McNaughton, Ciaran Barr, James McNaughton, Paul Jennings, Aidan McCarr, Dominic McKinley, John Carson and company had the Leinster champions on the ropes, but they couldn't deliver the knock-out punch. Eamon Morrissey destroyed them in the end. He put away 2-4, and always seemed to be able to conjure up a score when Kilkenny most needed one. A goal from Morrissey brought The Cats' back level at 2-13 to 1-16 with eight minutes remaining, after they had been behind for 48 minutes.

The timely arrival of Liam Fennelly from the subs bench was also important. In the tightest of tight finishes, late points from Morrissey and D. J. Carey gave the Noresiders the ticket into the final against Tipperary, the first decided between the pair since 1971.

The All-Ireland was a great occasion, full of colour, passion and expectancy. The team - Ollie and selectors Ger. Henderson (Fenians), Wattie Long (Glenmore), Nickey Brennan (Co. Board chairman) and Gerry Nolan (Clara) reshaped after the League win the previous year made a brave bid to topple the Tipp. side Babs Keating had moulded over four years. When the underdogs didn't turn extravagant first half possession into at least a six points interval lead, their best chance was lost.

The whole All-Ireland experience was a joy. We look forward eagerly to the next exciting chapter.



Liam Simpson . . . another great year for the Bennettsbridge defender. An All-Star perhaps?

Photo: Sportsfile

TWENTY FOUR PANELISTS USED

FOR THE All-Ireland final, Kilkenny carried a panel of 27 players.

During the campaign, no less than 24 players were used.

Adrian Ronan played both in goal and out the field. When first choice 'keeper Michael Walsh was injured against Wexford, the Graigue-Ballycallan lad donned the No. 1 shirt.

For the following game, the Leinster final against Dublin, he was picked on the half-forward line. When between the sticks he was excellent, and he did well against Dublin too, and scored 1-3.

Team captain, Christy Heffernan, Liam Fennelly and Liam Walsh all missed games because of injury; and the fact replacements had to be fielded contributed to the big number of players used.

The Kilkenny team in the All-Ireland final was - Michael Walsh (Dicksboro); Bill

Hennessy (Tullaroan); John Henderson (Fenians); Liam Simpson (Bennettsbridge); Liam Walsh (Glenmore); Pat Dwyer (Carrickshock); Eddie O'Connor (Glenmore); Richard Power (Carrickshock); Michael Phelan (Glenmore); John Power (John Lockes); Christy Heffernan (Glenmore) captain; D. J. Carey (Young Irelands); Eamon Morrissey (St. Martin's); Liam Fennelly (Shamrocks); Liam McCarthy (Piltown). Subs used that day - Adrian Ronan (Graigue-Ballycallan); and Lester Ryan (Clara); used earlier were Patsy Brophy (Erin's Own); Tommy Fogarty (James Stephens); Michael Cleere (O'Loughlin-Gaels); James Brennan (Erin's Own); Pat Ryan (Emeralds); Pat O'Neill (Young Irelands); Michael Dunne (Graignamanagh). Other panelists: Tom Murphy (Mooncoin); Ray Heffernan (Glenmore); Charlie Carter (Young Irelands).

THE STATE OF THE PARTIES

- 27 - Cork: 1890, 1892, 1893, 1894, 1902, 1903, 1919, 1926, 1928, 1929, 1931, 1941, 1942, 1943, 1944, 1946, 1952, 1953, 1954, 1966, 1970, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1984, 1986, 1990.
- 24 - Tipperary: 1887, 1895, 1896, 1898, 1899, 1900, 1906, 1908, 1916, 1925, 1930, 1937, 1945, 1949, 1950, 1951, 1958, 1961, 1962, 1964, 1965, 1971, 1989, 1991.
- 23 - Kilkenny: 1904, 1905, 1907, 1909, 191, 1912, 1913, 1922, 1932, 1933, 1935, 1939, 1947, 1957, 1963, 1969, 1972, 1974, 1975, 1979, 1982, 1983.
- 7 - Limerick: 1897, 1918, 1921, 1934, 1936, 1940, 1973.
- 6 - Dublin: 1889, 1917, 1920, 1924, 1927, 1938.
- 5 - Wexford: 1910, 1955, 1956, 1960, 1968.
- 2 - Offaly: 1981, 1985.
- 2 - Waterford: 1948, 1949.
- 1 - Clare: 1914.
- 1 - Laois: 1915.
- 1 - Kerry: 1891.
- 1 - London: 1901.

Unsung Heroes

Call The Tune

YOU COULD call them the unsung heroes, the quiet ones who go about their business unobtrusively, and away from the glits and glitter attached to some other activities.

Yet, they have been one of Kilkenny's most daring and consistent performers over a good spell now.

For example, they have contested the last four All-Irelands on-the-trot. They have taken home two titles in that time. And their impressive haul overall is eight titles, which leaves them joint second with Galway (8), and one behind leaders Tipperary (9).

To whom do we refer? The Kilkenny County Vocational Schools senior hurling team, who this year were crowned All-Ireland champions once again.

In 1988 the Noresiders lost the final to Tipperary. The following year they beat Offaly. In 1990 Tipp. proved too good. There 'The Cats' were back in the final this time again, and they doled out a 2-10 to 2-7 beating to poor Offaly, who in 11 starts in the showdown have yet to taste victory.

We may not hear an awful lot about this particular team, even when they win All-Irelands – the V.S. championship doesn't command as much publicity as colleges games – but have no fear, dedicated people are keeping things going behind the scenes.

In recent years Fr. Liam Barron has thrown himself as fully into working with the vocational schools as any man could. And for over 25 years now, City Vocational School teacher, Nicky McGrath has filled some role or other with the team. One of Nicky's jobs in recent years since the authorities acquired their own minibus was to ferry players up and down the county, both to and from training sessions. It is a labour of love, and one that has helped reap a rich harvest.



Fran Doyle (Graignamanagh) breaks through in the Vocational Schools All-Ireland.

Cohesive band

This season all seven vocational schools, Kilkenny, Johnstown, Ballyhale, Mooncoin, Slieverue, Graignamanagh and Thomastown had representatives in the squad. Fr. Barron, the coach, had the pieces of his team strewn far and wide, but his infectious enthusiasm transmitted itself to the players and it was a cohesive band that faced Offaly in the decider on National Hurling League final Sunday.

The road to the final wasn't easy, simply because Kilkenny hadn't knitted into a unit. There was some luck involved when slipping past Laois, and surprise, surprise, Kerry proved a tough nut to crack in the All-Ireland semi-final.

The final was the real test, and it was the one that made all the training in some awful weather really worthwhile. Kilkenny were hungry and determined, and were bursting with energy.

Offaly looked like at last righting all the ills of years gone by when they opened up a 1-4 to 0-2 lead after 16 minutes. They were going well, and looked assured. A piercing run through the heart of the Offaly defence by Fran Doyle ended with him shooting to the net.

That piece of inspired play was crucial to the outcome. It left the Noresiders a mere 1-4 to 1-5 behind at half-time after playing against the wind. The signs looked good.

There was a hitch in the 36th minute

when Offaly goaled again. This time swift replies in the shape of points from Ken Behan, Liam Fogarty and Kevin Kennedy scrubbed the big offaly score.

The scene was set for a nail-biting finish. Doyle again proved the master. He slipped his marker to shoot a second goal with 11 minutes remaining.

That score broke Offaly's resistance, and Kilkenny marched on to a 2-10 to 2-7 win. It was just reward for a good effort that stretched county wide. On the big day the stars included Fran Doyle, team captain Pat Davis, J. J. Farrell, Trevor Dunphy and Keith Behan.

The Kilkenny All-Ireland team was: Noel Dunne (Graignamanagh); Paul Phelan (Johnstown); Harry Hudson (Ballyhale); W. J. Kinsella (Mooncoin); Kevin Kennedy (Thomastown); J. A. Farrell (Ballyhale); Ian Atkinson (Slieverue); Trevor Dunphy (Mooncoin); Michael Cullen (Thomastown); Pat Davis (Ballyhale) captain; Liam Fogarty (Graignamanagh); Brendan Ryan (Johnstown); Fran Doyle (Graignamanagh); Keith Behan (Johnstown); Oliver Dunphy (Mooncoin). Subs: Leo Bolger (Graignamanagh); William Walsh, Melvin Queally (Johnstown); Barry Morrissey, John Lanigan (Thomastown); Trevor Sutton (Mooncoin); Ray Walsh (Slieverue); Dermot O'Shea (Ballyhale); Shane Mulhall, Joe Brennan, Martin Malone (all Kilkenny).

Kilkenny won the All-Ireland in 1963, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1976, 1977, 1989, 1991.

Last Hurrah, you must be joking

THE insistence on being present by President Mary Robinson was a nice touch, alike to a royal reminder to the rest, that the event was a most noteworthy one, not something to be treated in any way as second class.

As per usual, the President of Ireland was invited to be part of All-Ireland final days, hurling and football. Mrs. Robinson was only too delighted to attend, but asked that the invitation be extended to include the camogie decider as well. A sort of fair play to all gesture.

Nice one Mary. A gesture that was much appreciated not only by the camogie people, but by folk everywhere who put work into the promotion of sport at all levels.

The President was treated to a senior final that sparkled. It was fast, tough, skilful, and not for one second boring. The stately First Lady saw Ireland's finest from the Gaelic scene, and finest of the lot were Kilkenny.

The Kilkenny senior camogie ladies have made a habit of winning these past few years. This time they rang up their 7th All-Ireland victory on-the-trot. Some going no matter what way you look at it.

Once again the opposition was provided by mighty Cork. Not since 1972 have the Leesiders beaten Kilkenny in the game that really matters. Their losses ran to seven, and in a bid to inject new impetus into their challenge, they brought in well-known coach, Joe McGrath to try and figure out how to avoid defeat No. 8.

Not enough

The training was tougher than Cork ever experienced, virtually professional stuff. In the end that wasn't enough. The 'Cats' took home the O'Duffy Cup for the 11th time in all. Angela, Ann, Biddy, Breda and company triumphed again. The reasons were simple. They have inordinate class, and a mental toughness the like of which Jack Charlton would reckon is needed to be the best . . . champions.

The Kilkenny girls said they wanted to win for long serving trainer Tom Ryan. In the weeks before the final a lot of attention was focussed on Cork, Joe McGrath and what was going on down by the Lee. Hardly a mention of Kilkenny.

That irritated 'The Cats' to such a degree that by the time the final came round they were ready to claw Cork asunder. The women are too long on the road now not to know how to properly channel aggression, and when referee Miriam O'Callaghan (Offaly) threw in the ball, they unleashed a camogie force that simply blew away the opposition.

'Don't take us for granted, and don't



Mary and Mna na hEireann – team captain Angela Downey and defender par excellence Biddy O'Sullivan show their delight at victory under the watchful eye of President Mary Robinson. Sportsfile

ignore the man (Tom Ryan) who has the best camogie record in Ireland', was the sort of camogie replay from Kilkenny that was spelled out clearly in front of the President and all.

Croke Park on camogie final day wasn't the most inviting of places. A biting wind swept through the venue. The conditions threatened to spoil the match.

Cork, early on, threatened to spoil the Kilkenny party. For 18 minutes the challengers looked capable. Barely five minutes had passed, and they were 0-3 to 0-1 in front. And that against the wind. On 11 minutes they were still 0-4 to 0-2 ahead, and were it not for heroics in the Kilkenny defence by Deirdre Malone and Una Murphy, they might have been a lot better off.

Ann Downey and Breda Holmes got the Noreside wheels turning with scores. The champions hauled in the opposition, brought the score to 0-5 each. The dander was up. When really pushed these 'Cats' have always been at their most dangerous.

Sliced through

That was the situation exactly. A sideline cut by Ann Downey was fielded by the unmarked Breda Holmes and she sliced through the Cork defence to palm past 'keeper, Marion McCarthy. Before the break Gillian Dillon rifled home as good a

goal as one is likely to see in any code. By half-time the champions, after chasing a lot of the way, were suddenly 2-6 to 0-6 to the good.

A good indicator of a side with special talents, that in a short spell they can erase a lot of hard won gains by the opposition. Cork saw it happening, but were powerless to do much about it. And there was more to follow.

In the 35th minute Angela Downey, who after the game stepped back from saying she was going to retire, put a virtual mountain in front of the challengers. The daring St. Paul's attacker gained possession on the '40' and ran at the heart of the Cork defence. She drew the cover, threw a perfectly timed pass ahead of Gillian Dillon. The Freshford girl judged the bounce of the ball beautifully and sent it screaming into the net. The difference jumped to 3-6 to 0-6.

Thereafter Cork were never going to save the day. Their first All-Ireland win since 1983 would be another day.

You would think that after 6 wins-in-a-row Kilkenny's spirit would be weakening. On the contrary. These exceptional ladies simply can't get enough of winning. They expect nothing. They know they have to go out and work hard, and that is exactly what they do.



Biddy O'Sullivan, Frances Rothwell and Una Murphy have the situation firmly under control in the All-Ireland Camogie Final.

Sportsfile

The Downey twins, Ann and Angela, have shared in Kilkenny's 11 victories, the first of which was scored in 1974. This year they entered their third decade as All-Ireland winners. That is some going.

The girls were as eager as if this was their first final. Angela's presence alone puts the fear of God in the opposition. She attracts so much attention others can sneak in and be the destroyers. She is still a major force. There is no camogie player

who can say she can stifle Angela Downey.

Years left

Ann has built up such strength through fitness that she is a 60-minute player, which is some going in a game that has quickened dramatically during the past decade. She keeps midfield going. Her form this year suggested she has a few years at the top left in her yet.

It is too easy to single out the Downeys

and suggest they make Kilkenny. There is more to the team than that, and selectors Carmel Savage (St. Paul's), Billy Malone (St. Brigid's), Teresa Dillon (Camogie Board chairperson) and John Phelan (Lisdowney) would be the first to admit that. Not to play down the importance of the twins, but they have a strong cast beside them.

Breda Holmes and Biddy O'Sullivan are others who are recognised as major forces in the game. Marina Downey is definitely



Marina Downey sets up another Kilkenny attack in the All-Ireland Camogie Final against Cork

Sportsfile

one of the most improved players in the country, while Bridget Mullally, although still only 17, and Sinead Millea represent the exceptional talent that is sprinkled throughout the game locally.

In this year's final, Gillian Dillon, Deirdre Malone and Una Murphy showed that they could live with the best. In fact, they showed that they are the best.

Before the All-Ireland, Kilkenny dismissed Armagh and Wexford from the championship. There was a suggestion that the match against Cork would be the last hurrah for a team that has been reared on a heavy diet of victories. Believe that and you would believe anything!

The Kilkenny team in the All-Ireland was: Marie Fitzpatrick (St. Brigid's), Biddy O'Sullivan (Tullagher), Una Murphy (Tullagher), Deirdre Malone (St. Brigid's), France Rothwell (St. Brigid's), Marina Downey (Lisdowney), Ann Downey (St. Paul's), Gillian Dillon (Freshford), Sinead Millea (St. Brigid's), Bridget Mullally (Glenmore), Angela Downey (St. Paul's) (captain), Breda Holmes (St. Paul's). **Subs:** Tracy Millea (St. Brigid's) used; Noreen Tierney (Tullagher); Noelle O'Driscoll (James Stephens); Bridget Barnaville (Lisdowney).



Gillian Dillon voted Player of the Match in the All-Ireland camogie final. Jillian scored two smashing goals. Sportsfile

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PIERCE BARRY



A Hurling Man's Team

By:
PAT SHORTALL
Kingsland,
Cellarstown,
Co. Kilkenny



*I'll tell you this story of hurlers in rhyme,
I've only seen some as I'm still in my prime.
But of who is the better you will not agree,
Because if you did no sport would there be.*

*Both Noel Skehan and Ollie were solid in goal,
But who has the medals, my selection is . . . Noel.
The wee giant from the village, the rest I must ban,
This second position is given to . . . Fan.*

*Many, many full backs they were strong, they were willing,
There was one above all, and he was . . . Pa Dillon.
Out on the far wing as strong as a hippo,
There's no opposition to the great hearted . . . Dicko.*

*Five is a problem so many to name,
Lawlor's omitted for Joe's hurling brain.
The stone-wall from Johnstown comes into the frame,
A Henderson, of course, Ger is his name.*

*A surprise is in store as I name this defender,
This site is ideal for the brave . . . Paddy Pender.
For passing and solos I issue this summons,
Sentenced to midfield are . . . Chunky and Cummins.*

*Number ten is for Fitz, sharpshooter supreme,
If it's over the bar or raising the green.
Kieran Purcell, Ger Fennelly, both make the grade,
Their craft and their cunning, all they had, they gave.*

*And what of thirteen? superstitious baloney,
I reserve this position for an artist called . . . Cloney.
I've searched for full-forwards, my eyes have gone misty,
. . . Eighty-two's on the brain, it's got to be Christy.*

*Each team has a bright light and this one did shine,
Eddie Keher the real master, the best of all time.
In the famed black and amber, to the roar of the crowd,
It's three cheers for the rest, they've all done us proud.*

Pat Shortall

Team: Noel Skehan; Fan Larkin, Pa Dillon, Dick O'Hara; Joe Hennessy, Ger Henderson, Paddy Prendergast; Liam O'Brien, Frank Cummins; Billy Fitzpatrick, Kieran Purcell, Ger Fennelly; Mick Brennan, Christy Heffernan, Eddie Keher. Subs: Ollie Walsh, Brian Cody, Pat Lawlor, Pat Henderson, Seamus Cleere, Pat Delaney, Paddy Moran, Liam Fennelly, Mick Crotty.

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Urraíocht

(Le Tomás de Bhaldraithe)

LE déanaí tugadh cead do bhaill an Cumann Luthchleas Gael coimirce nó urraíocht nó patrúnacht a lorg chun a gcuid fadhbanna airgeadais a réiteach. B'í an bhrí leis sin ná go ligfí do chumann nó do chontae nó d'ón Lárchoiste féin coimirce d'fháil ó chomhlacht nó ó ghrúpa gnótha éigin ar choinníoll go dtabharfaí bolscaireacht nó poiblíocht i riocht éigin dó.

Tugtar le fios do'n saol mór go bhfuil an cumann nó an contae nó an Lárchoiste féin in urrús nó i mbannaí ag an gcomhlacht san. Cuirtear ainm an chomhlachta i gcló go soiléir ar gheansaithe nó ar ionair na fóirne sin (faoi mar chuireadh Mahon McPhillips ar ionair Chill Chainnigh i mbliana) le cur in iúl do'n phobal ce'n phatrúnacht atá i gceist. Mar a gcéanna le Royal Liver i gcás na Sraithe Náisiúnta.

Cuimhnítear gur cuireadh go láidir i gcoinne coimirce d'aon tsaghas sul ar tugadh an cead san do bhaill an Cumann Luthchleas Gael mar creideadh go láidir go raibh dlúth-bhaint aige le gairmiúlacht nó le prafisiúnachas.

Bhí an prafisiúnachas san le feiscint go foirleathan agus go soiléir in eagraíochtaí a chleachtaigh cluichí eile go mór-mhor sa

Bhreatain Mhóir agus ar Roinn na h-Eorpa 'sna Stáit Aontaithe agus san Astráil agus ar ndó, pé áit a raibh comhlachtaí móra ag lorg bolscaireachta. B'é an cuspóir a bhí leis an choimirce sin a lorg ná carn airgid a lorg do na h-eagraíochta agus carn bolscaireachta, ar an dteilifís go h-áirithe, a chur ar fáil do na comhlachtaí.

Bhí na sluaite a tháinig chun na gcluichí d'fheiscint ag meadú in aghaidh na bliana, iad ag clamhsán faoin ardú praghaís le dul isteach agus ag lorg breis chompoird agus tuille éascaíochtaí amaitéaraacha amach i gcoinne na h-urraíochta ó phatrúin go ceann i bhfad ach le fiordhéanaí ghéill an Cumann Luthchleas Gael beagainín. Bhí ardú gur dheacair é stopadh ag sleamhnú agus tealtú ar chostaisí eagraithe na gcluichí. Cé ná raibh turastail le h-íoc ach amháin do no h-oibríteoirí 'sna h-oifigí, bhí costaisí gléasra (mar chamáin) agus traenála agus taistil agus tithe ósta a teacht dian orthu agus ní bhfaighfidis gan féachaint go caoin, cneasta, flaighiúil i ndiaigh, na n-imearthorí a thuill an t-airgead dóibh.

Gairmiúlacht de shaghas éigin is ea an urraíocht. Nuair a osclaítear fiú amháin bearnán beag san iatán (no sa damba), cá stopfaidh an sileadh? Cathain a athrófar go sruth é? Ní h-ionann é sin 's a rá go raibh an iomáint, cluiche na nGael, saoir o ghairmiúlacht riamh agus i gconaf. Do réir na sean-litríochta, ba in aice le dún rí nó taoisigh a bhíodh an faiche iomána de

ghná. Is dócha go raibh sé de dhualgas ar an uasal biá agus deoch a sholáthar do'n lucht imeartha a thagadh chun na gcluichí móra a thionóltaí am Aonaigh nó féasta mhóir. San ochtú aois déag bhí na huaisle Gaelacha imithe agus a n-áit tógtha ag "bodairí na tíre". Ach bhí an iomáint chomh foirleathan agus cho'n h-comhach-tach san gur iompaigh na tiarnaí nua talún chuici in a bpatrúin ag soláthar airgid chun í a fhorbairt agus fhoirleathnú. Chuiridís fograí ins na paipéirí á bhfogairt. Féach ar Finn's Leinster Journal na bliana 1768:

"A grand hurling match between the counties Kilkenny and Tipperary will be played on the noted green of Quonthobus near Urlingford on the 16th of July for a wager of 20 guineas".

"The grandest match that ever was hurled in Ireland will be played on Thursday, the 8th of September, between the province of Leinster and Munster, for 68 guineas, at the noted green of Lisduff, near Urlingford".

Do réir deallraibh tugadh an t-airgead seo, a luaitear, do na h-imearthóirí mar ba ghnáthach leis na boic mhóra talún, ní h-amháin an t-airgead seo a bhailiú eatorru féin ach chuireadh gach duine acu geall dá chuid féin. Maidir leis an méid airgid a luaitear, is minic a bhíodh 100 gini i gceist.

Is mó cor a chuirean an bóthar de. Baile mór busanna is ea Áth na nUllann anois ach cá bhfuil an faiche sin, Quonthobus!

1935 – on the double

BY JOHN IVORY

IAM aware that there are a great number of old GAA people in County Kilkenny who love to re-live some of the great All-Ireland finals of 60 years ago. I saw the first of the three games between Kilkenny and Cork in 1931. The matches enriched the game of hurling and raised the GAA to a new high plane.

Kilkenny had great success during the 1930's, winning All-Ireland titles in 1932 against Clare and Limerick in 1933. I have already tried to describe these games in previous Year Books, so I will now try and give an account of some of the remaining years including the 1935 All-Ireland which was the greatest game I ever saw.

Kilkenny, All-Ireland champions of 1932/33 went on a tour of America in 1934. They defeated Laois in Nowlan Park in the late Spring of 1934 and within a few weeks of their return from America had to play Dublin in the Leinster Final. This game was played in Portlaoise. Dublin were very fit and Kilkenny looked very tired after their trip to the U.S.A. Only Lory Meagher, Paddy Phelan and Matty Power played well.

Dublin led by six points at half time and were eight points ahead coming up to full

time. Then, to everyone's surprise, Kilkenny scored three quick goals. Matty Power scored the first and Johnnie Dunne and Jimmy Walsh scored the other two. Kilkenny were now one point ahead. This was greeted by a few bangs on the big drum of the Kells Pipers Band which was present at the game. However, just on full time Dublin equalised with a Tommy Treacy point from a free.

It was back to Portlaoise for the replay, where Dublin led from start to finish. There was to be no late rally from Kilkenny on this occasion.

Dublin and Limerick were now set for the All-Ireland Final. Limerick had beaten Galway in their semi-final. Dublin were unable to contain this strong Limerick team. Still, Limerick led by just one goal in the last five minutes when Dinny O'Neill, a native of Cullohill, who was playing full forward for Dublin, doubled on an overhead ball to the Limerick net to level the scores. Limerick made no mistake when the replay took place a few weeks later.

Kilkenny met Offaly in the semi-final of the 1935 championship at Portlaoise. Without being impressive, they led at half



time by 3-4 to 2-4 and, helped by goals from Matty Power and Johnnie Dunne, they ran out easy winners by 7-7 to 2-6.

Laois beat Dublin in the other semi-final. It was a surprise at the time. So it was Laois and Kilkenny for the Leinster Final which was played at Portlaoise.

Laois attacked from the start but Jimmy O'Connell in goal and the Kilkenny backs defended well. Laois led by three points early on and by one point at the interval. On the resumption, Johnnie Dunne scored a Kilkenny goal and the Black and Amber were on the road to victory. Further goals by Paddy Phelan and Lorry Byrne helped Kilkenny to a 3-8 to 0-6 victory.

Birr was the venue for the All-Ireland semi-final between Kilkenny and Galway. After the first quarter, when Galway led by 1-4 to 1-2, Kilkenny opened up to eventually win by 6-10 to 1-8.

All was now clear for the All-Ireland final between Limerick, the 1934 champions, and Kilkenny. During the weeks before the first Sunday in September, the merits, pros and cons of both teams were widely

1935 – on the double (Continued from previous page)

discussed. Limerick's record was imposing and they deserved to be favourites.

Kilkenny had beaten them in the League final and the All-Ireland final of 1933, but in 1934 Limerick came to Nowlan Park and beat the Black and Amber by 1-6 to 1-4 in a thrilling National League Final. Limerick, in fact, had not been beaten in their previous thirty-five games. They were rated as certainties by all the Sports Writers and experts who considered Kilkenny were getting too old.

We were all part of the big throng at the Railway Station at Ballyragget. There was a special train from the Station since 1931 to cater for the large number of supporters from all over North Kilkenny - Freshford, Johnstown, Galmoy, Ballyragget, Conahy and Castlecomer.

The Special catered for Attanagh and Abbeyleix. It was a happy morning. Local man Tom Thornton was always present with his 85-year-old father selling Black and Amber colours, flags and caps. Our minors were also in the All-Ireland final on the same day — against Tipperary.

It was all very exciting as we started on the trek to Dublin. Croke Park looked splendid as we took our places on the terraces where the Cusack stand is now situated.

Tipperary led Kilkenny in the minor final by 1-3 to 1-2 at the half time break. It was a game that was a treat to watch. A goal on the re-start gave them a four point lead but Paddy Long (who came on for the injured Bobby Brannigan) had a goal for Kilkenny and another goal from Tom Prendergast gave Kilkenny the lead. The great opportunist, Paddy Long, had a further goal and a point to leave the Kilkenny boys ahead at the end by 4-2 to 2-3.

It was raining during the last five minutes and it got heavier as the minor teams left the pitch. It was a real downpour as the two senior teams came out on the field.

We got a surprise as we saw Eddie Byrne take up his position at right half-back and Tommy Leahy at midfield with Lory Meagher. The late Eddie told me later that Tommy asked him before the game if he would change with him; he said he was in great form and would like to play at midfield. They both spoke to Sean Gibbons, County Board Chairman, and he said it was okay if both of them were satisfied.

It was a great move — both of them were outstanding in their new positions. Kilkenny played into the Canal goal in the first half and Jimmy Walsh scored the first point for Kilkenny, but Limerick attacked strongly in the opening quarter and led 1-2 to 0-1.

The Black and Amber boys, with Tommy Leahy dominating at midfield, got on top and were one point ahead at the interval. The goal came following a long drive from Tommy Leahy which was heading for under the crossbar. Jack Duggan was in and forced the ball to the net. Johnnie Dunne, who had previously scored a point, was injured in the goalmouth tussle and emerged with a bandaged head for the remainder of the game. Matty Power had the other first half point. The score at the interval was: Kilkenny 1-3, Limerick 1-2.

When the teams came on the field for the second half it was still raining heavily. Larry Duggan (Jack's brother) came on the field as a substitute. The referee was not satisfied and waived him back. However, Jack Duggan appeared on the sideline with a heavily bandaged arm. The referee was now satisfied and waived Jack off and Larry on.

The rain was coming down in torrents as the teams lined up for the second half and

Limerick seemed to have the advantage of the breeze which was blowing into the Canal goal. They attacked strongly and the Kilkenny backs and goalie Jimmy O'Connell found difficulty in clearing the ball any reasonable distance.

Mick Mackey had two points, one from a free. Midway through the second half Lory Meagher got possession at midfield. He side-stepped his marker and sent a great ball straight over the crossbar at the Railway goal. Jimmy Walsh added another Kilkenny point. In another Kilkenny attack the ball was cleared over the sideline on the 21-yard line opposite the old Hogan Stand.

Lory Meagher went up to take the line ball and all the Limerick backs lined the goal — they were aware he was capable of putting any of those balls under the crossbar. He looked very intently at the goal before taking the line ball, but to everyone's surprise he sliced the ball across the field into Martin White's hand. The Limerick backs dashed out of the goalmouth to challenge White. Martin promptly sent a bullet of a shot into the net. This left the scores: Kilkenny 2-5, Limerick 1-3.

The last ten minutes was a terrible struggle as Limerick attacked. They got a goal from a Mick Mackey free that was rushed to the net. The same player had a point in the last minute of the game leaving Kilkenny winners by 2-5 to 2-4.

It was the first time Kilkenny achieved the double of senior and minor All-Ireland victories in the same year. Despite the downpour the spectators enjoyed the games, and although many of those who were out in the open were drenched, no one left until after the final whistle sounded.

The senior game was the best game I ever saw — two great strong teams who served up wonderful hurling despite the conditions.

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CALLAN DID IT, AND THEY DID IT IN STYLE

THE realisation was even greater than the whole fun bundle of expectations. Perhaps that was why the entire episode was so totally satisfying, uplifting and memorable.

THE road to the summit was long and tiring, nearly a dozen games, in fact. The difficulties encountered didn't always start and finish with the hurling prowess of the opposition, because on one occasion the chirpy bunch had to travel around the country to find a venue to play a game.

In the end things like that didn't matter. Callan C.B.S., for along time 'game triers, good old sports' in the hurling arena, reached the land of plenty. They won the colleges' senior hurling All-Ireland (Roinn B) championship.

Victory in the All-Ireland final would have been sweet enough, but the taming of a good Coláiste An Spioraid Naoimh (Bishopstown, Cork) team garnished an already wholesome offering. Callan hit that day when everything came right for them, and the team put on a hurling show that did the players, their school and Kilkenny proud.

This may have been a 'B' final, but the hurling was of such a quality that casual observers would have taken convincing. There was the driving play at midfield of captain Adrian O'Sullivan. Further forward Jim Hickey was like a gold digger who hit a rich seam, and he knew how to extract a fortune in scores. Denis Byrne, Eddie Dwyer, Ger Ronan and the super talented Damien Cleere helped skin the opposition and fashion a 1-14 to 1-10 victory.

Callan team handlers, Tom Walsh and Bro. Damien Brennan, had high hopes as Callan C.B.S. made their third assault on the 'B' All-Ireland final. The finals of 1982 and 1983 ended in frustration against Tipperary opposition, Cashel C.B.S. and Nenagh C.B.S., respectively.

GUARDED HOPES

This time the hopes were guarded, a consequence of past disappointments. The likes of Eddie Dwyer, Adrian O'Sullivan and Ger Ronan mustn't have heard — or maybe they did and that was what drove them on — because they tore into the opposition from the throw-in. Denis Byrne and Jim Hickey threw over a pair of points

each as Callan ran up a commanding 0-9 to 0-1 lead after 21 action-packed minutes.

With the help of a goal from Damien Cleere, who showed such delicate skill on the ball that he was marked down as one to watch for the future, the single minded C.B.S. lads went on to lead by 1-10 to 1-2 at half-time.

As the teams trooped out for the second half, it appeared as if Coláiste An Spioraid Naoimh were playing for respectability only. Far from it. Early in the third quarter the difference was still at eight points. Slowly they pared the difference down, until it was but a pair of points, and the game was suddenly running in their favour (1-12 to 1-10).

With a third defeat on-the-trot facing them, Callan took charge of the show again, and shook themselves out of an indifferent state. Adrian O'Sullivan plucked a point out of virtually nothing to ease the pressure. And then, with time running out, Damien Cleere raced up the right wing and shot another.

Callan did it at last . . . they won their first All-Ireland colleges' hurling crown. They celebrated. Kilkenny did, too. Not only did they win, but they did so by playing intelligent, attractive hurling. That delighted as much as the victory itself. It will always be a game the players can look back on and say 'yes, that was a good one, all right'.

That day of celebration was the culmination of a lot of hard work and sacrifices by players, mentors and even school management, who had to come up with the money to finance a long and difficult campaign.

AMUSING

Events surrounding the All-Ireland semi-final against the Presentation College, Athenry, would have been amusing if they weren't true. The teams travelled to the appointed venue, Borrisokane, but found the gates of the grounds closed against them. Someone scaled a wall, and found the pitch wasn't even marked.

The schools took to the road, and ended up in Banagher, where the match was

eventually decided. Callan won by 3-8 to 1-1. Goalkeeper Richard Grace excelled in the early stages when the losers were most threatening. His good work helped Callan muster a 1-4 to 0-1 half-time lead. A 44th minute goal from Damien Cleere, pushing the difference out to 2-5 to 0-1, finished the dream for the Presentation.

For a good bit of the way, the Leinster final against Árd Scoil Rís (Dublin) looked like being a handy affair. With match star, Denis Byrne, leading the assault, the Dubs were hit for 2-8 against 0-4 during the opening half.

Twelve minutes from the end, Callan were beginning to get a bit uneasy when the score was brought back to 2-8 to 1-8. Then Byrne burst through again, blasted a fierce shot which struck the 'keeper in the chest. Tom Hickey put the loose ball over the bar. Árd Scoil hearts were broken.

Coláiste Eoin (Dublin) were another side to bow to Callan's hurling might in the championship. With each passing game, the team grew in stature and on different days there were different stars . . . Denis Lahart . . . Declan Keogh . . . Brendan Mullins. It is too easy to dismiss other years and say the victory was worth the wait. Whatever, it was fair reward for a lot of fair effort.

The Callan C.B.C. team in the final was Richard Grace (John Lockes), Brendan Power (John Lockes), Brendan Mullins (Danesfort), Colm Nolan (John Lockes), Declan Keogh (Danesfort), Eddie Dwyer (Craigue-Ballycallan), Denis Lahart (Dunamaggin), Adrian O'Sullivan, capt. (John Lockes), Ger Ronan (Craigue-Ballycallan), Damien Cleere (Craigue-Ballycallan), Tony Dalton (Mullinahone), Jarrad Gormley (John Lockes) Tom Hickey (Dunamaggin). *Subs:* Sean Byrne (John Lockes), David Cahill (John Lockes), Richard Power (John Lockes), Alan Fox (Mullinahone), Denis Cummins (Mullinahone), Peter Holden (John Lockes), John Minogue (Craigue-Ballycallan), Eamón Marnell (Craigue-Ballycallan), Noel Dargan (Craigue-Ballycallan), Niall O'Sullivan (John Lockes), Victor Direen (Mullinahone).

Kieran's four in-a-row bid just fails



ST. KIERAN'S COLLEGE SENIOR HURLERS

Front row: Liam Smith, Sean Foley, Barry Smith, Andy Comerford (captain), Martin Carey, Joe Philpott, P. J. Delaney. Back row: Barry Power, Michael Owens, Declan Morrissey, Pat Farrell, Clive Kenny, Brian Kenny, Ciaran Connery, Shane Doyle. Photo: Tom Brett

ALL things considered it was a fair effort, and given a different set of circumstances a glorious piece of history might have been written. However, it was not to be, and the scourge of the year, an inability to put chances away, proved fatal in the ultimate test.

That mine of hurling talent in Kilkenny, St. Kieran's College, this season went in search of something the school never achieved before – four All-Ireland senior hurling championship wins back-to-back. The team cleverly guided by teachers, Tommy Lanigan, Art Anglin and John Quane went very close to doing it, but failed in the final to a better balanced St. Flannan's (Ennis).

In a way, perhaps, it was appropriate that Flannan's should be the ones in opposition as Kieran's tried to achieve the incredible – for that is what it is – four-in-a-row, as the Clare college are the only ones who have done it. As well, the pair were level atop the roll of honour with 10 victories each, but when the Thurles final was decided, it was Flannan's who moved ahead and took home the Croke Cup.

At a different time, and with a different run-in to the final, who knows, Kieran's might have bridged the gap that left them 1-9 to 1-15 losers. During the week before the final injury robbed them of the

considerable services of Joseph Philpott and Justin Hanrahan. Such losses from a team that was workmanlike more than brilliant anyway was hard to bear, yet the Noresiders hung in for a long time in the final.

Kieran's went straight through from the Leinster final to the All-Ireland, without a semi-final in between. Here again, the loss of an extra match robbed the team of another opportunity to weld together.

Without what could have been a helpful semi-final, and Philpott and Hanrahan, Kieran's were really up against it in the final. The old weakness in attack, failure to put away chances created, dogged the team again, although P. J. Delaney (Fenians) did his utmost to carry the team through on his own. The son of former great, Pat Delaney, shot seven points on a day when it just didn't happen for the front line.

Big Things To Follow

Flannan's looked in awe of their opponents during the opening half, even when they had use of the wind. The losers shot the opening three scores through Delaney (2) and Brian Kenny, and suggested big things were to follow. The promise was more than was to be realised.

Flannan's, stronger physically and with a better balance to their team, got into a 0-7

to 0-4 lead by the break. Again early in the second half Kieran's promised a lot, when P. J. Delaney pointed after a few seconds. A soft goal to the losers put them into a commanding position, but then a like score from 40 yards by Damien Hurley brought the defending champions right back into the game (1-9 to 1-6).

Despite Delaney's dogged work in attack, Kieran's just couldn't produce the score or two that was needed to nail the opposition when they had them under pressure. The weakness that had haunted the team all year destroyed it at the final hurdle.

But all things considered, it was an achievement for Kieran's to even qualify for four finals in-a-row in a championship that is very competitive. Delaney was the leading light throughout the campaign, and he received tremendous back-up from towering centre-back, Pat Farrell, Andy Comerford, Barry Power, Ciaran Connery and Michael Owens.

It could be said, the Kieran's officials got the best of the talent available. From day one in Thomastown when Good Counsel (Wexford) were beaten by 0-10 to 0-8 reflecting their useful outfield hurling on the scoreboard was Kieran's problem. It wasn't that they couldn't create chances. They could do that alright. But it was

real difficulty.

The Leinster semi-final was the season in a nutshell. St. Peter's college (Wexford) were led a merry dance during most of the opening half. Yet at half-time the Slaneysiders showed 0-5 to 0-4 in front. Kieran's just got their act together in the nick of time and sneaked through 1-10 to 1-9 winners. A lovely goal from Delaney and two long range points from Pat Farrell (one free, one '65') were crucial scores.

Wary Of Each Other

That success left the way clear for an all city Leinster final against Kilkenny C.B.S. The teams were so wary of each other they virtually smothered the match. At half-time the score read 0-6 to 0-3 for Kieran's. There was never any free flowing play, but the defending All-Ireland champions got the result they wanted (0-11 to 0-6).

At one stage during the second half the C.B.S. dragged the arrears down to two points (0-8 to 0-6), but they couldn't ignite their challenge. They tried and tried, but they seemed stuck in a groove from which the driving hurling of Malcolm Murphy, Vincent Byrne, Dan O'Neill, Francis Cantwell and Eoin Begley couldn't even jerk them free.

For the record, the C.B.S. team that March 23 afternoon at Nowlan Park was - F. Cantwell, J. Phelan, M. Murphy, V. Byrne, J. Butler, D. O'Neill, J. Ayres, E. Begley, S. Teehan, N. Lacey, J. Daly, R. Shortall, M. Galvin, B. Deegan, D. Kenny. **Subs:** J. O'Dwyer, S. Morrissey (used), M. Ryan, M. Bolger, M. Delaney, P. Coogan, T. Henderson, D. Gaffney, P. Mullins.

For over a month - the All-Ireland final was on April 27 - St. Kieran's were without competitive action. They worked diligently, and sought out challenge matches where they could find them. Days before the clash of champions against St.

Flannan's, injuries leaked talent from the already shallow Kieran's well.

The Kilkenny lads still gave a good account of themselves. They upheld a proud tradition of a proud college.

The St. Kieran's team in the final was: Sean Foley, Shane Doyle, Barry Power, Michael Owens, Ciaran Connery, Pat

Farrell, Barry Smith, Andy Comerford, Peter Barry, Martin Carey, Liam Smith, Damien Hurley, Declan Morrissey, Brian Kenny, P. J. Delaney. **Subs:** Richard Kelly, Michael Fitzgerald, Clive Kenny, Philip Holohan, Liam Heffernan, Eugene Somers, Eoin Murphy, Brian Leahy, Justin Harrahan, Joseph Philpott.



(Photo: Tom Brett)

St. Kieran's attack the St. Flannan's goal during the All-Ireland Senior Colleges Final in Thurles.

Where the honours lie

- 11: St. Flannan's, Ennis in:
1944, 1945, 1946, 1947, 1958, 1976, 1979, 1982, 1983, 1987, 1991.
- 10: St. Kieran's College in:
1948, 1957, 1959, 1961, 1965, 1971, 1975, 1988, 1989 and 1990.
- 5: St. Finbarr's, Farrenferis, 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.
- 1: St. Colman's, Fermoy in:
1977.
- 1: Templemore C.B.S. in:
1978.
- 1: Birr Community School in:
1986.

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celebrations have had a special meaning for us – because we also celebrated 25 years of association with Kilkenny and with the G.A.A. So here's to the next 25 years of hospitality, good food, great leisure facilities and a top-class banqueting service at the Newpark – and to plenty of Kilkenny victories on the playing fields.

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Ladies learned valuable lesson in defeat

IT was an experience with a difference for a team with a flair for winning, and a liking for trophies, but it turned out to be a blessing in disguise in the long run.

What was that, you might well ask? It was the unseating of Kilkenny as champions of the National Camogie League. The girls who in recent years have made winning virtually a habit, were forced into a none too familiar role when they played second fiddle to Cork in the League final.

"It wasn't easy to take the defeat at the time, but the pain of that result got us going for the championship", revealed that magnificent camogie talent, Ann Downey. "Who knows, had we won the League, we might have missed the All-Ireland 7-in-a-row. The League defeat helped us concentrate our minds totally for the championship".

So it was a sort of 'every cloud has a silver lining' story. Kilkenny missed a possible 5th League win on-the-trot, but just as in the hurling world, the winter competition wasn't important once the O'Duffy Cup was retained, which it was, and in glorious fashion too.

The Noresiders experimented and used

up almost 20 players during the League. Scoring ace Breda Holmes was in self imposed retirement. Classy goalkeeper Marie Fitzpatrick took a break for most of the competition, and only joined in near the finish. Marina Downey was struck down through illness, so the selectors were forced to chop and change during the course of the competition.

Learned Lesson

Just like the reverse in the final against Cork, the lessons learned from the campaign in general were crucial. While the stock of players was good, and getting to the final was an achievement in itself, in black and white terms it was obvious something was missing if the championship was to be successfully defended.

Hence, an S.O.S. was sent out to Breda Holmes. She didn't let down women she had soldiered with through thick and thin. Marie Fitzpatrick had to be back between the posts as well, because despite the best efforts of Noelle O'Driscoll, Deirdre Malone and Sinead Millea in goal during the League, the safest bet was the St. Brigid's girl. Again Marie didn't turn her back on the team.

So, while the experience in the final was an ego bruising one, the important lessons learned stood to the county when eyes were turned to the important tests ahead.

"We also got an insight into how fit and determined Cork were, and we knew that nothing but a supreme effort would do in the championship", was Ann Downey's closing summary of the League.

Cork were impressive 2-13 to 2-6 winners of the League final. Kilkenny opened well and had an early point from Angela Downey, who wasn't given an inch all afternoon, and a goal from the ebullient Bridget Mullally.

Thereafter the Leesiders, on their home pitch, enjoyed the better of things. With Collette O'Mahony punishing indiscipline in the visitors defence, and with a goal from Irene O'Keeffe, they opened up a 2-7 to 1-4 lead by half time.

Fitful Efforts

The winners put an emphasis on closing down Angela Downey. Despite some fitful lively efforts from the champions, their title was taken away from them. That wasn't the fault of both the Downeys, Deirdre Malone, Francis Rothwell or Una Murphy, all of whom battled with great courage and commitment.

Cork's superior fitness, and the lift involved at any time playing champions, were important factors on an occasion when Kilkenny weren't at their best anyway.

In the League semi-final the champions just edged past Wexford in a replay of the All-Ireland final of 1990. This was a hard, hard one. A late point from Bridget Mullally gave the Noresiders the slimmest of victories (1-9 to 2-5).

The weather was so bad that afternoon at Nowlan Park that the referee took the players off the pitch at one stage to let the rain clear off. Noreen Tierney was introduced as a sub and scored a vital goal six minutes from the end. Mullally then tacked on an equaliser, before popping-up to drive over the winner. Half-time 0-6 (K) to 1-2.

Kilkenny didn't worry unduly at having the League taken away from them. What was following on afterwards, the open championship, was what they were really interested in.

The Kilkenny League final team was:

Marie Fitzpatrick (St. Brigid's); Biddu O'Sullivan (Tullagher); Bridget Barnaville (Lisdowney); Deirdre Malone (St. Brigid's); Frances Rothwell (St. Brigid's); Tracey Millea (St. Brigid's); Ann Downey (St. Paul's); Una Murphy (Tullagher); Noreen Tierney (Tullagher); Gillian Dillon (St. Lachtain's); Angela Downey (St. Paul's); Bridget Mullally (Glenmore). Subs: Marina Downey (Lisdowney); Noelle O'Driscoll (James Stephens); Mary McGrath (Glenmore); Joan Aylward (Glenmore). Others involved during the League:— Breda Holmes (St. Paul's); Sinead Millea (St. Brigid's); Esther Kennedy (St. Lachtain's).

Basis for Leinster campaign laid during League

By John Knox "Kilkenny People"

THE CHAMPIONS surrendered, but not until they had put up stout resistance and given a good account of themselves, and at the same time, taken something worthwhile from the whole experience.

That was the story with Kilkenny, the 1989-'90 champions, when they gave up their National Hurling League crown in a replayed semi-final. The Noresiders mixed the very good with the very bad, hit the in-between as well, but by the time they finished in the League they had a firm basis within their team approaching the Leinster championship.

In the event of not winning the League any year, the second most important thing is to come out of it with most of the XV places on the championship team pegged down. That was the situation with Kilkenny, who for all their troubles at times, even in the last outing, had a fair idea of where they were heading with the knock-out competition just around the-corner.

Team manager Ollie Walsh and fellow selectors Ger Henderson (Fenians), Nickey Brennan (Co. Board chairman), Wattie Long (Glenmore) and Gerry Nolan (Clara) took over after a disastrous championship in 1990. They saw their charges experience good, bad, average and downright awful results before the finish.

That finish came in a replayed semi-final against the old enemy Wexford. That afternoon in Thurles the Slaneysiders played out of their skins, and gained their first win over the Noresiders since November 1987.

FITTER AND SHARPER

The scoreline was 2-14 to 1-12 in favour of the Slaneysiders, who were fitter and sharper than their opponents. As early as the 8th minute things started to go wrong for Kilkenny. They were always under pressure afterwards, and at half-time trailed by 2-4 to 0-7.

The manner of the champions' exit wasn't that heartening, bearing in mind the extent to which they were outplayed. Wexford's superior fitness had a lot to do with their total dominance.

All-star Style



Kilkenny's only All-Star in 1990, Eamonn Morrissey, had another outstanding year in 1991.

That had to be considered, as had the fact that Kilkenny had put a lot into the League, and were in danger of an over-kill.

There was a school of thought that felt Kilkenny would have been better off reaching a result against Wexford the previous week, when the teams played a 2-12 each draw in Croke Park. For half the match, the defending champions played some of their best hurling of the entire year.

They got a five point headstart on their opponents. At one stage of the second half their terrific hurling left them eight points clear. Entering the closing quarter they were still six points to the good. But from there to the finish they were swept off their feet and were it not for two late misses by that old warhorse, Jimmy Holohan, they would have been beaten.

But all factors taken into consideration, the diligent hurling of Michael Walsh, John Henderson, Liam Simpson, Tommy Fogarty, Michael Phelan, Pat Ryan, Eamon Morrissey, Liam Fennelly and D. J. Carey suggested Kilkenny were on the right path. It was a disappointment, then, when they were dumped out of the League the following week, but at least the players had given an indication of the high level of performance they could reach when in the mood.

NEW PLAYERS

When all the sums were totted up after the campaign, the facts were that new players like goalkeeper, Michael Walsh and defender Liam Simpson had been unearthed, and would be ready for the demands of a championship. And it was obvious too that the appetite of old hands John Henderson, Richie Power, Christy Heffernan and Liam Fennelly was good too, and that they would provide the framework around which a team could be built.

D. J. Carey, Eamon Morrissey, Michael Phelan, John Power, Liam Walsh and Pat Dwyer left the League with good form also, so the competition had served its purpose, in more ways than one.

Getting so far meant a handsome windfall for the Co. Board. It turned out Kilkenny was one of the biggest earners in either the hurling or football competitions. Why wouldn't they be, with crowds in excess of 20,000 seeing them twice (v. Tipperary and Galway) and over 15,500 (v. Wexford in draw) on another occasion. In recent years Kilkenny and Tipperary have been the biggest crowd pullers on the hurling scene.



Ballet Dancers . . . Pat Dwyer and Joe O'Connor (Limerick) in action in the Royal Liver National Hurling League.

Overall the League was a mixed bag as far as the defending champions were concerned. As mentioned, the zenith was reached in a draw against Wexford. The worst performance was the last game before Christmas, when the team minus the contingent from county champions Glenmore, was taken asunder by Limerick (3-15 to 0-7).

DOWN TO EARTH

The competition got off to a very promising start when victories were scored over Dublin and Clare. Then All-Ireland champions, Cork brought everyone down to earth with a bang when they handed out a 10-point hammering in Pairc Uí Chaoimh. The loss of Glenmore players – they were involved in the Leinster club championship – proved hard to bear, and another hammering was suffered against Limerick.

This left Kilkenny under pressure to hold on to their title in the new year. They suggested they had everything right when they opened against Wexford. Five minutes off the finish the champions were a point clear. With a flurry of scores from Eamon Morrissey, Richie Power and D. J. Carey (3) they eventually ended 1-21 to 2-12 winners.

If that was uplifting, the next visit to Waterford was a disaster. The Suisiders led by 0-10 to 0-3 at half-time. Determined hurling saw the visitors scrub that difference by the 40th minute. Five minutes off the end a point from Ray Heffernan (1-10 to 0-12) put them into a match winning position, although they hadn't been going all that

well. They were caught by a sucker goal from Shane Ahearne, and lost a match they should have won.

That left Kilkenny travelling to Semple Stadium for the last preliminary round game needing to beat Tipperary. They did more than that. They took them asunder. Performances that were in the "great" category were turned in by Pat Dwyer, his best since making the senior team, Liam Walsh, Tommy Fogarty, Bill Hennessy, Michael Walsh, Eamon Morrissey and John Power. Tipp were beaten to the run of 2-17 to 0-13.

OUT OF MIRE

That cracking performance, and surprise result, earned a reprieve and a ticket into the quarter-finals. The challenge here came from a mentally and physically strong Galway team. Kilkenny looked defeat squarely in the face. Two smashing second half goals from D. J. Carey – he hit 2-5 in all – pulled the champions out of the mire. Again, the sky seemed the limit.

All the suggested promise looked like being fulfilled the way Kilkenny started in the semi-final against Wexford. Their opening half hurling was powerful – and intelligent and purposeful. During the break they left their 'drive' behind them in the dressingroom, and a sleepy second half led to their eventually being knocked out.

The closing act in the League may have been disappointing. But the competition taken as a whole had served the county well. The subsequent run in the championship was evidence of that.

THE PATH THROUGH THE LEAGUE

Nowlan Park, October 28:

Kilkenny 4-11 Dublin 1-11

Kilkenny scorers: Charlie Carter (1-4); Anthony Prendergast (1-4, one point free); Eamon Morrissey, Christy Heffernan (1-1 each); Pat Ryan (0-1).

Cusack Park, Ennis, November 4:

Kilkenny 2-12 Clare 1-13

Kilkenny scorers: Anthony Prendergast (1-4, one free, one '65 points); Christy Heffernan (1-1); Eamon Morrissey, James Brennan (0-2 each); Jimmy Lawlor, Charlie Carter, Liam McCarthy (0-1 each).

Pairc Uí Chaoimh, Cork, November 11:

Cork 4-8 Kilkenny 0-10

Kilkenny scorers: Anthony Prendergast (0-9, four frees, two '65's); James Brennan (0-1).

Nowlan Park, November 18:

Kilkenny 0-7 Limerick 3-15

Kilkenny scorers: Pat Ryan, Michael Dunne (0-2 each); John Power (0-1, free); Anthony Prendergast (0-1, free); James Brennan (0-1).

Nowlan Park, February 17:

Kilkenny 1-21 Wexford 2-12

Kilkenny scorers: John Power (1-3); D. J. Carey (0-4, two frees); Eamon Morrissey (0-3); Anthony Prendergast (0-3, one free); Christy Heffernan, Lester Ryan (0-2 each); Richie Power, Brian McGovern, Ray Heffernan, Adrian Ronan (0-1 each).

Walsh Park, Waterford, March 3:

Waterford 1-12 Kilkenny 1-10

Kilkenny scorers: Ray Heffernan (0-8, five frees); Eamon Morrissey (1-1); John Power (0-1).

Semple Stadium, Thurles, March 24:

Kilkenny 2-17 Tipperary 0-13

Kilkenny scorers: D. J. Carey (1-8, goal penalty, six frees); Eamon Morrissey (1-2); John Power (0-3); Pat Ryan, James Brennan, Liam Fennelly, Adrian Ronan (0-1 each).

Semple Stadium, Thurles, April 14 – League quarter-final:

Kilkenny 2-11 Galway 2-9

Kilkenny scorers: D. J. Carey (2-5, point '65, two frees); Christy Heffernan (0-3); Michael Phelan, John Power, James Brennan (0-1 each).

Croke Park, April 28, League semi-final draw:

Kilkenny 2-12 Wexford 2-12

Kilkenny scorers: D. J. Carey (0-6, five frees); Eamon Morrissey (1-2, point free); Christy Heffernan (1-0); John Power (0-2); Pat Ryan (0-1); Pat Dwyer (0-1, free).

Semple Stadium, Thurles, May 5 – League semi-final replay:

Wexford 2-14 Kilkenny 1-12

Kilkenny scorers: Eamon Morrissey (1-4, goal free, one point free); Ray Heffernan (0-5, frees); Adrian Ronan, Michael Phelan, Lester Ryan (0-1 each).



Christmas Greetings



from

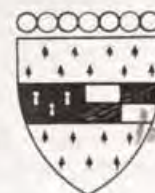
The Kilkenny County Board

to all

G.A.A. Patrons



Every Good Wish to your Club in 1991



Fond Farewell to Paddy, the man who did it all

THE MAN who held the highest office in the land in the G.A.A. and represented Kilkenny with pride and distinction nationally and internationally for decades bade a sad farewell at annual Co. Board Convention.

Dr. Paddy Buggy, former President of the 'Association and chairman of the Leinster Council, called it a day because he felt he had given his best.

"I had hoped to go on for at least two or maybe three years, and my heart's desire was to be chairman when Kilkenny won the McCarthy Cup", Mr. Buggy conceded when he told shocked delegates he was stepping down as chairman after only one year in office.

"I found late in the year when I pressed on the accelerator there was nothing left, and knowing that I could not put back the clock, it was time to call it a day", he conceded.

He revealed that even though he was disappointed, he didn't regret his short term as chairman in Kilkenny. Had he not sought the position, and given it a go, he would have regretted it for the rest of his life.

Mr. Buggy was given a warm and courteous send off by a packed convention, which mirrored the high standing in which he was held in Kilkenny.

The 60-year-old achieved it all as a player, referee, selector and administrator within the G.A.A. He climbed all the steps of the ladder, and probably his greatest asset was hard work. He never stood before a gathering without first researching the subject he wished to address, and at Convention he was true to form, prepared script in hand, expounding on something vital to the future growth of the organisation he loved. That subject was sponsorship.

Sponsorship

He hung out the 'for sale' signs on the local championships and county teams. Interestingly, months later, St. Canice's Credit Union took over sponsorship of the local senior hurling championship. Vale Oil put their name on the intermediate hurling competition, and Mahon and McPhillips became associated with the senior and minor county teams.

Paddy Buggy joined the Slieverue club as a young boy, and played hurling and football. He completed his education at Mount Sion C.B.S. (Waterford). For years he was secretary with Slieverue and he held most other positions too. His first move into the big world beyond was as club delegate to the Southern Board.



Dr. Paddy Buggy

The natural progression was onto Kilkenny Co. Board, and there he proved a stickler for procedure. Even then, he always had the facts and figures at his finger tips.

He played on the Slieverue team that won the senior hurling championship in 1954. Three years later he won his lone All-Ireland senior hurling medal when Kilkenny beat Waterford by 4-10 to 3-12.

Mr. Buggy had previously won a Leinster junior hurling championship in 1949. He gained Leinster senior championship medals in 1950, 1953, 1957, 1958 and 1959.

He played in all the major grounds in Ireland and also in Wembley and Mitcham stadia in England, as well as the Polo Grounds and Gaelic Park, New York.

When his playing days were over, he moved into refereeing. He never took charge of a Kilkenny senior hurling final, but he was in the middle at the 1964 and 1966 All-Ireland junior finals. He officiated at many Leinster championship matches and even refereed a senior final in Offaly.

Valuable Experience

He was a senior selector with Kilkenny in 1967 (v. Tipperary) and 1969 (v. Cork) when they won All-Irelands. His valuable experience was recognised elsewhere, and he was appointed team manager of the Leinster Railway Cup hurling team and established a record for the province with wins in 1971, 1972, 1973 and 1974.

The Leinster Council was so pleased with his handling of affairs, that he was sent on the 1974 All-Star tour of America, compliments of the 'Council.

When the late Bob Aylward (Kilkenny) was elected vice-chairman of the Leinster Council in 1960, Paddy Buggy decided to seek the vacant Kilkenny position. In 1961 he sat in on his first meeting.

In 1975 he was elected vice-chairman of the Leinster Council, and later he served a full term as chairman. He also worked on the Activities and Management Committee.

The non-smoker and non-drinker was

elected President of the G.A.A. when Congress was held in his native Kilkenny in 1982. He followed in the illustrious footsteps of the late Ald. James Nowlan, who held office from 1901 to 1921.

A third Kilkenny native held the office of President. He was Bob O'Keeffe, a native of Mooncoin who gave his name to the trophy presented to the Leinster senior hurling champions. Bob served as President from 1935 to 1938. He was teaching in Borris-in-Ossory at the time of his election and held office as a Laois official.

Appropriate

Kilkenny Co. Council employee, Paddy Buggy, was your ordinary G.A.A. man when he held the highest office in the land. He kept down his job with the 'Council while fulfilling his work for the 'Association.

During the 'Association's Centenary celebrations in 1984, he was conferred with an honorary Doctorate by the National University of Ireland in recognition of the magnificent input the G.A.A. has made to sport in the country. How appropriate that a man who went right through the ranks should be the one asked to accept the honour on behalf of the 'Association.

There was no contest for the chair when the out-going man retired. The only nominee, Nickey Brennan was elected. Mr. Brennan from the Conahy Shamrocks club, won senior All-Irelands in 1974, '75, 1979, 1982 and 1983.

There were only two elections during Convention. Seven men sought the six positions on the delegation to Leinster Convention, and a vote was also necessary for the election of Trustees.

Officers elected: Nickey Brennan, Conahy Shamrocks (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); Eamon Doyle, O'Loughlin/Gaels (Youth Officer); Paul Kinsella, St. Martin's (Hurling Officer); Tom Cunniffe, Dicksboro (Football Officer); Tom Waldron, St. Lachtain's (Irish Officer). Central Council rep. and P.R.O., Tom Ryall, Graigue-Ballycallan; Leinster Council reps., John Healy, Tullagher-Rosbercon and Tommy Murphy, Danesfort; Leinster Convention delegates, N. Brennan, T. Carroll, Seamus Delaney, P. Dunphy, B. Hickey, Kieran Meally, Erin's Own; Congress delegates: N. Brennan, T. Carroll, Pat Henderson, Fenians, T. Murphy.

Henderson influence was vital as 'Boro rejoined big league

By: JOHN KNOX (Kilkenny People)



DICKSBORO — 1991 Intermediate Hurling Champions

(Photo: Gerry Deegan)

Front Row (l. - r.): Michael Kennedy, Martin Hanrick, Mark Dowling, John Treacy, Michael Walsh, Liam Kerwick, Ger Henderson. Back Row (l. - r.): David Beirne, Niall Lacey, John Marnell, Pat Carroll, Sean Moore, Donald Carroll (Captain), Tommy Bawle, Stephen Kennedy. Inset: Shane Prendergast (left); Dan O'Neill (right).

THE Promised Land had been viewed before, four times in fact during the preceding two decades, but despite total self giving by all, the last leg of the journey had always been cruel, oh so punishing, and what seemed unfairly unproductive.

This time the slate was wiped clean, and part of the disappointment that had been shooting up like a fountain over decades, was removed when a journey along the route that had proved torturous and unyielding in the past was at last completed successfully.

Outsiders saw the victory of popular city outfit, Dicksboro in the intermediate hurling championship as just rewards for unfailing efforts over an unknown number of years. 'Boro people themselves didn't view it in any particular way. They were just glad it happened. They, more than most, had experienced their share of sorrow over unfulfilled dreams. At long last, they were able to don the mantle of champions.

Now, 22 long years after the club last fielded in the senior championship, the maroon of Dicksboro will again be seen in the big league. The club's first success in the intermediate championship was a long time in coming. Forty-one years had

passed since the club last tasted victory in an adult hurling championship in Kilkenny. The senior final of 1950 against Eire Óg 3-17 to 6-8 (E.O.) draw, and 4-6 to 1-5 replay was the last day of glory.

There were successes at various levels in between, but the quest to get back in the senior grade eluded at least one generation of hard triers. There was no fault to be laid at anyone's door-step, as too often the 'Boro left intermediate finals as 'game losers'. Cynics had dross to fling about. "Who are Dicksboro going to lose to this time", was one of the cutting lines from that fraternity.

A bunch of enthusiastic youngsters — average age 23 ½ — this time put a full stop behind a losing chapter that had dragged on too long. They did so in such an assured manner that had people singing their praises. People spoke about a 'good hurling team', and perhaps more importantly, 'a team with a future'. Another year or two will tell more.

Sailed through it

Victory was scored in the final over a good Young Irelands (Gowran) team by 4-9 to 2-8. Whereas in the past 'Boro teams had found difficulty handling the big day, this time the young braves sailed through

it, and produced their best form of the year.

And they did so in trying circumstances, when forced to field without injured Kilkenny minor captain Dan O'Neill, who had been a star all season, while experienced attacker Tommy Bawle played with a broken bone in his hand. The 'Boro selectors Eugene Begley (who is also club chairman), John Cahill, Seamus Fitzpatrick, John Marnell and Jimmy Mulrooney in total co-operation with trainer, Pat Henderson, smoothed out the creases and convinced the players that they were still good enough to do it against a side well ahead in the experience stakes.

Things didn't go well initially for the 'Boro and they conceded an early goal from a penalty. By half-time they had hinted that something big was about to happen when they led by 2-3 to 1-2, courtesy of two fine goals from eventual man of the match, Liam Kerwick.

Doubting Thomas must have felt the wheel was going to fall off the wagon yet again when 'Irelands swept back to equal terms in the 36th minute (2-3 to 1-6). It was then the self belief that Pat Henderson, the former Kilkenny senior team manager, had drilled into his charges came to the fore.

They got their effort back on the rails with a goal by Tommy Bawle from virtually nothing. Quick points from the promising Mark Dowling and the inevitable Kerwick left a steep hill for 'Irelands to climb. All credit to the losers, they made a serious assault on that hill, and were going great guns until a late goal from John Treacy knocked them down again.

The Hanrahan Cup was Dicksboro's at long last. Heroes on the day were many, particularly a half-back line with a big future – Ger. Henderson, captain Donal Carroll and David Beirne. They stood firm in the face of intense pressure, and often made the enemy retreat. Much better than good hurlers, one and all.

Little wrong

Of course, with a tally of 2-6 young Liam Kerwick was a special hero. He won the man of the match award, a colour television, put up by championship sponsors Vale Oil. He enjoyed a day when he could do little wrong. His showing was particularly praiseworthy because he took over the free taking duties in the absence of O'Neill, and because of Bawle's difficulties. Not bad for a third choice man, and one who really only confirmed his place in the final team after a great showing in the semi-final.

The Kennedy brothers, Stephen and Michael, Sean Moore, Niall Lacey and Mark Dowling thundered through the hour as well, and couldn't be held. And sure the daddy of them all, John Marnell, who had been chasing a hurling winners medals with the club since 1973, was, fittingly, great when gold was at last struck.

During 'Irelands big effort to save the

match in the second half, it was Marnell who twice produced acts of utter defiance, which all at once lifted his colleagues and knocked back the opposition. Rarely has there been a more popular winner of a medal in Kilkenny.

Several people deserve enormous credit for producing Dicksboro in the prime condition, physically and mentally. Top of the list must be trainer Pat Henderson, who at the start of the season was offered full control of the team. He declined in favour of the established 5-man selection system.

From day one he worked on convincing the players that they had what it took to be winners. He is an astute hurling man, and a good 'man manager' as he proved when steering Kilkenny to National League and All-Ireland championship doubles in 1982 and 1983.

The Dicksboro panel wasn't overflowing with very good hurlers, but contained several of average ability. Henderson cemented together the skills of the good and the average, and in most cases, extracted the maximum return from individuals. The players believed in him, and he in them. His arrival on the scene had a lot to do with the 'Boro victory.

Appeal

And you know, the victory might never have happened. The club was actually thrown out of the championship by the Co. Board for not fulfilling a fixture. They were readmitted on appeal to the Leinster Council. That rearranged fixtures was against the Rower-Inistioge. That evening in Thomastown the team suggested it could do something, when it showed character to edge through in a tight finish.

Inclusion in the knock-out stages was assured with a subsequent victory over Young Irelands. In the quarter-finals, Bennettsbridge were toppled. Then Thomastown in the semi-finals. The 'Boro went into the county final haunted by the past and defeats in the deciders of 1976, 1977, 1979 and 1981.

The loss of O'Neill and the troubles encountered by Bawle made it appear as if the final jinx was about to strike again. But Henderson had his charges ready for the fray. Young men with a strong belief in themselves brought unknown joy to people who had endured hardship for far too long.

The Dicksboro team in the final was – Michael Walsh, Martin Harrick, John Marnell, Pat Carroll, Ger. Henderson, Donal Carroll (capt.), David Beirne, Michael Kennedy, Mark Dowling, John Treacy, Sean Moore, Niall Lacey, Stephen Kennedy, Liam Kerwick, Tommy Bawle. Subs: Shane Prendergast (used); Tom Maher, Ted Carroll, Tim Butler, Niall Morrissey, Michael Trait, Denis Monahan, Robbie Dalton, Martin Treacy, Sam Morrissey, Eoin Begley, John O'Dwyer, Brian Fitzpatrick, Dan O'Neill.

Young Irelands – Joe. Walsh, Pat Drea, Pat Kennedy, John Middleton, Matt O'Neill, Pat O'Neill, Brian Farrell, Ciaran Phelan, Toss Farrell, Cathal Fitzgerald, D. J. Carey, Charlie Carter, David O'Neill, John Kennedy, Michael O'Neill. Subs: James McDermott, Tony Byrne, John Brennan (used); James Fitzgerald, Martin Carey, Jimmy Holden, Pat Lennon, Brendan Kehoe, Phil Twomey, Patrick Treacy, Tom Fenlon, Brian Treacy Tom Kehoe.



Pat Carroll (Dicksboro) clears his lines, watched by his brother Donal, under pressure from Thomastown forward Cathal Fitzgerald.

Photo: Gerry Deegan

A Farewell to "Harrisons"

By: Tom Waldron

ALMOST everyone in North Kilkenny was aware that a new site for a G.A.A. field had been acquired in Freshford and that great progress had been made in developing it. They knew that Pairc Lachtain was already being used by the local hurling club, the local camogie club and by the pupils of the neighbouring National School.

Yet, no one was prepared for the impact that a burgeoning crop of barley was to make on the minds of those who passed down the Clinstown Road last Spring.

*"The corn was springing fresh and green,
The lark sang loud on high".*

Cars braked and stopped and the occupants emerged to look over the low fence across the wide flat expanse; cyclists dismounted and allowed sentimental recollections to engulf them; passers-by paused to gaze in wonder tinged with regret and sadness over the scene of battles long ago. Yes, there it was – the goalposts gone, the railings gone and the barley land came into its own – the irrevocable proof of the end of an era!

It was never called the "hurling field". It was called simply "Harrisons". The question of venue before a Northern Board meeting might be: "Where will you play the match? Jenkinstown or Harrisons?" For the field belonged to the Harrison family of Crowhill. Nicholas Harrison (God rest him) and his family were great patrons of sport. The hurling pitch was part of a fine expanse of parkland stretching for many hundreds of yards alongside the road and broken only by the avenue to the Harrison home. This wide grazing area was given freely for all kinds of sport: pony-racing, athletics, coursing and even hot-rod

racing, but of course mainly for hurling and football, for this was the centre of a great area where Martin Lalor and his son Jack made the famous Lalor hurley in Freshford and the equally famous Lalor hurling ball was crafted by Jim Lalor and his son Jack in Coolehall.

Some old hurlers in Freshford date the use of "Harrisons" back to the late twenties, though other fields like O'Shea's down the Moat Road and the "Coolteens" at the back of the houses on the west side of the Market Square were also used, apparently depending on which field was designated for hay. "The Coolteens" is an interesting place name, derived from the Irish "Cul Tithe", that is "The Back of the Houses".

By the turn of the next decade, "Harrisons" had become firmly established as the regular G.A.A. ground. For the hurlers of Calmoy, Johnstown, Crosspatrick, Urlingford, Lisdowney, Clomantagh, Ballyousskill, Conahy, Ballyragget, Freshford, Threecastles and Tullaroan it was a popular central venue and had the name of being the driest pitch in the county. Nine inches or so under sod level was sand and the heaviest rainfall over a protracted period had no effect on the firm surface.

In 1946 an enthusiastic and representative meeting of the Freshford community and delegates from the Northern clubs decided to approach the Harrison family with a view to purchasing the field. The attempt to purchase failed but it was typical of the family to offer us the field on lease for a nominal rent and allow us to rail in the pitch and to erect a proper entrance gate. The late Tom Frisby N.T. and myself were deputed to seek a grant from the County Board to cover the costs. The maker of the railings had given us an estimate of £100 and the cost of erection plus the cost of the entrance gate came to £47. The County Board granted us the full costs of £147. When the railings were erected, the maker informed us that he had made a mistake and the actual cost should have been £400. We were distraught to say the least, and it took several carnivals to clear the debt. Young people nowadays will find these figures paltry but in those days the money in question would erect a fine two-storey house. It was the close of World War II (the Emergency), income and wages were at rock-bottom and money was very scarce indeed.

The sporting instincts of the Harrison family proved invaluable down through the years. Apart from the ground's function as the central venue for North Kilkenny, it was a nursery for schools' and juvenile hurling. Over a thousand people on one occasion in the early fifties cheered on the schoolboys of Freshford and Tullaroan in an unforgettable encounter. There, alas, the local St. Lachtain's prospered and the schools' team of 1952 advanced through juvenile and minor grades to produce the

magnificent seniors of the sixties in a united parish effort. In the seventies, Ballyragget, Jenkinstown and Urlingford acquired pitches that qualified for grants and provided facilities; with the introduction of the Intermediate grade, the rise of several Northern clubs to senior status and the reduction in the number of junior clubs to four or five, the importance of "Harrisons" as a central venue declined.

Its value to hurling in the whole region will not be forgotten. It was only when an unexpected opportunity arose to purchase and develop an ideal field within the confines of the village itself and situated on the very doorstep of St. Lachtain's National School that the club regretfully decided to leave "Harrisons". Funds for its development had been raised by launching a big draw initially; then the community worked physically hard by cutting trees and holding timber auctions. Pairc Lachtain is taking shape and it is hoped to open it officially in 1992.

But it's "Harrisons" that will always flash upon the inward eye of the old hurler, when he harkens back to the clash of the ash, the gladsome cries of supporters and the bliss of the final whistle. They were all around him, congratulating him, clapping him on his exhausted shoulders, as he received their plaudits, vehement and vaunting in the vanity of victory, as he pushed through them over to the big tree by the roadside.

Memories bedeck the green lawn of "Harrisons" like flowers in June. He remembers the dismay, the dejection, the devastation of defeat. They were leading by two points, a minute away from full time. They were pressing hard for the score that would put the issue beyond all doubt. The two teams were in one half of the field, all except their goalkeeper who stood, eagerly watching their efforts, on the 21 yard line. "Sacred Heart" said Paud Doyle of Woodsgift, "Straight into the net and not a Christian in the square!".

In pensive mood the veteran still sees the shadowy semblance of Carrolls, Costigans and Clohoseys; Daltons, Delaneys and Downeys; Lennons, Lalors and Lacey; Hendersons, Hickey and the Henneberrys flit across the shining surface of the sunlit sward. In his mind's eye, he traces the wraith-like figures of the McEvoy, McCormicks and Mahers; Brophys, Brennans and Butlers; Scotts, Stapletons and Shortalls; O'Sheas and O'Donnells; Kennedys and Keoghans as they merge into the long shadows generated by the serried ranks of spectators and the rays of the slanting sun.

For set it surely did. The bell really tolled and the funeral note was sounded when I walked into Freshford Creamery yard a year ago and I knew by the shocked expression that somewhere, somehow, a sacrilege of sorts had been committed. "Holy God!" said Mick Fogarty, "Harrisons" is ploughed!".

Easy going Shamrocks turned on the power in final

By
JOHN KNOX
Kilkenny People

THERE were those who said it was a throw-back to times past, but to when exactly, no-one could rightly say. It surprised that anyone would want to make a comparison, because the show we were all treated to was strong enough to stand up, and even out, on its own.

That was the scene after yet another one-sided Kilkenny senior hurling final. Those supreme hurlers of the past decade and a half, Shamrocks (Ballyhale), dumbfounded everyone with another flawless performance in the County Final, when they brought home the Tom Walsh Cup for the ninth time.

It wasn't the fact that the Shamrocks won what had looked a wide open final in a canter that surprised . . . more startling was the sheer brilliance of their hurling, from goalkeeper Kevin Fennelly to corner-forward Liam Fennelly.

This was as near to a perfect performance of hurling as made no difference. Forget that they walloped poor St. Martin's (Ballyfoyle-Coon-Muckalee) by 3-16 to 1-8 and destroyed the final as a spectacle for the 10,000 or so attendance. Forget, too, that the Shamrocks have produced stunning hurling displays in the past.

The showing in the final of 1991 can stand on its own, and can stand against any performance by any club team in the whole of Ireland. It was that good, and that strong.

And yet, the essence of the Shamrocks' show was simplicity itself. There was no grandiose plan for dealing with St. Martin's. The idea was to get the mental approach right in the first instance, and then leave the rest to natural talent.

SORTED OUT

"We had a meeting the day before the final because we felt a few things needed to be sorted out", St. Canice's Credit Union man of the match, Liam Fennelly, conceded afterwards. "Our attitude hadn't been right for the game leading up to the final, but against St. Martin's everything was bang on. You could sense it in the dressing-room before the match. Everyone



The business is done — Team Captain Dermot Fennelly with the Tom Walsh Cup secured for another year, along with his brother Liam, who won the St. Canice's Credit Union 'Man of the Match' award for his great display in the County Final.



The floodgates open . . . Neither Bobby Shore in goal nor Paddy Kehoe (white helmet) can stop Shamrocks' captain marvel, Dermot Fennelly, as he kicks in his side's opening goal

Pic: Gerry Deegan

Easy going Shamrocks turned on the power in final

(Continued from previous page)

was on a high, and keen to get up and into the job".

When Shamrocks are in that frame of mind, all had better watch out. Kilkenny clubs know that. Others elsewhere found that out in the past, when they sailed to three victories in the All-Ireland Club Championship in 1981, 1984 and 1990. The three wins in the All-Ireland series leaves them tops in the roll of honour with Blackrock (Cork).

As a contest, the Kilkenny final lasted less than 20 minutes. Martin's gave as good as they got during the opening 14 minutes, after which they led by 0-4 to 0-2. On the quarter hour, Ballyhale captain Dermot Fennelly slithered through the Muckalee defence and casually booted the ball past unprotected goalkeeper, Bobby Shore (1-3 to 0-4).

If the new champions put one hand on the trophy in that instance, they had two on it by half-time. A second goal from John Shefflin, after a long range effort from Liam Fennelly came back into play off an upright and caught the entire Martin's defence flat-footed, left them 2-7 to 0-5 in front moving towards the rest. Into injury-time in the half, Kilkenny star Eamon Morrissey pulled back a goal from a penalty for Martin's to cut the interval arrears to 1-5 to 2-8.

That effort gave rise to hope that maybe, just maybe, Martin's might put something together. They weren't given a chance. Inside five minutes of the restart, the Shamrocks had tacked on points per John Shefflin, Liam Fennelly and Ger Fennelly, and Martin's gains were lost.

POETRY IN MOTION

The Shamrocks' play afterwards was like poetry in motion, and prompted that great hurling man, Kevin Fennelly (senior), the Shamrocks' club chairman, to suggest: "That was our greatest performance ever".

He wasn't excited, jumping around after the 9th championship win. He was cool and in control. From a man who has enjoyed so many good times with the Shamrocks, that was a fair admission.

The Shamrocks did what comes naturally to them . . . they played open, intelligent hurling. Although most of their players are over 30, and a few are near the 40 mark, they appeared to be able to out-run their opponents. Their clever, efficient use of the ball took a lot of the leg-work out of the game.

The ball rarely came to a stop. It was flicked here, then flicked there. People created space, others exploited it. Kevin

Fennelly hardly got a shot of note to save, as those clever old foxes on the full-back line, Michael Fennelly, Frank Holohan and Wattie Phelan, totally snuffed out the twin threat that was expected to come from the free-scoring Eamon Morrissey and rising star, Dermot Lawlor.

Sean Fennelly was the pick of the half-back line, while the roving Tommy Phelan proved the perfect partner for that great reader of a game, Ger Fennelly at midfield. They literally cleaned-up, and the plentiful supply of ball they pushed forward gave brothers Liam and Brendan Fennelly the opportunity to show what radar could look like in operation on a hurling field. One always seemed to know what the other was doing, but the Martin's defenders never knew what either of them was going to attempt.

They used brain power, while the Shefflins, Tommy and John, used leg power and zoomed here and there, causing all sorts of problems. Team captain Dermot Fennelly, who rarely walks off a field without something to his credit, had 1-2 to his name this time. A good return for the skipper.

TIRED AND WORN OUT

The Shamrocks' performance in the final was the high point of their life at the top. It was a far cry from the showing by a tired and worn-out side that bowed out in the quarter-finals the previous year, only months after they had beaten Ballybrown (Limerick) in the All-Ireland Club decider.

It is fair comment to suggest few in Ballyhale — and certainly the county at large — felt such a powerful hurling show was still in this particular Shamrocks' team. It had been thought they were past their best, although far from finished. The showing on October 13 left us wondering

in what context we should look at some of their sparkling displays from the past?

What threw everyone out was Shamrocks' sedate, average hurling in earlier rounds of the championship. In the preliminaries they beat Erin's Own, Craigue-Ballycallan and Craignamanagh, all without a hint of what was to come later. They lost to old rivals, James Stephens.

In the semi-finals they beat Erin's Own (Castlecomer) again, but without extending themselves too much. It is possible the players didn't even know there was such hurling fury building up inside of them. When that might was eventually released it spoiled the Kilkenny final for those who came to see a close, competitive final, but not for those who like to see hurling as it should be played — in a simple manner, and with style.

Shamrocks: Kevin Fennelly, Michael Fennelly, Frank Holohan, Wattie Phelan, Dick Walsh, Paul Phelan, Sean Fennelly, Ger Fennelly (0-4), Tommy Phelan, Tommy Shefflin (1-1), Jimmy Lawlor, Dermot Fennelly, capt. (1-2), John Shefflin (1-3), Brendan Fennelly (0-3), Brendan Fennelly (0-3), Liam Fennelly (0-3). Subs: Seamus Ryan, Brendan Mason, Pdraig Farrell, John Keneally, Patrick Phelan, Bobby Aylward, Noel O'Keefe, Brendan O'Neill.

St. Martin's: Bobby Shore, Tom Walsh, Jim Moran, Liam O'Neill, Paddy Kehoe, Michael Maher, Conor Moloney, John Morrissey, Ciaran Hayes, John Brennan (0-1), Liam Dowling, Aidan Lawlor (0-2), Danny Coonan, Eamon Morrissey (1-1), Dermot Lawlor (0-4). Subs: Eamon Breen, Paddy Lawlor, John Dooley (used), Sean O'Neill, Tony Maher, Dermot Comerford, Nicholas Purcell, Thomas Dowling, Jimmy Maher, John Ryan.



Will we fine them? — Team mentors and others really getting involved in the action in the County semi-final between St. Martin's and Glenmore. The players involved are Eddie O'Connor (Glenmore) and Sean O'Neill (St. Martin's).

Pic: Gerry Deegan

BACK TO THE FUTURE

By: LESTER RYAN (Field Officer Leinster Council)

If "breaking up is never easy", I suppose the same could be said of growing up. However, looking back on my formative years in Clara, I must confess that it wasn't that hard, maybe we lived in innocent times or we were just plain naïve. In hindsight, I believe it was more likely a combination of the two added to the fact that we played hurling.

This was a time when you didn't have to be motivated to play. Indeed, the reality was that we had to be motivated to do everything else except play. Reared in a home, with a father (Liam, R.I.P.) literally living for the game, and 4 brothers, Willie, Johnny, Harry and Kevin always willing to test your "skills", among other things. My mother, Susan and three sisters, Mary, Rita and Breda constantly offered support and advice on all hurling matters. If you didn't hurl, you would have very little else to do, also how could anyone realistically be expected to grow up in Kilkenny at that time and not want to be a Keher, Treacy or Skehan. These were our heroes. Today these people are referred to as role models; the benefactors of psychological enlightenment emphasise their importance to children as they grow and mature.

Communications at the time were basic and references to "Big Brother" and the "Global Village" were at best inconceivable and at worst incomprehensible. Micheál O'Hehir was the medium and the message was hurling. The *Kilkenny People* provoked endless discussion and made those, from far flung destinations, such as Joe Salmon, Des Foley and Paddy Barry larger than life. Irrespective of club it was bred into us to believe that Kilkenny had, not alone in the past, but would always be more than a match for the rest.

*Most things of any consequence in

Clara happened in the "Field". No, not the Field J. B. Keane style or the typical field setting in Glenroe, but the "hurling field". That's where things had to be proved, and where the opportunity to develop was given. That's where boys matured into men. Only "men" could pick the ball, strike with the left and right, connect overhead, on the ground and were prepared to get "stuck-in".

In those times there was little or no formal competition, apart from the odd practice match which might be organised against Bennettsbridge. We were happy to serve our time pucking around every opportunity we got. It was a long apprenticeship but it paid dividends because when it came to the stage of formal competition the skills were so ingrained that there was no great danger that we would be overcome with anxiety.

If there was a problem it related more to the "hurlers on the ditch" than anything else. Never short of advice, some were so enthusiastic in their commitment that they would not confine their exhortations to advice alone. But while the methods used might be questionable, the same could not be said of their basic motivation. To do, or want something to be done or achieved in the name of one's locality, stood and will stand the test of time.

If it's hard to imagine that this was nearly 20 years ago, it's harder still to appreciate how life could be so different, for those who have grown up since. But different it is. The television, computers, exams and the speed of life have combined to make it so. What was once spontaneous has now been systematized. Children no longer flock to the field. They are only to be found there if there is organised training or if there is a game. The sheer joy of being merely involved (psychologists call this intrinsic



motivation), has been overtaken by extrinsic factors such as competitions, medals and rewards of one form or another.

The days of the long apprenticeship are over. Nowadays the team takes precedence and winning is given top priority. So much for the days we would just try to better ourselves or would postpone the gratification of getting on a team for not one but for anything up to three years.

It is against this background and with the support of a very understanding wife (Christine) that I have recently taken up my position as a Field Officer for the Leinster Council.

Working on a full-time basis for the G.A.A. will be a difficult but exciting challenge, ever-mindful of the enormous contribution, on a voluntary basis, of thousands of club officials.

It is said that the effective coach will not alone know what to do but will also know why he is doing it and how those under his care will benefit. He will have to be a skills trainer, fitness instructor, psychologist, dietician and medic combined in one.

My wish is to pass on some of the rich legacy which I was fortunate enough to inherit. The process may be different but the product remains the same. A bit like heading back to the future.

Lester Ryan

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SHOULD OUR GAMES BE RESTRUCTURED?

By TED CARROLL (Secretary, Kilkenny County Board G.A.A.)

GREAT developments in the provision of playing pitches and facilities have taken place in Kilkenny in the past twenty years, with the majority of clubs now owning their own facilities. During that period, however, very little change has taken place in the way in which our championship games are organised and structured with the exception of the introduction of the Byrne Cup Open Draw Competition which does little more than providing one challenge game for half of the Senior and Intermediate hurling teams in the county.

The provision of regular games for the greatest possible number of players is one of the chief aims of the Gaelic Athletic Association. These games must be properly structured to have a greater appeal and be far more attractive to the players and spectators.

One of the problems in providing regular games for our club players is the direct clash between the Club and the County. If County players are to be prepared properly, it is essential that the players be free from club competition for a certain period of time before important games. It is very unfair, however, to deprive clubs of games during the time that the County teams are in serious training.

The County Board has a responsibility to fill this gap and provide regular competition during the summer months. The only way in which regular competition can be provided is by organising a meaningful League Competition. The fact



that Leagues, when they were organised before, were unsuccessful, should not deter us from trying them again.

If our Championship games were run on a knockout basis it would lead to a greater will to win among the players and this competitiveness would filter through to our county players. The attendances at our County Championship games have dwindled greatly in the past ten years and the ordinary club player and supporter is looking for a new approach.

If Leagues are to be successful, they will have to be made attractive to the players and the clubs. It will also be necessary to structure the Leagues in such a way that teams not qualifying for the later stages of the competition could still compete in a separate competition.

It has to be admitted that, if our club standards are to be maintained at a reasonable level, some system of relegation would be essential. If our League format is to give our clubs an opportunity of playing when our County teams are training it would be unfair to base relegation on the results of the League. It should be possible to base a system of relegation on the League and Championship results. Indeed it is possible that in the majority of cases teams most likely to be in danger of relegation may have had no county players and could be relegated on the basis of their League results.

On the other hand, if teams with County Panelists are in the Relegation zone at the end of the League campaign it should be possible to decide their status by having relegation games when their County Panelists are available.

Our aim should be to play our League games in the Spring and early Summer and play the Championship games on a knockout basis in late June – early July.

Now that Tournament games are a thing of the past, teams not reaching the later stages of the League or Championship should be catered for in a special competition. Perhaps the Byrne Cup could be introduced here. In this way no club would be without competitive games during the Summer and each club would have a reasonable chance of winning some competition.

Surely this is the way to ensure the spirit of each club is kept alive.



The Newport Hotel G.A.A. Sports Stars of the Year (1991) pictured at the awards presentation in the Newport Hotel.

(Photo: Tom Brett)

Back Row (l.-r.): Tom Ryan (Club of the Year – Glenmore); Mattie Mackey (Club Official); John Marnell (Intermediate Hurling); Joe Casey (Junior Football); Dan O'Neill (Under Age Player); Canice Brennan (Intermediate Football); Terry Lyons (Newpark Hotel). Front Row (l.-r.): Mick Heffernan (Junior Hurling); Ger Fennelly (Senior Hurling); Nickey Brennan (County Board Chairman); David O'Sullivan (Manager - Newport Hotel); John Caldebeck (Senior Football).

KILKENNY AND HURLING

When the Celts came to the shores of Ireland as the last ice age was receding, they brought with them a unique culture, their own language, music, script and unique pastimes. One of these pastimes was the game of hurling. It features in Irish folklore to illustrate the deeds of heroic mythical figures and it is chronicled as a distinct Irish pastime for at least 2,000 years.

As a uniquely Celtic brand of ball game played with sticks, it has survived invasions, wars, internal strife, famine and numerous official and semi-official attempts at suppression. Pre-Christian Ireland had its own code of law, the "Brehon Laws". These laws made provision for compensation for those killed or injured playing hurling. From the Norman invasion in the 12th century attempts were made to force the Irish to shed their racial distinctiveness. The Parliament of Kilkenny in 1367 attempted to ban hurling because of its influence on the neglect of military service and in 1527 a royal statute ordered subjects at no time to participate in hurling.

There are many images of Kilkenny etched in the recesses of the subconscious. However, as a Leinster man, I cannot think of Kilkenny without the association of the Black and Amber and hurling. It is ironic that the county was the location of one of the more serious attempts to suppress the great game and that subsequently the game flourished by the banks of the Nore as in few other places.

In the formative stages of the colourful history of the G.A.A., Kilkenny was an integral part of the Association. With its fervour for hurling nurtured since the dawn of time, Kilkenny was one of the key areas that gave stimulus to a fledgling G.A.A. to evolve as one of the great organisations of this



century. It is perhaps strange that it took twenty years for Kilkenny to record its first senior inter-county success but since then the county has proved its supremacy in every decade. The outstanding teams, great and skilful individuals and marvellous games involving Kilkenny are too numerous to even contemplate mentioning. Suffice it to say that Kilkenny has added colour like few other counties to the history of the G.A.A.

Kilkenny's place amongst the aristocrats of hurling was again confirmed this year. While there was inevitably some disappointment that the county did not taste ultimate senior success the county can be proud for regaining the Leinster championship and contributing to a sporting and great occasion on All-Ireland day. The minors of Kilkenny proved that they are worthy custodians of a proud

legacy by emerging as All-Ireland champions with style, grace and skill that is the hallmark of the black and amber. Indeed, their performance right through the championship emphasised that the future of hurling in the county is indeed in safe hands. The Junior team got to the All-Ireland final and gave Tipperary a torrid time for most of the game.

The people of Kilkenny can be proud of their record and contribution to the G.A.A. I would like to thank everybody associated with the organisation, club and county officers, players and supporters, for their continued loyalty, commitment and effort in producing club and county teams that consistently delight and enthral us all. Ta' gach éinne i gCumann Lúthchleas Gael ar fud na tíre buíoch do mhuintir Chill Chainnigh. Ta' an meas agus ornós seo fiór tuille agaibh go léir.

LIAM MULVIHILL

TOM O'DONOGHUE

Drakelands

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On county basis, Kilkenny are second

The All-Ireland club hurling championship came of age during the 1990/91 campaign and Glenmore won the 21st title.

Since Roscrea (Tipperary) won the first title in 1971, the winners' trophy, the Tommy Moore Cup, has visited just six counties.

It was in Cork on more occasions than anywhere else. Leaside outfits won it eight times, while Kilkenny clubs won it on seven occasions.

The winning order on a county basis runs thus: 8 Cork; 7 Kilkenny; 3 Tipperary; 1 Wexford, Galway and Antrim.

Interestingly, four Kilkenny and four Cork clubs have put their names on the trophy. They are Shamrocks (Ballyhale), James Stephens, St. Martin's (Muckalee) and Glenmore (all Kilkenny), and Blackrock, Glen Rovers, St. Finbarr's and Middleton (all Cork).

Roll of Honour

- (1) Shamrocks (Ballyhale) in 1981, 1984, 1990.
- (2) James Stephens in 1976, 1982.
Glen Rovers in 1973, 1977.
St. Finbarr's in 1975, 1978.
- (1) St. Martin's (Muckalee) in 1985.
Glenmore in 1991.
Borris-Ileigh (Tipperary) in 1987.
Buffers Alley (Wexford) in 1989.
Castlegar (Galway) in 1980.
Kilruane McDonagh's (Tipperary) in 1986.
Loughgiel Shamrocks (Antrim) in 1983.
Middleton (Cork) in 1988.
Roscrea (Tipperary) in 1971.

32 YEARS OF UNBROKEN SERVICE

1991 sees Joe Walsh completing his 32nd year of unbroken service to the Southern Board. He is by far the longest-serving G.A.A. official in the county. Joe has a long and distinguished record of service to his club and his native county.

Born and reared in Thomastown, Joe grew up with a great love for Gaelic games and the Irish language. Educated at Thomastown Boys' National School, St. Kieran's College and U.C.D., he played an active part with both club and school until illness forced his early retirement from the games.

He then turned his talents to the administration side of the Association to become club secretary in 1955. He served as Chairman to the Under-16 Board 1956-57, taking over as secretary from Joe Dowling in May, 1957 – a position which he held until 1969. During that period the Under-16 Board grew from strength to strength. He was a county minor hurling selector in 1957, '58 and '60 and had All-Ireland success in the final year.

His talents as an administrator did not go unnoticed at county level, for in 1956 he was elected a Trustee to the County Board, a position he held until he retired in 1980. His contributions to County Board meetings and conventions were always of the highest calibre.

Joe was elected Vice-Chairman of the Southern Board in 1959, with Seamus McKenna (Thomastown) as Secretary, and served in that capacity until 1971 when he was elected



assistant secretary to Seamus. Following the death of Seamus McKenna in July, 1971, Joe was elected secretary of the Southern Board, a position he has since held – 21 years in all. The Southern Board under his stewardship has become an example to all Boards.

During all this time Joe continued to take a deep interest in his local club and has held a variety of positions within it. At present he is Joint Treasurer, a position he has held since the amalgamation of Thomastown and Thomastown Rangers in 1972.

The former Royal Liver official grew up within sight of Grennan Sportsfield and his proudest moment came in 1984 when the local club purchased the property.

The erection of dressing-rooms and the development of the playing fields saw the fulfilment of a long-held ambition of his.

Now retired from Royal Liver, this pleasant and amiable gentleman has more time to devote to his hobby – the promotion of our national games. No matter what games are played in Grennan Sportsfield, Joe can be found in the thick of things.

During the past few years Joe has seen a number of his closest friends and fellow Gaels pass on to their reward. Those of us who remain and who have been privileged to work with Joe, whether at club or county level, have always found in him a loyal friend, an able official and a dedicated Gael.

Eddie is right: "No bad team wins an All-Ireland"

By JOHN KNOX ('Kilkenny People')

WE HAVE often heard, maybe even been involved in, arguments concerning the relative merits of All-Ireland winning teams. This is particularly so of senior inter-county level, where the inclination is to put one team before another.

A side might take someone's fancy, and despite all sound arguments to the contrary, the state of mind would remain constant. Nothing wrong with that. Everyone is entitled to his opinion, and all that.

It was as far back as 1979 that one got a simple yet solid view on this whole subject. It was the time after Kilkenny had beaten Galway in the All-Ireland senior final, and those not happy with victory alone suggested, for whatever reason, that the winners weren't all that wonderful.

Former great, Eddie Keher, was a Kilkenny mentor in those days and while the inference always annoyed him, he never rose to the bait. His stock answer was: "No bad team wins an All-Ireland". For some, too simple an explanation. But for those who examine contests as a whole, rather than in part, a solid enough verdict.

It was Keher's sentiments that instantly sprung to mind when one perused through the course taken by Kilkenny champions, Glenmore, to victory in the All-Ireland club hurling championship.

The first match was a cinch. The second as much a test of toughness as hurling skill. The Leinster final was won from the line, after the selectors made telling changes. The fourth game necessitated individual greatness to assert itself to make the difference. And the final came down to real character and ability. Yes sir, no bad team wins an All-Ireland.

NEVER EASY

Glenmore, a small Southern parish embracing roughly 1,100 souls, faced tests of varying degrees and in varying conditions. They lived through them all. By the time they were crowned champions of the 21st club final they had been tested in every way possible and they passed them all.

Team Officials Seán 'George' Leahy (trainer-coach), Ted Dollard and John O'Shea and the players never had it easy. On St. Patrick's Day at Croke Park, and against Limerick and Munster's best, Patrickswell, Glenmore ascended as worthy successors to the throne vacated by their South Kilkenny neighbours, Shamrocks (Ballyhale).

The final was a stirring encounter. Patrickswell were a good hurling team and, if they had a failing, it was that they



Ray Heffernan holds the Tommy Moore Cup aloft much to the delight of the Glenmore supporters following their historic win in the All-Ireland Club Championship Final.

depended too much in attack on exciting wing-forward Ciaran Carey. He was good and took five points, but he was too often asked to do too much.

Glenmore settled in well and after eight minutes had a useful 0-4 to 0-1 lead. The losers stuck with them from there to the

interval, at which stage the difference was 0-8 (G) to 0-6. The second period broke even, with six scores each.

However, there was a major difference in the Glenmore scores – one was a goal. In the 33rd minute Christy Heffernan, who won everything in the air, took a ball from

the sky and with defenders hanging out of him booted to the net (1-8 to 0-6). When the accounts were closed the Noresiders had 1-13 against 0-12 in the bank.

As he has done many a time for club and county, Christy Heffernan took a lot of heat to make space for others. In that regard, and in general open play, he was very good. Apart from the first half of the inter-county senior All-Ireland against Tipperary and the club semi-final against Dunloy, this was his finest hour in years. His brother John excelled, too, and revelled in the pressures of the big day.

The O'Connors, Willie and Eddie, Ray Heffernan, Eddie Aylward, Liam Walsh and Denis Mullally stood out too, in a well-rounded team performance.

DIFFICULT

The championship was strung out over five months and it was difficult for the players to be tuned in – mind and body. Here is where the experience of George Leahy paid off, because he had been through all this twice before, when James Stephens won the title in 1976 and 1982. George's know-how and down-to-earth way with the players was vital from start to finish.

The start was a modest one, against Kildare's Coill Dubh. It wasn't a match at all, and was over at half-time when Glenmore led by 1-8 to 0-4 after playing against the wind. (Full-time: 3-17 to 0-7).

If that was easy, the next one against St. Rynagh's (Offaly) was tough in every way, physically and mentally. Before the ball was even thrown in there was a crude attempt made to psyche out Ray

HOW THEY DID IT

October 20, at Naas: Leinster Championship

Glenmore 3-17 **Coill Dubh (Kildare) 0-7**

Glenmore scorers: Christy Heffernan (2-2); Michael Phelan (1-3); Ray Heffernan (0-6); Michael Phelan [Aylwardstown] (0-3); John Heffernan (0-2); John Flynn (0-1).

November 9 at Carlow: Leinster Semi-final

Glenmore 0-14 **St. Rynagh's 2-5**

Glenmore scorers: Ray Heffernan (0-8); Pat Barron, Michael Phelan, John Heffernan (0-2 each).

November 25 at Athy, Leinster Final

Glenmore 0-14 **Camross (Laois) 1-9**

Glenmore scorers: Ray Heffernan (0-7); Michael Phelan (0-3); Des Heffernan, Pat Barron, Christy Heffernan, John Flynn (0-1 each).

February 24 at Nowlan Park, All-Ireland Semi-final

Glenmore 1-18 **Dunloy Cuchullains (Antrim) 1-10**

Glenmore scorers: Ray Heffernan (0-11); John Heffernan, Des Heffernan, Pat Barron (0-2 each); John Flynn (1-0); Michael Phelan (0-1).

March 17 at Croke Park, All-Ireland Final

Glenmore 1-13 **Patrickswell (Limerick) 0-12**

Glenmore scorers: Ray Heffernan (0-5); Christy Heffernan (1-1); John Heffernan, Denis Mullally, Pat Barron (0-2 each); Seamus Dollard (0-1).

Heffernan. It backfired and he played like a demon. He got most of the winners' first-half scores (0-9 to 1-4) and finished with eight of their tally of 0-14. (St. Rynagh's 2-5).

There was a bit of unpleasantness after the game and George Leahy kept his players on the field for a while to let things cool down. When hard hurling needed to be played, the O'Connors, Michael Aylward, Des Ennett, Michael Phelan and Des Heffernan were not found wanting.

The Leinster final against Camross (Laois) was a hard, close and sporting contest. Glenmore couldn't punch open the rigid Laois men. Christy and Michael Phelan, Pat Barron, Des Heffernan were found in new positions after the change of ends. All worked and the 'Glen edged through a good game on an 0-14 to 1-9 scoreline.

The semi-final against little fancied Dunloy (Antrim) was a cracker. The Northerners brought 2,000 followers with them to Nowlan Park. And, boy, could Dunloy play hurling with super determination! Exchanges started at what appeared 100 m.p.h. and rarely faltered.

IMPORTANT CHAPTER

The Leinster champions needed extra special performances from midfielder Michael Phelan and Ray Heffernan, who pointed a good number of frees for fouls on Christy, to see them through. Liam Walsh, Eddie O'Connor, Denis Mullally and 'keeper Michael Deady were not found wanting when the chips were down either.

Glenmore wrote an important chapter in their own history and that of Kilkenny hurling when they won the All-Ireland club championship. They made the entry in a dignified manner, and proved Keher right: "No bad team wins an All-Ireland".

The Glenmore team in the final was: Michael Deady, Eddie O'Connor, Eddie Aylward, P. J. O'Connor, Liam Walsh, Willie O'Connor, Des Ennett, Ray Heffernan, Des Heffernan, Denis Mullally, Michael Phelan, Pat Barron, John Heffernan, Christy Heffernan, John Flynn.

Subs: Seamus Dollard, Michael 'Foxy' Phelan, Michael Aylward (used); Sean Doherty, Frank Kirwan, Johnny Kirwan, Seamus Boyle, Paul Mullally, Richard O'Connor, Jim Hartley, Pdraig Hanrahan, Stephen Hartley.



Glenmore's elusive corner-forward Johnny Flynn heads for goal against Patrickswell.

Agricultural & Horticultural Colleges Hurling and Football Competitions

The Agricultural & Horticultural Colleges hold Hurling and Football competitions every year. There is a football league held from October to February, a football championship held from February to Easter and a hurling championship held from Easter to June.

This year Kildalton College won the Hurling Championship and got to the Football semi-final in the League but were beaten by Mountbellew, Galway. In the Hurling Championship they beat Pallas-kenry in the first round: score 0-14 to 0-10. They beat Athenry in the semi-final 1-18 to 0-6 and beat Mountbellew in the final 5-7 to 1-5.

Kildalton won their first final in 1978. Christy Heffernan, Glenmore, was the captain. Kildalton also won the final in 1979. Sean Norris, Piltown, captained the team. Kildalton won again in 1986. James

Lonergan, Carrick Swans, was captain and in 1989 Kildalton won their fourth All-Ireland – Charlie Carter, Young Irelands – was captain.

This year Conor Manogue, Graigue/Ballycallan, captained the Kildalton team. Also on the team was Larry Mahony, Danesfort – holder of two All-Ireland Minor medals and one Secondary Schools All-Ireland medal with St. Kieran's College.

The strength in this year's team was that there was a panel of 24 players. Two of the subs. hold previous College medals in 1989. Out of a panel of 24 players, 14 were from Kilkenny, 4 from Wexford, 2 from Laois, 2 from Tipperary, 1 from Carlow and 1 from Waterford.

Most of the 14 Kilkenny players played with St. Kieran's College and were used to playing in All-Irelands.

Garry Flood, Cloughbawn, Wexford, is a

brother of Sean Flood and his father, Jim, won an All-Ireland with Wexford.

J. J. Drennan's (Danesfort) great-grandfather gave the Kilkenny hurlers their first set of black and amber jerseys.

David Lynch, John Lockes, Callan is a first cousin of John Power, the Kilkenny hurler.

James Mackey played Minor hurling with Wexford in 1989.

Niall Lahart is nephew Tony Lahart, who trained the Kildalton winning teams of 1978 and 1979 and who coached the team in 1991. He initiated the holding of All-Ireland Colleges Hurling and Football competitions.

Niall Bambrick, Parnells, Carlow, actually hails from Paulstown, Kilkenny. He received Hurler of the Year this year for his performances in all the games and practice matches.



Kildalton College, Piltown – Agricultural Colleges All-Ireland Hurling Champions

Standing: Dolores Tyrrell, James Mackey, Gerard Kiely, Bernard Hahessy, Andrew Phelan, Tobias White, David Lynch, William Duggan, Pdraig Rohan, Niall Bambrick, J. J. Drennan, Paul Langton, Neil Lahart, Seamus Brennan, John Drennan and Pat Clarke). **Seated:** Joe Wyse, Adrian Phelan, Alan Gee, Peter Dunne, Mick Langton, Conor Manogue, Garry Flood, Larry Mahony, Eamonn Mullally and Noel O'Keefe.

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Kilkenny G.A.A. Supporters' Club

The era of Supporters' Clubs began about four years ago with the re-emergence of Tipperary as a hurling power. Other Counties soon followed including Kilkenny, who decided to remain low-key and in their own way raised substantial funds to help teams when the occasion arose.

In April this year Croke Park Authorities decided to bring all Supporters' Clubs under their wing and affiliated them officially to their County Boards. Hence the revamping of the Kilkenny Supporters' Club, now called the Kilkenny G.A.A. Supporters' Club. A constitution was drawn up by the Central Council and all Supporters' Clubs are bound by this.

The impression used to be that Supporters' Clubs were there to help the County Senior team by providing them with the best playing gear and accessories and perhaps rewarding them with an exotic holiday if they achieved success during the year. The new Supporters' Clubs have a much wider responsibility, in as much as they are bound to help out with all aspects of G.A.A. activities in the County, including financing coaching at under-age level, ground improvements, team expenses and representing the Supporters' interests.

In 1991 we were delighted to be in a position to help out the Senior hurlers, the Junior and Minor teams and our fantastic Camogie team. We did not forget the football side of things either as we sponsored the live broadcast of the Football County Final as well as the "Man of the Match Award". We also sponsored the live broadcasts for the schools finals at Nowlan Park and we gave support to our handballers for the All-Ireland doubles final.

We hope to be in a position to help towards the financing of the under-age coaching scheme which will begin early next year. The coaching aspect is imperative as we must not fall behind the other Counties who are already well advanced with their coaching schemes.

Improvements have been carried out in



Bill Deegan, Chairman, Kilkenny G.A.A. Supporters' Club.

Nowlan Park in the last few months. Most of these are for the Supporters' comfort and more are planned for the future. We intend to play our part in this respect thus ensuring that every Supporter can enjoy modern facilities which he or she is entitled to.

Of course it is very easy to say that we'll help out here and there, but to do so we must have the appropriate finance at our disposal. This is made possible by undertaking various fundraising activities such as the ever popular Golf Classic, Raceday at Gowran Park, Membership Subscriptions, etc.

On the subject of Members we are inviting everyone to join the Club. For an annual subscription of £10 for Adults you will have the satisfaction of helping to promote our national games within the County. We will also give you a Club tie for free (scarves for the ladies) and for the Juniors the subscription is £2 between the ages 14-18 and £1 under 14's. We have a nice membership badge for the boys and girls. We will make a big drive for new members during the coming year both at home and abroad.

It would be wrong of me if I didn't make reference to the lead-up to the All-Ireland

final this year. It was often said that Kilkenny people were very reserved with their support at matches. The hype before the All-Ireland and the display of colour, especially on Hill 16 on the day of the match, put an end to that myth. To see the famous Hill festooned with Black & Amber will remain a lasting memory. The Banner & Song contests were a huge success and all participants deserve great credit for taking part.

Who can forget the homecoming civic reception. One could easily be forgiven for thinking that Kilkenny had won. The only thing missing was the cup. On behalf of all Kilkenny Supporters everywhere I would like to thank the Senior team for giving us a great Summer. With a little bit of luck things would have been so different.

Our congratulations to Tipperary with a message "Keep the Cup nice and clean as we'll be back to get it next year". Our Minors gave us a great start to the day - well done boys. Hints of great things to come in the years ahead. The Juniors would have won but for an upright getting in the way. Well done to all Supporters who travelled to Limerick for that match. Congratulations also to our Handballers for keeping Kilkenny to the fore and what can I say about our Camogie girls.

Let us build on the support generated this year and together we will grow into the greatest Supporters' Club ever. Finally, I would like to thank the officers and the entire County Board for their co-operation throughout the year. To all our Sponsors, who so generously assisted us with our fundraising projects, we are eternally grateful, and to my own Committee (including the various sub-committees) who gave their time and commitment to the common cause, I say it's great to work with you.

In completion I wish all Kilkenny Supporters the compliments of the season and I hope that you will continue to enjoy following the "Black & Amber" and next year we'll bag the big one.

BILL DEEGAN, Chairman



The official launch of Kilkenny G.A.A. Supporters' Club took place earlier in the year. Pictured at the launch were the committee - Back row (l. - r.): Jim Freeman (Vice-Chairman), Barry Hickey (County Board Development Officer), Jamsie Murphy, Eddie Keher, Billy Lahart, Charlie McCarthy, Michael Monagle. Front row (l. - r.): Pat Dunphy (County Board Treasurer and Supporters' Club Treasurer), Micheál O' Muircheartaigh (who officially launched the Supporters Club); Bill Deegan (Chairman), Nickey Brennan (County Board Chairman), Nickey Purcell (Secretary, Supporters' Club).

A Year of Development For Schools Board



Kilkenny C.B.S., Roinn 'A' winners. Back Row: Damien Brett, John Hayes, John Butler, Aidan Drennan, Patrick Gleeson, Willie Duggan, Michael Falsey, Mr. Tommy O'Brien. Front Row: Damien O'Connell, Robert Falsey, James Cullinane, Alan Barry, Stephen Murphy, Brian Power, Mark Gaffney, Roy Delaney, Ollie Hennessy. Photo: Tom Brett

New Division Introduced

EVER ready to respond to the challenges presented to it, this year the Kilkenny Primary Schools Board introduced a special competition for small schools. The teams in this new Roinn E were Windgap, Newmarket, Skeoghvosteen, Glenmore, Danesfort and Stoneyford.

Each team had eleven-a-side and in this year of draws, the first final appropriately ended in a draw Windgap 1-2, Newmarket 0-5. This historic final also saw a team wearing a logo on their jerseys, as Bretts sponsored Windgap, and up-to the minute summaries were broadcast on Kilkenny Radio. Summaries of the other finals were also relayed thanks to the generous sponsorship of the Kilkenny G.A.A. Supporters Club.

The Board's games have always received excellent coverage and space in the local papers but this year a new dimension was added when Pat Treacy of Radio Kilkenny made time available on his weekly G.A.A. round-up on Monday evenings for school games and they were also featured in his daily sports slots. All this media exposure saw record attendances at the finals in Nowlan Park in the last week of June.

Fr Dunne transferred

During the latter part of the year the Board lost the services of one of its most active and devoted officers when Fr. Liam

Dunne was transferred to Co. Laois, soon after he had helped Mullinavat win a county final. A Wicklow man by birth he first came to Kilkenny in the early 1970's. His love for gaelic games and in particular hurling soon became obvious and during his ministry in Castlecomer, Freshford, Callan and Mullinavat, each won a championship with his aid. In 1979 he was chairman of the Schools Board, and helped organise Féile na nGael in the county.

Sponsorship

Once again this year the Roinn A hurling division was sponsored by Educational Supplies and the Roinn B football league by Toymaster, thanks to former Kilkenny hurler Mick Crotty.

I.N.T.O. Mini-Sevens

This year Kilkenny played host to a section of the National football Competition which saw teams from Carlow, Laois, Waterford, Wicklow, and Kilkenny play in Kilkenny. Despite the poor weather conditions the boys and girls had a most enjoyable afternoon and the event was praised at National level as one of the best organised thanks to the efforts of local secretary Paul Kinsella. Referees for the day were Paschal Long, John Guinan, Liam Dewberry and Martin Hanrick. All the players enjoyed milk courtesy of Avonmore, Ice Cream, from Valley Ice Cream

and minerals and crisps from Kilkenny County Board. At a function in the Newpark, County chairman Nicky Brennan presented each participant with a scroll. Freshford N.S. represented Kilkenny and subsequently Michael Hickey and Noel Kavanagh lined out in Croke Park in exhibitions games during the All-Ireland Football Semi-Final. The full Freshford panel was: Michael Kavanagh, Niall Cahill, Colin McGree, Noel Hickey, Pat Morrissey, Karl Barnaville, Gerard Dalton, Conor Brennan, David Burke and Martin Daly.

Freshford also won the local camogie section and the panel was: Mary Carmel Ryan, Breda Dooley, Claire Dermody, Anne Marie Butler, Lisa Rafter, Frances Cleere, Mairead Kelly, Emma Fitzpatrick, Julie Ryan and Majella Colclough. Mary Carmel Ryan subsequently played in Croke Park on the hurling All-Ireland Sunday.

In the local hurling sevens, Kilmanagh won out narrowly defeating St. John's in a thrilling final. Their panel was: Paul Dermody, Patrick Nugent, Michael Hoyne, Samuel Ryall, Dermot Hoyne, Robert Byrne, Edward Brennan, Jimmy Lynch, Brendan Muldowney and Tommy Butler.

Michael Hoyne was selected to play in the All-Ireland exhibition game but injury ruled him out. Diarmuid Hoyne and Patrick Nugent played on All-Ireland



Lisdowney, Roinn 'D' Runners-up. Back Row: Eamon Nolan, Eamon Dunne, Tommy Maher (officials); John White, Karol Mullally, David Thornton, Raymond Tallis, Martin Thornton, Patrick Mooney, Tommy Bergin. Front Row: T. J. Bowden, David Dowling, J. P. Blanchfield, T. J. Mackey, Brian Kelly, Pat Kennedy, Patrick Bowden, Damien Sheehy, Seamus Nolan (mascot). Photo: Tom Brett

semi-final day.

Inter-County Scene

Sadly the Inter-County games between Kilkenny and Wexford were not held this year. Kilkenny had picked their teams in hurling and football but Wexford were unable to travel. Selectors were Tommy O'Brien (C.B.S.), Pádraig O'Neill (St. John's), Sean Buggy (Conahy), Dermot Dunphy (Rower/Inistioge), Jimmy Neary (Kilmanagh).

The hurling panel was: Adrian Kealy, Jimmy Foster, Martin Comerford, Alan Geoghegan (St. John's), Dermot Hoyne, Michael Hoyne, Patrick Nugent, Sean Millea (Kilmanagh), James Cullinane, Mark Gaffney (C.B.S.), Niall Walsh, Michael Doyle (Rower/Inistioge), Thomas Coogan, Sean Brennan (Cloneen), Henry Shefflin (Ballyhale), Andrew Power (Callan), J. J. Staunton (Goresbridge), Raymond Cahill (Dunamag-

gin), Michael Gordon (Piltown), Andrew Carter (Gowran), Paul Buggy (Conahy).

Happily the under-12 team travelled to the Dublin festival where they maintained their unbeaten record and all the panel played in exhibition matches in Croke Park on Leinster Final Day.

Panel: Alan Barry, Stephen Murphy (C.B.S.), Dermot Hoyne, Michael Hoyne (Kilmanagh); John Hickey, Brian O'Shea, Niall McCormack (Dunnamaggin); Oisín Breathnach (Gaelscoil); Martin Hughes (Thomastown); Barry O'Donnell (Gowran); Henry Shefflin (Ballyhale); Justin Dooley (St. John's); Karl Phelan, Eoin Doyle (Mooncoin); Kevin Power (Johnstown); Mark Holmes (Tullaroan); Cathal Dunne (Graignamanagh), Shamie O'Gorman (Piltown); John Barron (Tullogher).

Under-13 Hurling

Kilkenny C.B.S. won the Roinn A title for

a record sixth time when they beat Kilmanagh 4-2 to 1-8. The losers were defending champions, having played in every final since 1984, and it was their first defeat of the campaign. The Roinn B final was an all southern affair when Dunamaggin defeated Callan 5-4 to 1-2.

The Roinn C final saw Mullinavat beat off the strong challenge from city side St. Canice's. The boys from the south had lost this final on five previous appearances but they made no mistake this year, Mullinavat 5-0, St. Canice's 1-7. Tullogher won the Roinn D title for the second time when they defeated Lisdowney 5-7 to 1-3. Newmarket took two nights to capture the Roinn E title. On the first night the sides were level at half-time, Newmarket 0-5, Windgap 1-2. The replay proved just as exciting and Newmarket won 2-4 to 2-1, to make history.



Tullogher Roinn 'D' Champions. Front Row: Brian Dunlop, Donal Boyle, Peter Maher, P. J. Phelan, Tommy Barron, Wally Ryan, Luke Grennan. Middle: Martin Kennedy, Ted Culleton, Sean Healy, Ray Culleton, John Barron, Martin Nolan, Canice Brennan, James Kennedy, William Kiely. Back Row: Brian Morrissey, Brian Barron, Richard Lanigan, P. J. Rigby, Richard Walsh, John Paul Phelan, Johnny Barron, Patrick Greene, John Gaule, Alan Long, Kevin Murphy. Photo: Tom Brett



Kilkenny Under-12 versus Dublin. Front Row: John Barron, John Power, Cathal Dunne, Niall McCormack, Alan Barry, Derek Lanigan, Michael Ralph, Justin Dooley. Back Row: Mark Holmes, Owen Doyle, Seamis Gorman, Carol Phelan, Henry Shefflin, Dermot Hoyne, Michael Hoyne, Stephen Murphy, Martin Hughes, John Dormer, Brian O'Shea, John Hickey. Photo: Tom Brett

The standard of hurling in all finals was of a very high order, as good as the best of previous years. There were great individual performances from numerous players in the five finals.

C.B.S. Champions

Kilkenny C.B.S. proved worthy champions when defeating Kilmanagh in the Roinn A championship, in a rematch of the 1990 final. In the opening stages it was all Kilmanagh and they swept into an early lead with points from Sean Millea. C.B.S. levelled the scores but again Kilmanagh stretched their lead with points from David Burke, Michael Hoyne and Sean Millea, but a goal from substitute Ollie Hennessy saw the sides level at the break, C.B.S. 1-2, Kilmanagh 0-5.

In the second half, Kilmanagh extended their lead but with James Cullinane in tremendous form on the half back line and Alan Barry strong in goal they found scores

hard to come by. Roy Delaney at wing forward was posing a threat that Kilmanagh found hard to answer and he set up Damien O'Connell for two goals, which swung the match the C.B.S. way. Kilmanagh tried hard to retain their title, but were not good enough on the night despite the best efforts of Michael and Dermot Hoyne, goalie Paul Dermody and captain Sean Millea. C.B.S. under captain Stephen Murphy won 4-2 to 1-8.

C.B.S., Kilkenny: Alan Barry, John Hayes, Mark Gaffney, Patrick Gleeson, James Cullinan, Stephen Murphy (capt.), Damien Brett, Robert Falsey, Brian Power (0-1), Roy Delaney (1-0), Aidan Drennan (0-1) free, Michael Falsey, John Butler, Damien O'Connell (2-0), Willie Duggan. Subs: Oliver Hennessy (1-0); Eoin Fitzpatrick, Alan Dowling, Joseph Murray, Jason Ruth, Joseph Murphy.

Kilmanagh: Paul Dermody, Tommy

Butler, Dermot Hoyne, Gearoid Cleere, Samuel Ryall, Michael Hoyne (0-2, 65's), Anthony Drohan, Brendan Muldowney, Patrick Nugent, Ken Byrne, Edward Brennan, David Byrne (0-1), Robert Byrne, Sean Millea (0-4, 2 frees), Jimmy Lynch (1-0), Alan O'Shea. Subs: Fearghal Brett, Michael Teehan, Alan Massey, Brendan Maher. Referee: Podge Butler,

Dunnamaggin win first B title

Dunnamaggin continued their enormously successful campaign this year by winning their first ever Roinn B title when defeating neighbours Callan 5-4 to 1-2. Last year they won their first Roinn C title having being finalists in 1987 and 1989.

On the night they outclassed Callan leading 2-1 to Callan 1-1 at half time, but with a powerful display of hurling they piled on the scores in the second half. Captain Ramie Cahill was outstanding as was John Hickey and William Kearney in



Kilmanagh Roinn A Finalists. Front Row: Alan O'Shea, Karl Keane, Ciaran Hoyne (mascot), William Brennan (mascot), Joseph Brennan, Brendan Maher, Alan Massey. Middle: Michael Teehan, Anthony Drohan, Edward Brennan, Paul Dermody, Tommy Butler, Michael Hoyne, Sean Millea (capt.), Gerard Cleere, James Ryall, Pat Nugent. Back: Tadgh Corcoran, Brendan Marnell, Jimmy Lynch, Dermot Hoyne, Ken Byrne, Brendan Muldowney, Fergal Brett, Samuel Ryall, Thomas Fitzpatrick, David Byrne, Robert Byrne. (Photo: Tom Brett)



Mullinavat Roinn C Champions. Back Row: Ciaran Laharty, P. J. Aylward, Philip Maddock, Richard Delahunty, David Coughlan, Andrew McGovern, Patrick Butler. Front Row: Richard John Connolly, Andrew Duggan, Kenneth Slattery, Jonathan Duggan, Paul Aylward (Capt.), Oliver Dalton, Declan Walsh, Kevin Walsh.

Photo: Tom Brett

defence. Clayton Delaney had a hat-trick and Brian O'Shea was in great form.

For Callan, Damien Burke was tremendous in goal, John Paul Corcoran was tireless in defence while Andrew Power was one of the finest hurlers in the game.

Dunnamaggin: Niall McCormack, Brendan Moore, John Hickey, Andrew O'Neill, Matthew Enright, William Kearney (0-1), Patrick Drennan, Fergal O'Shea, Ramie Cahill (capt. - 0-2), Brian O'Shea (2-1), J. P. O'Neill, Noel Hickey, Dermot Maher, Clayton Delaney (3-0), Niall Brett. Subs: Brendan Delahunty, James McCormack, Brian O'Shea, Colin Herity, Leonard O'Shea, Rory Dunne.

Callan C.B.S.: Damien Burke, Gerard Tobin, Conleth Nolan, Denis Nolan, John P. Corcoran, Martin Kennedy, Kevin Fitzpatrick, Andrew Power (0-2), John Norris, Joseph Gormley, Michael Roche,

Christopher Vaughan, Michael Dunne, Shane Whelan (1-0), John O'Neill. Subs: Brendan McCormack, Raymond Power, William Barry, Alan Morrissey, Derek Holden, Paul Carroll.

Referee: Paschal Long.

Mullinavat Champions

Mullinavat having failed on several occasions made no mistake this year when they took on the city side St. Canice's. They led 3-0 to St. Canice's 0-3 at the break with goals from David Coughlan (2-0) and Pat Butler.

Mullinavat with Richard Carroll scoring extended their lead but St. Canice's changed the trend of the match when they moved their captain Joe Delaney to full forward and were immediately rewarded with two points and a goal. But the winners replied with a goal from David

Coughlan to ensure victory.

Mullinavat: P. J. Aylward, Declan Walsh, Paul Aylward (capt.), Philip Maddock, Kenneth Slattery, Jonathan Duggan, Andrew Duggan, Richard Carroll, Ciaran Laharty, Richard Delahunty, Oliver Dalton, Andrew McGovern, Kevin Walsh, Pat Butler (1-0), David Coughlan (4-0). Subs: Alan Wall, Shane O'Neill.

St. Canice's: Gerry Dunne, Stephen Guidera, Cathal O'Dowd, Michael Callinan, Stephen Rochford, Joe Delaney (capt., 1-3), David Maher, Keith Nicholson, Patrick Walsh, Niall O'Gorman (0-4), Pdraig White, Jonathan Cullen, Conor Phelan, Richard Teehan, Kieran Philpott. Subs: Liam McCormack, Ger Brett.

Tullogher Triumph

In the Roinn D final Tullogher proved too strong for Lisdowney winning 5-8 to



Dunnamaggin, Roinn B. Champions. Front Row (left to right): Fergal O'Shea, Patrick Drennan, Niall McCormack, Matthew Enright, Ramie Cahill (Capt.), Brendan Moore, Dermot Maher, Noel Hickey. Back Row: Brendan Delahunty, J. P. O'Neill, Clayton Delaney, Andrew O'Neill, John Hickey, Niall Brett, William Kearney, Brian O'Shea.

Photo: Tom Brett



Bennettsbridge Under-13 Roinn B Champions. Front Row: Eoin Wemyss, A. Walsh, Noel Leighton, Brian Lannon, Alan Dobbyn, David Lawlor, Nicholas Wallace, Noel Ryan, John O'Gorman, Mark Hayes. Back Row: Alan Simpson, Glen Killian, Karl Cullen, Lawrence Bolger, Christopher Brennan, Peadar Dooley, Vincent Freyne, Karl John Leighton, Tim Dooley (capt.), Robert Griffiths, Gary O'Neill, Ger Hayes. Officials - Joe Doyle, Brendan Smyth, Michael Dobbyn.

1-3.

Tullagher had a dream start when within minutes John Gaule had a goal and one of their midfield stars Richard Walsh added a point. With P. J. Rigby in great form at centreback and John Barron and Richard Walsh dominating midfield their forwards enjoyed plenty of possession and they led 4-7 to 0-1 at the break.

Thomas Bowden gave Lisdowney a great start with a goal but Brian Barron negated this minutes later. The losers dominated for long periods during the second half with their fine hurling but the Tullagher defence was in great form. The southerners were well worth the victory proving themselves a highly skilful side. They had a sound defence in Canice Brennan, Johnny Barron, Peter Maher, P. J. Rigby and Luke Grennan. Their midfield

was outstanding and up front Richard Lanigan, Patrick Green, James Kennedy and Sean Healy starred. For Lisdowney captain Brian Kelly was brilliant in defence and John Paul Blanchfield starred up front.

Lisdowney: Raymond Tallis, Martin Thornton, Brian Kelly (capt.), David Dowling, David Thornton, Damien Sheehy, John White, Thomas J. Mackey, Tommy Bergin (2-2), Thomas J. Bowden (1-0), John Paul Blanchfield (0-1), Pat Kennedy, Patrick Mooney, Karol Mulally, Patrick Bowden. Subs: Kevin Fitzpatrick, Donal Fogarty, Darragh Skehan, James O'Sullivan, Patrick Bergin, Richard Blanchfield.

Tullagher/Rosbercon: Martin Nolan, Canice Brennan, John Paul Phelan, Johnny Barron, Peter Maher, P. J. Rigby, Luke Grennan, Richard Walsh (0-1), John Barron (0-1), Richard Lanigan, Brian Barron (1-2),

Patrick Green, James Kennedy, John Gaule (3-2), Sean Healy (0-1). Subs: Kevin Murphy, Ted Culleton, Tommy Barron.

New title goes to Newmarket

Newmarket and Windgap provided tremendous hurling and excitement when they contested the Roinn E Final. The sides ended all equal on the first night. Tom Landy was outstanding for Windgap and Newmarket had to thank goalkeeper Richard Burke for some fine saves.

In the replay Windgap took the lead with a goal from James Murray. John Hoyne equalised only to see Paul McKenna restore Windgap's lead with a point. But three points from John Hoyne left Newmarket leading 1-3 to Windgap's 1-1.

After the break Hoyne again had a point



St. Canice's Finalists Roinn C. Back Row (left to right): Richard Teehan, Patrick Walsh, Stephen Guidera, David Maher, Joe Delaney, Padraig White, Niall O'Gorman. Front Row (left to right): Keith Nicholson, Kieran Philpott, Gerry Dunne, Timmy Clifford, Stephen Rochford, Michael Callanan, Cathal O'Dowd, Conor Phelan.

Photo: Tom Brett



Newmarket N.S., Roinn 'E' Winners. Back Row: James Duggan, Paul Aylward, John Hoyne, Eoin Butler, Eamonn Keneally, James Phelan, Niamh Rohan. Front Row: Niall Rohan, Pat Tennyson, Daniel Hoyne, Richard Burke, Jason Cuddihy, Gerard Murphy, Billy O'Meara, Pat Dalton, Liam Aylward. Officials - Tommy Hoyne, Tom Duggan. Photo: Tom Brett

and Niamh Rohan had a goal for the winners. With time running out Darragh Guinan had a goal and another draw seemed likely, but a brilliant save from Richard Burke in the last minute gave his side victory. Newmarket 2-4, Windgap 2-1.

Both sides deserved great credit for their fine hurling in this unique and historic final. The winners had a great team effort with Daniel Hoyne one of their best and Gerard Murphy doing well up front. For the losers John Culleton and Vincent Kenny were great in the defence and James Murray, Aidan Power and Paul McKenna were among the best hurlers on the night.

Newmarket: Richard Burke, James Phelan, Pat Tennyson, Niall Rohan, Jason Cuddihy, Daniel Hoyne, James Duggan, Paul Aylward, Eamon Keneally, John Hoyne (1-4), Owen Butler, Billy O'Meara, Pat Dalton, Gerard Murphy, Niamh Rohan (1-0), Liam Aylward.

Windgap: Patrick Downey, Aidan Mackey, Enda Hawe, John Culleton, Vincent Kenny, Tom Landy, Lawrence Doyle, Darragh Guinan (1-0), Paul McKenna (0-1), Adrian Murphy, Garret Power, Aidan Power, Eoin Guinan, Mark Burke, P. J. Hawe, James Murray (1-0), Lena Power, Majella Brawdgers, Paula Culleton.

FOOTBALL

THIS year's Roinn A football league saw St. Patrick's De La Salle win the title when they defeated local rivals Kilkenny C.B.S. 3-6 to 0-0. St. Patrick's were unbeaten in the league section. They struggled against Thomastown for a long spell in the semi-final before winning 1-5 to 0-3.

In 1990 Bennettsbridge was the venue for the Board's football finals. Little did the 'Bride officials realise that they would

themselves appear in the Toymaster final in 1991. They were undefeated in the league section and accounted for Clara and Freshford in the play-offs. Castlecomer were finalists in 1990 and with four of the same side they won their way through dropping only a single point on the way to Urlingford.

St. Pat's are champions

The Roinn A final saw St. Patrick's regain the title they had last won in 1985. Going into the final both sides seemed evenly matched. This proved to be the case because defences were on top in the final half with David Dooley at full back for St. Patrick's and Pdraig Devlin, Matthew Loughnane and Thomas Drennan keeping the St. Patrick's boys scoreless. Finally Paddy O'Brien broke the deadlock with a point. He soon added another from a free and on the stroke of haltime Brian Holden



Windgap, Roinn E Finalists. Back Row (left to right): Adrian Murphy, Fintan Kenny, Garret Power, John Culleton, Paul McKenna, Enda Hawe, Patrick Downey, Lawrence Doyle, Majella Brawdgers, Stacy Phelan, Pauline Culleton. Front Row (left to right): Lena Power, Aidan Power, Eoghan Guinan, Darragh Guinan, James Murray, Aidan Mackey, Thomas Landy, Mark Burke, P. J. Hawe. Photo: Tom Brett



Callan C.B.S., Runners-up Roinn B. Back Row (left to right): Gerard Tobin, Shane Whelan, John Norris, Denis Nolan, Damian Burke, Martin Kennedy, Joseph Gormley, Conleth Nolan. Front Row (left to right): Brian McCormack, Michael Roche, John O'Neill, Kevin Fitzpatrick, Christopher Vaughan, Andrew Power, Michael Dunne, John Corcoran. Photo: Tom Brett

was left unmarked on the edge of the square and slotted home a goal to leave St. Patrick's 1-2 to C.B.S. 0-0.

On the re-start Stephen Murphy was narrowly wide for the C.B.S. Then the winners dominated and Shane Egan added a point and two goals, Pat Savage 2 points and Paddy O'Brien finished the scoring with a point. C.B.S. applied great pressure at times but the winners defence marshalled by Eoin O'Neill and David Dooley were uncompromising and St. Patrick's emerged worthy winners.

St. Patrick's: Pat Holden, John Morgan, Geoffrey Brennan, Brian Rogers, Brian Dwyer, Eoin O'Neill (capt.), Liam Dwyer, Patrick Savage, David Dooley, Brian Power, Shane Egan, Brian Holden, John McCormack, John Cullen, Paddy O'Brien. Subs: Gary Owens, Martin Leahy, Tommy Tyrrell, Dermot Ryan, David Tyrrell, Karl Conroy, Ian Morrissey.

C.B.S.: Pdraig Lacey, Pdraig Devlin, Michael Falsey, Mark Donnelly, Mark Massey, Thomas Drennan, Joe Murray, Oliver Hennessy, Matthew Loughane, Owen Peters, Alan Barry, Jason Ruth, Eoin Flynn, Stephen Murphy, Alan Dowling. Subs: Joe Murphy, Christopher Burke, Gary O'Dwyer, Jason Dempsey, Thomas Lahart, Bryan Barry, Patrick O'Neill, Stephen O'Shea.

Referee: B. O'Sullivan (Thomastown).

Toy-master draw

In the final of the Toy-master League, Castlecomer and Bennettsbridge served up a draw in a very exciting match.

'Comers started very well but Peadar Dooley put the 'Bridge into the lead when his shot was deflected into the net. Patrick Hurley brought 'Comer on terms, but captain Ian Dooley soon restored the 'Bridge lead with a point only to see Charles Brennan equalise for 'Comer to leave the sides locked on 1-1 each at the break.

In the second half Charles Brennan put 'Comer ahead but Brian Lannon equalised again. After a great run Paul Hurley put 'Comer ahead only to see Alan Dobbyn again level the scores. Both sides had chances to win the match but a draw was a fair result on the day.

Bennettsbridge: David Lawlor, Glen Killian, Robert Griffiths, Garry O'Neill, Gerard Hayes, K. J. Leighton, Alan Simpson, Tim Dooley (capt. 0-1), Peadar Dooley (1-0), Alan Dobbyn (0-1), Vincent Freyne, Noel Ryan, Brian Lannon (1-0), Christopher Brennan, J. O'Gorman. Subs: L. Bolger, N. Wallace, N. Leighton, K. Cullen, N. Walsh.

Castlecomer: Fergal O'Neill (Capt.), William Brennan, Patrick Shore, Martin Hurley, Richard Mullins, Eamon Mooney, Niall Kelly, Paul Hurley (2-0), James Lawlor, Laurie Brennan, Charles Brennan (0-2), Eamon O'Neill, James Kealy, Patrick Hurley, Adrian Brennan. Subs: Thomas Judge, James Quinn.

Referee: Podge Butle.r

Bennettsbridge are Champs

In the replay of the Toy-master final, Bennettsbridge emerged worthy winners 1-4 to Castlecomer 0-4.

Two saves by David Lawlor in the Bridge goal one just before the break and the other in the closing stages of the match ensured victory for his side. The strong galeforce breeze saw the winners take an early lead with two points from their star Alan Dobbyn and they lead 1-2 to 0-0 at the break.

Castlecomer had enjoyed a huge amount of possession in the first half against the breeze and looked in a great position. However despite the great work of Pat Shore and Charles Brennan, they could not penetrate the 'Bridge defence where Tim Dooley played a captain's part and Robert Griffiths was outstanding at fullback. Charles Brennan had 2 points but

points from Chris Brennan and Brian Lannon kept the 'Bridge ahead. Fergal O'Neill made several marvellous saves in the losers goal to keep their hopes alive, but try as they might, they could not breach the winners defence.

Bennettsbridge: David Lawlor, Glen Killian, Robert Griffiths, Gary O'Neill, Noel Ryan, Tim Dooley (capt.), Alan Simpson, Vincent Freyne (1-0), Peadar Dooley, Alan Dobbyn (0-2), Chris Brennan (0-1), John O'Gorman, Brian Lennon (0-1), K. J. Leighton, Lawrence Bolger. Sub: Ger Hayes.

Castlecomer: Fergal O'Neill, Adrian Brennan, Patrick Shore (capt. 0-1, 65); Martin Hurley, Richard Mullins, Eamon Mooney, Niall Kelly, Charles Brennan (0-3), William Brennan, Thomas Judge, James Lawlor, Eamon O'Neill, James Kealy, Paul Hurley, Patrick Hurley. Subs: James Quinn, Niall Kenny, Eoin Hahessy.

Other Events

The annual teachers course was organised by the Board at St. Kieran's College. The coaches were Ned Power (hurling), Pat Aherne (football) and Jim King (handball).

The popular table quiz organised by the board with Michael Ó Muirtheartaigh proved a most enjoyable affair with Freshford N.S. outright winners in 1990.

An article on the contribution of the "Schools Board" to Kilkenny hurling was featured in the All-Ireland edition of "The Hogan Stand" and an article on the Board was published in the Credit Union Senior Hurling Championship Final Programme.

200 subsidised helmets were made available to the Board as part of the National Lottery Funding to the All-Ireland Cumann na mBuncoil.

Officers: Chairman, Pdraig O'Neill (St. John's); Vice-Chairman Billy Hoare (Graignamanagh); Secretary, Paul Kinsella (St. Patrick's); Treasurer, PRO: John Knox (Gowran).



St. Patrick's U-13 Roinn 'A' Football Champions, 1991. Back Row (left to right): Brian Holden, John Morgan, Patrick O'Brien, John Cullen, Patrick Savage, Ian Morrissey, Shane Egan, David Dooley, John McCormack, Dermot Ryan, Tommy Tyrrell, Dave Tyrrell. Front Row (left to right): Brian Dwyer, Patrick Holden, Eoin O'Neill (Capt.), Brian Rogers, Jeffrey Brennan, Gary Owens, Martin Leahy, Brian Power, Karol Conroy, Liam Dwyer.



C.B.S. Finalists Under-13 Roinn Football. Back Row (left to right): Gary O'Dwyer, Eoin Flynn, Matthew Loughnane, Thomas Drennan, Pdraig Devlin, Alan Dowling, Mr. Donal McCarthy, Owen Peters, Olly Hennessy, Stephen Murphy, Michael Falsey, Mark Donnelly, Mark Massey. Front Row (left to right): Bryan Barry, Joe Murray, Alan Dowling, Joey Murphy, Chris Burke, Pdraig Lacey, Alan Barry, Patrick O'Neill, Jason Ruth, Stephen O'Shea, Jason Dempsey.



Castlecomer, Under-13 Football Finalists, 1991. Back Row: Charles Brennan, Patrick Hurley, James Lawlor, Eoin Hahessay, Eamon Mooney, Martin Hurley, Laurie Brennan, Patrick Shore, Fionan McGrath, Sean Jackman, James Kealy, Paul Hurley, James Quinn. Front Row: Francis O'Neill, Thomas Judge, Neil Murtagh, Niall Kelly, Eamon O'Neill, Fergal O'Neill (Capt.), Richard Mullins, William Brennan, Graham Kenny, Alan Smith, Joseph Farrell, Adrian Brennan, Michael Brennan. Officials: V. Bramley, N.T., M. Kelly.

DUCKSIE ISN'T OUR ONLY TOP STAR

By: Tommy O'Brien

DUCKSIE WALSH has been synonymous with handball success for many years now but 1991 showed that the great Ducksie is not the only Kilkennyman who can hit the headlines in the ancient game.

In one of the greatest years yet for the game in Kilkenny, we won 4 senior All-Ireland titles with no less than 4 players getting in on the act. We had two senior All-Ireland finals and a National League final with no non-Kilkennyman in sight, and Kilfane and Windgap won their first ever juvenile titles to ensure that the show will go on.

We won titles also at Under-21, Silver Masters and Golder Masters grades to prove that the ability to beat the best exists at every level in Kilkenny handball.

Willie and Billy

Pride of place in the handball world must go to Willie Pratt and Billy Bourke. Billy Bourke (O'Loughlin's) already had an All-Ireland medal to his credit – he won the senior singles title before emigrating to the U.S. – but even as lionhearted a player as Willie Pratt (St. Canice's) must have given up hope of ever winning the highest accolade in the game.

Although eligible for the easier masters grade, Willie nevertheless threw in his lot at senior and teamed up with the returned Billy Bourke.

Their early progress was steady if not startling and many of the top players in this code were unprepared for the late onslaught the Kilkenny duo gave.

On All-Ireland final night every neutral fan in the country was rooting for Kilkenny – it was felt by all that Willie Pratt's career deserved to be crowned with a senior title while the game would benefit from the return of a victorious Billy Bourke.

They came through with flying colours and wrote their names into the annals of handball history – the first Kilkenny pair to win this title since Joe and the late Christy Delaney did in 1961.

The long wait was over – but the victory was worth the waiting.

On the same set of handball championships in the junior grade, Michael 'Ducksie' Walsh decided to throw in his lot. He had won minor titles in this code but had never



Tommy O'Brien

shown ambitions towards gaining a higher status.

Anyone who feared that success would not come his way was off the mark. Walsh won both singles and doubles titles,



Happiness is – Michael "Ducksie" Walsh pictured with his wife Sheena and the All-Ireland trophy after his victory in the Singles Championship Final
Photo: Sportsfile

beating stronger and more experienced rivals on the way.

How did he do it? He is Ducksie!

40 x 20

Once upon a time, Michael 'Ducksie' Walsh lost a game of 40 x 20 championship handball. He was only a toddler at the time – but he did lose.

Since setting his sights on adult handball he has never lost a game. This year was no exception and he stormed his way to another success at the highest level.

He also had a go at the World title but failed. The scenario was that the countries involved were divided into two groups with the top 2 in each group qualifying for the semi-finals. When it came to the final round in Ducksie's group both Ducksie and World champion, Naty Alvarado, were unbeaten so both would qualify for the semi-finals.

Their game was really immaterial but to two players with such pride in their game, the game was of mammoth importance. They played a memorable game with Ducksie getting through for the greatest win ever by an Irish player on foreign soil.

In the second group the two top players played a leisurely game taking little out of each other. How wise they were!

When the semi-finals came around next day, neither Alvarado nor Ducksie could raise a sweat. They were drained from their previous day's encounter and Mexico and Canada qualified for an unlikely final.

On the home scene Pat O'Keeffe and Eddie Leahy once more dominated the

Golden Masters Doubles with O'Keeffe's Mullinavat clubmate Graham O'Brien and Eamon Law also winning their All-Ireland title in Under-21 doubles.

Other Leinster winners were Timmy Clifford and Daniel Love in Under-12, Graham O'Brien (Under-21 singles), Gerry Murphy (Silver Masters Singles) and Murphy and Bernie Mahon (Silver Masters Doubles).

Softball

The All-Ireland senior softball championship this year belonged to Kilkenny. Ducksie Walsh was there, naturally. Billy Bourke had now joined the scene but Eugene Downey was out due to injury.

That same injury affected Eugene as he attempted to win the senior doubles title for a record 5th successive time with Ducksie Walsh. They had tougher battles than they should have in the quarter final and semi-final – but Ducksie was almost on his own.

Who would partner Billy Bourke. It was Ollie Harold, star of the early 80s, back from premature retirement and in great form. Bourke and Harold made it to the final and opposed Walsh and Downey in the first ever all-Kilkenny final.

On the eve of the hurling All-Ireland, this game was also swept on a fever of excitement and enthusiasm.

The big question was – would Eugene be fit?

Eugene answered that one at an early stage and played his usual magnificent game to win the title for a fifth successive

time, and the 6th time in all, in a great final.

All attention was now focussed on the singles final. Would Billy go a step further this time and beat his first cousin, Ducksie.

The answer was an emphatic "No" as Ducksie gave the display of his life to win easily – but to win with skill and brilliant accuracy that added even to his reputation.

Graham O'Brien was another to win a 60 x 30 title – his third Under-21 title of the year – while Doc Hennessy and Jim O'Neill reigned supreme in Silver Masters Doubles.

In the National League, Kilkenny entered two teams – and they met in the final!

Luckily for the selectors the A squad won. The teams appear in the credits below.

Our juveniles got back in the winning ranks at All-Ireland level when Willie Murphy (Kilfane) was brilliant in Under-15 singles while Alan Hawe (Windgap) and Tom Hanrahan (Kilfane) were no less brilliant in Under-15 doubles.

We will hear much more of this trio in the future.

Even a cursory glance at the records below reveals that county handball secretary, Con Moore, has a huge task. Almost 100 championships are organised annually with Con as a one-man fixtures committee.

Administrators in other games would find it incredible that all his fixtures are accepted without demur. All other sportsmen please note!

Family at 'war'!



All-Ireland Handball Final Action. Michael 'Ducksie' Walsh scores another ace against his opponent, Kilkenny's Billy Bourke.

Photo: Sportfile

Handball Results – 1991

40 X 20

SINGLES:

<i>Under-10</i>	Owen Guinan (Windgap)
<i>Under-11</i>	Fintan Kenny (Windgap)
<i>Under-12 (B)</i>	Niall McCormack (Kells)
<i>Under-12</i>	Timmy Clifford (O'Loughlin's)
<i>Under-13</i>	Brian Power (O'Loughlin's)
<i>Under-14 (B)</i>	
<i>Under-14</i>	David Gardiner (Goresbridge)
<i>Under-15</i>	Alan Hearne (Windgap)
<i>Under-16</i>	Kenneth Cottrell (Glenmore)
<i>Under-17</i>	Francis Cantwell (O'Loughlin's)
<i>Minor</i>	Stephen Barcoe (Goresbridge)
<i>Under-21</i>	Graham O'Brien (Mullinavat)
<i>Novice</i>	Liam Hickey (Talbot's Inch)
<i>Special Novice:</i>	Willie Holden (Kilfane)
<i>Junior:</i>	Bobby Falsely (O'Loughlin's)
<i>Intermediate:</i>	Pat Gardiner (Goresbridge)
<i>Senior</i>	Billy Burke or D. J. Carey
<i>Masters</i>	Willie Pratt (St. Canice's)
<i>Masters (B)</i>	Paddy Donoghue (Kells)
<i>Silver Masters</i>	Doc Hennessy (Talbot's Inch)
<i>Golden Masters</i>	Johnny O'Meara (Mullinavat)
<i>Novice Team of 4</i>	Clogh
<i>Junior Team of 4</i>	Mullinavat
<i>Senior Team of 4</i>	Goresbridge

DOUBLES

<i>Under 10</i>	P. J. Hawe and Owen Guinan (Windgap)
<i>Under-11</i>	Aidan Mackey/Fintan Kenny (Windgap)
<i>Under-12 (B)</i>	Ivan Sheridan and Rory Dunne (Kells)
<i>Under-12</i>	Daniel Love and David Donoghue (Clogh)
<i>Under-13</i>	Perry Holden and Adrian Walpole (Kilfane)
<i>Under-14 (B)</i>	Declan Cottrell/Declan Freaney (Glenmore)
<i>Under-14</i>	Niall Kenny and Enda Hawe (Windgap)
<i>Under-15</i>	Willie Murphy/ Tom Hanrahan (Kilfane)
<i>Under-16</i>	Alan Hawe/Michael Downey (Windgap)
<i>Under-17</i>	Michael Ryan/J. J. Gardiner (Goresbridge)
<i>Minor</i>	Joe Daly and Willie O'Neill (O'Loughlin's)
<i>Under-21</i>	Graham O'Brien/Eamonn Law (Mullinavat)
<i>Novice:</i>	Seamus Martin and Joe Sheridan (Kells)
<i>Special Novice</i>	John Duggan and Jim Sweeney (Galmoy)
<i>Junior</i>	Tom O'Neill/Tom Bolger (Goresbridge)
<i>Intermediate</i>	Philly Parsons/Bobby Falsely (O'Loughlin's)
<i>Senior</i>	D. J. Carey and John Curran (Goresbridge)
<i>Masters</i>	Gerry Murphy/Jim O'Neill (O'Loughlin's)
<i>Masters (B)</i>	Paddy Donovan and Jim Dalton (Kells)
<i>Silver Masters</i>	Doc Hennessy/Christy Young (Talbot's Inch)
<i>Golden Masters</i>	Jim Tyrrell and Jackie Ryan (Goresbridge)
<i>Novice Team of 4</i>	Michael Maher, Tom Comerford, Ned Lawlor and Colm Love.
<i>Junior Team of 4</i>	Pat O'Keeffe, Eamonn Law, Graham O'Brien and Damien O'Brien.
<i>Senior Team of 4</i>	D. J. Carey, Tommy Bolger, John Curran and Pat Gardiner

COLLEGES (Leinster) 60 x 30

Junior Doubles: Joe Daly and Paul Geoghegan (O'Loughlin's)

Senior Doubles: Joe Daly and Paul Geoghegan (O'Loughlin's)

ALL-IRELAND

Senior Doubles: Joe Daly and Paul Geoghegan (O'Loughlin's)

VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS

Leinster Junior: Larry Brennan (St. Kieran's)

LEINSTER CHAMPIONS – 40 X 20

Golden Masters Doubles: Pat O'Keeffe and Eddie Leahy*

Golden Masters Singles: Gerry Murphy

Junior Masters Doubles: Gerry Murphy and Bernie Mahon

Under-21 Singles: Graham O'Brien

Under-21 Doubles: Graham O'Brien and Eamon Law*

Senior Singles: Michael Walsh*

Under-12: Timmy Clifford and Daniel Love.

* Won All-Ireland Championship.

60 X 30

SINGLES

<i>Under-12</i>	Timmy Clifford (O'Loughlin's)
<i>Under-13</i>	Adrian Walpole (Kilfane)
<i>Under-14</i>	David Gardiner (Goresbridge)
<i>Under-15</i>	Willie Murphy (Kilfane)
<i>Under-16</i>	Kenneth Cottrell (Glenmore)
<i>Under-17</i>	Kevin Woods (O'Loughlin's)
<i>Minor</i>	Joe Daly (O'Loughlin's)
<i>Under-21</i>	Graham O'Brien (Mullinavat)
<i>Novice</i>	Michael Maher (Clogh)
<i>Special Novice</i>	Sean Walsh (Motheil)
<i>Juitor</i>	John Connolly (Talbot's Inch)
<i>Intermediate</i>	Bobby Falsely (O'Loughlin's)
<i>Senior</i>	Michael Walsh (Talbot's Inch)
<i>Masters</i>	Willie Pratt (St. Canice's)
<i>Masters (B)</i>	Michael Delaney (O'Loughlin's)
<i>Silver Masters</i>	Doc Hennessy (Talbot's Inch)

DOUBLES

<i>Under-12</i>	Perry Holden and Owen Hanrahan (Kilfane)
<i>Under-13</i>	Brian Power/Robert Falsely (O'Loughlin's)
<i>Under-14</i>	Niall Kenny and Enda Hawe (Windgap)
<i>Under-15</i>	Alan Hawe and Alan Hearne (Windgap)
<i>Under-16</i>	Tom Hanrahan and Brian Walpole (Kilfane)
<i>Under-17</i>	Kieran Leahy/Kevin Woods (O'Loughlin's)
<i>Minor</i>	Joe Daly/ Paul Geoghegan (O'Loughlin's)
<i>Under-21</i>	Graham O'Brien/Eamonn Law (Mullinavat)
<i>Novice</i>	Michael Maher and Colm Love (Clogh)
<i>Special Novice</i>	Mick Delaney/Paul Geoghegan (O'Loughlin's)
<i>Junior</i>	Joe Anthony/Graham O'Brien (Mullinavat)
<i>Intermediate</i>	Bobby Falsely/Michael Nolan (O'Loughlin's)
<i>Senior</i>	Billy Bourke and Ollie Falsely (O'Loughlin's)
<i>Masters</i>	Anthony Greene/Seamus Reade (Talbot's Inch)
<i>Masters (B)</i>	Michael Delaney/Pat Ward (O'Loughlin's)
<i>Silver Masters</i>	Gerry Murphy/Jim O'Neill (O'Loughlin's)

Novice Team of Four: St. Canice's

– David Clifford, Joe Doyle, Paul Clifford and Jim Long

Junior Team of 4: Mullinavat

Joe Anthony, Pearse O'Keeffe, Eamonn Law and Damien O'Brien.

Senior Team of Four: Talbot's Inch

Michael Walsh, Michael Reade, Seamus Reade and Martin Lalor.

Novice Team of Six: Goresbridge

Tommy Bolger, Stephen Barcoe, Liam Mahon, Michael Ryan, Joe English and Pat Barcoe.

LEINSTER CHAMPIONS – 60 X 30

Under-21: Graham O'Brien*

Novice Doubles: Joe Anthony and Damien O'Brien

Senior Masters (A) Doubles: Doc Hennessy and Jim O'Neill*

*Won All-Ireland Championship.

Senior Singles: Michael (beat Billy Bourke)

Senior Doubles: Michael Walsh and Eugene Downey

beat Billy Bourke and Ollie Harold

Senior Hardball Doubles: Billy Bourke and Willie Pratt

Junior Hardball Singles: Michael Walsh

Junior Hardball Doubles: Michael Walsh and John Connolly.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Philly Parsons, Michael Nolan, Joe Anthony, Damien O'Brien, Pearse O'Keeffe and Eamonn Law defeated Joe Doyle, Jim Long, Jimmy Holden, Noel Holden, John Connolly and Ollie Falsely.

Unique honour as Glenmore field in top two divisions

(By JOHN KNOX, *Kilkenny People*)

GLENMORE were, from a long way out, the hot tip to win the Kilkenny senior hurling championship, but as can often happen in sport, things didn't follow expected lines. The Southerners met their Waterloo in the penultimate stage, when then flying St. Martin's (Muckalee) turned killjoys.

However, there was considerable compensation for the club that provided the All-Ireland champions the previous March. Instead of the big one, Glenmore won the junior championship. Not only that, their fourth success in the competition put them level on top of the roll of honour with Mooncoin.

And not even finished at that, Glenmore became the first Kilkenny club eligible to field teams in the top two grades, senior and intermediate. The demands such a responsibility will place on the club, players and officials will be considerable, but they are not worried about that down Glenmore way. They have the Aylward Cup in the bag, and that, for the next few months is all that really matters.

Whatever way you look at it, winning the junior was some achievement for Glenmore, who were captained by the stout-hearted Paddy Murphy, a warrior not so many years ago in the senior division. The full-back led by example, and never asked more from his players than he was

prepared to give himself.

In the county final against St. Lachtain's (Freshford), which they won by 3-7 to 0-12, Paddy Murphy lifted his 'mates during difficult times in the second half, when the Northerners threw everything into attack. He ended up winning the 'man of the match' award, which was a fitting tribute to what he had given to the team during that hour, and the countless hours that had gone before.

Of course, this was much more than a one-man operation, and from day one the juniors enjoyed total commitment within the club, even when the seniors were flying. For example, the week before the final, Kilkenny defender Eddie O'Connor, a selector with the juniors, trained for nearly 90 minutes with the squad. Later he turned out with the county in the opening National League match against Laois. Commitment like that takes beating, but that was the way it was with Eddie and his fellow selectors, Oliver Hartley and John Aylward, and the players too.

KILLED OFF

The final turned out to be a good one, and Lachtain's weren't killed off until two minutes from the end when Vincent O'Connor shot a point from over 65 yards to put a 'safe' margin between the teams. Only once, in the 15th minute, was parity shared (1-0 to 0-3). The losers had

their moments in front after that, but once Stephen Hartley netted for the winners in the 19th minute they never looked back (2-0 to 0-5).

At half-time Glenmore had stretched the advantage to 2-3 to 0-6. By the time 10 minutes of the new half had elapsed, they had put a mountain in front of Lachtain's. The man mainly responsible was towering full-forward, Frank Kirwan. Frank 'The Terror', who had crucified Kilmacow and Slieverue in the closing two matches in the Southern championship, blasted home 1-2 inside a few minutes to leave Lachtain's trailing by 0-7 to 3-5.

The pressure was really on the losers after that, although, in all fairness, they didn't lie down and took the game to the opposition. It was then Murphy proved his value as a leader, and brought the best out of fellow defenders Johnny Kirwan, Seamus Hennessy, Mick Heffernan and Seamus Boyle. It was not easy to survive, but Glenmore did.

During the Southern campaign, Glenmore beat Dunnamaggin, drew with Windgap, and then proved too good for Kilmacow and Mooncoin. In the South final, Kirwan 'went to town' on the opposition and cracked home goal after goal to help shoot his side to a resounding 6-11 to 0-7 victory.

The team grew in stature



Glenmore goalkeeper Johnny Kirwan makes another fine save in the County final against St. Lachtain's. Other Glenmore players in the picture are Paddy Murphy (Man of the Match) and Paul Mullally. St. Lachtain's players are Joe Dermody, Michael Morrissey and Georgie Hughes.

(Continued from previous page)

during the southern campaign and it wasn't really until the semi-final against Kilmacow that they showed their true cutting edge. For three-quarters of the way in that tie, in Mooncoin, the opposition looked capable of shifting Murphy, Kirwan and company.

Then big Frank slammed home a pair of goals. A pair of nice, long range points from Mick Heffernan helped open the throttle, too, and away Glenmore went. It was a campaign that had happy memories for the likes of Richard Hennessy, Paschal Phelan and Richie O'Connor, among others.

No matter who does what in Kilkenny

hurling circles from here on, Glenmore can always claim they were the first to win the right to field teams in the senior and intermediate championships in the one year. The 1992 season will be a testing one for the club, because one team won't want to be losing players to the other.

But, as they say, where there is a will there is a way, and Glenmore have proved in Kilkenny and beyond that they have the wherewithal to surmount any obstacle.

The Glenmore team in the county final was: Johnny Kirwan, Seamus Boyle, Paddy Murphy (capt), Seamus Hennessy, Paul Mullally, Mick Heffernan, Vincent O'Connor, Shay Vereker, Richard Hennessy, Jimmy Walsh, Paschal Phelan, Stephen

Hartley, Richie O'Connor, Frank Kirwan, Jim Hartley. Subs: Pdraig Hanrahan, Pat Phelan (used), Noel Mullally, Tom Roche, Declan O'Keefe, Francis Ennett, P.J. Griffin, John Phelan, John Boyle, Patsy Kehoe.

St. Lachtain's: Michael Brennan, Martin Kennedy (capt), Patrick Brennan, Damien Anderson, Christy Hickey, James Farrell, Sean Hickey, Declan Killeen, Michael Walsh, Pierce Phelan, John Connolly, Paul Phelan, Brian Waldron, Michael Morrissey, Joe Dermody.

Subs: Bobby Dillon, Eamon Maher, Noel Hughes (used), George O'Shea, Ray Geraghty, Martin Walsh, Joe Morrissey, Pat Doyle, Ian Colclough, Mervyn Queally, Martin Maher.



ST. LACHTAIN'S: Northern Junior Champions. Back Row (l-r): C. Hickey, P. Brennan, M. Walsh, D. Anderson, G. O'Shea, P. Doyle, M. Walsh, S. Hickey. **Middle Row (l-r):** E. Maher, D. Killeen, M. Maher, J. Connolly, M. Brennan, N. Hughes, M. Qualley, J. Farrell, B. Dillon. **Front Row (l-r):** I. Colclough, M. Morrissey, R. Geraghty, W. Walsh, P. Phelan, M. Kennedy (capt), P. Phelan, J. Morrissey, B. Waldron, J. Dermody. Mascot: T. Kennedy.

Lachtain's — A long haul back

THE 'sixties were the boom times. The 'seventies were hard. There was joy and sorrow in the 'eighties. And now the 'nineties could mark a new beginning, when status of times past will be restored.

In a nutshell, the story over three decades for St. Lachtain's (Freshford) G.A.A. club, losers this year in the junior hurling final. Times have changed dramatically since the wonderful days in the 'sixties when senior titles were won in 1961 and '63.

There was relegation to, and promotion (1984) from the intermediate division to follow. Then came a long slide back to the junior grade. Now Lachtain's have to commence the long and difficult haul back to the top, and they know it won't be easy. It never is.

There was always an attractiveness about St. Lachtain's hurling. They were a bogey team for some. They had their own difficult opponents, too. But they were

never easily put away.

It was even like that in this year's junior final against Glenmore. Although the losers lacked drilling power up front, they were still there with a shout with less than five minutes remaining. One of the old hands, Brian Waldron, kept the door open with a personal tally of 10 points, and every time Glenmore tried to slam that door shut, another dogged hand, Murty Kennedy, would put his shoulder to it and somehow keep the Freshford dream alive.

Up and coming players could do an awful lot worse than take example from the likes of Murty, whose enthusiasm for the game is infectious. He had a great season. He was an inspiring figure on a Freshford team that really only realised its potential in the second round of the championship one wet and dreary evening in Ballyragget, when they surprised even themselves by beating Galmoy 4-13 to 1-6.

STUNNING SUCCESS

Confidence was gained from that stunning success, in which the likes of Joe Dermody, Paul and Pierce Phelan, Eamon Maher, Declan Killeen, James Farrell, Patrick Brennan, Christy Hickey and Michael Morrissey crucified the opposition. There and then Lachtain's season changed, and fine victories over Lisdowney (3-10 to 2-9) and St. Patrick's (Ballyragget) by 1-7 to 0-9 followed, the latter in the Northern final.

When St. Lachtain's reflect on the season just ended, they shouldn't dwell to much on the county final performance, that never really took off for them. More positive would be to see how, and when, the season changed for them. How often have we heard it said that small things win championships. Lachtain's are not as far off course as they might have thought in their disappointment after losing the county final. A small thing can push them



GLENMORE — COUNTY JUNIOR CHAMPIONS 1991

Back Row (l-r): Fr. L. Dunphy, Dickie Hennessy, Paddy Hanrahan, Seamus Hennessy, Jimmy Walsh, Frank Kirwan, Paschal Phelan, Jim Hartley, Pat Phelan, Eddie O'Connor (Sel.), John Aylward (Sel.), Ollie Hartley (Sel.). **Front Row** (l-r): Paul Mullally, Michael Heffernan, Seamus Boyle, Vincent O'Connor, Johnny Kirwan, Paddy Murphy (and son), Richie O'Connor, Shay Vereker, Stephen Hartley. Pic: Gerry Deegan

(Continued from previous page)

over the edge into the land of glory.

Runners-up in the Northern championship, St. Patrick's suffered from the old malaise of lack of scoring power. They depended to a large degree on returns from that fine servant of club and county, Pat Gannon. He steered them through a difficult semi-final against Emeralds (Urlingford) and nearly did it again in the divisional final, but a late effort to force a draw with a long range free was just off target.



Gannon paid his way during a season that brought improved results for Pat's, and he had able helpers in Des Staunton, Brian Phelan, Mark Kennedy, Jimmy Ruth, Lar McEvoy and Aidan Brophy.

Lisdowney and Emeralds were the losing semi-finalists. The latter lost out in a frantic finish, when two points from the aforementioned Pat Gannon destroyed their season (0-12 to 0-10). Their players who left an imprint on the campaign were Pat Ryan (who soldiered with the Kilkenny senior team), Michael Rafter, P.J. Tobin, David Moriarty, Cyril Cleere and Liam Cody.

Lisdowney were caught on the hop in injury-time. Twice during the closing eight minutes they shared parity with St. Lachtain's. In the wind-up, a point from Damien Anderson and a Declan Kilkeen goal sent them crashing to a 3-10 to 2-9

defeat. A tough way for the likes of Lar McEvoy, Patsy Murphy, John Kennedy, Michael Carroll, Tom Carroll and Billy McEvoy to bow out. Sport can be cruel sometimes.

NOT AT THE RACES

Losing Southern finalists were Slieverue, who just weren't at the races on the day it mattered. They left their best form behind them in the semi-final, when, against the wind, they outplayed the then form team, Dunnamaggin (3-11 to 3-6). Slieverue looked in deep trouble when just 1-5 to 2-1 in front at half-time, after playing with the backing of the elements.

However, when the business really needed to be done, Billy Griffin (who shot 3-2), Paul Murphy, Pat Power, Eamon Dowling, Lenny Doyle and Brian McGovern all rolled up their sleeves and got stuck in. It puzzled how, and why, they collapsed in the divisional decider.

County finalists of 1990, Kilmacow lacked a little bit of the cutting that saw them come from nowhere the previous season to within an inch of a championship victory. Patrick Gahan, Jim and Liam Kinsella, Dermot Haberlin, Sean Caulfield and Gerry Mulligan retained good form, but it didn't happen for the majority.

The most dejected outfit after the Southern championship were Dunnamaggin. They looked like doing something for a long time. It even lasted until midway through their semi-final against Slieverue. But then the train ran off the rails, when they looked to have completed the hard work.

A promising year that failed to deliver for Matthew O'Shea, Richie O'Neill, Jack Carroll, Michael Moran, Jimmy Dunne, John Ryan and company. One thing for sure, they have a solid basis from which to launch another assault next term.

Who won — and when

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 (4) — 1923, 1953, 1980, 1991.
Carrickshock (3) — 1928, 1954, 1979.
John Lockes (3) — 1911, 1952, 1987.
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.
Barrow Rangers (3) — 1982, 1988, 1990.
Windgap (2) — 1970, 1986.
Tullagher-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 (Cowran); 1967 - Coon; 1968 - Fenians (Johnstown); 1971 - Newpark Sarsfields; 1971 - Craginamanagh; 1973 - Shamrocks (Ballyhale-Knocktopher); 1974 - Muckalee-Ballyfoyle Rangers; 1975 - O'Loughlins; 1976 - Conahy Shamrocks; 1978 - St. Patrick's (Ballyragget); 1981 - Piltown; 1983 - Tullaroan; 1984 - Mullinavat.

Losing Effort was no second class shot

By JOHN KNOX *Kilkenny People*

HARD to credit in these exciting hurling times that unrated Armagh, Louth, Mayo and even Warwickshire have something on the big guns, including Kilkenny, Tipperary and Cork. Bearing in mind the track record in the hurling world of the latter trio, it is amusing to note that the others have achieved something at All-Ireland level that sets them apart from every other county.

What is it, one hears you ask? It is that the quartet have put wins in the All-Ireland junior hurling championship back-to-back!

Sure, it was in different times to the way the championship is organised today, but the records show — and they can't be refuted — that Armagh, Louth, Mayo and Warwickshire hold a special place in the order of merit in the junior series.

Last year Tipperary were unsuccessful in a bid to register two wins in-a-row. Kilkenny prevented them doing so. This season the reverse was the case. Even getting to the final in successive years is a mighty achievement, bearing in mind that players who win one year automatically become ineligible the following term.

From that point of view, the fact that Kilkenny reached this year's final as

defending champions was a considerable achievement in itself. They did so with a team that was backboned by tried-and-trusted performers, dovetailed with good, steady players.

The astute team trainer-coach who extracted the very best from an unusual assortment of players was nine times senior All-Ireland medallist, Noel Skehan, who viewed the blend thus: 'We were a solid more than spectacular team'. A fair and honest assessment.

GREAT RIVALS

When Kilkenny and Tipperary clashed in the junior decider, both were still in the running for the four hurling All-Irelands — senior, minor, under-21 and, of course, junior. Tipperary ended with two national titles, and Kilkenny with one.

When Tipp. won the senior crown they slipped past their great rivals and moved to 24 wins in the roll of honour, one ahead of Kilkenny. It was the same at junior level, they went to nine victories, one ahead of Kilkenny.

The final was a good one, and although Tipp. always had an advantage in the hurling sense, they found it hard to shake-off persistent and dogged opponents. Eventually they did so 10 minutes from

the end, when a shot for a point by Pdraig O'Keeffe came back into play off an upright, and wrong-footed the entire losers' defence. Interval substitute, John Ryan, whose huge frame and strength were invaluable assets, enjoyed the luck of the break, and pushed the ball into the net for his second goal. That lucky stroke put Tipp. 2-8 to 0-9 ahead.

The Noresiders chased very hard to the finish, and John Forristal once broke clear and looked sure to goal. But safe guardian, John Leamy, brought off a delightful save to keep his side safe. Tipp. eventually won by 2-13 to 0-10, after leading by 0-5 to 0-4 at the interval.

The fight in the Kilkenny team was epitomised by central defenders, Derek Shelly and John Marnell, both of whom carried leg injuries into the game. Shelly's ankle injury eventually gave way and he had to retire. Marnell hung on grimly to the very end. Both could have opted out, but the togetherness nurtured by Skehan was such that the players were prepared to go through the pain barrier to do their bit for the team, and county.

As suggested, in the hurling sense, the team wasn't a great one because it was really a Second String, following the All-



KILKENNY — ALL-IRELAND JUNIOR HURLING "HOME" FINALISTS 1991

BACK; Pat Gannon, John Marnell, Derek Shelly, Eamonn Maher, Brian McGovern, Paul Treacy, Tom Lyng, David Holmes. FRONT: Sean Ryan, Tom O'Keeffe, Jimmy Dunphy (capt.), Sean Caulfield, Richard Moran, Joe Wall, John Brennan. Pic: L. O'Neill.

Losing effort was no second class shot

(Continued from previous page)

Ireland win of 1990. But Skehan worked on the skills with the players and got them to do the simple things right. It was the players' efficiency and discipline within the team structure that was the strength of the combination.

OUTSTANDING SUCCESS

Defenders Jim Dunphy — who was the outstanding success of the campaign — Tom Lynch, Sean Caulfield and David Holmes grew in stature as the campaign progressed. At one time the senior selectors were hot on the trail of forward Tom O'Keefe, but decided not to call on him until his commitment to the juniors was finished. By that time the whole scene had changed. Richard Moran, Joe Wall, Brian McGovern, Pat Gannon and John Brennan all enjoyed good times during the four-match run.

The opening outing was a non-event against Meath. The most noteworthy aspect was the 2-3 scored by Pat Gannon. The second outing was into enemy territory, Wexford Park. The previous year Wexford brought 'The Cats' to a replay in the Leinster final, before being dismissed. This meant they had the same troops available this time.

Kilkenny were much better organised as a team and, plain and simple, that made all the difference. Richard Moran had his match of the championship. He shot six points and always seemed to get one when most needed. Wexford were well beaten by 3-12 to 2-6, with the goals coming from O'Keefe, Paul Treacy and Wall.

The All-Ireland semi-final against Galway was Kilkenny's opportunity to prove that the players were knitting together. Progress was shown in each outing, and here the Leinster champions looked mature.

Shelly was absolutely terrific and capped a 5-star performance with a point from 90 yards. Tom O'Keefe enjoyed his best day, too, and landed 1-6. Tom Lyng was another who excelled. The winning margin was 3-16 to 1-10.

ACHIEVEMENT

Even if Kilkenny were beaten in the end, there was considerable achievement in finishing runners-up. Noel Skehan deserved a lot of credit for his expert coaching of the team. Selectors Joe Dunphy (Mooncoin), Eddie Leahy (O'Loughlin-Gaels), Paddy O'Keefe (Thomastown), Jim Carter (Young Irelands) and Ned Moran (Northern Board chairman) had a lot of the sorting out work done weeks before the campaign commenced, and that made a difference. They were never afraid to change course subsequently, if the need arose.

THE ROAD TO THE FINAL

June 9 at Trim, Leinster Semi-final

Kilkenny 2-17 Meath 0-4

Kilkenny scorers: Pat Gannon (2-3); Tom O'Keefe (0-6); Liam Egan (0-4); Derek Shelly, Richard Moran, John Forristal, Eamon Maher (0-1 each).

June 16 at Wexford Park, Leinster Final

Kilkenny 3-12 Wexford 2-6

Kilkenny scorers: Tom O'Keefe (1-3); Richard Moran (0-6); Paul Treacy, Joe Wall (1-1 each); Sean Ryan (0-1).

July 14 at Birr, All-Ireland Semi-final

Kilkenny 3-16 Galway 1-10

Kilkenny scorers: Tom O'Keefe (1-6); Sean Ryan, John Forristal (1-1 each); Derek Shelly (0-3); Paul Treacy, Pat Gannon (0-2 each); Eamon Maher (0-1).

July 27 at Limerick, All-Ireland Final

Tipperary 2-13 Kilkenny 0-10

Kilkenny scorers: Tom O'Keefe (0-4); Derek Shelly, Brian McGovern, Patrick Farrell, Paul Treacy, Joe Wall, Eamon Maher (0-1 each).



KILKENNY JUNIOR HURLING SELECTORS 1991

From left: Ne Moran (Blacks & Whites), Paddy O'Keefe (Thomastown), Joe Dunphy (Mooncoin), Eddie Leahy (O'Loughlin-Gaels) and Jim Carter (Young Irelands).
Pic. I. O'Neill

The Kilkenny team in the All-Ireland final was: John Brennan (Thomastown), Jim Dunphy (Mooncoin) captain, John Marnell (Dicksboro), Tom Lyng (Rower-Inistioige), Sean Caulfield (Kilmacow), Derek Shelly (O'Loughlin-Gaels), David Holmes (Barrow Rangers), Richard Moran (Bennettsbridge), Brian McGovern (Slieverue), Pat Farrell (Carrickshock), Paul Treacy (Thomastown), Tom O'Keefe (Thomastown), Joe Wall (Mooncoin), Pat Gannon (St. Patrick's), Sean Ryan (Dunamaggin). Subs: John Forristal (Kilmacow), Eamon Maher (St. Lachtain's), John Conlon (Bennettsbridge) used. James McGarry (Bennettsbridge), Donal Carroll (Dicksboro), John Nolan (O'Loughlin-Gaels), Christy Dwyer (Carrickshock), John Middleton (Young Irelands), Michael Collins (Mooncoin), Matt O'Neill (Young Irelands), Richard O'Neill (Dunamaggin).

- 8 — Kilkenny in 1928, 1946, 1951, 1956, 1984, 1986, 1988, 1990.
- 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 — Galway in 1939.
- 1 — Westmeath in 1936.
- 1 — Wexford in 1985.

As the Intermediate championship is also tied in with this, the records are:

- 4 — Tipperary in 1963, 1966, 1971, 1972.
- 2 — Wexford in 1961, 1964.
- 2 — London in 1967, 1968.
- 1 — Kilkenny in 1973.
- 1 — Carlow in 1962.
- 1 — Cork in 1965.
- 1 — Kildare in 1969.
- 1 — Antrim in 1970.

ROLL OF HONOUR

- 10 — Cork in 1912, 1916, 1925, 1940, 1947, 1950, 1955, 1958, 1983, 1987.
- 9 — Tipperary in 1913, 1915, 1924, 1926, 1930, 1933, 1953, 1989, 1991.

To Pay or Not to Pay

TO pay or not to pay, that is the question. Time and time again, the question of whether players – playing hurling and football, should be paid for their services. Opinions seem to vary greatly. Amateurism versus professionalism.

As far as I can make out, it is the print media that highlights this subject year after year. During the winter months, especially when games are at a minimum and the notorious 'silly season' starts, reporters clean the dust from their files containing such subjects as "should hurling and football be played during the months of November, December and January?" "Should Croke Park be given to the F.A.I. for soccer games?" "Should players be paid for playing our games?" It is not that they are really looking for answers to these questions, it is just to stir up a little bit of controversy. I know that relations between Croke Park and the F.A.I. at Merrion square are very healthy. I also know that the F.A.I. have never sought Croke park for international soccer matches.

It is also my opinion that the only reason reporters write against hurling and football being played during the winter months is because of their own discomfort.

And so to the question of amateurism versus professionalism. The whole structure of Gaelic games is based on our players playing for the love of the game and individuals giving of their valuable free time, free of charge. It is not that the G.A.A. is tight with its 'purse strings', it is a case that the island of Ireland is just too small to run any sport on a professional basis.

Since the foundation of The Gaelic Athletic Association it has grown from a very tiny organisation, to be one of the biggest amateur sporting organisations in the world. This has been achieved by the



Pat Dunphy
Treasurer, Kilkenny G.A.A. County Board

voluntary efforts of thousands upon thousands of people right across the country. Practically every club in Ireland now has its own grounds, its own dressingrooms and many have a lot more besides.

The smallest club in Ireland will field 7/8 teams in their local championship and all this is achieved by hard working individuals, who seek no reward for their labour. It is carried purely from their love of the games and a deep rooted sense of loyalty to their club and county.

If you paid intercounty players to play the games, the whole ethos of the G.A.A. would crumble. Why should individuals give of their time to promote the games at club level when others get paid to play the game at intercounty level? It just would not work. The intercounty player gets his reward from being on centre stage, in the public eye and it is he that will receive the publicity and the accolades for their endeavours. There are thousands upon thousands of players around the county who would give their right arm just to don the colours of their county.

The reason that the G.A.A. is so strong and so healthy is that it ploughs the money back into the association and not into the pockets of a few players and officials. Based on its amateur status it has the funds to buy grounds, build club houses and promote the games themselves.

Let's compare the G.A.A. to the F.A.I. for a moment. I have nothing against the F.A.I., I think it is a great organisation, but many League of Ireland clubs are struggling because of their professional and semi-professional status. The clubs are struggling because any money collected by them is going to players and not into the game itself. All games should be played as a sport, for the love of the game, for loyalty to the game and not for any financial gain. The I.R.F.U. seem to have a more realistic view on all of this.

I don't for one minute expect players to travel to matches/training/team talks etc. and be out of pocket. No player should be out of pocket because of its involvement. But neither should, in my opinion, a player make financial gain from playing the game. We must differentiate between out of pocket expenses and making profit from the games.

I honestly believe that Kilkenny teams are very well looked after. Last year over £77,000.00 was spent preparing teams. This year it will be more. The Kilkenny Co. Board cannot be accused of not looking after their teams and the teams have responded positively to this. They apply themselves in a professional manner to an amateur sport. Why? Because they love the game. I think that all will agree that it is best kept an amateur sport.

I would appeal to the journalists to please leave the dust on those particular files, and give us all a break this year.

PAT DUNPHY

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Avonmore reign supreme once again in Leinster

FOR more than twenty years Avonmore Creameries have been the big name in Inter-Firms hurling and while the competition may not hit the same heights it reached some years, the boys from Ballyragget have continued to keep the flag flying. No team in Kilkenny (the Ballyhale Shamrocks being a definite exception) has achieved so many honours. Players were as proud to wear the Avonmore colours as their own club or county colours. Winning with your workmates brought its own sense of fulfilment. There was always a sense of bitter disappointment when the team lost.

During those twenty years the Avonmore G.A.A. club has been fortunate to have staunch officials involved with the team. Martin Fitzpatrick, first a player, and later the trainer, has instilled passion and pride in the team's displays. Tom Ryall, Paddy Butler and Jim Delaney along with Martin Fitzpatrick are surely the set of selectors with the longest service record in Kilkenny hurling. From a first Leinster Junior title in 1970, the club has amassed a formidable record of Senior All-Ireland titles. A slightly ageing workforce is at last putting pressure on a great team, but when pride is at stake players can be expected to give that little bit extra.

The 1991 campaign began in October against Tallis Brothers. Avonmore played against a very stiff breeze in the opening half and the Freshford side looked in trouble when they led by only one point at the interval. Avonmore pulled away in the second half for a comfortable win. Two

late goals for Tallis Brothers by Mickey Morrissey put a better complexion on the final score which read: Avonmore Creameries 2-13, Tallis Brothers 3-6.

Derek Gaffney and Richie Minogue, who earlier in the day had helped his club James Stephens to a county football title, were Avonmore's outstanding players. The winners' defence was on top throughout the game. Joe Casey and Michael Walsh kept a liberal supply of the ball into the attack which really came good in the second half.

Scorers: Avonmore – Billy Fitzpatrick (2-0), Derek Gaffney, Dick Walsh and Eamonn Holland (0-3 each), Joe Casey (0-1). **Tallis Brothers** – Joe Dermody (1-3), Mickey Morrissey (2-0), Jody Dwyer (0-2), Michael Rafter (0-1).

Avonmore's win over Tallis Brothers saw them through to the County Final where they met Suir Electric from Mooncoin. The Suirsiders were missing the services of the injured Bill Hennessy and he was badly missed. Bill, incidentally, is a former Avonmore player. In a fine game of hurling, it was the Ballyragget side who emerged victorious on a score of 4-8 to 2-8. This win gave Avonmore the County title for the seventh year in succession.

Avonmore laid the foundations of victory in the first half. Their first score was a goal from Billy Fitzpatrick following a free by Joe Casey, which was brilliantly flicked to the net. Their second score was also a goal, scored by Mick Brennan following a pass from Dick Walsh. A fine individual goal from Michael Collins gave

Suir Electric a lift but another Avonmore goal from Derek Gaffney gave the winners a 3-6 to 1-5 lead at the interval.

Suir Electric pressed hard in the second half but found the Avonmore goalie Morgan Kelly in great form. When Paudie Everard scored the fourth Avonmore goal, the game was over as a contest.

In the Leinster Final Avonmore had home venue against Allied Irish Bank (Dublin). On a lovely October afternoon in Ballyragget, Avonmore had to call on all their experience to win a thrilling contest on a score of 2-16 to 3-9. The Dublin boys were forced to field without their prized asset, Tipperary's Nicky English, who was nursing his well-documented leg injury. However, the team did possess a number of inter-county players, the most notable being Offaly's Michael Duignan.

Avonmore made a dreadful start to the game, conceding two goals in the early stages and after ten minutes were behind 2-5 to 0-3. The lively AIB side were dominant throughout the field and Avonmore looked decidedly uncomfortable. A goal from Paudie Everard ten minutes before the interval gave Avonmore a lifeline and it was enough to move the team into a higher gear for the remainder of the game. The teams retired at the interval with AIB leading on a score of 2-6 to 1-5.

The introduction of Nicky Brennan to the Avonmore defence in the early stages of the second half had a steadying influence on the team. Patsy Brophy and Richie Minogue were dominating in the



Avonmore Creameries – Leinster Inter-Firm Champions 1991

Back – Derek Gaffney, Bobby Dillon, Eamonn Holland, Billy Fitzpatrick, Michael Walsh, Nicky Brennan, Patsy Brophy, Morgan Kelly. Front – Mick Brennan, Paudie Everard, Dick Walsh, Benny Cleere, Jimmy Ruth, Richie Minogue, Joe Casey (captain). [This photo was taken in the game v. Tallis Brothers]

half-back line and up front Derek Gaffney was in inspired form. A Billy Fitzpatrick goal with ten minutes remaining sealed the game for Avonmore and regained the Leinster Championship for the Ballyragget side.

It was on to Ennis for the All-Ireland semi-final and a date with Shannon Diamond. The Clare side defeated Avonmore in the All-Ireland final some years ago. This star-studded side, with many inter-county stars from Clare and Limerick on board, came through a tough Munster campaign, defeating Waterford Iron Foundries in the Munster Final. It was to be a tough contest for the Kilkenny side and so it turned out, with the Munster champions just shading the issue on a 1-12 to 0-12 scoreline. Avonmore badly missed the services of Michael Walsh who was injured and Dick Walsh who was ill with 'flu.

Avonmore can point to a poor first half when, aided by the breeze, they failed to convert good possession into scores. Shannon Diamond, thanks to some fine points from Clare's Pat Minogue, dominated the closing stages of the half to lead at the interval. A goal for the Clare side from Limerick's Anthony Carmody midway through the second half looked like sealing the fate of the Kilkenny boys, but showing the same commitment and spirit evident over many years of Inter-Firms hurling, they gradually arrested the initiative and played some great hurling in the final quarter. The Munster cham-

pions were rattled at this stage and in a late attack Avonmore almost snatched a draw from a Billy Fitzpatrick free.

The Avonmore defence hurled splendidly throughout. Liam Dowling when moved to midfield dominated the area. The attack will rue the first half chances that went awry but their commitment never faltered. At the end the highly fancied Clare side were fortunate to win and qualify for a final meeting with Thermo King from Galway.

Avonmore scorers: B. Fitzpatrick (0-8), J. Brennan (0-1), D. Gaffney (0-2), L. Dowling (0-1).

Avonmore's panel throughout the campaign was:

Morgan Kelly (Harps), Jimmy Ruth (St. Patrick's, Ballyragget), Nickey Brennan (Conahy Shamrocks), Benny Cleere (O'Loughlin Gaels), Patsy Brophy (Erin's Own), Eamonn Holland (Erin's Own), Richie Minogue (James Stephens), Bobby Dillon (St. Lachtain's), Joe Casey (Clara, capt.), Michael Walsh (Slieverue), Johnny Brennan (St. Martin's), Liam Dowling (St. Martin's), Paudie Everard (Moyn-templetuohy), Derek Gaffney (Tullaroan), Dick Walsh (Tullaroan), Mick Brennan (Erin's Own), Billy Fitzpatrick (Fenians), Bob Cody (James Stephens), Michael Campion (Lisdowney), John Hall (Tullaroan), Pierce Ryan (Moyn-templetuohy), Mick Walsh (Ballinakill), Michael Daly (Erin's Own), Donal Dunne (Erin's Own), John Bourke (The Harps), Mick Bolger (The Harps), Seamus Butler (Ballingarry), Liam Mullen (James Stephens).

Tallis Brothers: Edward Holland (Tullaroan), Tommy Drennan (Galmoy), Liam Cody (Emeralds), Gary Tallis (Lisdowney), Shay Downey (Lisdowney), James Farrell (St. Lachtain's), Joe Norton (Tullaroan), Jodi Dwyer (James Stephens), Austin Cleere (Emeralds), Gareth Walsh (Lisdowney), Michael Rafter (Emeralds), Eddie Wall (Bennettsbridge), Mark Tallis (Lisdowney), Mickey Morrissey (St. Lachtain's), Joe Dermody (St. Lachtain's).

Suir Electric: Jimmy Holden (Mooncoin), Paddy Crowley (Mooncoin), Joe Murphy (Mooncoin), Jimmy Dunphy (Mooncoin), Philip Larkin (James Stephens), Michael Long (Piltown), Eddie Crowley (St. Gabriel's, London), Eamonn Kennedy (Dunnamaggin), Tom Murphy (Mooncoin), Michael Collins (Mooncoin), Pat O'Neill (Young Irelands), Tommy Shefflin (Shamrocks), John Carroll (Dunnamaggin), Paul Long (Kilmacow). Subs: Pa Dunne (Piltown), Domo Connolly (Mooncoin).

AIB: B. Bane, G. Crowley, T. O'Gorman, G. Morrissey (Kilkenny), C. Murray, M. Duignan, R. Nolan, F. Gaffney, S. Freyne, R. Lynch, F. Maher, R. Morris, T. Curran (Kilkenny), J. Prendergast (Kilkenny), N. Butler (Kilkenny).

Shannon Diamond: Owen McMahon, John Moloney, John O'Connell, Kieran O'Shea, Mike Reale, Jack Russell, Niall Romer, Danny Fitzgerald, Victor O'Loughlin, Tom Moloney, Tommy Cui-foyle, Anthony Carmody, Syl Dolan, Matt Rea, Pat Minogue.

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Graigie-Ballycallan take the John Tobin Cup

GRAIGIE-Ballycallan kept their record of having won a county title in some grade every year since 1984 when the minor hurlers won the Roinn "A" league and took the John Tobin Memorial Cup for the fourth time in five years. This produced a brilliant game of hurling in ideal conditions in Thomastown. The winners had all the luck in the game but on the run of play they took their chances better and it was the deciding factor at the finish.

In their very first attack, Graignamagh/Blacks & Whites had a chance of a goal when Declan Maher was put clean through but his finish was weak and Philip Butler in the winners goal easily saved. Butler, along with Denis Byrne, was the star of the game. Four times in the second half with five points dividing the sides, he made superb saves and had one of these shots gone to the net, the losers might well have snatched the laurels.

Denis Byrne was in tremendous scoring form and rifled over nine points from play, frees and two '65's. As well, he won vital possession in the last ten minutes when his side was under immense pressure. Others to play well for the winners were the full back line of Alan Hoyne, Johnny Butler and Larry Comerford. Eddie Dwyer showed glimpses of his best form. John Manogue and Eamonn Marnell were on top at midfield in the first half. Wayne Ronan gave most assistance to Denis Byrne in attack. Sean Byrne scored the vital goal of the game while Damien Cleere also showed a few flashes of his skilful play.

Noel Dunne kept a safe goal for the losers. Ivan Morrissey, Sean Kealy and Henry Roberts did best in defence. Liam Fogarty had the pull at midfield in the second half. Fran Doyle created numerous chances but did not have the finish. Alan Morrissey and Michael Ryan were best in attack.

Scorers: Graigie/Ballycallan: Denis Byrne (0-9), Sean Byrne (1-0), Damien Cleere, James Young and Eamonn Marnell (0-1 each).

Graigie/Black and Whites: Michael Ryan (0-4), Alan Morrissey and Fran Doyle (0-2 each), Leo Bolger and Declan Maher (0-1 each).

Graigie/Ballycallan: Philip Butler, Alan Hoyne, Johnny Butler, Larry Comerford, Tom Cody, Eddie Dwyer, Paul Ronan, John Manogue, Eamonn Marnell, Damien Cleere, Denis Byrne, Wayne Ronan (captain), Thomas Dermody, Sean Byrne, James Young.

Graigie/Black and Whites: Noel Dunne, Noel Kealy, Ivan Morrissey, Ken Walsh, Sean Kealy, Henry Roberts, Patrick Hayden, Ger Walsh, Liam Fogarty, Michael Ryan, John Flood, Alan Morrissey, Declan Maher, Leo Bolger, Fran Doyle. Sub: Fergal Fenlon.

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Rising stars . . . the Clara National School team who won the Jim Comerford memorial open hurling tournament at Conahy. **In front** (from left): Emmet Corley, Declan Meany, Thomas Brennan, Adrian Meany, Mark Shortall (captain), Eamon Kealy, Martin Kealy, Tommy Dowling, Dermot Byrne. **Behind:** Fintan Treacy, Martin Prendergast, Kevin Knox, John Phelan, Patrick Brennan, Conor Phelan, John Brennan, Peter Roche, James Tobin, Fergus Knox, Ger Prendergast. The adults are team trainers John Bolger (left) and Joe Pyke.



ALL-IRELAND CHAMPIONS 1963 VISIT THE U.S.A. IN 1964

Back (l-r): Nicky Purcell (chairman), Eddie Keher, Fr. Tom Murphy, Sean Clohosey, Martin Coogan, Ted Carroll, Seamus Cleere, Pa Dillon, Cha Whelan, Msgr. Tom Maher (trainer), Paddy Grace (secretary). **Front** (l-r): Oliver Gough, Johnny McGovern, Denis Heaslip, Martin Treacy, Phil Larkin, Billy O'Dwyer, Willie Murphy, Paddy Moran, Tony Kelly, Sean Buckley, Tom Walsh, Ollie Walsh.



No tickets today —
Kilkenny Traffic Warden
Johnny Lacey and his
banana friend
in a happy mood
as they watch their
favourites
in action in
Croke Park.

Pic: Gerry Deegan



BALLYCALLAN U-14 ROINN A FINALISTS 1991

Back Row: Edward Brennan, Tommy Manogue, Pat Marnell, Paul Dermody, John Hoyne, Brendan Comerford, Alan Trayer, Niall Egan. Front Row: Sean Millea, Paul Hoyne, James O'Connor, Dermot Hoyne, Joseph Young, Philip Butler, Joseph Cody.



MUCKALEE — UNDER-21 'B' 1990 CHAMPIONS

Front Row: John Ryan, Paddy Buggy, Nicholas Purcell, Paddy Kehoe, Dermot Lawler, Sean Kelly, Noel Coogan, Gerry Buggy. Back Row: Tom Dooley, Aidan Lawler, Dick Dooley, John Dooley, Conor Moloney, Ivan Lawlor, Paddy Kehoe, Martin Pattison, Calbeb Daly, Dermot Comerford. Pic: Gerry Deegan

WHAT IF

By: **BARRY HICKEY** (Development Officer, Kilkenny G.A.A. County Board)

SUPPOSING Croke Park had a capacity of 100,000 people and there was no shortage of tickets, wouldn't a lot of the excitement go out of the occasion?

The purchase and sale of tickets creates an atmosphere and a build up to the big match day. If we in Kilkenny had the decision as to whether there would be executive boxes in Croke Park, I believe we would make exactly the same decision as the powers that be in Croke Park if all the facts and figures were available to us.

I believe that when Headquarters are making decisions of such importance, that they should attend a County Board Meeting in each county and give them the facts and figures. When making decisions that affect us all in the G.A.A., there will have to be better communications between the decision makers and the members.

We must continue to improve our image all the year round, but especially at All-Ireland time when the main sporting focus is on the All-Ireland Finals and on the lead up to the main events. I believe we could be making much more of the occasion now that we have more sponsors interested in supporting our organisation.

The Hurling and Football All-Ireland weekends could become a Festival of Events. What if one of the hotels in Dublin was to be taken over by the G.A.A. and was to become the Headquarters of the activities for the weekend. There could be lectures, quizzes, light entertainment etc.

The Sam Melbourne Museum could be in attendance. O'Neill's, Connolly's etc. could display the relevant sporting gear. There could be a special stand which would show the actual making and repair of hurleys and possibly the making of footballs or sliotars. It would involve the



Barry Hickey

display of a whole culture which is normally associated with the organisation at Congress time.

I believe that this type of event is likely to get good television coverage at that time of year and possibly transmission all over the world.

With the type of colour the Kilkenny Supporters brought to Hill 16 this year, it will go down on record as one of the most colourful scenes in Croke Park. I believe that grants should be given to Supporters Clubs for the purpose of bringing more colour to the occasion. I also believe that Croke Park should be prepared to support the work of the patrons/supporters at the points of entry to the terraces and the stands by ensuring that flags and banners are not confiscated or damaged as has been the case this year.

What if we had some kind of entertainment out on Croke Park from 12 o'clock on All-Ireland Final Day? It could be one of our Irish Groups or possibly bands with majorettes etc. Such entertainment would help to fill the

vacuum before the minor match, providing more sound and colour and possibly attracting earlier television coverage.

Shop and Fast Food services need to be greatly improved on the Big Match Day in Croke Park. It could be done on a temporary basis for the big occasion. At present, it is under-serviced and should be upgraded.

During the year we had a lot of "anti Croke Park" feeling with the introduction of fines. Our games must be well presented and we must do things correctly.

The scale of fines levied on counties so suddenly is causing bad feeling right across the G.A.A. spectrum. I believe that Croke Park should refund the fines for the current year and start anew for 1992. We all know that they are serious about them at this point and it would give counties some time to adjust and get their act together. Discussions should take place with the main counties on the hurling and football scene to see what problems were encountered from the side of the participants.

Guidelines did change during the year and there should be an acceptance that the counties themselves may have constructive advice for the powers that be.

Sometimes we change because change is forced on us, as in the case of Public Liability Insurance. Other times we change because there is a better way. What ever the reason is, I believe that the facts must be made known if there is to be a better understanding between officialdom and the grass roots.

Our organisation will hold a strong position in society and prosper into the future.



'Lockes' Say Thank You To Fr. Tommy

Presentation to Fr. Tommy Murphy (Trainer/Selector) by John Lockes members prior to his leaving Callan to take up his duties as Parish Priest in Slieverue.

D.J. tops the charts again

FOR the second successive year, D. J. Carey emerged as Kilkenny's leading scorer in the National Hurling League.

This was a remarkable achievement for the 21-year-old seeing that his first game was only on February 17 against Wexford. He missed the four matches before the Christmas break, but made up lost ground smartly in the six ties he was involved in.

The Young Irelands (Gowran) sharpshooter cracked home 3-23 (32 points) to just edge out St. Martin's Eamon Morrissey, who had a very fine tally of 5-15 (30 points) after featuring in every game.

The man who led the scoring charts for a long time was Anthony Prendergast. The Clara man hit a good tally of 2-21 (27 points). He was the free taker until Carey's arrival.

D. J. hit a high against Galway, when he slammed home 2-5.

In all, 19 Kilkenny players contributed to the scoring of 15-123 during the 10 League matches.

The individual scorers - D. J. Carey (3-23); Eamon Morrissey (5-15); Anthony Prendergast (2-21); Christy Heffernan (3-7); Ray Heffernan (0-14); John Power (1-10); Charlie Carter (1-5); James Brennan (0-6); Pat Ryan (0-5); Adrian Ronan, Lester Ryan



D. J. Carey - Kilkenny's leading scorer in the National Hurling League.

(0-3 each); Richard Power, Michael Dunne, Michael Phelan (0-2 each); Jimmy Lawlor, Liam McCarthy, Brian McGovern, Liam Fennelly, Pat Dwyer (0-1 each).

35 Players were used

Three Kilkenny players figured in all 10 matches in the National Hurling League.

The ever presents were the long serving John Henderson, Eamon Morrissey and Liam Simpson.

In all, a massive 35 players were tried and tested during the campaign. This was 70 more than the previous season, when Kilkenny played the same number of games, and actually won the title in a final played in New York.

The squad, in order of appearances was - 10 each, John Henderson (Fenians); Eamon Morrissey (St. Martin's); Liam Simpson (Bennettsbridge); 9 each, Pat Dwyer (Carrickshock); John Power (John Lockes); 8 each, Michael Phelan (Glenmore); Pat Ryan (Emeralds); Christy

Heffernan (Glenmore); Bill Hennessey (Tullaroan); 7 each, Michael Cleere (O'Loughlin-Gaels); Anthony Prendergast (Clara); Lester Ryan (Clara); Michael Walsh (Dicksboro); 6 each, James Brennan (Erin's Own); 5 each, Liam Walsh (Glenmore); D. J. Carey (Young Irelands); Richard Power (Carrickshock); 4 each, Charlie Carter (Young Irelands); Pat Walsh (Windgap); Ray Heffernan (Glenmore); Adrian Ronan (Craigue-Ballycallan); Tommy Fogarty (James Stephens); Liam Fennelly (Shamrocks); 3 each, David Bourke (Mooncoin); Jimmy Lawlor (Shamrocks); Liam McCarthy (Piltown); 2 each, John Conlon (Bennettsbridge); Tom Murphy (Mooncoin); Michael Dunne (Craignamanagh); Michael Walsh (Slieverue); Brian McGovern (Slieverue); 1 each, Joe Casey (Clara); Pat O'Neill (Young Irelands); Willie O'Connor (Glenmore); John McDonald (Mullinavat).

THE closing act in the drama was as surprising as it was painful. All the hard work and effort that had gone before should have brought a better ending, but the gods had deemed otherwise. After the senior hurling final in which St. Martin's (Ballyfoyle-Coon-Muckalee) received a trimming from on-a-high Shamrocks (Ballyhale) there were no consoling words that would penetrate deep enough to erase the hurt felt by the entire losers' panel.

As they say, they fought the good fight well, and although taken to the cleaners, took it all in the right spirit and, to a man, they went down fighting. To the Martin's players who had sweated on the training field, and disciplined their lives for months around hurling, the real meaning of that compliment won't be much consolation.

Neither will the suggestions that, in time, the experience gained should stand to the club. For a few it may mark the end of the road, but for the majority, the final of '91 could be the makings of them.

How often have we heard it said that you 'must experience pain before you can fully appreciate success? Martin's have been to hell, and when they come back they should be stronger for the hurling experience.

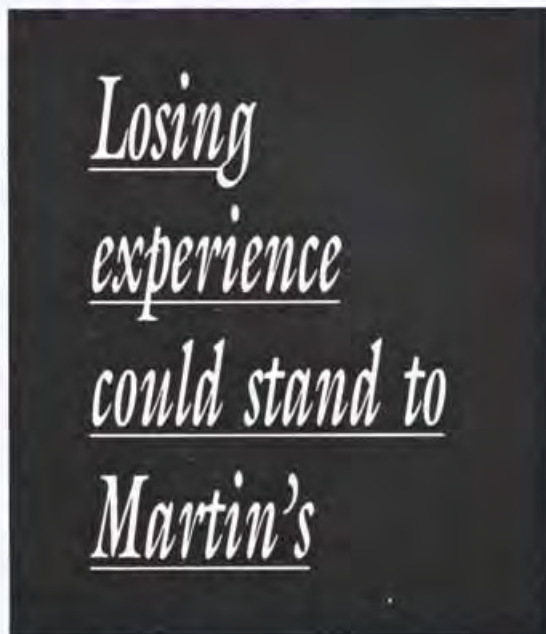
Any year you get to the senior final, or any other final in Kilkenny, can't be marked down as a bad one. Martin's should remember that. The final didn't go their way, there is nothing they can do about that now. But if they use the whole experience as a learning one, then the pain won't have been in vain.

No team in the country would have lived with the Shamrocks in the form they were in on county final day. Martin's, a

team in the throes of being reshaped, needed things to go right for them if they were to succeed.

HAPPY MEMORIES

And yet Martin's left with a bag full of happy memories. Their finest was the victory over then All-Ireland champions, Glenmore, in the semi-final. That day they were really with it. That old warrior, Jim Moran, excelled in defence, as did Tom Walsh and Michael Maher.



Up front Eamon Morrissey and Dermot Lawlor were the brightest stars, although another old hand, Johnny Brennan, wasn't too far behind. Others like John Morrissey, Aidan Lawlor and Liam Dowling made substantial progress, in the hurling sense, and that can't be bad.

This season St. Martin's scored championship wins over Tullaroan, Clara,

Mullinavat, James Stephens and Glenmore and they were second in the race. The closing hour was disappointing. But if that experience can be used in a positive rather than negative sense, then all the good that went before won't be lost.

The team with the greatest regrets after the championship had to be Glenmore. For the second time in three years they saw a possible outright victory slip away from them. They had to take some of the blame themselves. Their attitude wasn't always what it might have been.

The current crop of players in Glenmore is as good as has ever represented the parish, and is possibly better than the two championship wins it has scored. Time and opportunities are slipping by — even if Christy and Ray Heffernan, Eddie and Willie O'Connor, Michael Phelan, Liam Walsh, Eddie Aylward, P.J. O'Connor and Denis Mullally still have a lot to offer.

For a long time, Glenmore looked the best team in the championship. They didn't even make the final. They can't blame exertions in the All-Ireland Club championship as the only reason for their failure.

Erin's Own (Castlecomer) were the other losing semi-finalists. They bowed out meekly, but trainer Larry O'Neill had to be happy enough with his lot. His is a young team, bolstered by older hands Tommy Brennan, John Kelly and Peadar Healy.

BIG MOMENT

Their big moment was then they walloped Fenians (Johnstown) by 5-10 to 1-8 in the quarter-finals. Eamon Connery bagged three goals. He will always remember that day with fondness, while Patsy and Michael Brophy, James Brennan,



ST. MARTIN'S — KILKENNY SENIOR HURLING FINALISTS 1991

Back row: Paul O'Neill, Tom Walsh, Michael Maher, Aidan Lawlor, Ciaran Hayes, Conor Moloney, Jim Moran. Front: Danny Coonan, Paddy Kehoe, Liam Dowling, Bobby Shore, Eamon Morrissey (capt.), John Morrissey, Johnny Brennan, Dermot Lawlor. (Photo: Tom Brett)

LOSING EXPERIENCE COULD STAND TO MARTIN'S

(Continued from previous page)

Eamon Holland and Tom Brophy must have good memories from other times. A club with potential, if the right will is there among the players.

The Fenians depended a lot on old hands Ger and John Henderson and Eugene Grehan. Their biggest problem is that many of their players are small and light. Jimmy Brennan, James Carroll, Briain Ryan and Billy Purcell should be central in any progress the club makes in the not too distant future.

James Stephens made the quarter-finals, too, but it wasn't a particularly happy occasion for them. Their full-back line never settled and, as a result, the team couldn't settle. The score of 2-15 conceded that day against St. Martin's told its own story, and James O'Connor and James Grace gave them good service, as did Joe Hennessy, Paddy Neary, Tommy Fogarty, Jody O'Dwyer and the Larkins.

Graignamanagh, with a bit of luck,

might have made the knock-out stages. They certainly improved on the recent past, with Peter Prendergast, Michael Walsh, Bernard Dunne, Kevin Corbett and Michael Dunne very prominent. The season was never kind to Mooncoin. They opened short five players who had helped them to victory in the intermediate championship the previous year. They played with heart, but were knocked down by Graig. They never got an even break, and even in the relegation match against Clara, enjoyed few favours. They went back down a grade, which was rough justice for the efforts of Jim Dunphy, Dominic Connolly, Michael Walsh, Michael Collins and company.

Graigue-Ballycallan lost out because they couldn't score. In their last preliminary round game against Comer, they lost by 1-5 to 0-5. That highlighted their weakness, that inability to score. Still, it wasn't a bad season for John Teehan, Tomás and Padraig McCluskey, Noel Maher, Adrian Ronan, Johnny Ronan and John Caldbeck.

Tullaroan and Mullinavat lacked consistency and never looked like getting among the contenders. Clara, finalists the previous year, only got it together in their relegation match against Mooncoin, when Kevin Ryan, Joe Casey, Anthony Prendergast, Brian Harrington, Philip Murphy, Lester Ryan and James Langton all showed form that left one wondering how they slipped into trouble in the first place.



The ball flies past Eamon Breen (St. Martin's) to the keen eye of Glenmore's John Flynn.

Pic: Gerry Deegan

Kilkenny and Me

By Fr. Michael O'Brien
(Cork Senior Hurling Coach)

MY relationship with Kilkenny goes back 21 years — it commenced actually earlier, but not on the hurling field.

First of all let me say that I have always admired the "stickwork" of the Kilkenny hurlers. They had an answer to all "stumbling blocks" so to speak that the opposition could put in their way. When a player was in a tight corner he had the cute hand-pass to a man in support, effortlessly. From the way they used the ball it was obvious to me that the brain had more to do with it than the 'brawn'. Skill seemed to be the 'Book of Words' on which they were taught. I believe this and certainly appreciate it.

How to describe Cork and Kilkenny clashes is beyond me. The reason being that Cork, with their



noted traditional overhead and on the ground style, very often upset the Kilkenny style of play. In the clashes between Cork and Kilkenny I recall few incidents that needed censure — across the span of Colleges (Farranferris, Alma Mater), Cork minors and Cork seniors — that to me is a very interesting statistic in 21 years.

Pride in its hurlers exudes from each county and therefore winning and losing has had a special meaning to each. Some of the Kilkenny Greats — Frank Cummins and Christy Heffernan especially — made their way to Blackrock and I had the pleasure of being involved with them. Nick Brennan, the County Chairman (Nicky, you're very young for that job!) is a good friend of mine. Monsignor Maher, ex St. Kieran's, I tussled with a few times at College level and Dermot Healy at Minor level in the 'seventies. For me it all boils down to the game.

It is a game that has a rich repertoire of skills, and the demonstration of these skills is a must from those who play, and an onus on those who coach. This is the only way to keep the game at the pinnacle it deserves. This is the only way we will ensure its longevity.

The Kilkennys and the Corks are sources that must never dry up, especially in their ambition to play the game as it should be played. I can't finish without a special mention of Paddy Grace — ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam. With devilish roguery I would say to Paddy before a Kilkenny v Cork match — "What kind are ye Paddy?" "Father, d'ye see that team, it must be the worst that ever came out of the county!" Of course, the opposite was true. May the relationship and the rivalry that exists between the two counties grow from strength to strength. Go mbeidh an bua ag an bfoireann is fearr. Gach uair a'tabhairt taispéantas na scoileanna atá go hálainn in ár gchluiche iontach - "Iománaíocht".

CLUBS ROUND-UP

BLACK AND WHITES

THIS has been a successful year for the Black and Whites, especially off the field with the commencement of the building of the new dressing-rooms, showers, toilets, etc. The decision has been made to do this on a stage by stage basis, as money becomes available. A huge effort is being made by all concerned and the support already given will hopefully be continued.

Not such a successful year for the Junior hurling team with a poor run in the League and defeat in the quarter-finals of the open draw against Glenmore. In the championship the Juniors got through the first round with a win over Danesfort; in the second round they were defeated by Emeralds. They then went on to the final of the Paddy Cahill Cup for the second year but were again beaten, this time by Cloneen. The Special Juniors hurlers had a couple of wins in the league but lost out to St. Lactain's in the championship. A very understrength junior football team travelled to Railyard and were knocked out by the home team.

This year saw the formation of the Graignamanagh/Black & Whites due to the amalgamation of the two parish clubs at under-age level. The U-16 footballers

brought the first success when they won Southern and county titles in the Roinn B championship. The team members from the Black & Whites were Edward Doyle, Sean Kealy and David O'Neill (sub. John O'Grady). There was more success for the minor hurlers with the winning of the Southern title in Roinn A. However, they were defeated in the county final by James Stephens. The Black & Whites were represented by Noel Kealy, Sean Kealy and Michael Ryan (sub. Pat Gordon).

The Under 21 team also won a Southern title when they overcame the Shamrocks. Club members on the team were Pat O'Grady, Michael Doyle, Laim Aylward, Cathal Moran, Peter Farrell, David Murphy, and Michael Ryan. Sub. used - Tommy Farrell.

At National School level good work is being done by local headmaster, Tony Dalton.

The Black & Whites had the privilege of being represented on the Irish Shinty team through Pat O'Grady. It was Pat's second year on the team and this year he had the honour of captaining the team. The match ended in a six-all draw, Pat being the scorer of two goals.

BARROW RANGERS

BARROW RANGERS started off in January 1991 with victory presentation celebrations to mark 1990, the greatest year in the history of the Club when three titles were brought to the Parish - Junior Hurling, Intermediate Football and U/21 Hurling. Fifty-three players received a total of 129 medals.

Following this, 1991 was always going to be a difficult year to maintain momentum, and so it proved to be. The under-21 team moved up a grade and were most unlucky to lost by a last-minute goal to Clara.

The Special Junior Hurling team had a good run in the League, reaching the final where they were beaten by a slicker Conahy outfit. Conahy also beat them in the Championship by the narrowest of margins.

The Senior footballers were beaten in all their games and avoided relegation only because one of the teams failed to field a team in the other section and accordingly was relegated.

The Intermediate hurling team started out with a game against neighbours and old rivals Young Irelands, Gowran. A couple of flashes of genius by D. J. Carey was the difference between the teams. In the second match, O'Loughlin's had a narrow victory in a game of poor quality.

The first point was picked up against Dicksboro but it should really have been two, as they allowed the 'Boro to come back at the end. The match against Conahy Shamrocks was probably one of the best in the whole series with the spoils shared, effectively putting an end to Championship success for both.

The long lay-off of thirteen weeks was no help to Rangers as they had gathered some momentum in the games against Conahy and Dicksboro. This was very evident in the game against the Rower-Inistioge when it took them over half the game to get some rhythm going, and in the end were unlucky to lose by two points.

With Conahy beating O'Loughlin's, this left Rangers in a play-off with Tullogher to



Pat O'Grady (left) (Blacks & Whites) captained the Irish Shinty team against Scotland, in Limerick, during the year. Also in the picture is former GAA President, John Dowling, and the Scotland captain, Alistair Patterson.

Pic: T. O'Neill

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avoid relegation. To their credit, they prepared well and this commitment was rewarded with a fine victory which allowed them to retain their intermediate status for next season.

There was a positive side to the club, however, when the Minor team reached

the Northern Final where they were beaten by Conahy Shamrocks. When one considers that all but two of this panel are eligible for minor grade next season there is some hope there.

Of course, the highlight of the year for the club was the part played by Dermot Maher and to a lesser extent Ed Drea in

bringing a Minor All-Ireland to the county. Dermot's display in the All-Ireland Final was really outstanding, scoring three wonderful points. David Holmes was a prominent member of the Kilkenny Junior Hurling team beaten in the All-Ireland by Tipperary.

Well done, lads!

BENNETTSBRIDGE



Bennettsbridge – Special Junior B Team and Officials

Back row – Terry Brennan, John Lawlor, John Dowling, Bill Lanigan, Declan Furlong, Larry Cleere, Paul Forde, Michael O'Shea, Pat Connell, Terence Cashin, Peter Dooley (selector), Steve Walsh, Ray Ryan, John Connolly, Michael Shiels, Conor Dooley. **Front row** – Martin Furlong (Chairman), James Dowling, Robin Kiehy, Martin Treacy, Billy Crowe, Michael Bourke (capt.), John Barry, Alan Forde, Michael Cullen, Liam O'Neill, Kieran Crowe

OUR year got off to a good start with our Intermediate hurlers scoring impressive wins over Piltown and Callan in the opening two rounds of the Championship. We were then unlucky to lose our next two games to Thomastown by two points and Carrickshock by the minimum. We beat Tullogher-Rosbercon in our last game to qualify for the quarter-final. In the quarter-final we had to give best to a determined Dicksboro team who went on to win the championship.

The highlight of the hurling year was undoubtedly our Special Junior B Championship win. This team had a mixture of youth and experience and they jelled together extremely well. They stormed through the Northern Championship.

In the final they came up against Carrickshock who had looked impressive when winning the Southern Championship. The final itself was a great game of hurling with both sides having chances to win. In the final quarter Bennettsbridge pulled away to win.

It was our first adult hurling title for a number of years. Great credit for this win is due to the never-say-die attitude and determination of the players and a good backroom team. I have no doubt that a number of these players will graduate to the Intermediate team next year.

At under-age level our teams did not enjoy much success but turned in some

fine performances. Our U-14 hurlers were defeated by Tullaroan (eventual winners) in a thrilling game played at Callan. Our U-16 and Minor hurlers also turned in some fine performances and were unlucky not to progress further.

On the handball front, Kilfane Handball Club had a tremendous year. Highlight of the year being victories for two of our juvenile players – Willie Murphy winning an All-Ireland medal in the U-15 singles and Ian Hanrahan partnered by Alan Hawe (Windgap) winning the U-14 doubles All-Ireland. Brendan Walpole, Perry Holden and Adrian Walpole also represented

Kilkenny in the under-age championships, giving a good account of themselves.

Our club is very proud of Liam Simpson's achievement in gaining his place on the Kilkenny team. He turned in a number of fine performances with Kilkenny and we are sure he will have a great career with the Senior team.

All-in-all, it was a good year and has given us hope for the future. Getting the club back in the Senior ranks is proving a difficult task, but with the determination of the players and a very hard-working backroom team, next year could be our year to win that elusive Intermediate Hurling title.

CARRICKSHOCK

NINETEEN-NINETY-ONE was a very successful year in terms of performances by teams from the club. The Intermediate team put up some great performances during the year, notably against the Rower-Inistioge in the second half and Gowran in the semi-final. They also won the 1916 Commemoration tournament beating Tullaroan in the final.

They also qualified for tournament finals in Carrigeen and Hugginstown. Injuries were a serious blow to the club during the year. Three key players were injured from the Intermediate team and it was a great

tribute to the players who replaced them that we still came within one point of qualifying for the final.

Great credit must be given to team trainer, Paddy Johnston, for his outstanding dedication and commitment to the club during the year. With Paddy again at the helm for the coming year, the club is really looking forward with optimism.

The Special Junior team gave a great display to win the Southern Final and were involved in a very enjoyable County Final, being narrowly beaten by Bennettsbridge.

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Our under-13 team from Newmarket school won the first ever 11-a-side county final, beating a gallant Windgap side after a replay. Credit must be given to the Schools' Board for the introduction of this competition as it gives the smaller parishes a better chance. Great credit must be given to Tom Duggan, teacher, for his work with this team and also to Tom Hoyne who helped in every way.

The 1990 Minor League County Final resulted in a draw between Carrickshock and Kilmacow, after a great game of hurling. Kilmacow, however, won the replay.

At inter-county level the club was well represented with Richie Power and Pat Dwyer doing well in the All-Ireland. Christy Dwyer and Patrick Farrell won Leinster Junior medals with Kilkenny. William

Duggan and Pdraig Rohan won All-Ireland medals with Kildalton Agricultural College.

During the year, three Gaels who hurled with the club passed away to their eternal reward. Luke Gaule won Co. Senior Championship medals with Carrickshock, being part of the four-in-a-row team from 1940-1943. William "Duks" Kelly won in 1931. Billy Treacy won in 1951.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a h-ainmneacha.

CLONEEN



Pictured is the Cloneen team which won the Paddy Cahill Cup Final in Ballyragget against Blacks & Whites. **Back row** – Pat Wilson, Larry Buggy, Pat Maher, Tim Wilson (Treasurer), Johnny Lawler, Tom Brennan (Chairman), Michael Delaney, Willie Brennan (Selector), Larry Brennan, Donal Brennan (Vice-Chairman), Charlie McCarthy (Secretary). **Middle** – Thomas Brennan (Watson), Thomas Brennan (Fr. Raftice Place), Thomas Brennan (Cloney), Sean Meally, Damien Walsh, John Cahill, Sean Lawler, Tommy Brennan, Brian Walsh, Adrian Brennan, Noel Kerr, Michael Maher, Ted Cahill, Tom Brennan (President). **Front** – Jerry Meally (selector), Raymond Mooney, Michael Feehan, Florence Brennan, Eddie Mahon, Brendan Smyth, Don Lawler (captain) and Paul Browne.

AFTER a disappointing exit from the Championship in a replay against Galmoy and a not too impressive performance in the league, Cloneen seemed to find their form in the Paddy Cahill Cup.

Against Clara in the first round, they travelled to Palmerstown short nine regulars, but with four under-16 players in the team, they put on a spirited performance to win by eight points. In the second round in Nowlan Park they came up against their bogey team and championship conquerors, Galmoy, and on this occasion in a very competitive match they laid the Galmoy bogey to rest in impressive fashion.

The semi-final in Ballyragget was against the very impressive James Stephens who were league champions. It was real championship hurling with nothing between the sides until big Pat Maher on his return after a year out through injury scored two brilliant goals which decided the match and put Cloneen in the final.

Despite the dull, damp evening there was a good attendance in Ballyragget for the final in which the opposition was

Blacks & Whites – never a soft touch. It was a close encounter for about 40 minutes until Florence Brennan took complete control at midfield to lay on several fine attacks resulting in a series of scores from Brendan Smyth, Paul Browne, Tommy Dwyer and Don Lawlor, giving Cloneen a comfortable win at the end.

This was Cloneen's best year to date at juvenile level, with all three teams doing extremely well. The Under-16s came

through the North only to lose to Mullinavat in the County Semi-final. The Under-14 team went unbeaten through the eleven-a-side league and capped a fine year by winning the Tara Ryan tournament, beating host club Erin's Own in a replay.

A feature that caught the headlines during the year was the performance of the two corner forwards, Sharon O'Neill and Deirdre Hosey.

CLARA

IN the Senior Hurling Championship Clara had one of those years where "Lady Luck" had a big influence on the year's campaign. The team trained exceptionally hard during the Spring months and hopes were high as championship time approached. However, before the first encounter against Mullinavat in Thomastown, injuries and retirements dealt a savage blow to the club's chances.

For one reason or another the club lined

out without the services of Paddy Prendergast, Tom Ryan, Eugene Byrne, Lester Ryan, Pat Campion and Kevin Ryan. The handicap was too enormous and Mullinavat emerged victorious. Injuries were to play a huge part in all subsequent matches. We were beaten by Tullaroan and we were very unfortunate to lose to the Fenians of Johnstown. St. Martin's inflicted a heavy defeat on our depleted forces, and so we faced

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Glenmore in our penultimate outing.

The shock of the season was very much on the cards in Bennettsbridge. Our lads really set the grass on fire as they outhurled the All-Ireland Club Champions. But three points from Ray Hefferman in the last five minutes saw the Southerners through. So we faced a relegation battle against Mooncoin in Callan.

In truth, it was the first time the lads really hurled with a firm belief in their own ability. This was a titanic battle – the pity was that either side had to lose. In one of the best matches of the year we eventually saved our senior status – but only just!

On the minor scene the club had a very

successful year indeed. It was a year full of activity – the team played sixteen matches in all. They eventually went out of the Championship to an excellent Castlecomer team.

Two members from our Minor team collected All-Ireland medals. Robert Shortall collected his second medal while Mark Galvan collected his first.

On the club activity front the building of our brand new clubhouse was commenced. The whole complex is estimated to finish in early '92. The building will house two dressing rooms, shower units, toilets, kitchen and meeting rooms.

Probably the team that has given us most pleasure during 1991 is our under-21 squad. In our opening game against

Paulstown a very late goal by Robert Shortall snatched victory from our neighbours. We beat James Stephens in the next round in a titanic battle in Bennettsbridge and then it was on to Callan to play Ballycallan in the Northern Semi-finals. Thanks to star performances by Brian Hanrahan and Robert Shortall we just about deserved to win.

We then faced the all-conquering Dicksboro in the Northern Final. Our lads fought tooth and nail to win the title, and they were a credit to the club. The fact that most of the team are eligible next year augers well for the club's future. We were led at half-time by 2-4 to 0-1. In a spirited fight-back after the break we were just that little short of finishing power and the 'Boro men won through by 2-6 to 1-3.

CONAHY SHAMROCKS

WHILE many titles did not come to the club during the year, it was, nevertheless, a memorable one for the club. Teams representing the club excelled at both hurling and football during the year and with a little luck a couple of county titles could have come to Conahy.

The club's main adult team was back in the Intermediate grade this year and despite real expectations at the beginning of the year they made the worst possible start when losing to the Rower-Inistioge. It was a disappointing year overall for the team and it took a great display in the final game against a fancied O'Loughlin Gaels to avoid a play-off for relegation to the Junior grade.

It could have been so different, though, had the team won games against Barrow Rangers and Young Irelands. Conahy had excellent chances of success in both these games but only picked up one point following a draw against Barrow Rangers.

With some excellent young players coming through the prospects in this grade for the future look promising. The team finished the year on a bright note when defeating St. Lachtain's to win the Ballyragget hurling tournament.

The team of the year was undoubtedly the club's Special Junior side which gave many fine displays when capturing the newly inaugurated Northern League Division 3. The team was somewhat unfortunate to lose the Northern Special Junior "B" final by one point to the eventual county champions, Bennettsbridge. This team mainly consisted of Minor and Under-21 players. The new leagues operated by the Northern Board during the year were an outstanding success and the Board's officers are to be complimented on their efficient running of the competition.

The Intermediate football side had an eventual year, reaching the county final where they lost out to Dicksboro after a

replay. The year started brightly, with a good win over Graiguenamanagh. Two defeats followed against Dicksboro and Kilmacow and suddenly the year seemed finished for the Conahy lads. When Graiguenamanagh unexpectedly defeated Kilmacow it forced a three-way play-off between Graiguenamanagh, Kilmacow and Conahy. Playing some smashing football, Conahy came through both games in impressive fashion to qualify for the county semi-final against Tullogher. After a hard-fought game Conahy came through by the narrowest of margins to meet Dicksboro in the county final.

Conahy opened impressively against Dicksboro, scoring an early penalty. Defensive blunders saw the side concede two goals during the game and when Dicksboro led by six points with ten minutes remaining there seemed little hope for Conahy, particularly as the team was down to fourteen men and playing

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Conahy Shamrocks – Northern Junior Hurling Division 3 Winners

Back – James Brennan, Martin Nolan, Tom Brennan, Ciaran Muldowney, Pat Nolan, Paddy Delaney, James Lawless, Kenny Dooley, James Loughlin, Eoin Murphy.
Front – Kevin Healy, Shane Mulhall, Peter Birch, Martin O'Shea (capt.), Padraig Downey, Peter Mulhall, Michael O'Regan, Michael Watters, Larry Deevy, Brian Lacey.

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against the stiff breeze. Showing a great fighting spirit, the team slowly pegged back the lead to draw the game on a 2-4 each deadline.

The replay took place on a wet Sunday morning and the conditions made good football difficult. Conahy dominated the opening half but their three points lead at the interval was not a fair reflection on their first-half dominance. Conahy were to pay the penalty for these missed opportunities when city side Dicksboro took over in the second half. Conahy never played with any fluency in the second half and eventually lost out on the score of 0-7 to 0-4.

It was a disappointing end to a long year for the footballers. There was some consolation for Conahy when Eamonn Delaney won the Man of the Match award sponsored by Hennessy Sports. The club's Man of the Match award for the first game which was sponsored by Paddy Healy was won by Kieran Brennan. For the replay the Newpark Hotel sponsored the Man of the Match award and this was won by Nickey Brennan. Conahy fielded a Junior football team this year but lost out in the first round to Ballyragget.

The minor hurlers had a magnificent year, reaching both the championship and league county finals. The team performed with remarkable consistency during the year. The standard in the minor "B" grade was remarkably high this year and the county final between Conahy and Dunamaggin was one of the best games of the year.

Conahy played a number of very exciting games during the year against neighbours St. Lachtain's and St. Patrick's, with only a puck of the ball between the sides on each occasion. Dunamaggin had four points to spare over Conahy in the county final. It was a game Conahy might have won but on the day the Southerners proved the stronger side. At the time of writing the same sides qualified to meet in the League Final.

The Under-21 hurlers made a promising start when defeating St. Patrick's and qualifying for the Northern Final against Tullaroan. With a team composed of ten on the Minor side, they lost out by four points, following the concession of two soft goals.

The Under-16 hurling and football teams had no success, while the Under-14 side gave a number of impressive displays during the year.

The Under-13 side gave a number of great performances during the year but narrowly lost out in qualifying for the knock-out stages of the competition.

Conahy's All-Ireland medal haul was increased during the year when Ciaran Connery was a member of the successful Kilkenny Minor hurling panel. Another honour to come the club's way during the year was the selection of Canice Brennan as the County Intermediate

Footballer of the Year, sponsored by Newpark Hotel.

Although the club does not have its own camogie team, quite a number of players from the parish play with either Lisdowney or St. Lachtain's. Pride of place goes to Mary Brennan who played a key

role with the Kilkenny Minor team which defeated Galway in the All-Ireland final.

The past year was historic for the Conahy club when Nickey Brennan was elected Chairman of the County Board, thus becoming the first Conahy person to attain such a position.

CARRIGEEN



OFFICIAL OPENING ASPER PARK, CARRIGEEN, JUNE 1, 1991

FRONT (l-r): Peter Walsh (President, R.I.P.), Tony Mulvanney (Secretary, Antrim Co. Board), Nicky Brennan (Chairman, Kilkenny Co. Board), Paddy Buggy (officially opened the Park), Barrie Henriques (Chairman, South Board G.A.A.), Richie Quinn (Chairman, Carrigeen).

BACK (l-r): Fr. Norton P.P., Mooncoin; Councillor John Maher, Councillor Dick Dunphy, Eugene Fitzgerald (Secretary), Pat Dalton (Committee).

It was an exciting year for the Carrigeen Hurling and Football Club. The long held aspirations and ideals of Joe Fewer and his committee back in 1954 came to fruition when on Saturday, June 1st, Mr. Paddy Buggy, former President of GAA, officially opened our own club grounds and clubhouse.

Further history was created when the men from the Glens of Antrim obliged us by travelling all the way from their North East stronghold to take on the Kilkenny team in the first official inter-county match after the opening ceremony.

The evening was nice, though rather cold, but the hurling was full-blooded with Kilkenny running out facile winners after sixty minutes.

It was an historic evening, too, for all our members, but particularly our President, Peter Walsh, who, unfortunately, has since gone to his eternal reward. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a n-anam.

On the official podium that evening, in addition to Paddy Buggy and Peter Walsh, were Fr. Norton P.P., Mooncoin' Councillors John Maher and Dick Dunphy; Eugene Fitzgerald, secretary; Pat Dalton, Tony Mulvanney, secretary, Antrim Co. Board; Nicky Brennan, Chairman, Kilkenny Co.

Board; Barry Henriques, Chairman, South Board, and Richie Quinn, chairman.

On a point of information, the late Peter Walsh was the nephews of Bob O'Keeffe, after whom the Leinster Senior Hurling trophy is named. The whole event could not have been possible without the assistance of our Carrigeen and Mooncoin supporters, who "put up" all the Antrim visitors, and ensure that a great Kilkenny welcome was on the mat for every one of them.

Our park is called Asper Park, in memory of the greatest supporter our club has known. Having rented the present field from Mickey Asper, we eventually purchased it from him in 1981, at a nominal fee. Development commenced immediately, until finally the present grounds became the reality they now are, with first class changing facilities and a quality tennis court.

On the playing side of our club, we competed with little success in the Junior championship, but indications are that success on the playing fields is not too far away. With a little more dedication, and fitness, a little luck, the good times are just around the corner.

DICKSBORO

It's Senior all the way for Dicksboro



Dicksboro – Junior "A" Camogie Champions 1991

Back: Catherine Conway, Siobhan Dooley, Geraldine Kennedy, Ann Stapleton, Michelle Gaine, Bridie McGarry, Mary McEvoy, Nicola Tynan, Aisling Delaney, Ann Sunderland, Lilian Kavanagh, Mary Fry, Teresa Wall, Pauline Hogan, Niamh Doran, Tom O'Donoghue (Trainer). **Front:** Shirley Ann Morrissey, Claire Meaney, Sinead Fry (capt.), Emily Coyne, Patricia Treacy, Evelyn Maher, Ann Delaney, Julie Fry, Ann Marie Trait, Aileen Leahy. Mascots – Niamh and Edward O'Donoghue, Tadhg and Naideen O'Dwyer.

IT WAS a hectic week-end. Dicksboro officials were busy early on Saturday morning preparing for the annual Billy Hogan/Tommy Martin Under-14 hurling blitz. The weather was kind and all eight matches were played schedule; officials from six teams were given refreshments by the ladies' committee and club chairman Eugene Begley was a little more rushed than usual in presenting the trophies sponsored by Michael Byrne.

The reason for the rush was that everyone in Dicksboro also had an afternoon date. Some were off to St. John's Park for the County Under-13 football final which had one of the club nurseries – Kilkenny C.B.S. – in action; the others had to get to Tullaroan for the Minor hurling league tie against Craigue-Ballycallan.

Sunday morning was no less hectic. Sixty-seven boys had entered the Under-12 hurling league and managers, referees and officials all had their hands full getting the games over on time. Why the rush? Because the next game on their schedule was at St. John's Park where Dicksboro's footballers were replaying the Intermediate football final against Conahy Shamrocks.

Luckily, the minor hurlers lost. Luckily? If they had won, then the Dicksboro army of supporters would have had to rush from St. John's Park, to Thomastown for the Minor hurling league semi-final.

This frenetic activity was not typical of every week-end during the year for the city club, but it was indicative of an incredibly active and successful year for the club.

Catering for two teams in Under-14, Under-16 and Minor hurling; one team in each of those grades in football; Under-21, Junior and Intermediate in both hurling and football; camogie teams at Under-14, Minor, Under-18 and Junior levels; organising leagues for the huge under-age population of the catchment area as well as managing a successful club complex put many of the club's members under intense pressure.

It was, of course, worth it in the end. Dicksboro has now taken its rightful place as a Senior club in hurling, football and camogie.

HURLING

Two county hurling titles were won in 1991 with the other teams in contention right to the finish, while Dicksboro star Dan O'Neill won the hearts of every

Kilkenny Gael when he captained Kilkenny to Minor hurling All-Ireland success.

Pride of place, of course, goes to the Intermediate hurlers. Trained this year by Pat Henderson, they had their high hopes given an early jolt when a late goal by O'Loughlin's gave Dicksboro's city rivals the first points of the championship. Victory against Conahy Shamrocks was followed by a draw against Barrow Rangers, when the club was forced by exams to field an extremely weakened side.

The final league game against Gowran was set to be the decider – but a win for Conahy over O'Loughlin's on the previous evening meant that Dicksboro had reached the quarter-finals.

Nevertheless, they played their Gowran tie as if their hopes depended on it and got a handsome victory to boost their confidence.

The quarter-final against Bennettsbridge was a bruising affair but the 'Boro showed composure under pressure to win through to a semi-final against Thomastown. Despite sluggish play early in this tie, the city boys were on top at the end and had won a final spot against Gowran.

Short star midfielder Dan O'Neill, Dicksboro overcame an early penalty by D. J. Carey to fight back and, with Man of the Match Liam Kerwick scoring 2-7, a famous victory and Senior status was achieved.

Never was a win celebrated with such enthusiasm!

The second title was also one never won

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by the club before – although it was won three times under the name Kilkenny C.B.S. The Under-14 hurling championship got off to an indifferent start when it took a late goal to beat O'Loughlin's. Then it was a sparkling display against Graigue/Ballycallan and an equally good display against James Stephens.

There was much to-ing and fro-ing before the semi-final against Mooncoin was played at Thomastown. It was a triumph for Richard Barry who scored freely from midfield to achieve victory and a final spot against Graigue/Ballycallan.

The final was a thriller at Nowlan Park with Dicksboro thankful to late Derek Deegan points to earn a replay. The replay was delayed until November when a five-star David Carroll display and a brilliant Wesley Egan goal were the hallmarks of a famous victory.

Only time will tell if a third hurling title will be won by the time this book reaches the shelves of newsagents. Our under-21 hurlers, after victories over St. Martin's, Castlecomer and a magnificent comeback after a 12-point deficit early in the second half against Gowran, can overcome Clara and the southern champions to win the title.

We lost our title of last year – Minor championship – when we lost heavily to a fine James Stephens side after a fine display in the earlier round against Erin's Own while Under-16s (James Stephens) and Junior hurlers (Fenians) all gave creditable displays before bowing out.

The hurling future of Dicksboro appears secure. Our Under-13 hurlers played in the Lisdowney Coca Cola Sevens for the first time and were successful while over 60 Under-12 and over 100 Under-10 hurlers contested recent street leagues.

FOOTBALL

Highlight of the football year was the display of our intermediate side. With Peter Dukelow and Tony Dunning at the helm, they beat Kilmacow, Conahy Shamrocks and Graignamanagh to reach the county semi-final.

A facile victory at the expense of a weakened St. Lachtain's team brought them a final showdown against earlier victims, Conahy Shamrocks.

A six-point lead midway through the second half was frittered away and Conahy earned a well-deserved replay.

The replay saw Conahy lead for much of the match but some well-taken points late in the game ensured that the brilliant display of David Beirne did not go unrewarded.

Our Under-16 players did not lose a game but did not get to play in the final stages of the championship, our Under-14 footballers lost to a fine Mooncoin team in the county semi-final while our Under-21 and Minors wait for their first round ties.

CAMOGIE

Tom O'Donoghue's work with the



Dicksboro – Winners of the Lisdowney Coca Cola Seven-a-Side

Front row: Patrick Walsh, Robert Falsey, Richard Barry, Michael Falsey, Mark Gaffney. **Back row:** Denis Brennan, Brian Power, Alan Barry, Cathal McDonald, Niall O'Gorman.

camogie girls has earned them a place in Senior ranks next year. Victories over Tullaroan, Clara, Freshford and Lisdowney in the Junior A championship brought them to the semi-final against Mooncoin.

The southerners came a cropper to a well-drilled Dicksboro side and a second team from the south – Glenmore – also fell to give Dicksboro a unique treble: hurling, football and camogie in 1991.

In the Minor B championship Dicksboro got off to a poor start, losing successive games to Castlecomer and Tullaroan but they came good against Shamrocks, James Stephens and Carrickshock and then beat Castlecomer in a play-off for a semi-final position.

Having beaten Mooncoin in the semi-final they were no match for Tullaroan in the final.

Dicksboro camogies ladies also won the Dicksboro Tournament and reached the final of the Ardkeen Tournament.

HONOURS

At the presentation of the Newpark Hotel awards recently, two Dicksboro men were honoured. John Marnell was awarded the "Intermediate Player of the Year" trophy while Dan O'Neill won the "Under-age Player of the Year".

This huge amount of success on the field was balanced by great activity off it. As well as organising a successful bar and pavilion, Dicksboro has its own highly successful set-dancing team and a large and dedicated band of officials to ensure that the club is kept on an even keel.

1992 will be a very interesting and important year, indeed, for Dicksboro G.A.A. club.

DICKSBORO COMMITTEE 1991

Intermediate Hurling Selectors: E. Begley, J. Marnell, J. Mulrooney, S. Fitzpatrick, J. Cahill.

Intermediate Football Selectors: T. Dunning, S. Kennedy, M. Handrick, P. Dukelow, M. Byrne.

Finance Committee: S. Fitzpatrick, M. Byrne, E. Brennan, N. Buggy, T. Dunning, A. Walton, S. Tynan, J. McGarry.

Bye Laws: Fr. P. Bollard, Br. J. J. Cahill, J. McGarry, T. O'Brien.

Field Day Committee: T. Dunning, T. Knox, J. McGarry, S. Tynan, R. Mulrooney, S. Fitzpatrick, F. Cody, J. Cahill.

Junior Hurling Selectors: J. Cahill, T. Dunning, M. Byrne, J. Hogan, Br. J. J. Cahill.

Under-21 Selectors (Hurling and Football): J. Mulrooney, D. Philpott, M. Morrissey, T. Butler, J. Marnell, J. Cahill.

Grounds/Development: J. Walton, T. Maher, P. Hogan, J. McGarry, J. Hogan, J. Phelan, K. Moore, S. Tynan, N. Deevey, C. Malone, J. Kennedy, J. Cahill, K. Ryan, J. Mulrooney, M. Maher.

Dicksboro Yearbook Committee: R. Mulrooney, G. O'Neill, N. Buggy, T. O'Brien.

Camogie

Chairman, T. O'Donoghue.

Secretary, S. Fry.

Treasurer, E. Maher.

P.R.O., A. Stapleton.

Committee: G. Dwyer, M. Cahill, J. Fry, J. Connick, C. Meaney, M. Fry.

Under 14/16 Selectors: J. Connick, J. Fry.

Under 18/21 Selectors: S. Fry, E. Maher, C. Meaney.

Junior Selectors: T. Donoghue.

Juvenile Committee: Chairman, Kevin Ryan; Vice-Chairman, Richard Mulrooney; Secretary, Tommy O'Brien; Treasurer, Tom Knox.

Delegates to Bórd na nOg: Martin Morrissey and Kevin Ryan.

Committee members: J. Phelan, M. Byrne, P. Trait, N. Deevey, M. Maher, J. Treacy, E. Begley, C. Malone, F. Cody, T. Gaffney, D. Philpott, P. Hogan, M. Morrissey, M. Treacy, D. Carroll, G. O'Neill, S. Tynan, T. Dunning, T. Cunniffe.

DUNAMAGGIN 1991

THE Junior hurlers set off in the Championship with high hopes of success. With a grand mixture of youth and experience they fell at the first hurdle to eventual County Champions, Glenmore. A similar fate awaited them against Slieverue but they got their act together to beat Mooncoin in their third game. Failure in their two remaining matches against Kilmacow and Windgap could not be tolerated.

They drew against Kilmacow which set up a needle game against near neighbours Windgap. They had to win to get into a three-way play-off situation where two teams from Dunamaggin, Kilmacow and Windgap would qualify for the two remaining semi-final spots.

We beat our neighbours by four points, and we were then paired to play them again in the first play-off match. This contest ended in a draw in what was considered one of the best junior matches of the year. The replay was just as exciting. It boiled over somewhat in the second half, which saw the sidelining of three players. We beat our neighbours by 5 points, and so faced Slieverue in the semi-final. We trailed at half time by two points, having played against a very strong breeze. However, Slieverue turned on the pressure in the second half — pressure to which our lads had no answer. Slieverue ran out easy winners to qualify for the Southern Final against Glenmore. It is hard to comprehend what went wrong with our

lads in the second half.

The disappointing team of the year had to be our Under-21 squad. A big question must hang over the attitude of players, who, on the face of it, should have at least contested a South Final. The surprise team of the year was our Minor team. Considered to be on the very young side, these lads crowned themselves with glory by winning their County Final with a brilliant display of dedication and pride. At Juvenile level our youngsters were brilliant.

Our Under-16's won the County League title and were very unlucky to be beaten by Piltown in the Championship. The under-14 boys were back in Roinn A competition with the big guns. They were just beaten by one point in their semi-final by Graigue-Ballycallan in a match that some people thought we could have won. Our under-13's had a magnificent victory in the County Final against near neighbours Callan on an evening in Nowlan Park, never to be forgotten.

Jim Hickey collected an All-Ireland medal with Kilkenny. Seán Ryan and Richie O'Neill won Leinster Junior medals while Jim Hickey, Denis Lahart, Tom Hickey and Paul Kearney won All-Ireland Colleges' medals with Callan C.B.S.

The prestigious "Club of the Year" award was deservedly conferred on Mattie Mackey at the County Awards dinner in Newpark Hotel, Kilkenny, in November.

DANESFORT

1991 was not a very successful year for the Club, as regards titles won, but teams competed well in all hurling championships and perhaps with a little bit of luck a title or two might have returned to the club.

However, it is not all "doom and gloom" as the amount of young people who attend the field for training and matches during the summer evenings, watched over by a hard-working juvenile committee, gives great hope for the future.

There was certainly no shortage of success on an individual basis. As club members captured six All-Ireland medals in 1991. Pride of place here must go to Larry Mahoney who fought off injuries to play a starring role for Kilkenny minors at full-back in that memorable All-Ireland Minor Final against Tipperary and capture his second successive minor medal.

Three other club members won All-Ireland medals with Callan C.B.S. — Richie Walsh, Declan Keogh and Brendan Mullin and the afore-mentioned Larry Mahoney and J.J. Drennan won All-Ireland Agricul-

tural Colleges medals with Kildalton. The club is justly proud of their achievements and hope that their success will act as inspiration to others, and act as a foundation to build successful club teams in the future.

The Club is also at the moment in the process of raising funds to build new dressingrooms and is deeply indebted to local farmers who have taken in calves to rear for the club, which will be sold next year to raise much-needed finance. It is hoped to start building in the spring as it would be a terrific facility to have in the G.A.A. Park. We could not talk about the pitch in Danesfort without paying tribute to Jimmy Cahill who keeps the field in such immaculate condition — long may it continue.

The Club is running a very successful winter league at present for all ages and it is great to see so many players come out and play hurling on these Sunday mornings. Let us hope that their efforts will bring success to Danesfort in 1992.

ERIN'S OWN

A COUNTY semi-final appearance in 1991 was the highlight of the year for the Erin's Own senior hurlers. After a very poor start to the campaign, when they lost the first two games to the Ballyhale Shamrocks and Graignamanagh, this young side picked itself up and won the next four matches against Mooncoin, James Stephens, Graigue-Ballycallan and the Fenians from Johnstown in the quarter-final.

The team was now in the county semi-final where they met the eventual County Champions, the Ballyhale Shamrocks. In that game the 'Comer side performed well below par and were decisively beaten in the end.

The Erin's Own panel this year was: T. Brophy, E. Coogan, P. Healy, C. Young, P. Brophy, T. Brennan, M. Brophy, J. Kelly, D. O'Rourke, J. Buggy, J. Breen, E. Holland, B. Young, F. Slevin, E. Connery, C. Brennan, J. Brennan, B. O'Neill, P. Rice, C. Meagher, M. Owens, M. Brennan, M. Fogarty, S. Coogan, T. Dwyer, V. Brannelly. The team manager was Larry O'Neill and the selectors, along with Larry, were: Peter Boran and Harold Stone.

Erin's Own also reached the semi-final stages of the Byrne Cup competition where they went down by a big margin to the Rower-Inistioge in Callan. Along the way the 'Comer side had good wins over John Lockes, Thomastown and Mullinavat.

The club won two tournaments during the year. In the Blacks & Whites sponsored tournament they defeated Graignamanagh, while in the Carrickshock tournament they captured the trophy at the expense of Mooncoin.

Erin's Own joined forces this year with Cloneen in the Under-21 hurling championship. Fielding as Castlecomer, the holders for the past two years were out at the first hurdle on this occasion. In a tense game in Jenkinstown, Dicksboro came through thanks to a last minute goal. The dreams of a hat-trick of victories in this grade were shattered despite the best efforts of the team and selectors Martin Brennan, Peter Boran, Dinny Brennan and Michael Holden.

The minor side was also a combination of Erin's Own and Cloneen and operated in Roinn A. Despite good performances in the League against James Stephens, The Fenians and Graigue-Ballycallan, the team failed to record a win. Castlecomer met city side Dicksboro in the first round of the championship but again had to give second best. Dinny Brennan was team manager and his fellow selectors were Paddy Phelan, Michael Holden and Martin Brennan.

The Erin's Own Junior team played 18 games during the year, winning eight, losing eight and drawing two. Over these

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Christy Brennan, the Erin's Own captain, receives the County Under-21 Championship trophy for 1990 from former County Board Chairman, Paddy Buggy. Pic. I. O'Neill

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games thirty-eight different players donned the Erin's Own jersey. In the Michael Kelly tournament the team defeated St. Martin's in the semi-final but lost out to Threecastles in a well contested final. Danesfort proved too strong on home territory in the first round of the Open draw competition.

The Northern Junior League Division 2 saw Erin's Own record good wins over Graigue/Ballycallan and Tullaroan and qualified to meet the Fenians in the semi-final. After a replay the 'Comer side lost out by two points. The Johnstown side ran out easy winners of the competition. In the championship the team put up a spirited performance against Lisdowney but at the end had to give second best. In the Paddy Cahill Cup the team were short a number of players who had graduated to the senior side but nevertheless they gave an excellent performance to defeat Danesfort. Following a draw with Threecastles in the next round they were pipped in the replay.

GLENMORE

THE year 1991 will go down as the greatest year in the history of the Club. The club, as Kilkenny Champions, won the Leinster Club Championship by beating Camross of Laois. Dunloy from Antrim were taken care of in the All-Ireland semi-final, and so it was on to Croke Park on St. Patrick's Day for the biggest occasion the club will ever see. Our opponents in the All-Ireland were the Limerick and Munster champions, Patrickswell. Due credit and honour must be accorded the many people who brought the great honour to the "little village".

In the Kilkenny Championship our senior team just failed to make the County Final, going down to St. Martin's by two points. This was probably the price we paid for our All-Ireland success. In the Senior Football Championship our lads were downed by the Rilyard at the semi-final stage as well. Much was expected of our Special Junior team, but due to a combination of injury, and players being hijacked for other teams, we had to give second best to Carrickshock in the south semi-final.

So, the only adult team left in competition was our Junior team. No expense or effort was spared as the lads were driven towards the Southern title, firstly, and ultimately the County title. We were unlucky to be beaten by Lisdowney in the Junior Open Draw — the eventual

GRAIGNAMANAGH

OUR Club can be well pleased with the progress made over the past year. The appointment of Wexford star, Paudge Courtenay, as coach, seemed to put a considerable amount of "extra pep" into our players, who responded wholeheartedly to this enthusiasm in training.

We started the senior campaign with hard-earned but well deserved wins over Mooncoin and Erin's Own, but then a below-par performance against James Stephens brought us back to *terra firma* rapidly. But then we had a terrific draw against Graigue/Ballycallan and qualified to meet the mighty Shamrocks for a quarter-final spot.

Unfortunately, Kilkenny's premier club inflicted a narrow defeat on our young

winners. History was to repeat itself, because the last time Glenmore won the Junior title in 1980, the captain was Paddy Murphy — the same man was to "skipper the ship" in 1991.

Having taken care of Kilmacow — a keenly contested game — in the South semi-final, we faced a highly fancied Slieverue in the South Final. Our near neighbours, for some unknown reason, were no match for our soldiers and we ran out comprehensive winners. So it was on to Nowlan Park for the County Final against St. Lachtain's of Freshford — the Northern champions. After a hard game, and a Titanic effort by all concerned, we created history by being the first Kilkenny club to have teams competing in both Senior and Intermediate level in the same year.

At under-age level we had little success. Our under-16 team were beaten by Castlecomer in the County Final on a very wet, dreary evening in Bennettsbridge. Congratulations to Seamus Dollard on winning his second All-Ireland minor medal.

The Good Council (New Ross) team that defeated St. Kieran's College in the Leinster Junior Final included no less than six boys from the Glenmore club. They were Paddy and Richie Mullally, Paul and Willie Fitzgerald, John Phelan and Ciaran Lynch. In addition the New Ross CBS team that won the South Leinster Roinn 'C' Championship included Glenmore clubmen Mark Mullally and Thomas Barry.

The club were also delighted that Brigid Mullally played such a brilliant game in winning her second All-Ireland Camogie medal with Kilkenny.

Congratulations to Kenneth Cottrell on reaching the under-16 All-Ireland Handball final.

The club lost great friends during the year. Our sympathies go to the families of Bill Grace, Eddie O'Rourke, Jim Ryan and Joe Sinnott. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a n-ainmneacha.

team, but then it may be a blessing in disguise as many of our lads were tasting senior championship hurling for the first time. In fairness they acquitted themselves well and the future prospects for the club are very encouraging. We will have to soldier on next season without the assistance of star performer Jim Whelan, who has taken up U.N. duty in Lebanon.

Our minor team reached their second successive County Final only to taste the bitter pill of defeat against James Stephens. This year the parish united with the Blacks & Whites at under-age level which was of great assistance to both clubs. However, most of this minor team are under age next year again so we might just pull it off in 1992.

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Our under-16 football team had a marvellous year. They won their championship which more than made up for losing the League final to Muckalee. Every credit is due to Joe Fox for the great work he is putting in with these youngsters, and it's only a matter of time before his work will bear fruition at adult level.

Our off-the-field club activity was very hectic. The money earned from the County Board Piltown draw is invested in the fund that eventually will see the Harristown field becoming the property of the local club. In the event of that happening, the club will put contingency plans into immediate motion to develop the field to the highest possible standards.

Fran Doyle, Noel Dunne, Liam Fogarty and Leo Bolger brought home four All-Ireland Vocational Schools' medals with Kilkenny. No-one will forget the great display given by Ger Walsh in the All-Ireland Minor final as Kilkenny beat a highly fancied Tipperary outfit. Noel Dunne was also a sub goalie on the team. Paddy Corbett was a selector on the minor team.

Michael Dunne was the first Graignamagh man to play senior championship hurling for Kilkenny when he lined out against Wexford in the Leinster Championship.

Club P.R.O. Billy Hoare will be installed as chairman of Cumann na nBun Scoileanna for the coming year, and it is hoped he will be able to do something to

upgrade the interest in our local Primary School. Billy will be following in the footsteps of his former teacher, Michael Moore, N.T., who did such Trojan work locally before returning to Tullogher.

Former clubman, Michael Morrissey, won a Dublin senior championship with Cuala this year. One of the real success stories of the year has to be the winning of the South Under-21 Roinn 'A' championship. It was all the sweeter when you consider that our opponents in the final were our trusty foes of so many battles — the Shamrocks. The final was a nerve-tugging affair with the final result in the balance right to the end. However, this is a good outfit and their opponents in the County Final were the all-winning Dicksboro team

GRAIGUE/BALLYCALLAN

THE senior hurlers made a promising start to the senior hurling championship with victories over James Stephens and Mooncoin. Then followed a one goal defeat to the eventual champions, Shamrocks (short Liam Fennelly). A draw against Graignamagh left the team with hopes of figuring in the closing stages.

Just as happened the previous year when they again had a chance of qualifying, the team produced their worst display of the year, going down to a 1-5 to 0-5 defeat at the hands of Erin's Own. The display of the forwards was pathetic.

The Under-21 hurlers had a lucky 2-3 to 1-5 win over O'Loughlin Gaels and were highly fancied to beat Clara. Again the forwards let the team down and they were beaten by 0-10 to 1-6.

The minor hurlers lost out to O'Loughlin Gaels by 2-12 to 2-9, with a late goal giving victory to the city side. At the time of writing the minor hurlers are still on course to win the League, of which they are the holders of the John Tobin Memorial Cup.

The Under-14 hurlers reached the county final against Dicksboro and finished all-square, 1-2 to 0-5. Graigue/Ballycallan failed to score in the second half. The replay did not take place for three months when the city boys won by 3-3 to 1-7. After playing with the breeze in the first half, the locals did not do enough as their lead was just two points, 0-6 to 1-1. Dicksboro went into a four point lead with a soft goal ten minutes from time but had to defend desperately after Dermot Hoynes goal five minutes from the final whistle.

The Under-14 footballers qualified for the 'B' Northern Final where they played a draw with the Railyard, 0-7 to 1-4. The Railyard won the replay.

It was another successful year in the amount of medals collected on the National scene. Pride of place goes to Eddie Dwyer, Denis Byrne and Ger Ronan, who collected All-Ireland medals. The same three players, along with Damien



Cleere, John Manogue, John Byrne and Eamonn Marnell, helped Callan C.B.S. to win the All-Ireland Colleges' 'B' hurling final for the first time. Joseph Young was on the St. Kieran's panel which took the Leinster Colleges' juvenile hurling title.

Adrian Ronan collected his first Leinster senior hurling medal and took the Sunday Independent/ACC 'Man of the Match' award for his display in the final.

Others to play with county teams during the year were Noel Maher (Under-21), Damien Cleere capt. and James Young (Under-16 hurling), Paul Hoynes capt. and John Hoynes (Under-14 hurling), along with John Teehan and John Caldbeck (football).

Conor Manogue captained Kildalton Agricultural College to win the All-Ireland Final in their competition, while Pdraig McCluskey collected his second Fitzgibbon Cup medal with U.C.C.

The club ran a successful hurling tournament with St. Martin's becoming first holders of the new cup purchased for the tournament, beating Tullaroan in a well contested final.

The purchase of a new field has dominated the close season (See separate article in the Year Book).

Another to hit the high spots during the year was Jim Neary, who does such Trojan work for the juveniles and Bord na nÓg players. He was a selector on the county minor hurling winning side. This was his second time to achieve this honour as he was also involved in the 1988 victory.

The Under-13 hurlers again reached the county final for the eighth consecutive year but lost out to Kilkenny C.B.S. by 4-2 to 1-8. Considering the numbers that the C.B.S. has to draw from, surely it is not right that they can have players who are only on their books for one year. The weaker club from which some of these players come should be able to table a motion to prevent this happening. Unless it is stemmed, then the death-knell of this competition, with numbers reducing in the county schools, will be appearing on the horizon.

When McCorry Construction presented a new set of jerseys to the club, they were amongst the first to play in sponsored jerseys wearing the sponsors' name in the local championship. The club shares with Mooncoin the distinction of being the first to play in the Credit Union Senior Hurling Championship.

The Special Juniors reached the Northern Final for the second successive year but lost out to Young Irelands on a score of 3-7 to 1-4.

The senior footballers lost by a point to Thomastown and by a goal to the eventual County Champions, James Stephens. They had a two points' victory over Glenmore, thus retaining their senior status for 1992.

Pat Hayes from the Graigue/Ballycallan club was very prominent in the refereeing world and took charge of numerous games. Hopefully his star will continue to rise.

Best wishes to Noel Maher who left recently to take up a Cadetship in the Army. While it could mean that Noel will have to miss some games in the 1992 championship, nevertheless it will make him available in future years which, in the present emigration climate, is good news.

Congratulations to clubman John Caldbeck who won the Newpark Hotel sponsored "Senior Footballer of the Year" award for 1991. It was a just reward for many years of faithful service to both club and county.

KILMACOW

THE one notable success this year was the completion of the double by our 1990 minor hurling team. In November they added the league by defeating Carrickshock after a replay. Kilmacow 0-12, Carrickshock 1-05. The team was: Brian O'Callaghan (goal), Eamon Reddy, John Phelan, Peter Phelan, Denis Scully, Declan Gahan, Peter Ryan, Paul Long, Robert Dalton, Patrick Gahan, John Walsh, Dermot Tierney, James O'Neill, Ian O'Callaghan, Eamón Gahan.

Subs: Tomás Reddy, Ger O'Neill, Tommy Hearne, Niall Walsh, Trevor Sutton, David Drennan, Kevin Dollard, Brian Walsh, Michael Ryan, Don Laffan and Michael Phelan.

Our Junior hurlers went under to eventual champions Glenmore in the Southern semi-final. They never showed the same determination of the previous year and injuries on the day didn't help either. Two of the team, Sean Caulfield and John Forristal, won Leinster Junior Hurling medals with Kilkenny.

Our U-21 hurlers reached the Southern final in Roinn 'B'. They were defeated by Rower-Inistioge. Kilmacow conceded four goals in the opening ten minutes. They put in a very determined comeback but ran out in the end, losing by the narrowest of margins.

Our minors competed in Roinn 'A' this year. They put in a great effort by reaching the League semi-final, only to be defeated by a more determined Graigue/Ballycallan side. Graignamanagh ended our Championship hopes.

All our other under-age teams put up great displays, but didn't achieve any honours.

FOOTBALL

THE Club had a fairly hectic year on the football field, although success at adult level was hard to come by. We won the first round of the Junior Championship, beating Carrickshock in the process, but unfortunately we met our Waterloo against Coolagh in the next round. However, the onus of bringing back a championship rests with our youngsters. We did play two delayed county finals, however, during the year, but lady luck frowned on us on both occasions.

The Under-21 team were beaten by Castlecomer in the 1989 final and a similar fate awaited our Special Junior team against the same opposition. Our under-16 team won their league in August, beating Muckalee in the final. Our minors have qualified for the 1990 'A' final and our under-21 team were beaten by Muckalee in the 1990 final after a hectic tussle against Tullogher. Our very young under-14 team were beaten by Piltown in the South Final. We still have three teams battling for championships, so hopefully we will gain some reward for our efforts.

JOHN LOCKES



CALLAN C.B.S. MINOR STARS

Left to right: Ger Ronan, Adrian O'Sullivan, Eddie Dwyer, Denis Byrne and Jim Hickey.

OVERALL 1991 wasn't such a bad year after all. Our school, Coláiste Eamon Rís, won their first ever All-Ireland Colleges' title. They were captained by John Lockes man Adrian O'Sullivan. Three members of our club played on Kilkenny teams: John Power was on the senior team that were unfortunate to lose the All-Ireland; Adrian O'Sullivan won his first All-Ireland final medal against Tipperary on the first Sunday in September, while Declan Roche was on the under-21 team (for the second time) that was beaten by Offaly in the Leinster Final.

Our Intermediate team had prepared well for the Championship but in their first match against Thomastown, in Hugginstown, they were barely beaten. This was a match they should have won. In subsequent matches in the Championship they were well beaten by Bennettsbridge; they drew with Piltown, convincingly beat Tullogher and, after a Titanic struggle against Carrickshock, they just failed to make the cut for the play-off stages.

The "Shock" match was the one where John Power played with his well publicised injured hand, courtesy of misplaced barbed wire in Croke Park.

The Special Junior team had a great run. They went all the way to the southern semi-final where they came a "cropper" against Tullogher-Rosbercon. Nevertheless, they would have to be complimented on their enthusiasm, and dedication, and for keeping the club flag flying.

Our Under-21 team were barely beaten by the Rower-Inistioge in their opening match. When one considers that most of our team are under 21 for the next two years, and the fact that their opponents have qualified for the County Final, then the lads' performance is a creditable one indeed.

High hopes of our minor team were expected but they met a tarfar of a Mooncoin team in the South semi-final. Having beaten Thomastown in their first round, our lads faced Mooncoin in Piltown. The first match was drawn, and but for a number of tales of woe in the replay, we could have — but didn't — win.

Our little Under-16 team were really pitch-forked into the lion's den. Repeated requests to Bord na nÓg to affiliate to the Roinn 'B' sector failed, and so our lads stood no hope against the big guns in Roinn 'A'. To their credit they never flinched, they even won one game in their league, but they were obviously and woefully out of their depth in all their games. This situation must never be allowed to happen again as it does nothing for the propagation of the game.

In the Under-14 Championship, the boys put in a huge amount of training. They went all the way to the County quarter-final. They beat Glenmore, in Glenmore; the Rower-Inistioge, in the Rower, but they were finally beaten by a much stronger Thomastown in the quarter-final when they looked all over winners going into the last ten minutes. Nevertheless they acquitted themselves admirably all through.

In the U-14 Football Championsip we were well beaten by the eventual County Champions - Piltown. Overall, there is a nice crop of young lads coming through and much will be heard of them in the future.

The club made a big effort to revive football under the Coolagh banner. They enlisted the assistance of Br. Damien Brennan. Never a more dedicated man took on the job of coach/trainer. His enthusiasm was infectious, as was manifest in the number of lads that turned up

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for training sessions. Even when Br. Damien was transferred to a Dublin school, he still travelled to Callan for all training sessions. He succeeded in taking Coolagh to the South final, which they lost on a replay to the Shamrocks. Br. Damien demonstrated that with dedication, discipline, and interest, anything is possible. Everybody in the club and in the town got

great enjoyment out of the whole football exercise. For the record, the football panel was: M. Brennan, S. Hogan, J. Lynch, T. O'Sullivan, J. Bergin, M. Lynch, O. Power, J. Murphy, P. Comerford, K. Coffey, J. Doheny, D. Lynch, S. Donovan, M. Power, J.J. Dunne, D. Ryan, A. O'Dwyer, B. Burke.

The Club sadly bade farewell to one of

its great servants during the season. Fr. Tommy Murphy went from C.C. to P.P. which required him to move from Callan to Slieverue. The club presented Fr. Tommy with a delightful crystal ornament prior to his departure. Regrettably, his departure will certainly be a huge loss to a club which valued his interest, enthusiasm and dedication.

LISDOWNEY

The establishment of a Bórd na nÓg in Lisdowney was the springboard for an unprecedented measure of success in 1991, ranging from Under-13 to Junior level.

The under-13 team qualified for the knockout stages, having lost only to Clara. They had convincing wins in the quarter final and semi-final over Carrickshock and Moneenroe respectively. Playing in the county final for the second year in succession they had to bow to a very strong Tullogher outfit.

The under-14 team had some early success but were beaten by the eventual county champions, Tullaroan. Later in the year, they were runners-up to Tullaroan in the Tullaroan tournament.

The under-16 team had little luck in the local competitions but their crowning glory was winning the Schering Plough Sevens in Bandon, Co. Cork. They played host club Bandon in the final of this one day blitz and in an exciting match emerged victors by one point. This was an amazing achievement as the other 15 teams in the competition were all from Cork.

But pride of place this year goes to the minor team. They wrote themselves into

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Schering Plough Sevens in Bandon, Co. Cork – Back row (l.-r.): Joseph Nolan, Mark Dunphy, Colin Dunphy, Brendan Blanchfield. Front row (l.-r.): John Moore, Vivian Mullally, Ollie Blanchfield, Declan Fitzpatrick. Missing: Edward Delahunty, Aidan Maher.



LISDOWNEY – Junior Open Draw Winners 1991

Back row (l.-r.): Tim Brennan, Owen Murphy, Billy McEvoy, Shay Downey, Michael Campion, Jerry Henderson, Lar McEvoy, Gareth Walshe, Tony Thornton, Michael Gorman. Front row (l.-r.): Michael Downey, Patsy Murphy, Liam Downey, John Kennedy, Michael Carroll, Ollie Blanchfield, Canice Mackey, Tom Carroll.



LISDOWNEY – Minor Championship and League Winners 1991

Back row (l.-r.): Colin Dunphy, Vivian Mullally, Gareth Walshe, Joseph Nolan, Shane Grogan, Tony Moore, Declan Fitzpatrick, Mark Dunphy, Ritchie Mackey, Denis Drennan, P. J. Kenny, Garry Tallis. Front row (l.-r.): Brendan Blanchfield, Niall Kennedy, Ollie Blanchfield, Sean Dunne, Michael Fitzpatrick (capt.), Bill Fitzpatrick, Eamonn Grace, John Dooley, Shane Mullaly, John Moore, Donal Fitzpatrick.

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the history books by being the first Lisdowney minor team to win a county championship title. In the Northern Final they had to overcome stiff competition from Galmoy and in the county final had a convincing 2-6 to 0-6 win over Mullinavat. But they weren't finished yet.

In October they added the League title to their Championship success. This time it took a last minute point from a 65 by Mark Dunphy to overcome a very good Tullogher-Rosbercon team. This was one of the best minor matches of the year.

This all-conquering minor team included Ollie Blanchfield, P. J. Kenny, Garry Tallis, John Dooley, Mark Dunphy, Declan Fitzpatrick, Joseph Nolan, Tony Moore, Michael Fitzpatrick (capt.), Richard Mackey, Shane Grogan, Donal Fitzpatrick, Eamonn Grace, Garry Walshe, Colin Dunphy, Vivian Mullally, Brendan Blanchfield, Shane Mullaly, Denis Drennan, John Moore, Bill Fitzpatrick, Sean Dunne, Fintan Dunne.

The mentors in charge of the various teams were – *Under-13*: Eamonn Dunne, Eamonn Nolan; *Under-16*: John Bowden, Paddy Bergin, Richard Mackey; *Minor*: Tommy Maher, Paddy Dunphy, Dick Blanchfield.

The 10th annual Lisdowney/Coca-Cola Sevens was bigger and better than ever. Thirty-two teams from Kilkenny, Carlow, Kildare, Laois, Tipperary and Cork for the Sweeney Bros/Lisdowney Bórd na nÓg Perpetual Cup and the Coca-Cola trophies. The open competition was won by Dicksboro who defeated Tipperary representatives Ballingarry in the final.

There was a Plate competition for first round losers and here again Kilkenny beat Tipp. when Gowran defeated Moycarkey. The best player award went to the Ballingarry goalkeeper, Noel Burke. There was also a Parish tournament for 60 young players. In the final John Whites team beat Tommy Bergin's team. In all, over 60 games were played by nearly 400 players, all of whom wore helmets. The organisers of this

very popular tournament were Eamonn Dunne, Tommy Maher, Larry Hamilton, Josephine Murphy and Eamonn Nolan (Coca-Cola).

The Juniors too had their share of success. After a good run in the Championship they made their exit at

the Northern semi-final stage at the hands of neighbours St. Lachtain's, Freshford, after a very entertaining game. But consolation was to come in the form of victory in the Open Draw Final against Windgap.

All in all, it was a very good year.

MOONCOIN

On the 11th August the official opening of our club's new playing field took place. The field was blessed by the Rev. Frank Grace, President of the Club. The official opening was performed by former G.A.A. President, Paddy Buggy. Also present were Barry Henriques, representing the County Board and former G.A.A. President Pat Fanning from Waterford.

In his address, Paddy Buggy praised all concerned with the splendid job of work and complimented the club on its unstinted efforts in providing one of the best grounds and facilities in the county. To mark the event there was a senior hurling tournament between Kilkenny and Waterford.

The development was rewarded later in the year when the club staged the Southern Junior Hurling Semi-Finals – Slieverue v. Dunnamaggin and Glenmore v. Kilmacow.

Three players from the club were on the Kilkenny Junior hurling panel which reached the All-Ireland Home Final with Tipperary. They were Jimmy Dunphy, who captained the side, Joe Wall and Michael Collins. Another Mooncoin man, Joe Dunphy, was a selector.

The successful All-Ireland winning Kilkenny minor team also had a Mooncoin connection with James Delahunty one of the selectors. Mooncoin senior player Tom Murphy was a member of the Kilkenny Senior hurling panel which narrowly lost to Tipperary in the All-Ireland final. Tom's brother, Joe, and Eamonn Delahunty

played prominent roles with the Kilkenny football team during the year.

Mooncoin club man Tom Delahunty was elected Vice-Chairman of Bórd na nÓg at the beginning of the year, while on the football side Billy O'Keeffe was re-elected to the position of Vice-Chairman of the Kilkenny G.A.A. Football Board.

Mooncoin lady Frances Rothwell continues to bring honour to the parish by winning her fifth senior All-Ireland Camogie medal.

The Mooncoin Under-14 hurling team represented Kilkenny at the Annual Féile na nGael which was once again held in Tipperary this year.

The Under-16 team reached the County Final in Kilkenny but lost out to a stronger James Stephens side, while the Minor team were beaten by Graignamanagh in the Southern Final.

After the excitement of winning the Intermediate Championship for the first time in 1990, Mooncoin were once again back playing in the Senior Championship after a lapse of three years. In the higher ranks of senior hurling the team suffered defeat after defeat and in the end the team had to play off with Clara for relegation back to the Intermediate grade.

On the day the team displayed tremendous fighting spirit but yet again we were on the losing side. Had we played like this in the earlier games, the team would surely have retained their senior status. The experience of playing in the senior grade should benefit the team in 1992.



KILKENNY - ALL-IRELAND SENIOR HURLING FINALISTS 1991

BACK: Michael Cleere, Tom Murphy, Richie Power, John Power, Michael Dunne, Michael Phelan, Pat Ryan, Pat Dwyer, Liam Simpson, Ray Heffernan, Tommy Fogarty, John Henderson, Eamonn Morrissey, Pat O'Neill, Patsy Brophy. FRONT: James Brennan, Eddie O'Connor, D.J. Carey, Liam Walsh, Bill Hennessy, Michael Walsh, Christy Heffernan (capt.), Liam McCarthy, Charlie Carter, Lester Ryan, Adrian Ronan, Liam Fennelly.



KILKENNY — ALL-IRELAND MINOR HURLING CHAMPIONS 1991

BACK ROW: Pat Davis, John O'Dwyer, Denis Byrne, Sean Meally, Sean Teehan, Eddie Dwyer, Seamus Dollard, Ger Walsh, Michael Trait, Dermot



SHAMROCKS — COUNTY HURLING CHAMPIONS 1991

BACK ROW (l-r): Frank Holohan, Liam Fennelly, Jimmy Lalor, Dick Walsh, John Shefflin, Sean Fennelly, Michael Fennelly, Kevin Fennelly. FRONT ROW (l-r): Paul Phelan, Brendan Fennelly, Dermot Fennelly (capt.), Tommy Phelan, Tommy Shefflin, Ger Fennelly, Wattie Phelan.



GLENMORE — ALL-IRELAND CLUB CHAMPIONS 1991

BACK (l-r): Ted Dollard (selector), Sean Doherty, Stephen Mullally, Jim Hartley, Michael Aylward, Seamus Boyle, Padraig Hanrahan, Michael



KILKENNY VOCATIONAL ALL-IRELAND CHAMPIONS

BACK ROW: Shane Mulhall, Michael Cullen, William Walsh, Barry Morrissey, Fran Doyle, W.J. Kinsella, T.J. Farrell, Kevin Kennedy, Trevor Dunphy, Melvin Queally, Keith Beehan. MIDDLE ROW: Roy Walsh, Joe Brennan, Liam Fogarty, Martin Malone, John Lanigan, Noel Dunne, Pat Davis (capt.), Barry Hudson, Paul Phelan. FRONT ROW: Ian Atkins, Trevor Sutton, Leo Bolger, Brendan Ryan, Oliver Dunphy, Dermot O'Shea.



KILKENNY — ALL-IRELAND SENIOR CAMOGIE CHAMPIONS 1991



CALLAN C.B.S. — ALL-IRELAND COLLEGES' CHAMPIONS

FRONT ROW (l-r): Alan Fox, Damien Cleere, Brendan Power, Garry Power, Jim Hickey, Adrian O'Sullivan (capt.), Richard Grace, Tom Hickey, Paul Kearney, Noel Dargan. **BACK ROW (l-r):** Mr. Tom Walsh (Selector/Trainer), Niall O'Sullivan, Victor Direen, Ger Ronan, Eddie O'Dwyer, Denis Commins, Denis Lahart, Pat O'Brien, Declan Keogh, Pat Holden, Colm Nolan, Brendan Mullins, Denis Byrne, Tony Dalton, Richard Walsh, David Cahill, Sean Byrne, John Manogue, Br. Damien Brennan (Trainer/Selector). (Inset: Eamon Marnell, Jarrad Gormley).



Heroes of '91 at the County Board Presentation Social

ACK: Dan O'Neill (Minor Hurling Captain), Michael Walsh

Angela Downey collects the O'Duffy Cup, alongside President Mary Robinson.

Dan O'Neill holds the Irish Pres Cup aloft.

MULLINAVAT

1919 PROVED to be a tough year for Mullinavat in the Senior grade. After a good win over Clara in the first round, and a reasonable showing against Glenmore; the then All-Ireland club champions; in the second game things seemed to take a downward slide. In the end Mullinavat just about deserved to stay senior for the coming year.

However, on the underage front the club had a very successful year, particularly at under-16 level. They qualified for the league semi-final, against Northern opponents Cloneen. It was a very tough uncompromising encounter, they qualified to meet the Emeralds in the final. The final score in the semi-final was Mullinavat 4-8, Cloneen 1-5. The Emeralds really were a surprise packet in the League Final. The Mullinavat lads never got over the shock of conceding some early goals and try as they may they couldn't make up the leeway, eventually losing by ten points. However, we still had the championship proper to come. Again we charged our way to the County Final and again our opponents were the Emeralds. Being rank outsiders, our lads put in a fierce determination, rocked the Northern boys to their foundations. In a rip-roaring determined finish our lads turned a ten point League deficit into a 4 point championship winning margin.

With continued work with these players the future of the club is assured to be bright. The moving of Fr. Dunne to Rathdowney can only be seen as a big loss to underage hurling in the parish. As is well known Fr. Dunne has left his mark, and the club should make every effort to see that his work bears fruit at adult level in the year to come.

The club are proud to say they have made improvements to their facilities and are at present improving the playing surface of their pitch.

ROWER- INISTIOGE

THE highlight of the year for our club was the winning of the County Under-21 hurling title. On the second last Sunday of a dreary November afternoon our lads hurled with great commitment and dedication to take the title South of the county. On a score of 4-7 to no score it would appear that our task was easy. Far from it indeed, as Tullaroan put up a very stubborn resistance all the way, but unfortunately they just couldn't penetrate our very tight defence. This win, compensated somewhat for losses to Fenians in 1987 and Conahy Shamrocks in 1988.

Our Intermediate team started their championship with a convincing win against Conahy Shamrocks, and they eventually qualified for a quarter-final "spot". We faced Carrickshock in the quarter-final, and after a very lack-lustre performance we had to give second best to a more committed and fitter "Shock" outfit. However, our team showed better form by reaching the open draw O'Byrne Cup Final only to be narrowly defeated by County Champions - Shamrocks - from Ballyhale.

Our Special Junior teams had little success, but the prospects on that front look promising for 1992. Our Minor hurlers qualified for the South Final Championship only to be beaten by eventual county champions Dunnamaggin. In the Minor League Conahy Shamrocks took care of our boys in the semi-final. Our very good Under-16 team were beaten by James Stephens in the "A" Championship. Our Under-13 team were defeated by Dunnamaggin in the Roinn 'B' semi-final. But our Under-14 lads won the Kilkenny final of the Community Games. Our Under-11 team were narrowly

defeated by Rapparees in the final of the "Rackard Tournament". The tournament to commemorate the late Michael Meaney (died 1981 aged 13) for Under-14 hurlers was a great success with our own lads beating Rathnure in the final.

The club completed the dressingrooms in the Rower pitch, and we have also levelled and re-seeded our new pitch in Inistioge.

Our inter-county medal winners during the year were Tom Lyng (Leinster Junior), Noreen Tierney (Camogie), Jim Kelly (Good Counsel captain) - Leinster Colleges Junior, while Brendan Bolger, John Downey, Michael Barron and Jim Kelly were members of the South Kilkenny Under-16 team. Michael Doyle was on the County Under-13 team while Greg Fitzpatrick, Ciarán Bolger, Tommy Malone, D. Malone, M. Flood, B. Bolger and J. Kelly all figured on Under-age county football teams.

We lost great members to their creator during the year including Tom Murphy (Inistioge), Dick Lyng (The Rower), Jimmy Murphy, Jimmy Pender and Lar Hamilton. Ar dheis Dé go raib a n-ainmneacha.

ST. LACHTAIN'S



Big Day for Mary Carmel - Kilkenny's representative in the All-Ireland mini-sevens in Croke Park on All-Ireland Hurling Final day was Mary Carmel Ryan from Freshford. Mary Carmel is pictured in the centre of the front row in the goalkeeper's jersey.

St. Lachtain's G.A.A. celebrated the 40th Anniversary of the founding of the club this year. The highlight of the year was undoubtedly the progress made by the Junior hurlers in reaching the County Final.

After a shaky start against Clara the team gave a fine display in the next outing and were comprehensive winners over Galmoy. They beat Lisdowney in the Northern semi-final. The Northern Final was the first championship final for the club since the Centenary Intermediate win

in 1984. There was great jubilation as Murty Kennedy brought the Rafter Cup to Freshford for the first time. Unfortunately, the long wait for the County Final did not help team preparations.

Worse was to come when Eamonn Maher had to cry off the starting line-up due to a hand injury. It was a loss which St. Lachtain's could not sustain and they came out second best to Glenmore in the County Final. However, the supporters enjoyed the run which the team got

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Freshford National School. Winners of the Cumann na mBunscoileanna G.A.A. Quiz 1990. Left to right: Niall Cahill, John Flynn, Conor Brennan. Back: Michael Kavanagh, Micheal Ó Muircheartaigh the popular RTE GAA commentator was the quizmaster for the night.

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during the year as they also reached the semi-final of the Northern Junior Hurling League Division I.

At under-age level the club had only limited success. The Under-13 team after a bad start, picked up and finished in a respectable position in the hurling league table. The school footballers reached the county semi-final. The Under-14 team found the going too tough in Roinn A. The Under-16 side performed well in Roinn A but eventually lost out to Dicksboro.

The minor team had an off day in their championship losing out to the eventual Northern champions, Conahy Shamrocks. The club's Under-21 side lost out to Tullaroan, while the Special Junior side

did well until the semi-final stage. In the end there was only one trophy, but there were many enjoyable outings.

Club players who performed with distinction during the year were Damien Hurley who was on the St. Kieran's panel which lost the All-Ireland Colleges Final and Brian Cahill, Damien Hurley and Oliver O'Connor who were members of the successful St. Kieran's College Junior hurling team which won the Leinster Final. Mervyn Queally and William Walsh were substitutes on the Kilkenny team which won the All-Ireland Vocational Schools Final. Eamonn Maher was a member of the Kilkenny Junior team which retained the Leinster Final.



Scoil Lachtain, Freshford - 1990 County I.N.T.O. Seven-a-Side Football champions. Standing (l. to r.) David Burke, Martin Daly, Noel Hickey, Colin McGree, Niall Cahill. Front row (l. to r.) Pat Morrissey, Karl Barnaville, Michael Kavanagh, Gerard Dalton, Conor Brennan. Noel Hickey and Michael Kavanagh represented Kilkenny in the mini-football game played in Croke Park on the day of Kerry-Down All-Ireland semi-final.

Off the field of play the development of Pairc Lachtain occupied the minds of the officers and committee. The pitch was railed off during the year. The building of the dressingrooms has reached an advanced stage. Hopefully they will be completed during 1992. Great credit is due to all the voluntary workers who brought the project to its present state.

Looking back over the past 40 years St. Lachtain's had a proud, if short, history. With an adult title won in three of the four decades, Junior in 1959, Senior in 1961 and 1963, Intermediate in 1984 and Under-21 in 1977, this is a noteworthy record. The Junior Football Championship was won in 1977 and 1983. At under-age level the club has won championships in each grade from primary School up to Minor level.

One of the most important developments was, of course, the acquisition and development of Pairc Lachtain. During the last 40 years members of the club have won All-Ireland medals at Minor, Under-21 and Senior level.

The future will provide many challenges but, as over the last 40 years, these will be met head-on. Go mba fada buan Cumann Lachtain.

SHAMROCKS

In the 1990 edition of the Year Book, Barrie Henriques wrote 'Beware the sleeping Shamrocks', upon reflection Barrie was right again.

Operating from a new base at Ballyhafe having purchased and developed new grounds during 1990 and '91, this has been an excellent year for the club and parish. The new playing fields are a further step forward in the short history of the club. Shamrocks are greatly indebted to the Carmelite Fathers for the use of their grounds since 1972.

After the early disappointment back in January when the County Board deemed it necessary to award the 1990 Under-21 Co. Championship to Erin's Own at a Co. Board meeting, the Senior hurlers won their 9th county title, and the O'Byrne Cup, the Junior Footballers have qualified for the County Final. The Under-21 hurlers were defeated in the Southern Final.

The Under-14 hurlers were narrowly defeated in the semi-final but with names like Aylward, Holohan, Fennelly, Shefflin, Drennan, Connolly, Harrington, Kennedy, O'Sullivan and O'Brien performing in this team the future looks secure.

The Under-13 hurling team while not winning any title this year adjusted well in the Roinn A Championship having been successful in Roinn C and Roinn B over the last two years.

Overall a very successful year thanks to a very dedicated club committee and ground supervisor Kevin Kennedy.

This year Mrs. Carmel Harrington became the first lady committee member of the club, hopefully the first of many.

ST. MARTIN'S

Although St. Martin's failed to win a championship in any grade during 1991, it will still be looked on as a year in which the club made great progress on both the playing and development fronts.

On the playing front the progress of the senior hurling team was the highlight. For the past number of years St. Martin's have been rebuilding and 1991 was the first year that there was evidence that this policy was beginning to bear fruit.

Having showed up and down form early in the championship with a good display against Tullaroan, a poor display against The Fenians, a good display in defeat against Glenmore, and a comprehensive victory over Clara, St. Martin's were left with having to beat Mullinavat in the final game to qualify for the knock-out stages of the championship.

Working towards this end, St. Martin's trained all through the summer and the team began to play as a unit. On the resumption of the championship in September, St. Martin's defeated Mullinavat and qualified to meet James Stephens in the quarter-finals which they won. In the semi-final, St. Martin's defeated Glenmore in a very exciting game to qualify for the final against Shamrocks.

This game was a total anti-climax with no St. Martin's player performing well on the day, leaving Shamrocks comprehensive winners and leaving St. Martin's wondering where they had lost their form in a two week period.

Many suggestions have been put forward but at the end of the day it is up to the players; and officials to have learned from the experience and put this lesson to good use in 1992. Many young players have been introduced to the team and having the advantage of playing in a final under their belts must now do everything possible to erase the memory of October 13th 1991.

During the year the team was successful in the Craigue/Ballycallan and Ballinabran-na Tournaments and have still to play the final of the Threecastles Tournament against The Fenians.

So, all in all, the club can look back on 1991 as a year of progress at senior level.

The Junior team began with great hopes but as often happens with these teams they lost players to the senior team and having been thus weakened there was a loss of interest and subsequent defeats in games which could have been won.

The Under-21 team performed poorly in the championship and were badly beaten by Dicksboro. All other juvenile teams performed well and won a lot of their games without any of them being sufficiently strong to win a championship. However, it is very heartening for the club to have so many dedicated people prepared to look after these teams and

surely their work will bear fruit in the not too distant future.

1991 saw Eamonn Morrissey become the first player from the club to win an All-Star Award for his displays with Kilkenny in 1990. The club is justifiably proud of his achievement. Again in 1991 his displays for Kilkenny were a source of great pride to all involved in the St. Martin's club.

The past year also saw great progress being made with the completion of the drainage, reseeding and building of dressing rooms at Coon and the opening of their field and completion of dressing rooms by our sister club Muckalee. Both developments will provide up to date

recreational facilities and it is hoped that the youth of the parish will fully utilise them. We would also like to congratulate Muckalee Football Club on winning the 1990 under-21 football championship.

During 1991 a number of loyal clubmen and supporters went to their eternal reward. John Murphy, John Maher, Mikie Moran and Eddie Holohan had been great supporters of the Club during good and bad times and they will be badly missed when we set out in 1992. Indeed Eddie Holohan was involved in the formation of the first hurling club in the parish known as Coon. To their families we extend our sincere sympathy.

ST. PATRICK'S (Ballyragget)

The last year could best be described as the year of the "near miss" as far as Ballyragget Junior hurlers were concerned: At the start of the championship they were considered rank outsiders for honours after an indifferent league campaign. However, a couple of stirring displays against James Stephens (League winners) and Emeralds (League Runners-up) put them into the Northern Final and a date with great rivals St. Lachtain's (Freshford). After a close hard final Freshford hung on for a one point victory. Many observers felt a draw would have been a fitting result. However, if this team continues to progress as it did this year success cannot be far away. A special word of praise must go to trainer Eamon Dowling for all his hard work with the team during the year.

At under-age level success also eluded the club. However, the minor hurlers were going well in the championship when they were hit by a spate of injuries before the Northern semi-final. Although they put up

a fighting display against Conahy the loss of so many key players proved too much of a burden against a lively neighbouring outfit who went on to contest the county final.

The U-14 hurlers and U-16 footballers also put up some good displays during the year as did the local boys school team. The clubs under-age players also featured at a higher level during the year. Brian Kenny and Sean Foley were members of the St. Kieran's college team that reached the All-Ireland final. Adrian Stone played with the North Kilkenny minor team and the county minor footballers while Harry Stone was a member of the Kilkenny U-14 team that competed in the Tony Forristal tournament. At adult level Pat Gannon was a member of the Kilkenny junior team that contested the All-Ireland final against Tipperary while club secretary John Lacey was involved with the Kilkenny over 40's squad. The previously mentioned Brian Kenny also played with the county Minor footballers.

THREecastLES 1991

THREecastLES got off to a bright start in the early months of the year when they captured the Michael O'Kelly Memorial Cup in Castlecomer Junior hurling tournament in April.

This was their first trophy win since they reappeared in the Junior Championship in 1985. A semi-final victory over St. Patrick's of Ballyragget set them up for a final meeting with the Erins Own side, which at that stage contained a number of senior players. After a very entertaining game, Threecastles emerged with a four points victory.

Naturally, after that win they faced the newly inaugurated Northern League with a lot of optimism. Unfortunately things

didn't go too well for them due to injuries and school exams and they failed to make the knockout stages, having received a bye in the first round of the knockout championship, they came up against Lisdowney in the quarter final and expectations were not that great.

In one of the most entertaining games of the whole championship the forwards really came good scoring a very creditable 1-15. Unfortunately, the defence made a number of silly lapses and conceded 5-5.

The year ended again in disappointment when they lost out by two points to Black & Whites in the semi-final of the Paddy Cahill Memorial Cup. The Club would like

Continued ►

◀ *Continued*

to compliment the Northern Board on the very efficient manner in which they promoted the new League and Knock-out championship.

The Pattern festival was again held in mid-July. Unfortunately the good weather of the previous few years did not oblige this time and consequently club funds are well down.

This is the first time the club failed to have their hurling tournament finished in the calendar year. Clara have reached the final. St. Martins and Fenians played a draw in their semi-final and due to St. Martin's progress to the Co. Senior Final a date could not be found for the replay. However, it is hoped to have the tournament finished early in 1992.

This year's trip brought the club to London & Luton for four days at the end of October. The fifty strong party had a wonderful coach tour of London and afterwards many of the party visited Highbury to see Arsenal in action. On the Sunday a hurling game was played with the Eoghan Rua's club in Luton. The Luton side contained many Kilkenny exiles along with some from Tipperary, Dublin and Antrim. The club was made to feel very welcome and the whole trip was most enjoyable.

TULLAROAN

TULLAROAN G.A.A. club had a fairly successful year, senior hurlers winning two matches and playing a draw with last year's county champions, Glenmore, and finally losing out to Johnstown in Ballyragget in the last few minutes of the game. Injuries to key players was a big problem and weakened the team. There is room for improvement and with some good young players coming along, there could be the winning of a championship in the next few years.

Under-21 hurlers went very well, winning two games and into a Northern final where they beat Conahy in a close, hard fought game. County final was coming up and the team trained hard, and a lot of interest developed in the parish. On the final day, which was windy and very wet, two players cried off sick and the spirit in the team slumped a little. We were well beaten by a very good Rower-Inistioige team.

The minor team won one game and ended their run in the second outing. This team was made up of many young players.

The Under-14 boys won championship and league County Finals. Having many fine hurlers, it looks very good for future hurling in Tullaroan.

A Junior Football team was fielded this year, and had two wins before losing to O'Loughlins in Northern Semi-Final. Great interest was taken in the team and hopefully they will improve.

and ended their run to Conahy. This team was made up of many young hurlers, some under-16, Minor and a few veterans.

Camogie fared well in Tullaroan, with the minors winning Co. Championship and some of them also played Junior who reached Co. Final. After two replays and a session of extra time, they were finally beaten by Mooncoin in Callan.

The club lost its Patron, Rev. Canon O'Dwyer P.P., who retired in July and left the parish to return to his family home in Piltown. The club also lost two former hurlers and loyal supporters, Seamus Moore, R.I.P., and James Malone, R.I.P.

Another great loss to the club was Mrs. Peg Walton, wife of former chairman. In losing these people we gained a new Parish Priest, Fr. John Coonan, a great G.A.A. supporter.

Injuries to key players was hard luck to Tullaroan on the field of play and to

finances. The club felt obliged to make up whatever shortfall an injured player suffered while out of work. Discos and cabarets were run and they proved very successful. The club feels that insurance has to be seriously looked into and a good cover for its players be found.

The running of a G.A.A. club is getting stiffer year by year. The biggest expense being hurling balls and hurleys, even if V.A.T. was removed, it would lessen the burden on finances.

All in all, Tullaroan can look back on a successful year, being in some sort of final right up to the end of November. While winning in the name of the game, the social aspects of the game is very important to people in a parish. The pre-match chats, the cup of tea or a drink after a match, help to bring parishioners together. Hurling is a form of religion in Tullaroan and long may it be so.

WINDGAP

THE year 1991 will go down as a very successful year for the club. County Final appearances at Juvenile and Junior level and our first All-Ireland handball medal being the highlight.

Following the introduction of seven and eleven-a-side competitions for smaller schools, Windgap N.S. had its greatest success, in reaching the final of U-13 eleven-a-side. The scenes of support and excitement at the final and replay in Nowlan Park were hard to believe. To lose after two games was a great disappointment. However the opportunity to play skilfully against similar sized clubs, and a realistic chance to win a game, gave hurling in small clubs a great boost.

Great credit is due to Principal Sarah Bacon, Tom Mackey and trainer Ramie Cahill who visited the school weekly. Kilkenny players and officials visited the schools with the All-Ireland Minor Trophy.

Our Under-14 players put in a great effort in reaching the semi-final against Slieverue, while our Under-16's gave a fine account of themselves. No teams were fielded at minor or Under-21 level.

All ages, 15 to 50 helped our Special Juniors put in a fine campaign with victory over Carrigeen being the highlight.

At Junior level great early season form saw us qualify for the Open Draw final, Carrigeen tournament final and a play-off situation in the championship. Draws and close finishes brought out good crowds and great games, with Glenmore a draw, and three each against Dunamaggin and Freshford.

Back in Nowlan Park for a county final against Lisdowney was a great bonus, having led well at half time, we allowed the game slip away. Unable to keep early season momentum going, we failed to

so, commitment to training under Bobby Jackman was much improved and with a little extra effort, success should not be far away. On the Inter-County scene Pat Walsh played on League and Oireachtas teams. Kieran Purcell, Tommy Hearne and Joe O'Shea played on a victorious Kilkenny over 40's team against Tipperary.

Our Camogie ladies continue to strive for County honours in Piltown's red and white strip.

The Butler Cup was revived with victory going to Piltown over Dunamaggin, whilst Mullinavat and Windgap played in a benefit game for the Shem Hennessy fund.

Field development continued with the erection of 30 foot high fencing at both ends to retain sliotars within the playing area. Taking 500 hours voluntary work in one week, it was carried out in a good humoured way under the guidance of Billy David Drennan. It is hoped to play Championship Matches on it in 1992.

A special word of thanks to our sponsors for their help. Windgap teams being the first in their grade to wear logos. Brett Brothers, Windgap and Callan provided the jerseys so well worn by the Under-13's. Roadstone completed the gear by providing togs and socks.

James Power, Slatequarries provided a set for the adult team, they were first worn v's Kilmacow in the Championship with Power Plant Logo.

Since its revival in 1984 handball has gone from strength to strength at juvenile level, this year reaching higher peaks. Alan Hawe took pride of place in winning an All-Ireland medal when partnering Tom Hanrahan, Kilfané to victory in the U-15 doubles in Croke Park's 60x30 and U-16 40x20 doubles partnering club players

YOUNG IRELAND'S

FOR the third time in three years the Intermediate hurlers were knocked out in the finals stages of the championship. On this occasion it was against Dicksboro in the County Final. However, with most of the team members under 25 years of age, the prospects for the future are bright.

The Special Junior hurlers also reached the County Final where they lost out to Thomastown after a replay. Another Young Irelands team to reach a county final was the Under-16 footballers but they unfortunately met the same fate as the two hurling teams losing to neighbours Craignamanagh by one point in a classic final.

The big disappointment of the year was the defeat of the Under-21 team by Dicksboro in the Northern semi-final. Much was expected of this team having accounted for the Fenians after a replay. The team led Dicksboro by eleven points at the interval but in a rip-roaring second half the city side clinched victory by the narrowest of margins.

During the year the club decided to run a parish league to cater for players between the ages of 13 and 18. The league proved an enormous success and it is now hoped to run it as an annual event. Despite the very bad weather a big crowd turned up to witness the finals. Following extra time, Patrick Farrell's team defeated Gerry Farrell's team in the runners-up final. Conditions deteriorated for the final proper and this suited Roger Middleton's side who were physically stronger. In the end they had 5-6 to 1-3 victory over a side captained by John Drennan. Ollie Walsh, the Kilkenny team manager, came along to present the trophies to the winning teams.

The past year saw the club run its annual concert in Gowran Park, this time with Joe Dolan and his band on stage. Thanks to the hard working organisation of Eddie Power and Willie Delaney the event was another outstanding success.

1991 saw the club complete work on the entrance to the club grounds. Great credit is due to Martin Kealy, Noel Roche, John O'Neill, Tom Hogan and Michael Doyle for their hard work during the year in having the grounds in such excellent condition at all times.

Young Ireland's had three players on the Kilkenny senior hurling panel which lost the final to Tipperary. They were D. J. Carey who played at left half forward, Pat O'Neill and Charlie Carter who were among the substitutes. D. J. Carey became the first player from the club to play in a senior All-Ireland final. Earlier in the year he scored the crucial goal which saw Kilkenny defeat Wexford in the

Continued ►



One for the record. Joe O'Shea (Windgap) pictured with his son Matthew (Dunamaggin). Father and son played on opposite teams during the year in the Southern Championship. It was a case of the son defeating the father.

◀ *Continued*

Alan Hearne and Michael Downey respectively.

At U-11, Fintan Kenny won both singles and doubles when partnering Aidan Mackey. Owen Guinan achieved a similar feat at U-10, his doubles partner being P. J. Hawe.

Nicholas Hawe's tireless promotion of the underage players has reaped the club great rewards and opened great opportunities ahead.

► **Windgap O'Shea's choice**

Windgap and Dunamaggin endeavours



in the Southern Championship provided an unusual dilemma for the O'Shea family, Kilmoganny.

Father and son, Joe and Matthew played on opposite forward lines in the three games - Joe of Mealaghmore has been a Windgap stalwart for many years. Holder of a Leinster Senior Medal for 1972, he also featured on Minor and Under-21 county panels. In 1986 he captained the club to Junior honours to add to the one he won in 1970.

Matthew a leading light in Dunamaggin underage teams has won U-14 and U-16 league and championship medals. This year he starred in their Minor County Final victory over Conahy, and was ably assisted by Kenneth and Dermot.

Pre match tension takes on a new meaning in this household with five junior O'Sheas playing for Dunamaggin and Joe always a Windgap man. Mary cares for both sides and ensures the right gear is always ready.

◀ *Continued*

Leinster championship. He also received an All-Star nomination for 1990.

Martin Carey, D. J.'s brother played a starring role in goal for the Kilkenny minor team against Tipperary in their All-Ireland victory. He thus becomes the sixth player from the club to bring an All-Ireland minor medal to the parish in the past four years. Matt O'Neill and John Middleton were members of the Kilkenny Junior hurling panel which lost out to Tipperary in the All-Ireland final.

Two members of the club acted as selector with county teams during the year – Jim Carter with the junior team and Michael Hayes with the Under-21 side.

For the first time in 39 years, Jimmy Brennan was missing from the Young Ireland's Annual General Meeting. Jimmy died during 1990. He was a founding member of the club and was secretary for a long number of years. He was a playing member of the 1957 junior team which was beaten by Tullogher in the

county final. Jimmy was also involved with the 1964 junior team which won the county final. He was a great worker for the under-age teams in the parish in the

1950's and 1960's. Despite moving to live in Goresbridge Jimmy remained a Gowran man to the last. The club is much the poorer for his passing.



YOUNG IRELAND'S UNDER-16 FOOTBALL – ROINN B FINALISTS

Back: Brian Walsh, Peter Carroll, J. J. Kelly, P. J. Hickey, David McDowell, Francis Peters, Darragh Phelan, Alan O'Neill, Owen Farrell, Canice Bolger, Justin Williams. Middle: Brian Middleton, Shane Power, Brian Byrne, Oliver Carter, Billy Doheny, Ciaran O'Neill, Ollie Byrne, Darragh Hunt, Richard Kennedy, Liam Kirk. Front: Martin Carter, Francis Kennedy, Aidan Drennan, Dick Carroll.



YOUNG IRELAND'S – SPECIAL JUNIOR 'A' COUNTY FINALISTS

Back row: Brendan Kehoe, Pat Lennon, James Bryan, Charlie Carter, Patrick Treacy, Tom Kehoe, Brian Treacy, John Holden. Front: John Drennan, Tom Fenlon, Philip Twomey, Jimmy Holden, Thomas Curran, Martin Carey, Patrick Farrell.



YOUNG IRELAND'S – INTERMEDIATE HURLING FINALISTS 1991

Back row: Joe Walsh, John Middleton, Mick O'Neill, Toss Farrell, Pat Drea, John Kennedy, Pat Kennedy, Ciarán Phelan. Front: Cathal Fitzgerald, Pat O'Neill, David

JAMES STEPHENS

In Minor Hurling our Minors had a very successful year, winning their Roinn 'A' Championship against Graignamanagh Óg by 3-8 to 1-4. Although we had a great start in the second half of the final – scoring 2 goals within a minute, the Graig. lads came at us with a vengeance towards the last quarter but our superior backs, well marshalled by 'man of the match' Philip Larkin, snuffed out any great threat.

Our under-16 hurling team won the club's second under-16 title in three years when they defeated Mooncoin in appalling conditions in Hugginstown on September 21st. Having beaten St. Lachtain's in the first round and Dicksboro in the Northern final our lads faced the Southern Cham-

pions in the County Final. Suffice to say that we won handsomely by 3-11 to 0-6.

The under-14 football championship was also captured by our club, which gave us the distinction of winning four of these titles in a row. In the final against Mooncoin our boys had to fight tooth and nail to take home the title. This was a terrific game of football and the issue was in doubt right up to the final whistle. It took a last minute goal by Mark Power to see us home by 3-6 to 2-6.

Shane Doyle, Liam Smith and Vincent O'Brien collected their eighteenth championship medal each with James Stephens when they collected their County Minor Hurling medals this year.

The Club won six under age titles this year. They are under-14 football, under-16 league and championship hurling, under-16 league and championship football and minor hurling. The Club also won the Senior Football Championship and the Junior Hurling League.

The Club completed the purchase and development of the St. Joseph's pitch during 1991.

Club Secretary Michael Moore completed 22 years as a player with the Club this year when he helped the Junior team beat the Emeralds in the League Final. He also won his third Senior Football medal at full-back.



JAMES STEPHENS – Northern Junior Hurling League Winners

Front row: Noel Brennan, Liam Hennessy, Ger Morrissey, Martin Hennessy (capt.), Bob Cody, Davy Brennan. Back row: Michael Moore, Fran Whelan, Malcolm Murphy, Jimmy O'Brien, Niall Mullen, Declan Forristal, John Joe Cullen, Brian Cody, Murty Leahy.

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Clory days . . . stalwarts of another era trot off Croke Park. From left: Ted Carroll, Pa Dillon, Jim Treacy and Ollie Walsh.



Nowlan Park hospitality hostess, Rena Sheridan.

GOLDEN OLDIES



Heroes of 1947 at this year's Credit Union Senior Hurling Championship Final at Nowlan Park. From left: Mark Marnell, Jimmy Heffernan, Tom Walton, Shem Downey, Billy Cahill, Liam Reidy, Bill Walsh, and Jack Egan. Pic: Gerry Deegan

COURAGEOUS MOONCOIN DEFEATED SUPERB HURLING WINS COUNTY FINAL FOR BENNETTSBRIDGE

Bennettsbridge 4-8
Mooncoin 2-4

BENNETTSBRIDGE, playing superb hurling in line with the scintillating form they have shown since they first came into the limelight in 1952, regained the county senior hurling title when they beat the holders, Mooncoin, by 4-8 to 2-4 at Nowlan Park on Sunday.

The game opened at a sizzling pace but tamed down to such an extent in the second half that the crowd almost lost interest, even though Mooncoin kept pegging away courageously at what appeared to be a hopeless task.

Bennettsbridge left no doubt in anyone's mind that the laurels lie where they rightly belong, and they showed by the power of their hurling that they are still the same mighty force they were some years ago, even though there had been signs over the past couple of years that the splendour of the past had been fading somewhat.

Two men who lay claim to major honours in this triumph are Sam Carroll, back to his brilliant best, and former forward Noel Skehan who played a real "blinder" in goal, substituting for Liam Cleere. This was Sam Carroll at his best; the inspiration and drive behind a Bennettsbridge attack that packed too much skill and ingenuity for the Mooncoin defence.

Good Goalie

Noel Skehan gave as good an exhibition of goal keeping as we have seen in the championship campaign for a long time and one save, in particular, when he stopped a shot from point black range from Claus Dunne in the first half was a truly remarkable effort.

Mooncoin, strongly fancied to retain the title, disappointed but their forwards, including Claus Dunne and Dunphy, came up against a very solid defence and though Claus Dunne made several sorties into Bennettsbridge territory, the winners' defence put up stern resistance.

In their first and second round games Bennettsbridge looked anything but impressive and even their own supporters must have had misgivings about their

chances of regaining the honours. They struggled tamely against Eire Óg and even though scoring convincingly against The Rower Inistioge, in neither game did they look the formidable force we saw on Sunday.

Making their 13th appearance in a final over the past 15 years they won their ninth title and J. McGovern has had the distinction of having been with the side over all this period. He figured prominently in Sunday's game at left half back and well deserved his ninth county championship medal.

Best Hurling

The first three minutes produced the best hurling of the hour with scores coming at the rate of one a minute but when Bennettsbridge jumped into the lead by 4 points after five minutes the pattern of what was to follow had been set and it was only in the last three minutes of the first half when Mooncoin scored a goal and two points that the possibility of a close finish seemed likely.

The second half opened very tamely and 10 minutes had gone without a score, Claus Dunne breaking the dead-lock with a point from a free. This narrowed the gap to a goal and Mooncoin fought desperately to get on top.

A Bennettsbridge goal by M. McCarthy in the 16th minute which put the winners two goals ahead set the seal on triumph and from that to the end it was all one way traffic.

Ground conditions did not favour good hurling and the greasy ball made shooting quite a hazard. This, probably, accounted for the 16 wides (10 for Bennettsbridge and 6 for Mooncoin) and the tempo was slowed up a bit by fouls, there being 25 frees over the hour. There were a few incidents during the game but nothing serious occurred to mar the good sportsmanship shown by both teams.

Moran In Form

Apart from the strength of their defence and the power of their forwards, Bennettsbridge always had a slight pull at midfield where Paddy Moran was almost always at hand to put his side on the move and he got good help from an improving John Kinsella.

Bennettsbridge set about getting an early lead and they had two goals and two points on the board after 5 minutes, to a goal for Mooncoin. In the next 10 minutes Mooncoin threw themselves enthusiastically into the task of reducing arrears but beyond getting a point, scored by Ned Doyle, they met with little success and their defence cracked under the severe strain.

Mick McCarthy put Bennettsbridge on the move with a point and they stretched their lead to 9 points. Then Mooncoin got moving and playing with the same verve that won them the title last year, they scored a goal and two points to put them well within striking distance at the interval.

The second half produced mediocre hurling and though it was gone past the three quarter way stage when Bennettsbridge put the finishing touches to it, their hurling all along was that little bit better and it was obvious that Mooncoin would never be able to stop them.

Carroll's Great Game

Sam Carroll, playing at left half forward, played as well as ever he has played in the past and that is certainly saying something. Even against such a fine player as Wattie McDonald, he achieved a remarkable degree of success and his goal from a grand ground drive in the second minute was a gem.

Noel Skehan could not be blamed for the shots that beat him and but for his splendid work Bennettsbridge would have been left with a lot more to do. Martin and Jim Treacy, flanking Larry Cleere at full back were very sound and Tim Kelly showed up well when he replaced Larry Cleere at the interval.

Martin Treacy moved to full back, Tim Kelly manning the right.

Seamus Cleere put in useful work at centre half back and had a fine game, getting good support from Paddy Kealy on the right and John McGovern on the left. Paddy Moran, partnered at centrefield by John Kinsella, left quite an imprint on the game. He was too resourceful for the Mooncoin pair and was able to give the forwards a liberal supply. Young John Kinsella also played well.

The Bennettsbridge attack generally



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

worked with great fluency and all six forwards played well. Sam Carroll was ably assisted by Jim Bennett, Tony Kelly, who was accurate from frees, Paddy Treacy, Noel Ryan and Mick McCarthy.

Sound Goalie

Dick Dunphy had a sound game in the Mooncoin goal and Pat Delahunty, Tom Nolan and Ned Connolly did well against alert Bennettsbridge forwards. Jim Lynch did quite a lot of useful work at centre half but even though he had a difficult task against Sam Carroll, Wattie McDonald

played well at right half with Johnny Walsh having his moments at left half.

Martin Howley and John Walsh found the going tough at midfield, while, though Claus Dunne showed fine form in patches and made several bursts through the Bennettsbridge defence, he was not as successful as in his previous championship games. Mick Conway and Ned Doyle did well but only Joe Dunphy to a limited extent, made any impression inside. Tom Ryan nipped in for a good goal just on the interval.

Bennettsbridge: N. Skehan, M. Treacy, L. Cleere, J. Treacy, P. Kealy, S. Cleere, J. McGovern, P. Moran, J. Kinsella, P. Treacy, J. Bennett, S. Carroll, N. Ryan, A. Kelly, M. McCarthy. **Sub:** Timmy Kelly for Larry Cleere.

Mooncoin: D. Dunphy, P. Delahunty, T. Nolan, E. Connolly, W. McDonald, J. Lynch, J. Walsh, M. Howley, J. Walsh, M. Conway, E. Doyle, C. Dunne, J. Dunphy, T. Walsh, T. Ryan.

Referee: P. Johnston (Eire Óg)

VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS SENIOR HURLING

Johnstown senior hurlers bridge seven-year gap

JOHNSTOWN Vocational Schools senior hurlers dethroned old rivals Banagher V.S. to capture the Leinster title they last won in 1983 in a memorable and entertaining encounter in almost perfect conditions at Shinrone in March.

It was heart stopping stuff as Johnstown had to come from behind in the last quarter with an heroic effort from their "Man of the Match" Brendan Ryan, who scored 3-6 of his sides 3-8 to Banagher's 1-11. Yet with injury time being played Banagher struck the side netting with a rasping shot that had backs and goalkeeper beaten and could have levelled the match.

Banagher were ahead at half-time by 0-7 to 0-4 as their ace forward Marcus McEvoy punished Johnstown with some very accurate free taking. The Johnstown backs soaked up enormous pressure in this period and their tight marking ensured that Banagher found their path to goal difficult although they narrowly missed on at least two occasions.

The first 10 minutes of the second half showed the same pattern as the first with exchanges hard and even and although the Johnstown backs had the measure of

their opponents, their forwards didn't seem to be able to get going while Banagher continued to forge ahead, scoring from every half chance.

Things were not looking bright for the winners when a long range shot was deflected into the net by one of their backs past goalkeeper Alan Behan, who seemed to have the ball covered. This gave Banagher a seven point lead and seemed to have shut the door on any hope of a Kilkenny revival.

However, a switch in the forward line between Brendan Ryan and Richard Dawson worked wonders. Both players sprang to life. Ryan cut through for two points from play and he quickly goaled from a 21 yard free when the Kilkenny supporters would have been happy with a point. Fortune had really changed for the Kilkenny boys as the same player goaled from a 65m. free, and with five minutes remaining he found the net once more.

Banagher attacked again as the game went into injury time and the Johnstown supporters gasped as they hit the side netting just behind the upright. However, the Johnstown backs kept their cool and with time running out Brendan Ryan popped up once again for another point.

Although Brendan had the game of his life - scoring all the Johnstown scores 3-4 in the second half, he was not the only player to distinguish himself in a game that tested each player to the full.

The backs were tremendous throughout while the goalkeeper could not be faulted for the one shot that beat him. Centrefield held their own against strong opposition while the forwards, having struggled to get into the game for long periods finally made their mark in a hectic last quarter.

Johnstown had to overcome some tough opposition from Mooncoin, Ballyhale, Thomastown and Rathdowney to get to the Leinster final but had to give way to a determined Roscrea team in the All-Ireland semi-final. On the day the Munster champions ran out convincing winners.

Johnstown team: A. Behan, L. McEvoy, D. Anderson, B. McEvoy, M. Queally, P. Phelan, B. Lonergan, K. Behan (captain), W. Walsh, J. Garrett, V. O'Brien, B. Ryan, R. Dawson, L. Corcoran, F. Delaney. **Subs:** T. Dowling, B. Joyce, B. Sherman, Ian Colclough, C. Tierney, Pat Purcell, K. Lonergan, D. Fitzpatrick.

KILMANAGH — INTO SEVENS CHAMPIONS 1991



Standing: Robert Byrne, Jimmy Lynch, Patrick Nugent, Dermot Hoyne, Micheál Hoyne, Brendan Muldowney. **In front:** Tommy Butler, Paul Dermody, Edward Brennan, Samuel Ryall.

Friendly Neighbours



TULLAROAN — MINOR CAMOGIE CHAMPIONS 1991

Back (l-r): Bernie Crosby, Moira Walsh, Sinéad Kennedy, Marie Sweeney, Olive Campion, Joanne Sweeney, Suzanne Mullally, Siobhán Millea, Lorraine Kennedy, Caroline Campion, Catherine Cuddihy. **Front (l-r):** Michelle Mullally, Elizabeth Glennon, Martina Maher, Ann-Marie Coogan, Marie Maher, Janet Sweeney, Catriona O'Dea, Michelle Coogan.

UNDER-21 HURLING

DICKSBORO THE MASTERS IN SPLENDID FINAL

AT THE beginning of the year all the money went on Young Irelands and the Fenians to capture the County Under-21 hurling championship. Dicksboro were mentioned also, but it was felt they would require a little more time, perhaps next year.

History will now show that it was the excellent city outfit who captured the laurels at the expense of new combination Graignamanagh/Blacks & Whites on a score of 1-7 to 0-5.

The entire championship produced some smashing hurling. The draw proved unkind to Young Irelands and the Fenians when they were pitted against each other in the first round. In a splendidly contested and high scoring contest, where both defences were all at sea, the game ended in a draw. The big crowd present looked forward with anticipation to the replay. Because of fixture difficulties, the replay was delayed for a few weeks, but it turned out to be a disappointing game with Young Irelands running out comprehensive winners.

Dicksboro almost fell at the second hurdle when they overcame a stern challenge from the holders Erin's Own. It took a late Niall Lacey goal to save the game. This win saw them reach the Northern semi-final when they played Young Irelands. Few in the big attendance gave the city side much chance when they went in at the interval trailing by eleven points.

However, when the team emerged for the second half they had the advantage of the strong breeze and gave quick notice that they were not going to surrender easily. With admirable determination and commitment, they slowly eroded the interval lead and at the end had a narrow one point victory.

Clara proved the surprise team of the North, beating fancied sides James Stephens and Graigue/Ballycallan to qualify for the Northern Final against Dicksboro. In that final the city side proved the stronger and emerged convincing winners.

Graignamanagh and Blacks & Whites decided to merge this year at minor and under-21 level and a wise decision it

proved to be. The under-21 side scored a first round win over Thomastown and then came up against old rivals the Ballyhale Shamrocks in the Southern Final. Victory went to the new combination but only after a keenly fought contest.

The county final between Dicksboro and Graignamanagh/Blacks & Whites was a most enjoyable game and considering the time of the year the standard of hurling and sportsmanship displayed by both sides was commendable.

The Southerners will regret many missed opportunities throughout the game, particularly in the second half. The team appeared obsessed with going for goals when points were the better option. Dicksboro held their composure throughout the game and even when matters were not going their way in the first half a couple of shrewd switches on the field did the trick.

Dicksboro were behind by two points at the interval but as in many of their previous games they really came good in the second half. The game finally swung the city side's way midway through the half when a splendidly struck ground shot from team captain John Treacy flew into the top right hand corner of the net, giving goalie Noel Dunne no chance. Further points from Stephen Kennedy and the excellent Ger Henderson gave the winners a commanding lead.

Try as they might, the losers found scores hard to come by. Too many times the forwards tried for goals and on each occasion the Dicksboro defence, superbly marshalled by David Beirne, repulsed the attack. The loss of Pat O'Grady was sorely felt by Graignamanagh/Blacks & Whites, but it is doubtful if even Pat's presence in the closing quarter would have affected the final result.

Sam Morrissey was simply brilliant in the



DICKSBORO — Under-21 Roinn 'A' County Hurling Champions 1991

(Photo: Gerry Deegan)

Back row (l.-r.): Michael Trait, John O'Dwyer, David Beirne, Shane Prendergast, Martin Murphy, Liam Kerwick, Denis Monahan, Stephen Kennedy. Front row (l.-r.): Mark Dowling, Ger Henderson, John Treacy (capt.), James Phelan, Ted Carroll, Sean Fitzpatrick, Sam Morrissey.



GRAIGNAMANAGH/BLACKS & WHITES — County Under-21 Roinn A' Hurling Finalists 1991

(Photo: Gerry Deegan)

Back row (l.-r.): Pat Doyle, Ger Walsh, John O'Shea, Pat O'Grady, Tommy Farrell, Benny Dunne, Matt Blanchfield, Philip Gahan, Kevin Corbett. Front row (l.-r.): Jack Dunne (Trainer), Rory Bolger, Liam Fogarty, Noel Fogarty, Ken O'Shea, Noel Dunne, Fran Doyle, P. J. Murphy.

winning goal, making a classic save in the first half from Ken O'Shea. David Beirne, Ger Henderson and Ted Carroll were dominant in defence.

Dicksboro tried a number of different combinations at midfield with Liam Kerwick and Stephen Kennedy the most effective. Full forward Shane Prendergast was very good, while Mark Dowling and John Treacy had many fine moments. The winners were forced to field without two of their better known players, Dan O'Neill and Niall Lacey, both of whom were injured.

Noel Dunne had little chance with the goal that beat him and overall had a good game. Kevin Corbett was the star of the losers side and could well claim the man of the match title. Others to the fore for the losers were Matt Blanchfield, John O'Shea, Liam Fogarty, Pat O'Grady, Fran Doyle and substitute Ivan Morrissey.

Scorers — *Dicksboro*: John Treacy (1-0), Shane Prendergast (0-2), Liam Kerwick (0-2), Ger Henderson (0-2), Stephen Kennedy (0-1). *Graignamanagh/Blacks & Whites*: Pat O'Grady (0-3), Ivan Morrissey

(0-1), P. J. Murphy (0-1).

Dicksboro — S. Morrissey, M. Murphy, D. Beirne, T. Carroll, D. Monahan, G. Henderson, S. Fitzpatrick, J. O'Dwyer, M. Dowling, J. Treacy (capt.), L. Kerwick, J. Phelan, S. Kennedy, S. Prendergast, M. Trait. *Subs*: T. O'Neill and S. Gannon.

Graignamanagh/Blacks & Whites — N. Dunne, P. Gahan, B. Dunne, R. Bolger, M. Blanchfield, K. Corbett, N. Fogarty, J. O'Shea, L. Fogarty, P. J. Murphy, P. O'Grady, T. Farrell, G. Walsh, K. O'Shea, F. Doyle. *Subs*: I. Morrissey and H. Roberts.

NO CONTEST AS ROWER-INISTIOGE CAPTURE 'B' TITLE

It was all so easy for the Rower-Inistioge when they had a very easy victory over Tullaroan to capture the Under-21 Roinn 'B' title. The winners were never in any danger of losing this game but the Tullaroan side fought to the finish. The final score of 4-8 to 0-0 did not do justice to the efforts of the losers, who badly missed the services of the injured Paul Hennessy.

Scorers — *Rower-Inistioge*: E. Bolger (1-3), R. Bolger (1-0), G. Fitzpatrick (0-3), R.

Kavanagh (1-0), W. Bolger Hynes (1-0), T. Mackey (0-1).

Rower-Inistioge — C. Bolger, D. Phelan, R. Murphy, L. Bolger, D. Kennedy, R. Bolger, T. Murphy, S. M. Kennedy, K. Kennedy, R. Kelly, E. Bolger, G. Fitzpatrick, R. Kavanagh, B. Mason, W. Bolger Hynes. *Subs*: T. Mackey, B. Bolger, J. Roche, T. Malone, J. Mackey, M. Brennan, D. Malone.

Tullaroan — A. Dooley, M. Walsh, N. Treacy, R. Cuddihy, V. Norton, L. Cummins, S. Butler, E. Fennelly, S. Teehan, P. Coogan, J. Norton, T. Hennessy, M. Dooley, J. Cummins, J. Hennessy.

ERIN'S OWN TAKE 1990 TITLE

The 1990 Under-21 Roinn 'A' championship was not completed at the time of publication of the 1990 Year Book. As events turned out there was to be no final with Erin's Own being awarded the game by the County Board after the Ballyhale Shamrocks failed to appear in Nowlan Park on the appointed date.

The title may have been won in an unsatisfactory fashion, but nevertheless for Erin's Own it was their second title in a row.



ROWER-INISTIOGE — Under-21 Roinn 'B' County Hurling Champions 1991

Back row (l.-r.): Richard Kavanagh, Kevin Kennedy, Greg Fitzpatrick, Richard Kelly, Thomas Murphy, Liam Bolger, Edward Bolger, Richard Bolger, Derek Kennedy, Dermot Malone. Front row (l.-r.): Declan Whelan, John Mackey, Sean Kennedy (capt.), William Bolger Hynes, Brian Mason, Ciaran Bolger, Richard Murphy, Brendan Bolger.

Continued ▶



THE ROWER-INISTIOGE — UNDER 11 HURLING. RACKARD LEAGUE RUNNERS-UP 1991

Front Row: T. Cassin, J. Proctor, S. Cassin, D. Kavanagh, P. Malone, S. Dunphy, P. Flood, P. Knox, M. Grace. **Back Row:** P.J. Wilmot, T. Doyle, S. Langton, B. Murphy, E. Lester, R. Tierney, M. Cleary, D. Brennan, Deirdre Brennan, N. Lyng, D. McGrath, P. Barron, M. Clifford.

Pics: P.J. Browne



THE ROWER-INISTIOGE — UNDER 14 HURLING

Back Row (l-r): B. Cotterell, A. Proctor, T. Tierney, P. Corcoran, R. Hanley, M. Burke, T. Mackey, O. Kenny, P. Brennan, P. Byrne, T. Digby, T. White, D. Walsh. **Front Row:** W. Kennedy, K. Carroll, M. Doyle, R. Barron, T. Kavanagh (capt.), T. Griffin, N. Walsh, L. Galavan, W. Galavan, M. Cassin, C. Holohan.



**County Board
in the
Computer Age**

Datapac Limited of Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford, kindly donated an IBM Personal Computer to the Kilkenny County Board during the year. The computer will be used by the County Secretary to streamline his administration. Pictured at the presentation are (from left): Ted Carroll (Secretary Kilkenny G.A.A. County Board); Brendan Moran (Sales Manager - Datapac Limited) and Nickey Brennan (Chairman, Kilkenny G.A.A. Co. Board).

Memorable Football Year — but no joy in Kilkenny

Report by:

Nickey Brennan

What a year it has been for Gaelic Football. Tremendous games, big crowds and brilliant individual performances made 1991 the year of the footballer. In the end, the final glory lay with the footballers of Down but along the way many teams and individual players made their mark.

In Leinster the footballers of Dublin and Meath almost had an entire championship season to themselves. Four classic games which captured the imagination of the whole country had spectators spellbound in their seats in Croke Park.

Here in Kilkenny, a county not known for its football prowess, the demand for tickets for these Leinster Championship games was unprecedented. At the end of the day it was Meath who emerged but how a gallant Dublin side must rue a missed opportunity in the second replay.

It was my pleasure to be in Croke Park on that famous day when a late goal from Kevin Foley and a point from David Beggy clinched a sensational win for the Royal County. I have never witnessed such scenes of joy and indeed sorrow at Croke Park. The tension was unbelievable. Grown men from Meath danced with joy. The Dubs were shattered. Kildare referee Tommy Howard became a household name over the period of the Meath-Dublin saga. The big question was could Meath recover from such a gruelling schedule to win out in Leinster.

The high flying men from Kildare were quickly brought down to earth by Louth in what was perhaps the shock result of the year. Meath's next game was against Wicklow and this time it only took them two games. Kilkenny folk got a first hand view of this game as we had an engagement in Croke Park the same day. Laois and Louth had more than football on their mind when they clashed in the Leinster Semi-Final. Neighbours Laois came through in a torrid replay.

The big disappointment of the year was the display of Offaly who were well beaten by Meath in the second Leinster Semi-Final. The Meath-Laois Leinster Final had a Saturday setting and produced a fine

game of football. Despite a good performance, the Laois men were never going to stop the Royal County regaining the title.

Munster football also had a traumatic year. The Open Draw brought great rivals Cork and Kerry into action in the First Round. Few gave the Kingdom a chance, but showing a determination not seen for a number of years they shocked the Cork men. Little did we know the repercussions that this defeat would eventually have for the Cork team management later in the year. The footballers of Limerick brought a breath of fresh air to the Munster Final despite losing in gallant fashion to Kerry.

Leitrim were the popular choice to make a long awaited breakthrough in Connacht but alas they failed to recapture their League form. The Connacht Final saw Roscommon edge out Mayo in a replayed final. Ulster proved yet again to be a graveyard for it's defending champions. In the end it was the men from the Mountains of Mourne who had too much craft and guile for Donegal.

Both semi-finals proved enjoyable games. A lack of sideline direction probably cost Roscommon an All-Ireland final place. Too much was expected of their young star Derek Duggan and against such experienced campaigners as Meath the team's big names faded in the second half.

The second semi-final brought Down and Kerry into action with the Northerners having a great record against the Kingdom. The Kerry men showed some promise early on but with full forward Peter Withnall having a dream Croke Park debut it was the men from Down who ran out impressive winners.

The All-Ireland Final was a memorable day. Ulster teams are renowned for the colour and excitement they bring to Croke



JAMES STEPHENS – SENIOR FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS 1991

Back row: Mick Moore, Nicky Boyd, Liam O'Connor, Fran Whelan, John Joe Cullen, James O'Connor, James Grace, Tom Leahy. Front row: Richie Minogue, John Larkin, Tommy Fogarty, Paddy Neary (captain), Joe Hennessy, Seamus Maguire, Ned Kelly.

(Photo: Tom Brett)

Park and the Down fans certainly lived up to the Province's reputation. For long periods Down looked faultless, giving their more famous opponents a torrid time. Young James McCartan bounced up and down like a sponge ball. His display was one of the finest seen at G.A.A. headquarters for some time. Meath looked 'down' and out and with no Colm O'Rourke their cause seemed hopeless.

In a desperate attempt to wrestle the game from the jaws of defeat, the Meath team management brought on a far from fit Colm O'Rourke. His presence alone seemed to cast a magic spell over his team-mates. Before long Meath were slowly eroding the Down lead. Could they do the seemingly impossible and capture Sam. Well a damn good attempt they made of it. Down slowly steadied the rather rocky boat and to the immense joy of their fans they captured the Sam Maguire Cup for the fourth time. At the final whistle a sea of black and red descended on the hallowed Croke Park turf. Woe betide any man who would try to stop them.

Some weeks after the Football All-Ireland Final the Central Council of the G.A.A. decided to award special commemorative medals to the Meath panel and officials. What a lovely and well deserved gesture.

COUNTY SCENE OFFERS LITTLE JOY

The glorious football year throughout Ireland was unfortunately not repeated in Kilkenny. Our Junior Footballers had an uncomfortable National League finishing pointless in Division 3 South. The Leinster Junior Football Championship saw Kilkenny travel once again to Dublin to play the home side. With no preparation before the game, the end result was inevitable.

The players spared no effort on the night but with skill and football know-how sadly lacking, the more finely tuned Dubs ran out convincing winners.

The Kilkenny Minor Footballers went under to Laois by twelve points. Rarely has any Kilkenny football team been better prepared for a championship game and despite the margin of defeat the team can feel well pleased with their display. Full credit to Tom Cunniffe and his selectors for their commendable efforts with the team. The starting fifteen against Laois were:

C. Bolger (Rower-Inistioge), G. Fitzpatrick (Rower-Inistioge), S. Meally (Railyard), E. Kenny (Piltown), C. Hassey (Muckalee), M. Shea (Kilmoganny), J. Hickey (Kilmoganny), B. Kenny (Ballyragget), S. Lonergan (Thomastown), D. Kenny (James Stephens), P. Gahan (Kilmacow), E. Daly (James Stephens); A. Stone (Ballyragget), B. Conway (Mooncoin), J. Phelan (Dicksboro).

The Kilkenny Under-21 Footballers also failed at the first hurdle going under to near neighbours Carlow.

JAMES STEPHENS RE-CAPTURE SENIOR TITLE

The Kilkenny Senior Football Final brought James Stephens and the Railyard into action and in a game which belied the current standing of Kilkenny football the city side emerged narrow winners. However, it took a brilliant save four minutes from the end of the game by John Joe Cullen from a Paul Browne shot to see James Stephens on the road to a merited win.

In their respective semi-finals James Stephens had a good win over the title holders Muckalee, while the Railyard proved too strong for the 1989 champions, Glenmore.

The strong wind made conditions difficult for the players but James Stephens took full advantage in the first half to build up a commanding interval lead. Wing back Richie Minogue opened the scoring for the winners when he came up the field to kick a fine point from thirty metres. A similar score from impressive Railyard centre half forward Michael Dowd levelled the scores after five minutes.

Two minutes later James Stephens got their goal. A high delivery from Tom Leahy was well held by John Larkin but an over anxious Railyard defence conceded an unnecessary penalty. Goalkeeper Michael Walsh had little chance with Liam O'Connor's well struck shot.

Indeed it was the same O'Connor who was to leave a big impression on the game in the first half. Brilliant fielding and distribution from the Waterford midfielder was instrumental in setting up a number of scores for his team during the half. Points for the Railyard by Michael Dowd and Michael Fitzgerald offered hope to the Railyard but with Liam O'Connor driving on his team from midfield, James Stephens totally dominated the last quarter of the first half.

Although they had to face the strong wind in the second half, one sensed that James Stephens with a seven point lead, would continue to stamp their authority on the game. A couple of changes in personnel by the Railyard saw county minor hurling star Sean Meally at midfield and Don Lawlor at corner forward. These changes along with the switch of centre half forward Michael Dowd to wing back gave the Railyard a more balanced look.

Two points in the first two minutes from Bernard Maguire gave hope to the Railyard but better was to come four minutes later when substitute Sean Meally flashed home



RAILYARD - KILKENNY SENIOR FOOTBALL FINALISTS 1991

Back row: Paul Browne, Thomas Brennan, Michael Dowd, Michael Walsh, Larry Buggy, Brendan Smith, Richard Frayne, Noel Geoghegan. Front row: Don Lawlor, Bernard Maguire, Florence Brennan, Michael Fitzgerald, Nigel Dowd, Martin Buggy, Michael Buggy.

(Photo: Tom Brett)



DICKSBORO - INTERMEDIATE FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS 1991

Back row; Tim Butler, David Beirne, Anthony Teehan, Mick Lane, Sean Moore, Michael Hennessy, Podge Stapleton, Sean Fitzpatrick. Front row; Mark Dowling, Niall Morrissey (captain), Robbie Dalton, Martin Hanrick, Liam Kerwick, Niall Lacey, Aidan Maher. (Photo: Gerry Deegan)

a great goal. This was a smashing score involving six players which started with a good delivery from defence.

Liam O'Connor after a quiet opening quarter of the second half began to dominate proceedings again in the second half. His Waterford colleague John Grace also had a great closing quarter and was ever willing to help out his defence. Try as they might the Railyard never took the lead. A succession of wides began to frustrate the side. The build up play from midfield by the Railyard was excellent but alas when it came to scoring points accuracy let them down. The attack had a couple of chances too when they opted to go for goals with points the better option.

Having weathered the Railyard storm in the first quarter it was James Stephens who took the lead again in the seventeenth minute when Liam O'Connor pointed a fourteen metre free. The introduction of Jody Dwyer to the James Stephens attack was a good move by the team's mentors. He, along with wing forward Tommy Fogarty, worked deep in the latter stages of the games to help out an overworked James Stephens defence.

One had sympathy with the Railyard defence. They played excellently in the second half, none better than Thomas Brennan and Noel Geoghegan. Bernard Maguire stepped up his display considerably in the second period and he was instrumental in setting up many of the Railyard attacks. With two minutes to go it was the turn of the James Stephens goalkeeper John Joe Cullen to leave his imprint on the game. And what an imprint he left. Suffice to say it was the difference at the end between the sides. His vital save was a cruel blow for the North Kilkenny side.

James Stephens wrapped up the game with a minute remaining when Liam O'Connor pointed. The Railyard were down and out and so continued their recent bad series of defeats in Senior Championship football.

The elegant Liam O'Connor was the star player on the field and deservedly won the Man of the Match award sponsored by the Kilkenny G.A.A. Supporters' Club. Overall it was a fine performance from the winners. They stuck to their task well in the second half when reduced to fourteen men. Along with those already mentioned, Wexford player James O'Connor, Nicky Boyd and Tommy Fogarty worked hard in attack.

The Railyard, for so long the kingpins of Kilkenny football, were devastated at the end. The team on the day played well, indeed far better than in many of their previous finals, but they will regret a poor second quarter. Still Noel Geoghegan, Thomas Brennan, Bernard Maguire, Larry Buggy, Florence Brennan, Michael Dowd and Brendan Smyth can be satisfied with their contribution.

James Stephens: John Joe Cullen, Seamus Maguire, Mick Moore, Joe Hennessy, Ned Kelly, Paddy Neary, Richie Minogue, John Grace, Liam O'Connor, John Larkin, Nicky Boyd, Tommy Fogarty, Fran Whelan, James O'Connor, Tom Leahy. **Subs:** Jody Dwyer (for Fran Whelan) and Billy Leahy (for Tom Leahy).

Railyard: Michael Walsh, Michael Buggy, Noel Geoghegan, Richard Frayne, Nigel Dowd, Thomas Brennan, Florence Brennan, Larry Buggy, Bernard Maguire, Martin Buggy, Michael Dowd, Brendan Smith, Paul Browne, Michael Fitzgerald, Don Lawlor. **Subs:** Sean Meally (for Nigel Dowd), David Browne (for Don Lawlor) and Michael Delaney (for Martin Buggy).

INTERMEDIATE

The Intermediate Football Final brought last year's Junior champions Dicksboro into action against Conahy Shamrocks. Dicksboro had shown impressive form through the championship beating Craignamanagh, Conahy Shamrocks and Kilmacow to qualify for a semi-final meeting with St. Lachtain's (Freshford). A comprehensive win in this game saw them through to their first Intermediate Football County Final.

Conahy Shamrocks on the other hand had a rather shaky passage through to the County Final. After an impressive opening game against Craignamanagh, they lost the next two games to Dicksboro and Kilmacow. Their football year suddenly seemed over. But fate was to play a part when Craignamanagh scored an unexpected win over Kilmacow to bring Conahy back into contention and force a three way play off between Conahy, Craignamanagh and Kilmacow. The Northern side took their chance with open arms and recorded two fine victories over their Southern opponents.

This saw the team through to the county semi-final where another Southern team, Tullogher-Rosbercon, provided the opposition. In a closely contested game that provided many passages of fine football Conahy just got through by the narrowest of margins to reach their first Intermediate Final.

It took two games to decide the outcome of the Final. In the first game it was Dicksboro who dominated for long stages, this after Conahy had scored a goal from an early penalty. Fifteen minutes from the end the city side led by six points and had the advantage of the stiff breeze. Conahy at this stage were down to fourteen players and their cause looked



CONAHY SHAMROCKS – INTERMEDIATE FOOTBALL FINALISTS 1991

Back row: Nickey Brennan, Geoff O'Shea, Larry Carroll, Gearóid Brennan, Canice Brennan, Seamus Dooley, Pat Gunner, Eamonn Delaney. Front row: Kevin Mulhall, Kieran Brennan, John Feehan, Paudie Brennan (captain), Michael O'Regan, Padraig Downey, Declan Downey. (Photo: Tom Brett)

hopeless. However, in a spirited comeback the team grabbed the equaliser in the closing moments of the game.

The replay took place on a cold and wet Sunday morning in November. It was Conahy who started the more impressively on this occasion and led by four points to one at the interval. The three point margin did not give a true reflection of the Northern side's superiority in the first half and as events would later prove it was to cost them the game.

The second half was all Dicksboro and they even had the luxury of a missed penalty during the half. Conahy might

have grabbed a late goal when in a rare second half attack the ball went narrowly wide. For Dicksboro it was the completion of a great Intermediate hurling and football double and entry to senior ranks for both codes in 1992.

Conahy had some consolation when their corner-back Eamonn Delaney was selected the Hennessy Sportsman of the Match.

Dicksboro: Anthony Teehan, Aidan Maher, Niall Morrissey (captain), Tim Butler, Podge Stapleton, David Beirne, Sean Fitzpatrick, Michael Hennessy, Robbie Dalton (0-2), Niall Lacey, Sean Moore,

Martin Hanrick, Liam Kerwick, Michael Lane, Mark Dowling (0-3). **Subs:** Stéphen Kennedy (0-2), Tom Maher.

Conahy Shamrocks: Padraig Downey, Eamonn Delaney, Nickey Brennan, Michael O'Regan, Kieran Brennan, Pat Gunner, Geoff O'Shea, Canice Brennan, Seamus Dooley, Gearóid Brennan, Paudie Brennan (0-1), Larry Carroll (0-1), Kevin Mulhall, John Feehan, Declan Downey (0-2). **Subs:** Ciarán Connery (for Michael O'Regan – injured), Paddy Delaney (for Kieran Brennan – injured), and Ciaran Muldowney (for Seamus Dooley).

GRAIGUE-BALLYCALLAN –

Securing the future with new grounds acquisition

THE Graigue-Ballycallan club became one of the last clubs in the county to purchase their own grounds with the recent acquisition of fourteen acres in Kilmanagh. For over forty years the club had the use of, free of charge, a hurling field second to none from the Teehan family, Shipton, a place where Gaelic Games could be played at any time of the year. Not alone had the club the use of the field, but the pitch was kept cut and maintained and was always in immaculate condition.

Some of the great names of hurling and some of the great clubs of the country played on the pitch. Indeed with so much activity going on in the parish, from senior to juvenile level, as well as camogie at all

levels, the likelihood is that "The Lawn", as the pitch was known locally, will continue to be a place where Gaelic Games are played.

The acquisition of the new grounds with a proper playing arena for two pitches and the erection of dressing-rooms and showers will take a lot of fund-raising and a lot of hard work. At present the first phase of the fund-raising drive is in full swing and eventually it is hoped that some money from the National Lottery will make its way to the parish. Club members are at present selling tickets at £20 each for a draw which takes place at the club's Annual Buffet Dance on February 21, 1992, in the Springhill Hotel.

The draw is being held in association

with the St. Brigid's Camogie Club. The prizes are as follows:

- 1st Prize: Superb New Ford Orion 1.3 LX or £8,500 cash.
- 2nd Prize: £2,500.
- 3rd Prize: Stanley Oil-fired Cooker or £1,800.
- 4th Prize: £500.
- Plus: 20 prizes of £100 each.

The car is being supplied by Barry Pender Motors while Chadwicks supply the Stanley Oil Fired Cooker.

The Graigue-Ballycallan club would appreciate help in the venture from all G.A.A. clubs in Kilkenny. Contact any club member to purchase a ticket in the forthcoming draw.

James Stephens dominate with four titles

Gap narrows – but it's a 'Stephens hurling double.

AT the beginning of the year it was expected that James Stephens would sweep all before them in Under-16 hurling and football and that is how it turned out. The surprising feature was that in Under-16 hurling, the gap between James Stephens and some of the other teams has narrowed greatly in two years.

In 1989, the nearest any team came to James Stephens in Under-14 hurling was in the County final when they beat Dicksboro by 4-8 to 0-1. This year in the Northern Under-16 hurling final the margin of victory was reduced to three points, 1-5 to 1-2. James Stephens could be considered lucky to have come through.

Mooncoin qualified for both the league and championship finals and the winning margin in both games was almost identical. Seventeen points separated the sides in the league decider, 4-15 to 2-4, while there were fourteen points between the sides in the championship, 3-11 to 0-6. By winning the league title, James Stephens were annexing their third title on the trot.

Played at Nowlan Park, there was only going to be one result once Wayne Kelly goaled in the 12th minute to give his side a 1-5 to 0-0 lead. Further goals from Stephen Drennan (2) and Kelly again had the city boys ahead by 4-9 to 0-2 at the interval. Ian Murray had an early second half goal for Mooncoin but they could not build on that score and the city side again gained control. Best for the winners were Michael



JAMES STEPHENS—U-16 ROINN "A" HURLING & FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP & LEAGUE WINNERS
Back row: Shane Doyle, Robert Kearney, Vincent O'Shea, Kevin Grogan, Martin Ryan, Conor Cleere, Martin Phelan, Pdraig Ryan, Kieran Mahon. Front: Eamonn Larkin, Vincent Morrissey, Michael Power, Wayne Kelly, Stephen Drennan, Vincent O'Brien, Phil "Fan" Larkin (Selector).

Power in goal, Shane Doyle, Stephen Drennan and Wayne Kelly. Eamonn Mackey did most for Mooncoin, while Oliver Dunphy, Liam Sutton and E. Deleahunty also played well.

Scorers: James Stephens: Wayne Kelly and Stephen Drennan (2-2 each), Robert Kearney (0-3), Vincent Morrissey, Kieran Grogan, Vinny O'Brien and Liam Smith (0-2 each).

Mooncoin: Eamonn Mackey (1-4), Ian Murray (1-0).

James Stephens: Michael Power, Conor Cleere, Kieran Mahon, Martin Ryan, Vincent O'Shea, Shane Doyle, Martin

Phelan, Pdraig Ryan, Vincent Ryan, Liam Smith, Robert Kearney, Vincent Morrissey, Stephen Drennan, Wayne Kelly, Kieran Grogan. **Subs:** E. Larkin, B. Wall and J. Moloney.

Mooncoin: J. Power, B. Keane, Liam Sutton, E. Deleahunty, D. Cody, Oliver Dunphy, Michael Purcell, O. Power, W. Walsh, S. Phelan, Eamonn Mackey, J. McCarthy, Eoin Dunphy, Ian Murray, L. Phelan.

The championship final was played in Hugginstown but it made no difference to the result. Mooncoin held their own for the first quarter, at which stage the sides



MULLINAVAT – UNDER-16 HURLING ROINN 'C' CO. LEAGUE CHAMPIONS

Back row: Michael Carroll (trainer), John Butler, Maurice Holden, Mark Cass, George Frisby, Brian Conway, Patrick Aylward, Niall Kenneally, Thomas Walsh, John Geary, Oliver Aylward, Ned Haberlin (Bord na nOg Secretary), Liam Kenneally (Selector). Front row: Maurice Murphy, Richard Kenneally, Brendan Conway, John O'Keefe, Derek Dungan, Kieran Phelan (captain), Raymond Carroll, William Atkins, Michael Aylward.

were level at 0-2 each. Just as in the League final, it was Wayne Kelly who started the landslide with a goal. When Stephen Drennan got another goal, the winners led by 2-6 to 0-2 at the interval.

The winners laid the foundation for victory with a magnificent half back line of E. Larkin, Shane Doyle and Martin Phelan, who repulsed everything that was thrown at them. Others to play well were Padraig Ryan, Robert Kearney, Stephen Drennan and Wayne Kelly. Mooncoin's best were Billy Quinn, Oliver Dunphy, Michael Purcell and Eamonn Mackey.

James Stephens: Michael Power, Conor Cleere, Kieran Mahon, Martin Ryan, E. Larkin, Shane Doyle, Martin Phelan, Padraig Ryan (0-1), Vinny O'Shea, Vinny O'Brien (0-3), Robert Kearney (1-1), Vincent Morrissey (0-2), Stephen Drennan (1-1), Wayne Kelly (1-0), Kieran Grogan (0-2). **Subs:** Liam Smith (0-1).

Mooncoin: J. Power, R. Delehunty, Billy Quinn, E. Delehunty, J. McCarthy, Oliver Dunphy (0-2), T. Walsh, Liam Sutton, O. Power, B. Keane, Michael Purcell (0-1), Eamonn Mackey (0-1), S. Phelan (0-1), Ian Murray (0-1), K. Dunphy.

'Stephens tops in all-city football league final

James Stephens took the Under-16 Football Roinn A when they beat great city rivals Dicksboro in the final by 2-7 to 0-6. Dicksboro had first use of the strong wind and their interval lead of 0-4 to 0-2 did not look sufficient, and so it turned out. Two goals by Kenny Maher set the Village on the road to victory and at the final whistle they had seven points to spare.



SOUTH KILKENNY UNDER-16 HURLING TEAM WHICH DEFEATED WEXFORD IN THE SHIELD FINAL OF THE LEINSTER BLITZ LAST JULY

Back row: James Connolly, Brendan Bolger, Dermot Tierney, Michael Barron, Ian Murray, Oliver Dunphy, Eamonn Mackey, Niall Mason, Eamonn Delahunty, Liam Kearns, Jim Madigan, Brendan Rice. Front row: Brian Conway, Paul Kearney, Ned Gahan, John Downey, Liam Sutton, Michael O'Neill, Jim Kelly, Tom Hickey, Barry Ryan.

Scorers: James Stephens: Kenny Maher (2-1), Liam Smith (0-3), Vincent Morrissey (0-2), Robert Kearney (0-1).

James Stephens: B. Wall, Kevin Grogan, Kieran Mahon, Martin Ryan, Vincent O'Shea, Martin Phelan, Peter Collins, Vinny O'Brien, Robert Kearney, Kenny Maher, Liam Smith, Vincent Morrissey, Dermot Grogan, Wayne Kelly, M. O'Brien. **Sub:** E. Larkin.

Dicksboro: S. Nolan, Mark Burke, John Ayres, Barney O'Neill, S. Thomas, Aidan Begley, Pat Henderson, Michael Gannon, Brendan Dalton, Rory Deevy, S. Hayes, Brendan Kennedy, P. McCabe, P. Delaney, Alan Trait.

Piltown fail to halt the 'Stephens march

James Stephens brought off the clean sweep of Under-16 titles when they beat Piltown in the championship final.

The final score was: James Stephens 3-4, Piltown 0-2.

Compensation for Piltown in hurling championship

Piltown had consolation for the football defeat when their Under-16 hurlers took the Roinn B Championship final beating Erin's Own (Castlecomer) at a wet and windy Nowlan Park. It was a scoring burst in the last quarter which yielded 2-1 that made all the difference.

Erin's Own, favoured by the strong breeze, opened the scoring with a Jason



DUNAMAGGIN - UNDER-16 HURLING ROINN 'B' COUNTY LEAGUE WINNERS

Back row: Ramie Cahill (trainer), Tom McCormack, Philip O'Shea, Paul Kearney, Adrian Moran, Paul Cahill, James Barry, Tom Hickey (captain), Andrew Hickey. Front row: Anthony McCormack, Kenneth O'Shea, Ramie Cahill, Shane Raggett, Noel Lahart, Michael O'Neill, Pat Moore.

Brennan point, to which James Connolly replied with a point from a free. Further points by David Buggy and Jason Brennan had the Northern side ahead by 0-3 to 0-1. A great goal by Brian Walsh was a crucial score for Piltown. David Buggy levelled the scores from a free. At the interval Erin's Own led by 0-6 to 1-2.

The Comer boys did not add to their total in the second half. A goal by Shay Reid to which Michael O'Dwyer added a point put the Piltown boys on the road to victory. A further goal by Robert Walsh put the title out of the reach of Erin's Own.

Best for Piltown were Brian Farrell, Kieran Maher, Richard Connolly, Liam Kearns, Philip O'Toole, Brian Walsh and Shay Reid. Best for a gallant Erin's Own were David Buggy, Jason Brennan, Adrian O'Neill, Shay Loughlin and Donal Dunne.

Piltown: Michael Brennan, Brian Farrell, Kevin Maher, Richard Connolly, Philip O'Toole, T. Farrell, P. O'Brien, James Connolly, T. Kenny, Robert Walsh, Michael O'Dwyer, L. Kearns, T. Grace, Shay Reid, Brian Walsh. **Subs:** M. Walsh, F. Meagher.

Dunamaggin clinch League title

Erin's Own also lost out in the Roinn B League final, going under to Dunamaggin. The winners might well consider themselves unlucky in not recording a double. They lost the South championship final to Piltown on a score of 3-4 to 1-8, this after they had drawn the first game 0-8 to 1-5. Dunamaggin showed better team work in



MOONCOIN - UNDER-16 ROINN 'A' LEAGUE AND CHAMPIONSHIP RUNNERS-UP

Back row: Billy Quinn, David Cody, Owen Dunphy, Richard Delehunty, Liam Fielding, Alan Heneberry, Colm Doyle, Brendan Tobin. Middle row: Michael Purcell, Oliver Dunphy, Jason McCarthy, Eamonn Mackey, Eamonn Delehunty, Bernard Keane, Ian Murray, Kevin Dunphy, Willie Walsh. Front: Oliver Power, Ger Kirwan, James Power, Liam Sutton, Stephen Phelan.

the League final and taking their scores at every opportunity, they ran out convincing winners.

The half back line of Philip O'Shea, Paul Cahill and Andrew Hickey, ably assisted by midfielders Michael O'Neill and Adrian Moran, gave a good supply of the ball to the forwards, all of whom figured on the scoreboard. The team was a credit to their trainer Ramie Cahill. Others to play well for Dunamaggin were Tom Hickey, Paul

Kearney and James Barry. The final score read Dunamaggin 5-7, Erin's Own 2-4.

Scorers: Dunamaggin: Paul Kearney (1-3), James Barry (1-1), Michael O'Neill (1-1), Ken O'Shea (1-0), Paul Moore (0-1), Ramie Cahill (0-1), Adrian Moran (0-1).

The victorious team was: Anthony McCormack, Shane Raggett, Tom Hickey (captain), Tom McCormack, Philip O'Shea, Paul Cahill, Andrew Hickey, Michael O'Neill, Adrian Moran, Kenneth O'Shea,



ERIN'S OWN - UNDER-16 HURLING COUNTY FINALISTS 1991

Back row: Ken Brennan, Raymond Hurley, Ian Brennan, Mark Rothwell, Adrian O'Neill, Stephen Brennan, David Buggy, Shay Loughlin. Front row: Michael Coogan, Donal Dunne, Martin Owens, Jason Brennan, Pdraig Purcell, Fergal Meagher, Jason Dunne.



EMERALDS – UNDER-16 HURLING ROINN 'C' COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS

Back row: Thomas Delaney, Sean Norton (club chairman), Danny Holohan, Michael Tobin, Brendan Joyce, John Power, Kenneth Hughes, Damien Tobin, Martin Costelloe, Michael Byron, John Ryan, Joe Ryan (trainer). Front row: David Guillioyle, Liam Hennessy, Niall Minogue, Richard Norton, Oliver Bergin, Shane Ahearne, Thomas Norton, Paddy Doyle, James Burke.

Paul Kearney, Ramie Cahill, Noel Lahart, James Barry and Paul Moore.

Late scare for Kilmoganny

The football end of the club known as Kilmoganny competed the league double when they took the football title beating Muckalee by 1-13 to 4-1. This was a fine display of football by a very talented team and but for a couple of late goals by Muckalee, Kilmoganny were by far the better team. In fact they were leading by 0-12 to 0-1 with nine minutes to go, but the losers shot four goals in the closing minutes.

In the first half, although playing against the slight breeze, the Kilmoganny boys took control of the game and started to pick off some nice points. Their carrying and passing of the ball was a delight to watch. In the second half they continued in the same vein until they slackened off in the closing minutes. The star performers on the night were the half forward line of Paul Kearney, James Barry and Kenneth O'Shea, who scored eleven points from play between them. The Kilmoganny team was:

Anthony McCormack, John Hickey, Tom McCormack, Philip O'Shea, Tom Hickey, Paul Cahill, Andrew Hickey, Adrian Moran, Michael O'Neill, Paul Kearney, James Barry, Kenneth O'Shea, Shane Raggett, Paul Moore, Noel Lahart.

The team showed just one change from the hurling side – John Hickey in place of Ramie Cahill. Kilmoganny were surprisingly beaten in the championship by Mullinavat.

Graignamanagh/Blacks and Whites pip neighbours in epic contest

Graignamanagh/Black and Whites took the Under-16 'B' football championship when they beat near neighbours Young Ireland's before a great crowd. It was a thrilling game with the winners coming through by one point, 0-11 to 2-4. The winners dominated the early stages and looked like opening up a big lead when they were awarded a penalty. The Young Ireland's goalie Colin O'Neill did well to turn David O'Neill's shot over the bar. Graignamanagh/Black and Whites led by 0-8 to 0-3 at the interval.

Young Ireland's moved Justin Williams to midfield for the second half to mark the

rampant David O'Neill and it had the desired effect. The winners added a point to their total and pounded the losers defence but Byrne, Phelan and Hunt rose to great heights on the losers full back line.

The game was thrown wide open when Alan O'Neill goaled for the losers to leave the score 0-9 to 1-4. Teddy Fenlon and Ciarán Dunne had further points for the winners before Alan O'Neill had his second goal for Young Ireland's but the time ran out and Graignamanagh/Black and Whites held out for a one point win. Best for the winners were Kenny Maher, Leonard Blanchfield, Patrick Hayden, Ken Walsh and the brilliant David O'Neill. Young Ireland's had good performers in Canice Bolger, David McDonald, Peter Connolly, two goal hero Alan O'Neill and Oliver Byrne.

Graignamanagh/Black and Whites: Kenny Maher, J. Dowling, Leonard Blanchfield, E. Doyle, Patrick Hayden, Ken Walsh, David O'Neill, A. Fenlon, Teddy Fenlon, Sean Kelly, C. Dunne, G. Dowling, B. Ryan, P. Ryan, P. Connolly.

Young Ireland's: Colin O'Neill, B. Byrne, D. Phelan, D. Hunt, Canice Bolger, E. Farrell, P. J. Hickey, David McDowell, Alan O'Neill, B. Middleton, Oliver Byrne, O. Carter, P. Carroll, Justin Williams, F. Peters. **Sub:** P. Power.

Emeralds and Mullinavat share the Roinn 'C' honours

The Emeralds ended a long barren spell and regained an Under-16 title for the first time since 1981 when they had ten points to spare over Mullinavat in the Roinn 'C' League final. Both teams also reached the championship final but on this occasion Mullinavat created a surprise and completely turned their league form upside down by beating the Emeralds by four points on a score of 3-6 to 2-5.

In the league final Emeralds got a great start with a James Burke goal after three



GRAIGNAMANAGH – UNDER-16 ROINN 'B' FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS

Back row: S. Kealy, N. Hayles, P. Connolly, L. Blanch, D. O'Neill, J. Grace, Teddy Fenlon, J. O'Grady, K. Walsh, P. Hayden, L. Dunne. Front row: E. Doyle, G. Dowling, M. Gilchrist, B. Ryan, A. Fenlon, C. Dunne, B. Reddy, K. Maher, J. Dowling, S. Corbett, P. Ryan, R. Kielthy, M. Murphy.



PILTOWN – UNDER-16 HURLING ROINN 'B' COUNTY CHAMPIONS

Back row: T. O'Shea, S. Reid, P. O'Brien, K. Maher, L. Kearns, B. Farrell, T. Kenny, J. Farrell, B. Walsh, P. O'Toole. Middle row: D. Lawlor, M. Brennan, T. Grace, R. Walsh, J. Connolly, R. Connolly, M. Dwyer, B. Walsh. Front: M. Long, G. Maher, P. O'Hara, T. Falconer, A. Norris, M. Gordon, P. Butler, A. Walsh.

minutes. Then a sideline ball from Ollie Bergin from 40 metres completely deceived Brian Conway in the losers' goal and the Urlingford-Clomantagh combination were ahead by six points, 2-0 to 0-0. Further goals by Shane Ahearne and Ollie Bergin and points from Richard Norton (2), Ollie Bergin and James Burke to which the Rod Iron boys replied with scores from Raymond Carroll (1-1) and Sean O'Keeffe (0-1) left the Emeralds ahead 4-4 to 1-2.

After an early Emeralds point by Pat Doyle, Mullinavat narrowed the gap with a Derek Dungan goal. The Emeralds' Brendan Joyce then ran riot scoring 1-2 to which James Burke added another

point. Ken Hughes was the Emeralds most stylish player. Others to play well were Dermot Tobin, Niall Manogue, Martin Costelloe, Oliver Bergin who played a real captain's part, Brendan Joyce, James Burke, Richard Norton and Shane Ahearne. The South Kilkenny side's best players were Brian Conway, John Butler, Pat Aylward, Mossy Murphy, Ciarán Phelan, Raymond Carroll, Dermot Duggan and Thomas Cleere.

Scorers: Emeralds: Oliver Bergin (2-1), Brendan Joyce (1-2), James Burke (1-2), Shane Ahearne (1-0), Richard Norton (0-2), Pat Doyle (0-1).

Mullinavat: Derek Dungan (2-0), Ciarán

Phelan (1-0), Raymond Carroll (0-2), John O'Keeffe (0-2).

Emeralds: John Guilfoyle, Michael Bergin, Damien Tobin, Niall Manogue, Martin Costelloe, John Ryan, Ken Hughes, Oliver Bergin, Tom Delaney, Richard Norton, Brendan Joyce, Dan Holohan, Pat Doyle, Shane Ahearne, James Burke. **Subs:** John Power, Michael Tobin and Larry Hennessy.

Mullinavat: Brian Conway, T. Walsh, John Butler, J. Frisby, M. Holden, Mossy Murphy, Pat Aylward, John O'Keeffe, Ciarán Phelan, Raymond Carroll, Derek Dungan, S. Geary, Thomas Cleere, B. Conway, M. Aylward.



Long overdue development work took place at Nowlan Park during the year. Pictured at the signing of the contract were:

Back: Sean Tyrrell (County Board), Bob McGarry (Quantity Surveyor), Pat Mulrooney (County Board Safety Officer), John Cahill (County Board). Front: Barry Hickey (County Board Development Officer), Ted Carroll (County Board Secretary), Nickey Brennan (County Board Chairman), Pat Tallis (Contractor) and Tommy Murphy (Chairman, Nowlan Park Development Committee).

New Northern Leagues – an outstanding success.

IT WOULD not work! There would be no interest in a league! Where will we find the dates? These were just some of the comments that were made at the beginning of the year when the idea of running a league as well as a championship was suggested by the officers of the Northern Board.

After a couple of debates on the issue the decision was taken – the league was on. The junior clubs looked forward to the new competition with a sense of anticipation. A three division league commenced in April and it was fitting that it should finish on a high note when it took two replays to decide the winner of the Division 1 final.

The leagues were an outstanding success and due credit must go to the officers of the Northern Board, Chairman Ned Moran and Secretary Ned Buggy, for having the foresight to suggest such a competition. Perhaps the best way of summarising the clubs reaction is to say that all are eagerly looking forward to the commencement of the competition again in 1992.

Division 1 saw city side James Stephens take the honours but only after three great games against the Emeralds. The Fenians had a comprehensive win in Division 2 over Dicksboro, while in Division 3 a youthful Conahy Shamrocks side had a good win over Barrow Rangers. An innovative reward for the winners in each Division was a new set of jerseys. This was much appreciated by the various winners.

The final league tables in the 3 divisions was as follows:

NORTHERN JUNIOR HURLING LEAGUE – DIVISION 1

Group A					
Team	P	W	D	L	Pts
St. Lachtain's	5	4	1	0	9
Galmoy	5	2	3	0	7
Cloneen	5	2	2	1	6
St. Patrick's	5	2	1	2	5
Blacks & Whites	5	0	1	4	1

Group B					
Team	P	W	D	L	Pts
James Stephens	5	4	0	1	8
Emeralds	5	3	1	1	7
Danesfort	5	2	2	1	6
Lisdowney	5	3	0	2	6
O'Loughlin Gaels	5	1	0	4	2
Threecastles	5	0	1	4	1

Semi-Finals:
James Stephens 3-7, Galmoy 2-6.
Emeralds 3-10, St. Lachtain's 1-15.

Final:
James Stephens 1-6, Emeralds 1-6.
James Stephens 3-9, Emeralds 1-15.
James Stephens 0-12, Emeralds 0-8.

NORTHERN JUNIOR HURLING LEAGUE – DIVISION 2

Group A					
Team	P	W	D	L	Pts
Young Irelands	3	2	1	0	5
Erin's Own	3	2	0	1	4
Tullaroan	3	1	1	1	3
Graigie-Ballycallan	3	0	0	3	0

Group B					
Team	P	W	D	L	Pts
Fenians	3	4	0	0	8
Dicksboro	3	2	0	1	4
O'Loughlin Gaels	3	1	0	2	2
St. Martin's	3	0	0	3	0

Semi-Finals:
Dicksboro 4-7, Young Irelands 3-9.
Fenians 0-7, Erin's Own 1-3.

Final:
Fenians 2-9, Dicksboro 0-5.

NORTHERN JUNIOR HURLING LEAGUE – DIVISION 3

Group A					
Team	P	W	D	L	Pts
Bennettsbridge	5	5	0	0	10
Barrow Rangers	5	4	0	1	8
Young Irelands	5	2	0	3	4
Blacks & Whites	5	1	0	4	2
Emeralds	5	1	0	4	2
St. Lachtain's	5	1	0	4	2

Group B					
Team	P	W	D	L	Pts
James Stephens	4	4	0	0	8
Conahy Shamrocks	4	3	0	1	6
Clara	4	1	0	3	2
Lisdowney	4	1	0	3	2
St. Patrick's	4	1	0	3	2

Semi-Finals:
Conahy Shamrocks 3-7, Bennettsbridge 2-8.
Barrow Rangers 2-7, James Stephens 2-4.

Final:
Conahy Shamrocks 1-16, Barrow Rangers 1-5.



NORTHERN BOARD G.A.A.

Front Row: Jim Rice, Michael Staunton, Bob Shortall, Ned Buggy, Ned Moran, Richie Stone, Billy Ireland, Pat O'Neill. Second row: Simon Walton, Martin Furlong, Martin Treacy, Michael Carroll, James Houlihan, Canice Mackey, Pat Glendon, Nicky Grace, John Power, Sean Murphy, John Caldbeck, Dinny Brennan, Sean Tyrrell, Michael Holden, Paddy Tobin, Charlie McCarthy, John Cahill. Back row: Ned Kelly, Seamus Murphy, Nicky Maher, John Comerford, Sean Carey, Tommy Phelan, Toddy Lacey, Liam Flynn, Bill Ryan, Pat McDonald, Gerry Mealy.

SPOT THE CRITIC — STUDENT — TEACHER

Answers in
next year's
edition.



D.J.'s scored — we have them now — appears to be the cry from Ollie Walsh in the dying minutes of the Leinster Championship game with Wexford.



Happiness is a cigar called — Phil Larkin in pensive mood as he eyes the talent in Nowlan Park.

Pic: Gerry Deegan



Memories of Féile na nGael in Kilkenny. Current Kilkenny team manager, Ollie Walsh, holds the fort in goal for the penalty-taking skills competition. Judging the outcome is a youthful County Board Chairman, Nickey Brennan.

THE Kilkenny Minor Camogie girls swept to their third triumph when they beat Galway in a great final at Nowlan Park on the 4th August.

The Noresiders have dominated the championship in recent years, winning also in 1988 and 1989. Kilkenny won the first three Leinster minor camogie finals in 1974, 1975 and 1976. On each occasion they had one point to spare. However, they never reached the All-Ireland Final, losing to Down after a replay in 1974, to Galway in 1975 and to Cork after another replay in 1976.

The Noresiders did not win the Leinster championship again until 1988. They defeated Cork in a thrilling semi-final at Nowlan Park and then travelled to Portmore in Co. Armagh, where they scored an historic first victory on a 5-6 to 2-5 scoreline.

The following year Kilkenny beat Armagh, this time at the semi-final stage of the championship at the local St. John's Park. It was then on to Semple Stadium to take on Tipperary in the All-Ireland final. The Noresiders, thanks to a scoring blitz from Bridget Mullally who shot 6-7, won by 9-10 to 3-8. The Premier County girls came to Nowlan Park in 1990 to exact revenge, winning by 2-11 to 3-6.

The Black and Amber girls had swept through Leinster, but fate was to play a part on the day following the Leinster Final victory when star player Sinead Millea was struck down with illness. She was to miss the remainder of the championship. Kilkenny defeated Galway in the All-Ireland semi-final on a score of 1-10 to 2-6 and it was back again to the same venue for the All-Ireland final against Tipperary.

Tipperary raced into an interval lead of 1-9 to 0-2 and when they scored an early

Third title for talented Minors

goal in the second half they looked like coasting home. The local girls rallied, but failed by two points on a score of 2-11 to 3-6. Kilkenny thus lost their chance of equalling the Cork record of three titles in a row which they achieved in the years 1978 to 1980 and again in 1983 to 1985.

Bridget Mullally, Orla Ryall and Sinead Millea also lost the opportunity of equalling the record of Cork trio Sandie Fitzgibbon, Jean Paula Kent and Margo Carey, who were the only players with three minor camogie All-Ireland medals. Bridget Mullally, who later played in and won a Senior All-Ireland, lost the opportunity of becoming the first player to win senior and minor All-Ireland camogie medals on the field of play in the same year. All that though was to change in 1991.

Kilkenny easily won the 1991 Leinster championship and then moved on to Ballinlough in Cork for the All-Ireland

semi-final. Kilkenny had an impressive 4-3 to 0-2 victory over Cork with Sinead Millea in great scoring form.

The All-Ireland final was again in Nowlan Park, this time against a very highly regarded Galway team. Kilkenny, thanks to goals by Imelda Kennedy (2) and Sinéad Millea, led at the interval by 3-5 to 2-4.

There was some brilliant camogie played in this game as the second half unfolded. A terrific goal by Sinéad Millea and a point by the same player put Kilkenny into a 4-8 to 2-6 lead.

The game was back in the melting pot when Galway scored their third goal. However, Kilkenny finished the stronger and points by Patricia O'Keeffe and Sinéad Millea (2) gave the Noresiders a tremendous victory.

This win gave Sinéad Millea the honour of equalling the three Cork girls record of three All-Ireland medals. Later in the year she went on to play in the All-Ireland senior final, winning her first medal, and thus becoming the first player to win senior and minor All-Ireland medals on the field of play in the same year. For the record the scorers in the All-Ireland final were: Sinéad Millea and Imelda Kennedy (2-3 each); Sinead Costello and Patricia O'Keeffe (0-2 each) and Marie Maher (0-1).

The team was: Michelle Fennelly (Carrickshock), Paula Dowling (St. Lachtain's), Niamh Phelan (Clara), Margaret Hickey (St. Lachtain's) (capt.), Mary Brennan (Lisdowney), Patricia O'Keeffe (Thomastown), Marie Maher (Tullaroan), Joanne Dowling (Clara), Margaret Comerford (St. Bridget's), Sinéad Costello (St. Lachtain's), Imelda Kennedy (St. Lachtain's), Sinéad Millea (St. Bridget's). Subs: Dolores Lanigan (Tullagher), Janet Sweeney (Tullaroan).



KILKENNY — All-Ireland Minor Camogie Champions 1991

(Photo: Terry Campion)

Back row (l. - r.): Brendan Williams (assistant trainer), Deirdre Delaney, Niamh Phelan, Kathleen Dooley, Paula Dowling, Marie Maher, Sinead Costelloe, Janet Sweeney, Margaret Comerford, Fionnuala Grey, Olivia Donnelly, Elizabeth Dowling, Ted Browne (trainer). Front row (l. - r.): Margaret Kavanagh, Mary Brennan, Cora Mackey, Sinead Millea, Patricia Dalton, Margaret Hickey (capt.), Cathriona Carey, Imelda Kennedy, Joanne Dowling, Ann Delaney.

County titles for Dicksboro, Thomastown & Tullaroan

Report by TOM RYALL



Dicksboro County Under-14 Hurling Champions, 1991. Front Row (left to right): Richard Barry, Shane Geraghty, Canice Pratt, Patrick Lacey, Adrian Webster, Brian Power, Mark Gaffney, James Brennan. Back Row (left to right): Derek Deegan, Wesley Egan, David Carroll, James Maher, Cathal McDonald, Brian Minogue, Michael Coogan. Photo: Gerry Deegan

THE Under-14 competitions, both hurling and football, were again brought to a successful conclusion although the playing of the County 'A' final in November was not satisfactory.

There was a good spread of honours with Dicksboro, Thomastown and Tullaroan taking the three championships. Tullaroan completed the double when they won the inaugural Under-14 Roinn 'C' league in which teams consisted of 11-a-side. Mooncoin took the Paddy Grace Memorial tournament for the first time. In football, James Stephens and Piltown took the honours.

Mooncoin capture first Féile title

The final of the Féile na nGael competition produced a fine game with the South Kilkenny side Mooncoin overcoming James Stephens. They thus won the honour of representing Kilkenny at Féile na nGael for the first time. The game was again sponsored by the Brophy Landscaping Company of London. During the year, on February 20, Michael Brophy whose brainchild this tournament was, to honour the memory of the late Paddy Grace, passed away suddenly, but his family were present to see the game. The good news is that the family of the late Michael Brophy are anxious to continue the sponsorship. Both the winners and losers receive valuable medals.

The game itself did justice to the occasion. The Suiresiders recovered from a bad start to eventually run out

convincing winners. James Stephens suffered a blow when their star midfielder Owen Campbell was not available. Goals by Pdraig Power and Stephen Murphy had the Village ahead by 2-2 to 0-2 after 12 minutes. Powered on by some fine hurling from Owen Dunphy, Ger Kirwan, what a prospect he looks, and Shane Walsh scoring a brace of goals Mooncoin led by 2-4 to 2-3 at the interval.

Another goal by Shane Walsh in the 43rd minute put his side ahead 3-5 to 2-5. We then saw a fantastic game as both sides fought for the vital score. A brilliant save by Willie Ryan denied James Stephens and with Ger Kirwan running riot in the last five minutes, scoring a goal and two points, Mooncoin ran out deserving winners by eight points, the final score reading 4-7 to 2-5.

In addition to Owen Dunphy, Ger Kirwan and Shane Walsh who were the stars of the side, the winners had other fine performances from Willie Ryan, a dependable goalkeeper, Trevor Cody, a fine fullback, Wesley Synnott and Eddie Mackey. Best for James Stephens were goalie Ray Kennedy, Barry O'Donoghue, their best player, Pdraig Power, Liam O'Brien and Vincent Coonan.

Scorers: Mooncoin: Shane Walsh (3-1), Ger Kirwan (1-4), Brendan Tobin and Gerry Moran (0-1 each). **James Stephens:** Pdraig Power (1-4), Stephen Murphy (1-0), and Vincent Coonan (0-1).

Mooncoin: Willie Ryan, Cathal Fitzgerald, Trevor Cody, Liam Walsh, Owen

Dunphy, Barry Purcell, Diarmuid Mackey, Ger Kirwan, Brendan Tobin, Eamonn Mackey, Wesley Synnott, Liam Kelly, Gerry Moran, Ruairi Hogan, Shane Walsh. Sub: John Murphy.

James Stephens: Ray Kennedy, Owen Larkin, Willie Murphy, Barry O'Donoghue, Diarmuid Herlihy, Stephen Murphy, David Mulcahy, Douglas McCann, Adrian Kenny, Pdraig Power, Brian Maher, Vincent Coonan, Liam O'Brien, Pdraig Hehir, Patrick Walsh.

First title for Dicksboro at Under-14 level

Dicksboro pulled off their first success under the club name when they beat Graigue-Ballycallan in a replay. The first game produced a very low scoring contest with the final score reading Dicksboro 0-5, Graigue-Ballycallan 1-2. The country boys had the better of the first half and led at the interval by 1-2 to 0-1. They failed to score in the second half and Dicksboro levelled the scores three minutes from time.

Both sides had chances of winning the game in the closing minutes. Richard Barry was off target with a free while John Hoyne shaved the post from almost 60 yards. A draw was a fair result. David Carroll was the outstanding player on the field. He got most support from Michael Coogan, James Maher, Richard Barry, Derek Deegan, Adrian Webster and Brian Power. Paul Hoyne was Graigue-Ballycallan's outstanding player. Other to show up were Philip

Butler, Pat Marnell, Tommy Manogue and John Hoyne.

Scorers: Dicksboro: Richard Barry (0-3), Derek Deegan (0-2). **Graigue-Ballycallan:** John Hoyne (1-1), Tommy Manogue (0-1).

Teams

Dicksboro: Pat Trait, Mark Gaffney, James Maher, Brian Manogue, Shane Geraghty, David Carroll (Capt.), Michael Coogan, Richard Barry, James Brennan, Cathal McDonald, Derek Deegan, Paddy Walsh, Adrian Webster, Brian Power, Canice Pratt. Subs: Denis Brennan and John Dunphy.

Graigue-Ballycallan: Edward Brennan, Niall Egan, Alan Trayer, Philip Butler, Brendan Comerford, Paul Comerford, Paul Hoyne, Pat Marnell, Tommy Manogue, Dermot Hoyne, Joe Cody, Joseph Young, Sean Millea, James O'Connor, John Hoyne, Pat Dermody. Subs: David Byrne.

The replay did not take place until the 10th November. Despite the unfavourable weather and heavy underfoot conditions both sides served up a great game with the result in doubt until the final whistle. The final score read Dicksboro 3-3, Graigue-Ballycallan 1-7. A strong gale force wind blew towards the St. John's Park end and Graigue-Ballycallan had first use of it. Their forwards found it very hard to make any impression as the Dicksboro half back line of Shane Geraghty, David Carroll and Michael Coogan were in brilliant form.

The losers had to depend mostly on Tommy Manogue points from placed balls to open up an interval lead of 0-6 to 1-1. The winers goal was scored in the 22nd minute when Wesley Egan's left hand ground stroke rocketed to the roof of the net for a wonderful goal.

The second half produced some wonderful hurling but with David Carroll powering forward from centreback, Dicksboro took the lead in the 41st minute

when Paddy Walsh, who had come on as a second half replacement, scored a goal. Dicksboro looked like winning easily when Brian Power got through for a soft goal. Changes in the Graigue-Ballycallan side and the introduction of the injured Michael Hoyne to midfield saw them come back strongly and they were rewarded with a Dermot Hoyne goal to narrow the gap. Three minutes from time Derek Deegan got the final point of the game to give his side a two points win.

In addition to their halfback line, the winners had good performances from Mark Gaffney, Adrian Webster, James Brennan, Richard Barry, despite carrying an injury and Brian Power. Alan Trayer, Paul Hoyne, Pat Marnell and Tommy Manogue did most work for the losers.

Scorers: Dicksboro: Wesley Egan, Brian Power and Paddy Walsh (1-0 each), Derek Deegan, Adrian Webster and James Brennan (0-1 each). **Graigue-Ballycallan:** Tommy Manogue (0-6), Dermot Hoyne (1-0), John Hoyne (0-1).

The teams were the same as in the drawn tie except that Wesley Egan replaced Paddy Walsh on the Dicksboro team. Walsh came on as a substitute. Michael Hoyne came on as a substitute for Graigue-Ballycallan.

First Roinn 'B' title for Thomastown

Thomastown won their first Under-14 Roinn 'B' championship when they defeated the Fenians by 7-4 to 4-7. The first quarter was evenly contested. Shane Lanigan, with three goals in the second quarter, put Thomastown in a commanding position at the interval.

The Fenians pressed hard in the second half, thanks mainly to their outstanding midfielder Eoin Behan, but the Thomastown defence held firm. Shane Lanigan with two more goals and two Brian Dempsey points increased the Thomas-

town margin. Late in the game the Fenians moved Eoin Behan to full forward where he scored three goals, two from frees and one from play.

Ian Daly had a sound game in the Thomastown goal. The full back line, with Henry McEntee outstanding, also played their part. Brian Dempsey (captain) marshalled his back line expertly, while Bernard Nevin and Derek Wemyss held the upperhand at midfield. The pick of the forwards were Timmy Maher, Shane Lanigan and Murty Hughes, with the rest playing their part in a great team victory.

Eoin Behan was the outstanding player on the Fenians side and he played his heart out from start to finish.

Scorers - Thomastown: Shane Lanigan (5-0), Timmy Maher (1-1), Brian Dempsey (0-3), Murty Hughes (1-0). **Fenians:** Eoin Behan (4-7), P. J. Ryan (0-1).

Thomastown: Ian Daly, Brian Blanchfield, Henry McEntee, Tony O'Neill, Michael Cullen, Brian Dempsey, Shane O'Connor, Bernard Nevin, Derek Wemyss, Timmy Maher, Liam Butler, Shane O'Keefe, Gavin Doyle, Murty Hughes, Shane Lanigan. Subs: Cathal O'Sullivan, Graham McMahon, Declan Dempsey.

Fenians: Michael Glendon, Brian Power, P. J. Ryan, Declan Garrett, Jason Garrett, Brendan Barnaville, Aidan Butler, Eoin Behan, Kevin Power, Brendan Hawkes, Noel O'Loughlin, James McEvoy, Ger Behan, Shay Quinn, Paudge Delaney.

Tullaroan complete U-14 double

Tullaroan brought off a great double winning the first ever 11-a-side Roinn 'C' hurling league. The competition was inaugurated to help clubs who found difficulty in fielding fifteen players and it proved very popular with the teams involved. Tullogher-Rosbercon and Tullaroan reached the final which was played in Bennettsbridge. Tullaroan had a resounding win by 6-9 to 0-3.



Mooncoin - Kilkeny Feile na nGael Under-14 Champions 1991. Back Row (left to right): Eddie Tobin (selector), Frank Hogan (selector), Liam Walsh, Patrick Delehunty, Eoin Doyle, Gerry Moran, Lee Kelly, Ciaran Dunphy, Pat Phelan, Paul Fewer, Neville Synnott, Joe Dunphy (selector). Middle: Cathal Fitzgerald, John Paul Mackey, Ger Kirwan, Karl Phelan, Brendan Tobin, Billy Ryan, John Murphy, Eddie Mackey, Diarmuid Mackey. Front: Daragh Beagan, Trevor Cody, Eoin Dunphy, Wesley Synnott (capt.), Barry Purcell, Ruairi Hogan, Richard Roche, Shane Walsh.

Despite losing John Breen through injury, a David Glennon goal set Tullaroan on the victory trail and they never looked back. At the interval, Tullaroan led by 4-2 to 0-1. An early second half goal by Mark Holmes finished the game as a contest. Best for the winners were David Glennon, Mark Holmes, John Delaney, Eoin Hall and John Breen.

Tullaroan: Eoin Hall, Michael Kennedy (0-1), David Millea, John Breen, Michael Maher (Capt.), Eamonn O'Neill, Jim Coogan (0-2), John Delaney, David Glennon (2-5), Eamon Delaney (2-1), Mark Holmes (3-0). Subs: Chris Maher, Martin Og Kennedy, Milo Cleere, J. Cleere, Patrick Campion, John Coogan, Richard Cleere, Sean O'Neill, Seamus O'Neill and Ber Doheny.

Cloneen were Tullaroan's opponents in the Roinn 'C' Under-14 championship final. Cloneen were the only team to beat Tullaroan earlier in the year. After a great first half the sides finished all square at 0-2 each. Cloneen's points came from Shane Coogan, while Jimmy Coogan and David Glennon pointed for Tullaroan.

Tullaroan made a vital switch for the second half with Eamon O'Neill going to midfield and David Glennon to centre forward. Mark Holmes, as in the league final, scored the opening goal of the second half to put his side ahead. Michael Maher, who captained the side, goaled from a '65' and another goal by Eamon Delaney clinched victory for Tullaroan.

Scorers - Tullaroan: David Glennon (1-2), Mark Holmes (1-0), Michael Maher (1-0), Jimmy Coogan and Milo Cleere (0-1 each).

Tullaroan: Eoin Hall, David Millea, Michael Kennedy, Jimmy Cleere, Patrick Campion, Michael Maher, John Breen, David Glennon, Jimmy Coogan, John Delaney, Eamon Delaney, Eamon O'Neill, Milo Cleere, Chris Maher, Mark Holmes. Subs: John Coogan, Martin Og Kennedy, Tom Fitzgerald, Richie Cleere, Richie Holland, Brian Dooley, Sean O'Neill, Seamus O'Neill, Sean Glennon, Ken Coogan.

Cloneen: Sean Brennan, Donal Love,

Seamus Hennessy, Liam Hennessy, Pdraig Maher, David Clancy, Pat Meally, Don Lawlor, Pat Treacy, Michael McGuire, Tom Coogan, Cyril Steadman, Sharon O'Neill, Shane Coogan, Pat Nash. Cloneen were hampered by injuries to Pat Meally and Shane Coogan.

Jimmy and Thomas represent Kilkenny.

Winner of the Féile na nGael skills competition was Jimmy Comerford (O'Loughlin Gaels) who did well in the National Competition finishing third. Thomas Healy (Tullogher-Rosbercon) won the Long Puck competition and represented Kilkenny in the Leinster Championship but he did not qualify for the later stages.

Kilkenny flop in Tony Forristal Tournament

The Kilkenny Under-14 team took part in the Tony Forristal Memorial tournament in Waterford but were beaten in their three games against Waterford, Limerick and Galway.

Fourth success on the trot for 'Stephens

James Stephens collected their fourth successive Under-14 football title when they had to pull out all the stops to beat a Mooncoin team who were seeking their first title. Mooncoin were actually playing in their first ever final in the grade. Four times during a most enjoyable hour's football the teams were level. The last time was nine minutes from the end when the sides were locked together on 2-6 each.

It took a great save from Donal Brennan in the James Stephens goal to prevent the Southerners from taking the lead. Mooncoin also struck the post in the closing stages. Then Mark Power who had come on as a sub scored the all important goal that gave James Stephens the honours in the closest final they have contested in the past five years.

James Stephens led at the interval by 1-2 to 1-1, the Village goal coming from Gavin Knaggs, while Trevor Cody had the Mooncoin major. Goals by Vincent Coonan for James Stephens and Diarmuid Mackey (Mooncoin) saw the sides level

again at 2-2 each. It was neck and neck all the way to the finish. The teams were level again at 2-4 each and 2-6 each. Best for the winners were Donal Brennan, Paul Carroll, Eoin Campbell, Vincent Coonan and Pdraig Power. Mooncoin stars were Barry Purcell, Wayne Synott, Diarmuid Mackey and Trevor Cody.

Scorers: James Stephens: Gavin Knaggs, M. Power and Vincent Coonan (1-1 each), Liam O'Brien, Pdraig Power and David Mulcahy (0-1 each). **Mooncoin:** Diarmuid Mackey (1-1), Trevor Cody (1-0), John Murphy and Wesley Synnott (0-1 each).

James Stephens: Donal Brennan, M. Brennan, Paul Carroll, I. Fitzpatrick, Adrian Kenny, Eoin Campbell, E. Ryan, Stephen Murphy, David Knaggs, Vincent Coonan, Brian O'Brien, David Mulcahy, Pdraig Power, J. Ryan, Liam O'Brien. Sub: Mark Power.

Mooncoin: K. Dobbyn, Ruairi Hogan, Barry Purcell, Eamon Mackey, Liam Kelly, Ger Kirwan, Liam Walsh, Wesley Synnott, Willie Ryan, Brendan Tobin, Owen Dunphy, Diarmuid Mackey, John Murphy, Trevor Cody, M. Walsh.

Piltown win one-sided contest

The Under-14 'B' football final was a one sided affair with Piltown beating the Railyard by 5-5 to 0-1. It was Piltown's third title in the grade. They won the very first championship in this grade in 1976. The next success was in 1983. The Southerners laid the foundation of victory in the first half when playing against the breeze. They over-ran the Railyard defence to score four goals and built up an interval lead of 4-2 to 0-1.

The second half was more evenly contested but the Railyard never looked like getting back into the game. The Piltown panel was: A. Norris, G. Maher, M. Long, Martin Long, J. Minihan, B. Farrell, P. Butler, A. Storey, A. Walsh, B. Walsh, R. Connolly, P. O'Hara, P. Walsh, T. Grace, M. Gordon, B. O'Donoghue, T. Falconer, R. O'Gorman, B. Dineen, P. O'Donoghue, P. Walsh, M. Sadlier, C. Galvin, M. Farrell, C. Jensen, J. Walsh and B. Carroll.



Piltown Under-14 Roinn 'B' Football Champions. Back row (left to right): M. Sadlier, J. Walsh, R. Connolly, P. Butler, M. Long, B. Farrell, M. Farrell, A. Storey, B. Walsh, T. Grace, G. Maher, C. Galvin, B. O'Donoghue. Front Row: M. Long, T. Falconer, R. O'Gorman, P. O'Donoghue, P. Walsh, M. Gordon, P. O'Hara, J. Minihan, A. Norris, A. Walsh, P. Walsh, C. Hensen, B. Dineen.



THOMASTOWN – Roinn 'B' Under-14 Hurling Champions

Back Row: Martin Hughes, Graham McMahon, Gavin Doyle, Derek Wemyss, Cathal O'Sullivan, Derek Lanigan, Bernard Nevin, Henry McEntee, Tim Maher, Liam Butler, Shane O'Connor, Declan Dempsey. Front Row: Brian Blanchfield, Michael O'Carroll, Michael Cullen, Tony O'Neill, Wayne McMahon, Ian Daly, Brian Dempsey, Derek Lanigan, David Walsh, Shane O'Keeffe, Sean Walsh, Niall Nevin, Des Walsh, Michael Dempsey.



TULLAROAN – Under-14 County Champions Roinn 'C' 1991

Back Row (from left): John Glennon (trainer), Eamonn O'Neill, David Glennon, Michael Kennedy, John Breen, Danny Norton (selector), Eugene Walsh (club chairman). Middle Row (from left): Tom Fitzgerald, Mark Holmes, Eamon Delaney, Jimmy Coogan, Jimmy Cleere, John Coogan, Seamus O'Neill, Brian Doherty. Front Row (from left): Sean O'Neill, John Delaney, Chris Maher, Richie Cleere, Michael Maher, Milo Cleere, Eoin Hall, Richard Holland, Martin Og Kennedy. Inset: David Milea, Patrick Campion. The team was presented with a set of socks by Stephen Breen, Building Contractor, Tullaroan.

. . . Snippets . . . Snippets . . . Snippets . . . Snippets . . . Snippets . . .

Blitz a Success

TEAMS from Cork, Tipperary, Dublin and Kilkenny were represented in the Paddy Mullen/Peter Conroy memorial minor hurling tournament which was hosted by the James Stephens club during the year.

The tournament which will now become an annual event is in memory of two former James Stephens club officials who devoted a lot of their time towards promoting Gaelic games with under-age players.

The host club, James Stephens, were the first winners of the Paddy Mullen Cup when they defeated Cork's Glen Rovers in an entertaining game on a score of 2-9 to 1-5. The losers group final for the Peter Conroy Shield saw two Kilkenny city sides in action, with O'Loughlin Gaels scoring a merited 2-7 to 0-5 victory over rivals Dicksboro.

'Whistler' Ted

THE County Board warned at the beginning of the year of the pending problem with lack of referees in the county.

An unusual occurrence in June resulted in the County Board Secretary Ted Carroll taking

over the whistle in a Northern Junior Hurling League fixture between his own club, Lisdowney, and Danesfort. It appears the official referee took more 'stick' than he should have to and so decided he wanted no more of the action. Into the breach stepped Ted and the game finished without incident. For the record Lisdowney won.

Christy the Chief

JUST three weeks before he led Kilkenny against Tipperary in the All-Ireland Senior Hurling Final in Croke Park, Kilkenny captain Christy Heffernan was installed as Clan Chieftain at the Heffernan Clan Rally in Tipperary. Christy was the unanimous choice of the organising committee.

Kilkenny Stars in Skydome

KILKENNY stars Pat Dwyer and D. J. Carey were part of the 1991 G.A.A. All-Star team which played Cork in the world famous Skydome in Toronto. Regrettably such trips are now likely to be a thing of the past with the recent decision of the main sponsors to withdraw their financial

commitment to the Canadian G.A.A. Board.

McCarthy Cup in Kilkenny

KILKENNY may not have won the McCarthy Cup this year, but the famous trophy paid a visit to the city in November when the local Slievenamon Association hosted their annual social. Among the special guests at the gala evening were members of the Tipperary All-Ireland winning team. Representing Kilkenny was the current team manager Ollie Walsh.

Honour for Cork Duo

Prior to the Oireachtas Hurling Tournament in October between Kilkenny and Cork, popular Cork team manager Fr. Michael O'Brien was presented with an inscribed Kilkenny crystal vase by the local Cork Association.

The presentation was made by Comdt. Kevin O'Donovan. Also present were former All-Ireland medal winners Eamonn Goulding and Brian Murphy, Pat Murphy, Denis Hayes and Jim O'Brien. A similar presentation was made to Billy Morgan, team manager of Cork's All-Ireland winning football side of 1990.



At the annual Smithwicks Sports Stars Awards dinner in Springhill Court Hotel, Kilkenny, were (from left) — Michael "Ducksie" Walsh (Handball); Gillian Dillon (Camogie); Richie Power (Hurling); Eamonn Goulding, the former Cork senior hurler and footballer, who is chairman of the Awards, and Eugene Downey (Handball).

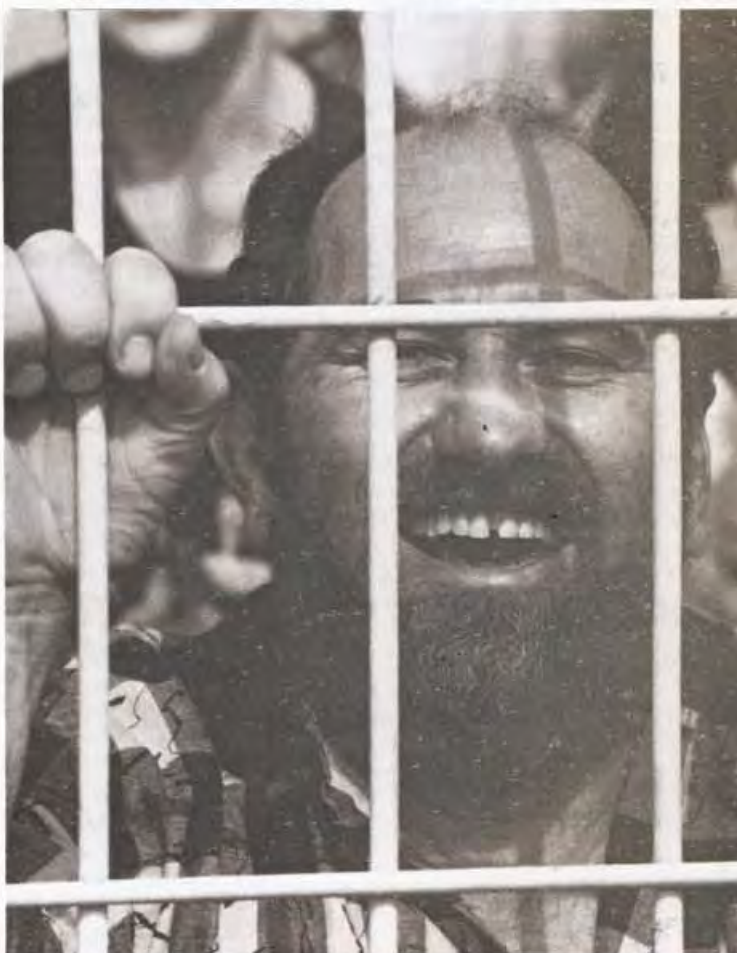
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Kilkenny's Pat Geoghegan was one of the huge contingent of "Cats" on Hill 16 for the All-Ireland Senior Hurling Final. Pic: Gerry Deegan

Confessions of a Kilkenny hurling fan — Nan Brennan reveals all!!

By: ENDA McEVOY ('Kilkenny Standard')

If Nan Brennan didn't exist, we'd probably have to invent her. The woman, very definitely, is one of a kind! Sure, there are similar figures in other sporting circles. Manolo, for instance, a portly but cheerful soul who seems to spend his lifetime banging happily away on a big bass drum at Real Madrid games.

And Ken Bailey, that blithely daft elderly geezer — top hat, scarlet jacket, St. George's flag, you know the guy — who punches in his old age, and gives the natives a good laugh in the process, by tailing the England soccer team around the globe.

But the G.A.A., disappointingly, boasts no such characters. Three cheers, then, for Nan Brennan. Kilkenny matches would hardly be the same without her.

At this stage it's not just the entire population of the city and county who know her. Anyone who's ever watched the 'Cats' in action on television literally cannot have missed the pair of mature-looking ladies (black and amber hats, black and amber scarves, lots of noise, tremendous excitement) who appear to have squatter's rights to seats on the Hogan Stand sideline. The RTE cameras certainly haven't . . . !

One of the ladies is Nellie O'Connell, from Ossory Park in the city. The other, of course, is Nan, who lives in Wolfe Tone Street, a Liam Fennelly handpass away from the swimming pool.

How does she cope with the — for want of a better word — fame? More to the point, maybe, how did she cope with having to live with a Tipperary husband (Dick, originally from Ballingarry, actually hurled junior for the county) in the year of our Lord 1991?

"Ah, not bad at all," she says. "We never fight or argue. We don't meet each other in Croke Park, anyway — he sits in the Cusack, I'm in front of the Hogan."

"But there's no slagging. Well, I might slag him . . . ! But he won't slag me. And he was great after the All-Ireland, he didn't say a word."

When you're as fervent a Kilkenny supporter as Nan obviously is, disappointments like the '91 All-Ireland final are inevitable. But, happily, she's had many a great day out also. The thunder and lightning decider of 1939, Terry Leahy in 1947, the victories of the 'sixties and 'seventies . . . all remain fresh in her memory.

The 1939 final particularly so. She laughs at the recollection. "There was I, above in the lightning — and the same one would dive under the bed at home with thunder! But I didn't even hear it that day."

Does she still enjoy her hurling? (Stupid



Eyeing the action — Nan Brennan (left) and her good friend Nell O'Connell are well wrapped up to face the elements at Nowlan Park as they watch their favourites in action. (Photo: Gerry Deegan)

question).

"Do I what?! I live for hurling! Hurling and bingo. But hurling first."

BIG DAY OUT

The obsession began when she was nine years old and at home in Green View, Callan. Her father, a ganger with the County Council, took her to the All-Ireland final.

"We travelled from Callan on the bus — it cost five shillings return. We left at twenty to seven in the morning after 6 a.m. Mass in the Convent of Mercy.

"I wasn't brought again until I was fifteen. But I've been following Kilkenny ever since."

Even when the Black and Amber weren't involved, she'd always try and go to the All-Ireland. Especially if Christy Ring was playing. Paddy Grace, she reveals, never let her down for a ticket; today Ted Carroll ("he's fantastic, always makes sure I get fixed up") does the needful.

Every Sunday sees her at a game: Nowlan Park, John's Park, Callan, wherever. For matches further afield she travels on Delaney's of Patrick Street bus. Though sometimes she'll thumb, and there's never any problem with that.

"No car ever passed me," she says with pride. "They all know where I'm heading to, and if they see me on the road they'll pick me up."

The pilgrimage to Croke Park is a special favourite. But how come the TV cameras

unerringly pick her out in the Hogan Stand?

"How it began was that the late Tomás Kearney from Callan was a steward there for years, and he always secured me my sideline seat. I'd rather be there than in the stand itself, so as to be near the action.

"At this stage they all know me in Croke Park. And they all call me Nan — not Mrs. Brennan!"

For a while, five or six years ago, it looked as if there might be no more pilgrimages to Dublin, or anywhere else for that matter. Kilkenny were playing in Thurles; that same morning she had a stroke.

"Of course I wanted to go to the game. I tried to persuade Dr. Bill Cuddihy to let me off. 'Go,' he said, 'and we'll be bringing you home in a box.'"

So hospital it was, instead of Thurles. She duly made a good recovery (Nellie O'Connell was a great help and comfort, she acknowledges), and the process was scarcely retarded by all the good wishes, the requests, and the visits from Eddie Keher, Ted Carroll and sundry other heroes of the Black and Amber.

FOLLOWS THE CAMOGIE TEAM

The county's stars of today she all loves equally. Some more equally than others, admittedly — John Henderson and brother Ger, plus Eddie O'Connor, being cases in point.

The camogie team she "adores", and

relates how she made "forty phone calls" on the Monday morning after the latest All-Ireland in an effort to fix up fitting transport for the homecoming of the heroines. Insurance problems ruled out lorries from Avonmore and Smithwick's... and C.I.E.'s double decker bus (as used by the Kilkenny hurlers on the first Monday of September) had, she says, been booked the previous Thursday by the Cork camogie outfit!

Which brings us on to Babs, Cyril and Eamon. They all know her too, apparently.

Cyril Farrell, she concedes, is "alright - I've nothing against him". And Babs she doesn't mind either, even if she reckons referees "are too soft on him, the way he encroaches on the pitch".

But Eamon Cregan...? Well, seems there was an encounter between the two of them when Limerick were playing in Nowlan Park a few years ago and Eamon expressed the opinion that women "shouldn't be on the sideline". That apart, while Nan would like him to express a little more praise for Kilkenny on the Sunday Game from time to time, she does agree that he was a "terrific hurler in his day".

So what about the future for Kilkenny hurling? 1991, she had convinced herself, was going to be their year. Now it's 1992 she's looking forward to, provided the county discovers "one or two strong defenders" in the meantime.

Ten things you almost certainly didn't know about Kilkenny's No. 1 supporter

1. Nan is the former Nan Walsh from Callan.
2. She was a nifty camogie player in her day, lining out for both Callan and Windgap at various stages.
3. Her brother, the late Paddy, was a member of Kilkenny's All-Ireland winning minor team of 1935 alongside the likes of Paddy Grace and Jim Langton.
4. Paddy fought in the Second World War but was killed tragically near Bari, Italy in January 1945 - only a few months short of the end of hostilities - when the Germans bombed the hospital where he lay recovering from wounds.
5. Nan's father was caretaker of the courthouse in Callan for over thirty years.
6. For many years she herself worked as caretaker of the swimming pool in Kilkenny, where she's lived since her marriage in 1950.
7. Her first All-Ireland saw her sit on her father's knee on a tupenny orange box on the sideline.
8. Her all-time favourite Kilkenny hurlers include Paddy Grace, Bobby Hinks, Jackie Cahill of Callan, Jack Mulcahy, Jack Gargan, Mick Kenny, Billy Dwyer, and the "great Bennettsbridge men of the 1950s and '60s".
9. Players from other counties she's always had a high regard for where Bobby Rackard, Jimmy Doyle, Mark Corrigan and, yes, Eamon Cregan.
10. And she nominates Pat O'Neill, Philip Larkin and the Dicksboro trio of Ger Henderson, Donal Carroll and Kilkenny minor captain Dan O'Neill as young men to look out for in the coming years.

But when the breakthrough eventually comes, she's sure, the glory days will be here to stay.

"We've been out of the limelight for long enough, but there are some brilliant young players around here. I see an All-

Ireland coming shortly.

"And once we win one, we'll be in for a decade."

Fighting words indeed. Mind you, Dick Brennan might respectfully beg to differ with his wife on that one!

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MINOR

James Stephens regain minor title

Report by TOM RYALL

James Stephens regained the minor hurling championship and took the Michael Joyce Cup for the first time since 1986 when they had a resounding win over Graiguenamanagh/Blacks & Whites at Nowlan Park on Monday, 28th October. Graiguenamanagh/Blacks & Whites had beaten Kilmacow and Mooncoin on the way to the final. They saw off the challenge of the Kilmacow boys by 3-9 to 0-11, while Mooncoin were downed in the South Final by 2-9 to 1-6.

James Stephens beat the Fenians in the first round by 4-12 to 1-8. They almost bowed out of the championship in the Northern semi-final when they were held to a draw by O'Loughlin Gaels on a score of 1-5 to 0-8. James Stephens had to take the field without the services of Philip Larkin who had been sent to the line in the Kilkenny v. Derry All-Ireland minor hurling championship game. With Larkin back, James Stephens made no mistake in the replay, winning by 2-6 to 0-2. The Northern Final was another easy win for the Village boys. Dicksboro were the holders of the title, but they were never in the game as James Stephens won by 2-13 to 1-6.

The destination of the final was decided in the first five minutes of the second half when the city boys cracked in three goals. They were behind at the interval with the with the Southerners leading by 1-2 to 0-4.



Graiguenamanagh/Blacks & Whites – Roinn "A" Minor Hurling Finalists 1991

Back – d. Maher, A. Morrissey, N. Kealy, L. Fogarty, H. Roberts, K. Walsh, G. Walsh, P. Hayden.
Front – L. Bolger, M. Ryan, F. Doyle, N. Dunne, F. Fenlon, I. Morrissey, S. Kealy.

Once James Stephens scored those three goals, the interest evaporated out of the game. The Village dominated the first quarter but some terrible shooting by their forwards left the losers very much in the game. A goal by Michael Ryan after his free had been blocked but not cleared, helped Graiguenamanagh/Blacks & Whites into that interval lead.

The James Stephens goals after the interval were scored by Clive Kenny,

Fergal Cantwell and Liam Smith. Further points were added by Fergal Cantwell and Brian Leahy and the lead was 3-6 to 1-2. Philip Larkin had a magnificent game on the half-back line for the winners and deservedly took the Hennessy Sports "Man of the Match" award. He got good assistance from Francis Cantwell, Liam Smith, Fergal Cantwell, Clive Kenny and Brian Leahy. The losers' best were Noel Dunne, Ivan Morrissey, Henry Roberts, Alan Morrissey and Fran Doyle:



James Stephens – Kilkenny Minor Hurling Champions 1991 (Roinn "A")

Back – Tommy Lanigan (coach), Brian Dooley, Conor O'Dwyer, Martin Phelan, Wayne Kelly, Fergal Cantwell, Paddy Millea (selector), Martin Ryan, Eamonn Daly, Clive Kenny, Malcolm Murphy, Adrian Roche, Tobias White (captain), Kevin Grogan, Peter Barry, Pdraig Ryan, Willie Smith (Chairman, Juvenile Committee).
Front – Vincent O'Brien, Derek Kerwick, Shane Doyle, Brian McEvoy, Brian Leahy, Eugene Somers, Francis Cantwell, Philip Larkin, Barry Smith, Stephen Drennan, Liam Smith, Phil "Fan" Larkin.



Kilmacow – Roinn "B" Minor Hurling League & Championship Winners 1990

Back – John Phelan, Ian O'Callaghan, Peter Phelan, Dermot Tierney, Robert Dalton, Patrick Gahan, Peter Ryan, John Walsh, Eamonn Gahan, Brian O'Callaghan. **Front** – Denis Scully, Eamonn Reddy, Declan Gahan, Paul Long, James O'Neill, Jimmy Walsh (mascot).

Scorers: James Stephens – Liam Smith, Fergal Cantwell and Clive Kenny (1-1 each), Brian Leahy and Philip Larkin (0-2 each), Vinny O'Brien (0-1). **Graiguenamanagh/Blacks & Whites** – Michael Ryan (1-3), Fran Doyle (0-1).

James Stephens – Francis Cantwell, Shane Doyle, Malcolm Murphy, Tobias White (capt.), Barry Smith, Adrian Roche, Philip Larkin, Eugene Somers, Brian McEvoy, Brian Leahy, Liam Smith, Vinny O'Brien, Fergal Cantwell, Clive Kenny, Derek Kerwick. **Subs:** Brian Dooley, Peter Barry.

Graiguenamanagh/Blacks & Whites – Noel Dunne, Ken Walsh, Ivan Morrissey, Noel Kealy, Sean Kiely, Henry Roberts, Patrick Hayden, Ger Walsh, Liam Fogarty, Alan Morrissey, Leo Bolger, Michael Ryan, Declan Maher, Fran Doyle, Fergal Fenlon. **Sub:** John Flood.

DUNAMAGGIN AND CONAHY BRIGHTEN UP COUNTY FINAL

For the first time since 1984 the "B" minor final was the curtain-raiser to the Senior County Final and a wise choice it proved. Contesting were Dunamaggin and

Conahy Shamrocks, who two years ago had played a great Under-16 "B" league final with Dunamaggin prevailing by 2-11 to 1-10. On this occasion four points again separated the sides, with Dunamaggin still victors. The final score was Dunamaggin 2-12, Conahy Shamrocks 3-5.

Writing in the *Kilkenny People*, reporter Sean Keane said: "Superior team-work and craft gave Dunamaggin the edge". This sums up the game. Yet it was a fine game that was not over until the final whistle. The Dunamaggin side can thank their centre half-back Pat Fleming for a "Man of the Match" award winning performance. He was a towering figure in defence and was also on hand to blast a penalty to the net to give his side a lead they were not to surrender.

Ciaran Muldowney hauled Conahy back into the game six minutes from time when he had a goal from a 21 metres' free. A number of Conahy supporters were incensed moments later when the referee gave a free out after Muldowney had tried to burst through for what might have proved a match-saving goal.

Jim Hickey was the star performer for the winners in the first half but a shoulder injury saw him operate at corner forward in the second period. Despite the slippery conditions this was a very good and sporting game. Dunamaggin had the more dangerous set of forwards, with the Conahy attack missing many chances, particularly in the first half. James Barry made one tremendous save in the Dunamaggin goal at a vital stage in the second half. Shane Kirwan and Paul Cahill gave most assistance to Pat Fleming in the winners' defence. Matthew O'Shea was another star for the winners and did well when he moved to midfield when Jim Hickey was injured. Paul Kearney and Paul Whelan were lively in attack.

Tom Brennan stood out in the losers' defence with James Loughlin and Martin Nolan also to the fore. Kenny Dooley worked hard at midfield, while Ciaran Connery did his best work when he moved back to the defence. Ciaran Muldowney was the danger man in attack. The teams were level at the interval – Dunamaggin 0-5, Conahy



Dunamaggin – Roinn "B" County Minor Hurling Champion 1991

Back – Christy Whelan, Matt Mackey (selector), Willie Kearney (Chairman), Dermot O'Shea, James Barry, Denis Lahart, Gerry Carroll, Adrian Moran, Paul Whelan, Matthew O'Shea, Shane Kirwan, Philip O'Shea, Andrew Hickey, Jimmy Dunne (Trainer, and Selector). **Front** – Alan Mackey, Kenneth O'Shea, Paul Kearney, Jim Hickey (captain), Paul Cahill, Pat Fleming, Michael O'Neill, Tom Hickey, John Enright, Tom McCormack, John Ryan (Selector).

Shamrocks 1-2, the Conahy goal coming from a Kenny Dooley line ball.

Dunamaggin opened up a six point lead in the third quarter, 2-10 to 2-4. A point from Ciaran Muldowney and a goal from a free from the same player made for a grandstand finish but late points from Matthew O'Shea and Paul Kearney gave the O'Keeffe Cup to Dunamaggin.

Scorers: Dunamaggin – Jim Hickey (0-4), Paul Kearney (0-4), Gerry Carroll (1-1), Matthew O'Shea (0-3), Pat Fleming (1-0). **Conahy Shamrocks** – Ciaran Muldowney (1-4), Kenny Dooley (1-0), Ciaran Connery (1-0), Shane Mulhall (0-1).

Dunamaggin – James Barry, Tom Hickey, Shane Kirwan, Alan Mackey, Paul Cahill, Pat Fleming, Dermot O'Shea, Denis Lahart, Jim Hickey (capt.), Paul Kearney, Matthew O'Shea, Adrian Moran, Michael O'Neill, Gerry Carroll, Paul Whelan. *Sub:* Kenneth O'Shea.

Conahy Shamrock – Pdraig Downey, Brian Lacey, Tom Brennan, James Loughlin, James Lawless, Martin Nolan, Philip Dunne, Shane Mulhall, Kenny Dooley, Ciaran Muldowney, Ciaran Connery, Brian Buggy, Kevin Healy, Eoin Murphy, Willie Lawless.

MAGNIFICENT DOUBLE FOR LISDOWNNEY

Lisdownney completed a magnificent double in the Roinn "C" hurling championship and league. It was Lisdownney's first ever minor title and their first county final hurling win since the Under-16s took the Roinn "C" double in 1979. Lisdownney had close games in all their ties, just edging out Galmoy in the Northern Final by 2-6 to 1-6. They also narrowly defeated James Stephens II in the first round by 3-3 to 1-5.

Three players stood out in Lisdownney's win over Mullinavat in the championship final. They were Gareth Walsh at full-forward who scored 1-5 of his side's total, Garry Tallis who was an inspiring full back, particularly in the second half, and goalkeeper Ollie Blanchfield who was the Man of the Match. He made three inspirational saves during the game – two

in the second half being particularly good. These saves had a vital bearing on the result as Lisdownney held out to win by 2-6 to 0-6.

Donal Fitzpatrick opened the scoring with a Lisdownney goal, to which Gareth Walsh added a point. Paul Kenneally had Mullinavat's first point but three pointed frees by Gareth Walsh had the North Kilkenny side ahead by 1-4 to 0-1. Lisdownney got a tonic start to the second half when Gareth Walsh goaled and Shane Grogan added a point within a minute of resuming. Mullinavat then came very much into the game and had points from Patrick Rohan and Raymond Carroll (free). Raymond Carroll pointed another free to which Gareth Walsh replied with a point.

In addition to those already mentioned, others to play well for Lisdownney were Mark Dunphy, Michael Fitzpatrick, despite a broken thumb, Eamon Grace and Richard Mackey.

Lisdownney – Ollie Blanchfield, John Dooley, Garry Tallis, P. J. Kenny, Mark Dunphy, Declan Fitzpatrick, Joseph Nolan, Michael Fitzpatrick, Tony Moore, Donal Fitzpatrick, Richard Mackey, Shane Grogan, Eamonn Grace, Gareth Walsh, Colin Dunphy.

Young Mark Dunphy was the toast of Lisdownney when they brought off the double. With time up, referee Pat Hayes told him he had to score direct from a "65". The score at the time read: Lisdownney 1-7, Tullogher-Rosbercon 1-7. Mark's stroke was straight and true and Lisdownney were the league champions. Tullogher-Rosbercon made a great effort in a brilliant game. They came from behind, levelled and went two points up only to be hauled back to parity and then lose with that last stroke of the game.

Two points from long range frees by Mark Dunphy, to which Gareth Walsh and Shane Grogan added points from play, left the North Kilkenny side ahead by 0-4 to 0-0 after ten minutes. There was only one further score before the interval, a point

for the losers by Joe Murphy. As in the championship, Lisdownney started the second half with a goal, this time by Eamonn Grace. Points followed for Tullogher-Rosbercon from Colm Phelan and Mark Bookle. This gave a boost to the Southerners and the sides were level when Colm Phelan with a point and Mark Bookle with a goal, scored.

Edmond Hanrahan and Bookle put Tullogher-Rosbercon two points ahead. Tony Moore pointed to leave the minimum between the sides. Ollie Blanchfield then brought off a vital save at the other end. He was moved from the goal to the forwards later, where he was fouled and he himself pointed the free to level the scores. Mark Dunphy's pointed free came moments later to clinch an historic double for Lisdownney.

John Dooley, who won the Lisdownney Man of the Match award sponsored by Coca Coa, Mark Dunphy, Tony Moore, Eamonn Grace, Shane Grogan and Gareth Walsh were best for the winners. The losers had star performers in Louis Gaule, Mark Malone, Donnacha Doyle, Enda Cummins, Mark Bookle, Joe Murphy and Colm Phelan.

Scorers: Lisdownney – Mark Dunphy (0-3), Eamonn Grace (1-0), Gareth Walsh, Ollie Blanchfield, Shane Grogan, and Michael Fitzpatrick (0-1 each). **Tullogher** – Mark Bookle (1-3), Colm Phelan (0-2), Eamonn Hanrahan and Joe Murphy (0-1 each).

Lisdownney – Ollie Blanchfield, P. J. Kenny, Garry Tallis, John Dooley, Mark Dunphy, Declan Fitzpatrick, Joseph Nolan, Tony Moore, Michael Fitzpatrick, Donal Fitzpatrick, Shane Grogan, Victor Mullally, Eamonn Grace, Gareth Walsh, Colin Dunphy.

Tullogher-Rosbercon – Louis Gaule, J. Ryan, Enda Cummins, D. Murphy, C. Tobin, Donnacha Doyle, Mark Malone, Mark Bookle, J. Lalor, Eamonn Hanrahan, E. Ryan, J. Lyng, J. Foley, Joe Murphy, Colm Phelan.



Conahy Shamrocks – Roinn "B" Minor Hurling Finalists 1991

Back – John Hurley, Willie Connery, James Lawless, Eoin Murphy, Ciaran Muldowney, Tom Brennan, Kenny Dooley, Kevin Healy, Philip Dunne. **Front** – Martin Nolan, Shane Mulhall, Ciaran Connery, Brian Lacey, Pdraig Downey (captain), James Loughlin, Willie Lawless, Brian Buggy.

1991 – THE YEAR OF THE SPONSOR

By *NICKEY BRENNAN*

WITH the relaxation in the sponsorship rules by the G.A.A., 1991 proved an extremely successful year for Coiste Contae Cill Chainning in the area of sponsorship. This sponsorship has helped the Board to undertake some additional work in 1991 which otherwise would not have been possible.

We were particularly pleased to have a local and long established Kilkenny Company, Mahon McPhillips CEM, as the sponsors of the Kilkenny Senior and Minor hurling teams. Counties entered into sponsorship deals with various firms during the year not quite knowing how the process would develop. Unfortunately, some early sponsorship deals fell apart, thus making life a little difficult for those counties who had still to finalise their own arrangements.

When the issue of sponsoring teams was approved by Congress this year, we quickly set about preparing a plan to approach potential sponsors. One of the key decisions we took early on was to employ professional help in preparing our "Curriculum Vitae". We were lucky in Kilkenny in that our past record and our general perception in the G.A.A. world are both widely acknowledged. However, it was also important (though not entirely essential) that we got a company with some Kilkenny connections. This meant that Kilkenny teams and Kilkenny supporters could more easily identify with the sponsor.

Jim Walsh & Associates, our PR company, made contact with numerous firms and various levels of interest was expressed. Our

initial meeting with Mahon McPhillips CEM in the Club House Hotel looked promising. A couple of weeks later, and following another series of meetings and correspondence, a sponsorship arrangement was entered into. All was now set for Mahon McPhillips CEM to make their debut with Kilkenny in the Leinster Hurling semi-final between Kilkenny and Wexford. The progress of the Kilkenny team during the rest of 1991 is now history.

All sponsorship deals represent a gamble and it can be difficult to quantify, particularly in financial terms, the actual gain to a company. I am particularly pleased that the senior team performed so well in our first sponsorship year and I am pleased too that Mahon McPhillips CEM derived enormous publicity through the national and local media. Even though the All-Ireland final is long past, photographs are still appearing in various publications and this will continue for some time into the future.

The County Board is extremely grateful for the courtesy and assistance it received from the executives of Mahon McPhillips CEM, notably Managing Director Paul Barrett and Business Development Director Charlie Cullen. Without their interest and commitment this sponsorship arrangement would not have been achieved. Gratitude is also due to Noel Kelly and Richie Walsh from the M.F. Kent Corporation who played prominent roles at various stages of the sponsorship deal.

The first sponsorship agreement of the year was reached with St. Canice's Kilkenny

Credit Union Limited and they have now attached their name to the Senior Hurling Championship. The past year saw a big improvement in the standard of play in the Senior Hurling Championship and the commitment of St. Canice's Credit Union was most gratifying. Their sponsorship of the "Man of the Match" awards for many games during the year was particularly well received by the clubs involved. As an extension of this, two other Credit Unions – Callan and Ballyragget – also sponsored "Man of the Match" awards for games played at their local venues. The County Board is particularly pleased with the success of the Credit Union sponsorship in its first year. The Credit Union derived enormous publicity and goodwill from its involvement with the Kilkenny County Board. Grateful thanks is due to the President, Joe Doyle; Manager, Paddy Kennedy, and the entire committee of St. Canice's Kilkenny Credit Union Limited for their commitment to Gaelic Games in Kilkenny not alone in 1991 but for many years. We look forward to continued success in 1992.

Sponsorship for the Intermediate Hurling Championship was secured from Vale Oil Limited. This was achieved mainly due to the interest of Dermot Smith (the late Managing Director of Vale Oil) in Gaelic Games. Dermot was a native of Armagh and maintained a keen interest in all games, having a particular love for Gaelic Football. It is particularly sad that Dermot should pass to his reward before the completion of the



Kilkenny's main sponsors in 1991 were guests of the Kilkenny County Board at the Presentation Social in November.

Pictured at the presentation were: **Back row** – Milo Grogan (St. Canice's Kilkenny Credit Union Limited), Mrs. Kitty Cullen (Mahon McPhillips CEM), Michael Hayes (Vale Oil), Mrs. Triona Smith (Vale Oil), John Knox (St. Canice's Kilkenny Credit Union Limited). **Front row** – Charlie Cullen (Mahon McPhillips CEM), Dan O'Neill (Kilkenny Minor Hurling Captain), Christy Heffernan (Kilkenny Senior Hurling Captain), Angela Downey (Kilkenny Senior Camogie Captain), Nickey Brennan, (Chairman, Kilkenny G.A.A. County Board).

Intermediate Hurling Championship. His sudden death left a big void not alone in his family but in Vale Oil Limited. We extend the deepest sympathy of all G.A.A. followers in Kilkenny to Dermot's wife, Triona. He was a man of enormous talent who clearly recognised the role Gaelic Games played in the life of Kilkenny folk.

Following Dermot's sad departure, local Vale Oil Manager, Michael Hayes, who played a key role in securing the sponsorship agreement, kept the flag flying for the company. Their innovative sponsorship of two colour televisions for the "Man of the Match" and a competition through the *Kilkenny People* newspaper was highly commended by G.A.A. supporters. Like St. Canice's Kilkenny Credit Union Limited, we are pleased that Vale Oil Limited also derived enormous publicity and goodwill from its sponsorship arrangement with the Kilkenny County Board. We look forward to continued success in 1992.

Many other sponsors came to the assistance of the Kilkenny County Board during the past year and we are deeply indebted to them all for their help. We would ask all G.A.A. supporters in the county to remember our sponsors and their enormous contribution to the G.A.A. here in Kilkenny.

Our full list of sponsors for 1991 is as follows:

Mahon McPhillips CEM
 St. Canice's Credit Union
 Vale Oil Limited
 Callan Credit Union
 Ballyragget Credit Union
 The Monster House, High Street
 Frank Wall, High Street
 Eamonn Langton, John Street
 Avonmore Foods plc, Patrick Street

Kilkenny G.A.A. Supporters Club
 Country Style Limited, Waterford
 Adidas, Cork
 O'Neill Sports, Dublin
 Eamonn O'Rourke, Patrick Street
 Tom Holden, Callan
 Hennessy Sports, Parliament Street
 Hehir's Transport
 Iarnród Éireann
 Newpark Hotel

Hotel Kilkenny
 Springhill Hotel
 All advertisers in this Year Book
 All advertisers in Nowlan Park
 All advertisers in Match programmes in 1991
 All individuals and companies who assisted the Kilkenny G.A.A. Supporters Club during the year.



Pictured at the launch of the sponsorship of the Kilkenny Senior Hurling Championship by St. Canice's Kilkenny Credit Union Limited are Paddy Kennedy, Manager, St. Canice's Credit Union Limited, and Kilkenny goalie Michael Walsh.



Iarnród Éireann kindly sponsored a special luxury train to carry the Kilkenny Minor and Senior teams to and from Croke Park for the All-Ireland Finals. On the return they presented a cake to the successful Minor Team. The County Board in turn presented the cake to St. Patrick's School, Kells road. Frank Hogan, Iarnród Éireann is pictured right presenting the cake.

Derry Fright Showed Dashing Minors what it took

By: JOHN KNOX (Kilkenny People)

Always nice to complete a hard job successfully, but when you do it by showing real guts, and at the same time retain style and verve, then the satisfaction can be utterly complete

THERE was hardly any way the Kilkenny minor hurlers could have enhanced the uplifting and powerful show they put in when destroying Tipperary in the All-Ireland final to take the county's 15th title.

Twelve minutes from the end, the Munster champions were ticking over nicely, and looking winners all the way. By the hour's end they were shocked, maybe even demoralised, after being taken asunder by as sparkling a burst of hurling as any Kilkenny team has produced in ages.

The losers turned over at half-way 0-6 to 0-4 to the good. In the 43rd minute they were gifted a goal when a bad error in the Kilkenny defence put them firmly in the driving seat. Twelve minutes off the end they were still four points to the good, and the Irish Press



Kilkenny Captain, Dan O'Neill, holds the Irish Press Cup aloft following his sides impressive win over Tipperary in the All-Ireland Minor Final.

Cup looked theirs.

Suddenly, like a sleeping volcano, Kilkenny erupted. That dandy little performer, P. J. Delaney cast his magical spell over the game, and pending defeat was turned into glorious victory. The Fenians (Johnstown) lad was moved from centre to full-forward, and when his colleagues followed to the 't' directions to aim low ball at him, all the parts in the jig-saw fell into place.

Delaney threw over some smashing points. The elegant Diarmuid Maher did likewise, twice during the half when the Noresiders badly needed scores. And not to be outdone, the full-back line of Larry Mahony, Barry Power and Sean Meally shackled the opposition to such a degree and pumped so much ball up the field that one hardly realised in the excitement that the losers



Joe Is Happy Bord na nÓg Chairman and Kilkenny Minor Selector Joe Pyke shows his delight with the Minor victory.

were outscored 0-6 to 0-0 during those action packed closing 10 minutes.

Enough was enough

It was some finish to an All-Ireland final that Kilkenny found hard to come to grips with. For a long way Tipp. looked the sharper and neater hurlers. But when Delaney and company decided enough was enough, and the title that was hard earned in a replayed final the previous year was slipping away, they showed real guts, and their innate hurling skills helped do the rest.

One will forever remember when the final-whistle sounded. Co. Board chairman, Nickey Brennan jumped in the air and danced, ran up and down the field and eventually wrapped-up someone in a mighty hug. His excited reaction was shared by thousands. A minor victory brought no minor joy.

The county's 15th success put Kilkenny on top of the winners league with Cork and Tipperary. This latest victory was Kilkenny's third in four years. Let us hope much of the talent on flow since 1988 will graduate to the big stage. Some has already. Success at this level can be all important in the long run.

The distinguished way Kilkenny retained their grip on the championship was uplifting. But taken in the context of what had gone before, it was little short of terrific. Apart from a fright given by Derry in the All-Ireland semi-final, the Noresi-

ders had a relatively trouble free run.

On top of that, exciting prospect Philip Larkin, one of the heroes of 1990 and a definite to hold his corner in

any match, was sent off in the semi-final. That dismissal led to his being suspended for the final.

Selectors Joe Pyke (Clara), Denis Philpott (Dicksboro), Jim-

my Neary (Craigue-Ballycallan), James Delahunty (Mooncoin) and Paddy Corbett (Graignamagh) apparently didn't have any misgivings about the ability of the players to do the job. In the absence of Larkin they kept the main body of the team intact, which was a sound course of action. When P. J. Delaney was shifted to the edge of the square they were throwing their last ace, and it was a winning one. Team trainer, Fr. Liam Barron had drilled it into the players all along that low ball into the forwards was all important. How right he was.

Scoring Spree

Those already mentioned jumped to the fore at a crucial stage, but the consistent and quietly efficient play of team captain, Dan O'Neill, Seamus Dillard, Eddie Dwyer and James Hickey prevented Tipp. from turning good earlier possession in a winning advantage.

Young Delaney started on a championship scoring spree that realised 2-29 overall - in just four games - by shooting 2-8 in the opening joust against Offaly. The youngster who was eventually to be named 'Minor Player' of the series by the Kilkenny G.A.A. Supporters Club, was joined by Philip Larkin in the star class that evening.

The Leinster final was a stroll. Laois, apparently, had some problems in the run-up to the match, and offered no worth-



Martin Carey, Kilkenny Minor goalkeeper, clears his lines in fine style.



Star forward P. J. Delaney breaks through the Laois attack for another Kilkenny score in the one-sided win over our neighbours in the Leinster Minor Hurling Final.

while resistance. The All-Ireland semi-final was a real shocker, from a Kilkenny point of view.

No hoppers Derry – it was forgotten they gave Cork a fright 12 months earlier – twice looked like being dismissed with ease. Twice they shot goals to slip the death sentence. And with five minutes remaining, they were still very much in the hunt (0-14 to 2-5). Fluent striker, Diarmuid Maher had a beautiful late point to relieve some of the pressure on the 14-strong Marble City lads.

That fright shook the Nor- esiders, while at the same time, gave them an inkling of the steely character needed to get through in tight finishes. That experience wasn't forgotten when it came to the final.

The Kilkenny All-Ireland final team was: Martin Carey (Young Irelands); Sean Meally (Clon- een); Larry Mahony (Danes- fort); Barry Power (O'Loughlin- Gaels); Adrian O'Sullivan (John Lockes); Eddie Dwyer (Graigue- Ballycallan); Dan O'Neill (Dicks- boro) captain; Diarmuid Maher (Barrow Rangers); James Hickey (Dunamaggin); Seamus Dollard (Glenmore); P. J. Delaney (Fe- nians); Ger. Walsh (Graignama- nah); Denis Byrne (Graigue- Ballycallan); Michael Owens (Erin's Own); Robert Shortall (Clara). Subs: Pat Davis (Pil- town) used; Noel Dunne (Graig- namanagh); Ned Drea (Barrow Rangers); John Dwyer (Dicks- boro); Ger. Ronan (Graigue- Ballycallan); Michael Trait (Dicksboro); Mark Galavan (Clara); Sean Teehan (Tullar- oan); Ciaran Connery (Conahy Shamrocks).

THE WAY TO CROKE PARK SUCCESS

Saturday, June 29 at Portlaoise, Leinster Semi-Final

Kilkenny 2-13 **Offaly**..... 1-8

Kilkenny Scorers: P. J. Delaney (2-8); Denis Byrne (0-2); Seamus Dollard, Diarmuid Maher, Philip Larkin (0-1 each).

Sunday, July 21 at Croke Park, Leinster Final

Kilkenny 1-20 **Laois** 0-4

Kilkenny Scorers: P. J. Delaney (0-8); Dan O'Neill (0-4); Robert Shortall (1-0); Ger Walsh, Diarmuid Maher, Seamus Dollard (0-2 each); Philip Larkin, Denis Byrne (0-1 each).

Sunday, August 11 at Croke Park, All-Ireland Semi-Final

Kilkenny 0-15 **Derry**..... 2-6

Kilkenny Scorers: P. J. Delaney (0-7); Seamus Dollard (0-3); Ger Walsh (0-2); Denis Byrne, Diarmuid Maher, Robert Shortall (0-1 each).

Sunday, September 1 at Croke Park, All-Ireland Final

Kilkenny 0-15 **Tipperary**..... 1-10

Kilkenny Scorers: P. J. Delaney (0-6); Diarmuid Maher (0-3); Seamus Dollard (0-2); James Hickey, Denis Byrne, Michael Owens, Robert Shortall (0-1 each).

ON TOP OF THE HURLING WORLD

15 – Kilkenny:	1931, 1935, 1936, 1950, 1960, 1961, 1962, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1981, 1988, 1990, 1991.
15 – Cork:	1928, 1937, 1939, 1941, 1951, 1964, 19067, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1974, 1978, 1979, 1985.
15 – Tipperary:	1930, 1932, 1933, 1934, 1947, 1949, 1952, 1953, 1955, 1956, 1957, 2959, 1976, 1980, 1982.
4 – Dublin:	1945, 1946, 1954, 1965.
3 – Limerick:	1940, 1958, 1984.
Offaly:	1986, 1987, 1989.
Wexford:	1963, 1966, 1968.
2 – Waterford:	1929, 1948.
1 – Galway:	1983

Note: The Minor Hurling Championship was suspended in 1942, 1943 and 1944 because of World War II



KILKENNY UNDER-14 HURLING TEAM – Tony Forristal Tournament

Back Row (l.-r.): J. Neary, R. Stone, Mark Dunphy, Michael Ryan, Ger Wallace, David Carroll, Shane Lanigan, Brian Dempsey, Tom McCormack, Paul Hoyne (Capt.), Jimmy Comerford, Billy Ryan, Richard Mullaly, Henry McEntee, J. Manogue. Front Row (l.-r.): E. Tobin, Ger Kirwan, John Drea, Edmond Holohan, Paddy

FIVE people active in the Gaelic world in Kilkenny made it a bumper year for such folk when they claimed awards for excellence.

Better than that, one of them was crowned queen of the sporting domain that is Kilkenny.

The five, Michael 'Ducksie' Walsh and Eugene Downey (handball), George Leahy (hurling), Pat Davis (hurling), and Sinead Millea (camogie) were all monthly award winners in the sports personality scheme sponsored by the Kilkenny People newspaper and Hotel Kilkenny.

The scheme's calendar year runs from September to September, and at the glittering annual banquet in Hotel Kilkenny the young camogie heroine was awarded as the Supreme Award winner, which is presented to the person the Selection Committee – former Kilkenny great Noel Skehan, Richard Butler (Hotel Kilkenny) and John Knox (Kilkenny People) – feels performed at a particularly high level throughout the year.

Sinead Millea certainly did that. Last year the St. Brigid's (Ballycallan) player bagged a record score (4-7) when helping her school, St. Brigid's College, Callan to their first victory in the All-Ireland junior camogie championship.

This year she went even further. First she helped her club to their first Kilkenny senior camogie championship. She scored 1-9 of their total of 2-15.

Later she helped Kilkenny regain the minor All-Ireland championship. This time she shot 2-4. Sinead won a minor All-Ireland for the third time, and thus equalled a national record. She had been unwell, and missed the 1990 final against Tipperary, which the Noresiders lost by one point. Had Sinead been there,

Sinead The Queen Of This Domain

Kilkenny would have won for sure, and she would now be the outright holder of the record for All-Irelands won at this level.

Another record

The multi-talented Sinead rounded off a fabulous year when she played on the

Kilkenny senior team that beat Cork in the All-Ireland final. Another record, as she became the only woman to win senior and minor All-Irelands on the field of play in the one year.

The Supreme award was presented to a most worthy winner by Hotel Kilkenny managing-director, Liam Griffin, who in his time played senior inter-county hurling with Clare and Wexford.

Michael Walsh won the September 1990 monthly award after winning two handball All-Irelands. He ran up six-in-a-row in singles, and won doubles with Eugene Downey.

Eugene Downey won the February, 1991 monthly award following his victory, in partnership with Egin Jensen (Meath), in the A/B doubles 40x20 World Championships in Phoenix, Arizona.

George Leahy carried off the March award after guiding Glenmore to victory in the All-Ireland Club senior hurling championship. He has now been a selector with three club championship winning teams. He was with James Stephens when they won the title in 1976 and 1982. No one has enjoyed so much success in this championship.

Captain of the county vocational schools Pat Davis (Piltown) was the monthly award winner in May. Young Millea rounded off the impressive list of winners when she claimed the August award.

This was the first time in the six year history of the Hotel Kilkenny/Kilkenny People scheme that so many Gaelic players were honoured during the one 12 months. Will it be the same next year? Who knows. The September '91 monthly winner was Dan O'Neill, captain of the Kilkenny minor All-Ireland winning side.



Camogie stars Tracey Millea, Jillian Dillon and Sinead Millea pictured with the O'Duffy Cup at the County Board Presentation Dinner which was held in November.

More teams and higher standards securing the future



Loreto Convent – Leinster Colleges Minor Camogie Champions 1991. Back Row (left to right): Nicola Tynan (Dicksboro), Brenda O'Reilly (Dicksboro), Helen Doyle, Niamh Doran (Dicksboro), Lisa Skehan (Lisdowney), Ann Marie Trait (Dicksboro), Pauline Hogan (Dicksboro), Karena Walsh, Catriona Delaney (Freshford), Olivia Cuddihy, Ann Wall (Freshford). Back Row (left to right): Aisling Fitzpatrick (Lisdowney), Eavan Dowling (Clara), Deirdre Costigan, Niamh Phelan (capt.) (Clara), Catriona Carey (Clara), Fiona Connerly, Kathleen Ryan (Freshford).

ST. LACHTAINS took the Minor Camogie title for the third successive year when they beat Clara who were appearing in their first ever final in this grade. The Clara side powered by county players Niamh Phelan and Joanne Dowling made the Freshford girls fight the whole hour for a 2-5 to 1-1 win. St. Lachtains had the assistance of county players Paula Dowling, Margaret Hickey, Siobhan Costelloe and Imelda Kennedy.

Tullaroan took the Minor "B" title when they had a resounding 6-7 to 0-3 win over Dicksboro. It augers well for the Tullaroan club, building upon their successful Primary Schools teams of 1989 and 1990. They had the assistance

of County players Marie Maher and Janet Sweeney.

St. Lachtains again took the Under-14 "A" title and with it the honour of representing the county at Feile na nGael which was held in Tipperary. St. Lachtains had to pull out all the stops to beat last year's "B" champions Carrickshock. Indeed Carrickshock finished level with their illustrious opponents in the first tie, with the final score reading St. Lachtains 1-5, Carrickshock 2-2. The equalising point for St. Lachtains came from a free in "lost" time. St. Lachtains made no mistake in the replay and came out winners by 6-3 to 1-4.

Scorers – St. Lachtains: Ann Wall (4-2), Deirdre Byrne (1-0), Ann Marie Butler (1-0), Sinead Hurley (0-1). **Carrickshock:**

Michelle Fennelly (1-1), Linda Barron, Veronica Wall and Evelyn Murphy (0-1 each).

St. Lachtains: Kathleen Ryan, Breda Dooley, Amanda Bowden, Margaret Dooley, Orla Brennan, Sinead Hurley, Catriona Delaney, Marie Doeling, Catherine Anderson, Ann Marie Butler, Deirdre Byrne, Ann Wall. Subs: Evelyn Norton, Sinead Walsh and Sheila Dooley.

Carrickshock: C. Kearney, Michelle Fennelly, Caroline Phelan, Niamh Rohan, Yvonne O'Meara, Linda Barron, Veronica Burke, Lorraine Molyneux, Elaine Duggan, Anita Cuddihy, Yvonne O'Dwyer, Evelyn Murphy. Subs: G. Cleary, M. Nolan and A. Carroll.

St. Lachtains who won the Feile na

nGael titles in 1989 and 1990 again represented the county in this year's competition which was held in Tipperary. The Freshford girls beat Burgess (Tipperary), Portroe (Tipperary) and drew with Inniscarra (Cork). This brought them to the semi-final when they went down to the Dublin side Ballyboden-St. Endas by 2-3 to 1-0.

Mullinavat, after years of defeat in various county finals, finally came good when they beat Clara by 2-0 to 0-5 in the Under-14 "B" final. For Clara it was their third successive defeat at this level.

James Stephens wrote their names into the camogie records when they took the Under-14 Roinn "C" title. They lost the final to Mullinavat the previous year. Their only other appearance in a camogie final was in 1933 when they lost the first ever junior final to Blacks and Whites.

All the primary schools camogie finals were finished in good time. St. Lachtains came out on top in the "A" grade beating Mullinavat in the final by 7-1 to 2-0, thus regaining a title they last held in 1988. For Mullinavat it was their seventh defeat in the final in eight years. They have still to win it.

The Shamrocks came back into the honours list when they won the "B" final beating Clara by 9-1 to 1-0. It was Clara's second successive defeat in this final.

Mooncoin got the better of Piltown in an all Southern final. The score was Mooncoin 7-0, Piltown 4-0. Best for Mooncoin were Susan Hennebry, Marie O'Hanlon, Gemma Murphy, Elma Walsh, Alison Rothwell, Sinead Quigley and Anna Hennebry. Piltown's best players were Claire Grant, Deirdre Galvin, Paula Farrell and Elaine O'Shea.

The Leinster Colleges Senior Camogie Final was an all Kilkenny affair for the

second year running with Thomastown Vocational School and St. Brigid's College (Callan) in opposition. The previous year the Callan girls lost out to Presentation Convent (Kilkenny) and were again the losers in this final, played in Callan, on a scoreline of 5-6 to 1-1. The teams and scorers were:

Thomastown: Siobhan Whelan, Susan Laherty, Caroline Malone, Susan Malone, Una Murphy (0-1), Jillian Dillon (0-1), Mary Comerford, Patricia O'Keefe, Dolores Lanigan (0-1), Anita White (3-1), Brenda Murphy (1-0), Siobhan Delaney (1-2).

St. Brigid's: Aine Comerford, Mary Brennan, Marie Maher, Tracey Millea, Janet Sweeney, Olive O'Sullivan, Ethel Ann Moloney, Marie Ann Cleere, Margaret Quirke, Sinead Millea (0-1), Margaret Comerford, Breda Maher (1-0). Subs: Catherine Keogh, Nicki Rice and Margaret Hanley.

Thomastown qualified for their first ever appearance in the All-Ireland Colleges Senior Camogie final when they overcame St. Mary's (Midleton) in their own Grennan Sportsfield on a 1-5 to 2-0 victory. They led at the interval by 0-3 to 0-0 and had increased the lead by 1-4 to 0-4, when the Midleton girls struck for two goals to put the game back in the melting pot. Thomastown got the final point from Gillian Dillon for a two point success. Scorers for Thomastown Vocational School were: Anita White (1-0), Gillian Dillon (0-3) and Una Murphy (0-2).

The All-Ireland final was played in Tullamore against St. Raphael's from Loughrea who were seeking their seventh successive title. Thomastown were no match for the Galway girls and were beaten by 3-6 to 0-0. Nevertheless it was a great year for the South

Kilkenny side.

Loreto Convent (Kilkenny) who took up camogie a couple of years ago (the school was more noted for its hockey exploits), reached the Leinster Junior Colleges final, going down to F.C.J. (Bunclody) by 3-0 to 1-4 in a curtain raiser to the senior decider played in Callan. Loreto had good performers in Imelda Kennedy, Niamh Phelan, both of whom won All-Ireland minor medals later in the year, Martina Tallis, Ann Delaney and Catriona Carey. Their scorers in the final were Imelda Kennedy (0-4) and Catriona Carey (1-0).

The Loreto Team was: Kathleen Ryan, Nicola Tynan, Niamh Phelan, Imelda Kennedy, Ann Wall, Martina Tallis, Catriona Delaney, Moira Maxwell, Catriona Carey, Margaret Kavanagh, Ann Delaney, Pauline Hogan.

The Loreto won first ever Leinster Colleges Camogie title when they took the minor championship by beating Colaiste Bhride (Enniscorthy). On the way to this victory they saw off the challenge of Johnstown Vocational School, Castlecomer Community School, Heywood Community School (Ballinakill), Presentation (Kilkenny), St. Brendan's Community School (Birr) and St. Brigid's (Callan).

Scorers for the Loreto were: Pauline Hogan (2-0), Catriona Carey (1-1), Lisa Skehan (1-0).

Loreto: Kathleen Ryan, Nicola Tynan, Fiona Connery, Niamh Phelan (Capt.), Ann Wall, Niamh Doran, Catriona Delaney, Evan Dowling, Pauline Hogan, Ann Marie Trait, Catriona Carey, Lisa Skehan. Subs: Olivia Cuddihy, Brenda O'Reilly, Aishling Fitzpatrick and Deirdre Costigan.



Thomastown Vocational School, Dual Leinster Camogie Champions 1990/91 Back Row (left to right): Siobhan Whelan, Vanessa Butler, Deirdre Lannon, Mary Comerford, Susan Laherty, Patricia O'Keefe, Susan Malone, Caroline Malone, Dolores Lanigan, Gillian Dillon. Front Row (left to right): Irene Gibbons, Siobhan Delaney, Anita White, Brenda Murphy, Una Murphy, Georgina Foley, Jennifer Walsh, Theresa White.

WHEN it became known that St. Pauls would not be competing in the senior championship in 1991, there was renewed interest amongst the other four contenders – Thomastown, St. Lachtains, St. Brigid's and Lisdowney. The early stages were played on a league system with St. Brigid's and St. Lachtains winning their games against Lisdowney and Thomastown.

Owing to county fixtures, St. Brigid's and St. Lachtains did not play their tie. On a toss of a coin St. Brigid's took top spot and thus played Thomastown in the first semi-final. The second semi-final was a local derby between Lisdowney and St. Lachtains. St. Brigid's beat Thomastown by 2-4 to 0-2 while Lisdowney shocked St. Lachtains by 1-6 to 0-8.

When St. Brigid's and Lisdowney lined out in Nowlan Park, both sides were seeking their first county senior title. The game was a tremendous advertisement for camogie. The North Kilkenny girls favoured by the breeze led at the interval by 1-6 to 1-2. Changes on the St. Brigid's team for the second period made all the difference and they went into a one point lead thanks to a great goal by Margaret Comerford who had been introduced at the interval.

With nine minutes left, the sides were level, St. Brigid's 2-8, Lisdowney 1-11. Lisdowney failed to score for the remainder of the game, while the Ballycallan girls added seven points, six from Sinead Millea and one from Mary McGrath to take the cup for the first time.

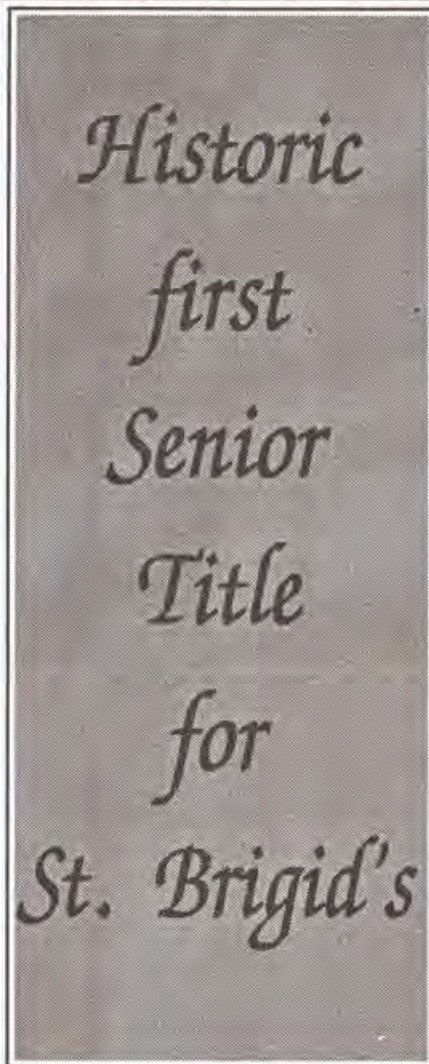
Scorers — St. Brigid's: Sinead Millea (1-9), Breda Cahill (0-2), Tracey Millea (0-2), Margaret Comerford (1-0), Mary McGrath (0-1). **Lisdowney:** Ann Marie Hughes (1-3), Marina Downey (0-4), Ann Dunne (0-1), Lizzie Fogarty (0-3).

St. Brigid's: Marie Fitzpatrick, Philomena Byrne, Frances Rothwell, Deirdre Malone (capt.), Mary Ryall, Tracey Millea, Kay Dunphy, Olive O'Sullivan, Breda Cahill, Mary McGrath, Sinead Millea, Orla Ryall. Subs: Margaret Comerford, Angela Cleere, Celine Egan.

Lisdowney: Veronica Wall, Bridget Wall, Mary Brennan, Bridget Barnaville, Catherine Glendon, Bridget Sharkey, Marina Downey, Catherine Dunne, Ann Dunne, Aine Dunne, Ann Marie Hughes, Lizzie Fogarty. Subs: Deirdre Delaney, Kay Grace.

"B" Championship win for t. Lachtains

St. Lachtains and Lisdowney qualified for the "B" county final but it dragged into November, by which time Lisdowney had gone off the boil, while all the St. Lachtains players were very much involved in both the Under-18 and Under-21 grades. St. Lachtains had the game wrapped up at the interval when they led by 1-3 to 0-2, although they had played against a very strong breeze. Paula Cantwell got the St. Lachtains goal. Another goal by the same player at the start of the second half set up



St. Lachtains for an easy 5-8 to 1-5 victory.

Scorers — St. Lachtains: Paula Cantwell (3-0), Imelda Kennedy (1-2), Maura Costelloe (1-2), Gillian Dillon (0-5). **Lisdowney:** Marina Downey (1-3), Catherine O'Loughlin (0-1), Lizzie Fogarty (0-1).

St. Lachtains: Helen McGrath, Paula Dowling, Miriam Butler, Esther Kennedy, Margaret Hickey, Sinead Costelloe, Elaine Butler, Caroline Brennan, Gillian Dillon, Maura Costelloe, Imelda Kennedy, Paula Cantwell. Subs: Hilda Butler, Siobhan Dermody.

Tullagher attain senior status

Tullagher qualified for senior status when they beat Blacks and Whites in the Intermediate Final. Powered by county players Bidy O'Sullivan, Una Murphy and Noreen Tierney, the Southerners ran out easy winners on a score of 4-6 to 0-5.

Junior "A" title goes to Dicksboro

Dicksboro, benefitting from the great work of Tom O'Donoghue and Jerry O'Dwyer, won the Junior title when they beat St. James's from Glenmore on a score of 2-5 to 1-5. It was St. James's second year to lose this final, having lost to neighbours Tullagher in 1990. Despite the best efforts of county senior player Bridget Mullally and Joan Aylward, they had to give best to a Dicksboro side for whom ex St. Pauls star

Bridie McGarry was outstanding. Others to play well for the winners were Patricia Treacy, Siobhan Dooley, Mary Fry and Esther Maher. They should do well in the Intermediate grade in 1992.

Junior "B" title for Mooncoin after three game saga

The Junior "B" county final was the saga of the year. The contestants were Tullaroan and Mooncoin, two parishes that contributed so much to making Kilkenny such a hurling power. The first of three extraordinary games took place in Palmerstown where the sides finished all square on a score of 4-2 each. It was then on to Hugginstown for the replay and again the sides were level after sixty minutes – Tullaroan 1-3, Mooncoin 0-6. Extra time failed to decide the issue as both sides scored 1-2 to leave the final score Mooncoin 1-8, Tullaroan 2-5. The third game took place in Callan where Mooncoin triumphed on a score of 1-3 to no score.

Mooncoin: A. Morohan, L. Graham, K. Comerford, J. Fripps, J. Dunphy, M. Lowe, P. Morohan, S. Dunphy, D. Cuddihy, M. Doyle, K. Comerford, J. Molloy.

Tullaroan: Ann Marie Coogan, Ann Marie Cleere, Caroline Campion, Ciara Holmes, Brigid Doheny, Breda Maher, Marie Maher, A. Grace, Janet Sweeney, Joanne Sweeney, G. Walsh, C. Hennessy.

St. Lachtains sweeps to U-21 win

St. Lachtains collected their fifth title of the year when they had an easy 7-7 to 1-0 win over Clara in the Under-21 Camogie final. This was the winners third successive victory at this level.

Despite having two goals disallowed, the Freshford girls led by 5-3 to 1-0 at the interval. St. Lachtains continued to dominate in the second half and eventually won by 25 points.

Elaine Butler was in great scoring form getting five goals. Hilda Butler, Gillian Dillon, Esther Kennedy and Paula Cantwell did best for St. Lachtains. Clara had good performers in Caroline Middleton, Niamh Phelan, Edel Murphy, Catherine Nolan, Joanne Dowling and Catherine Dowling.

Scorers — St. Lachtains: Elaine Butler (5-0), Gillian Dillon (2-0), Paula Dowling (0-4), Sinead Costelloe, Hilda Butler, Margaret Kavanagh (0-1 each). **Clara:** Majella Hickey (1-0).

St. Lachtains: Helen McGrath, Paula Dowling, Miriam Butler, Esther Kennedy, Margaret Hickey, Siobhan Dermody, Hilda Butler, Sinead Costelloe, Gillian Dillon, Elaine Butler, Imelda Kennedy, Paula Cantwell.

Clara: Caroline Middleton, Claire Comerford, Niamh Phelan, Catherine Dowling, Evan Dowling, Edel Murphy, Majella Murphy, Catherine Nolan, Joanne Dowling, M. Dowling, S. Byrne, Majella Hickey. Sub: J. McCullagh.

St. Brigid's Camogie Club



St. Brigid's (Ballycallan), Kilkenny Senior Camogie Champions 1990. Back Row (left to right): Kay Dunphy, Margaret Hanley, Deirdre Malone, Frances Rothwell, Mary Ryall, Angela Cleere, Breda Cahill, Carmel Trant. Front Row (left to right): Catherine Keogh, Orla Ryall, Marie Fitzpatrick, Sinead Millea, Tracey Millea, Philomena Byrne, Mary McGrath.

Photo: Tom Brett

1991 was a red letter year for the St. Brigid's Camogie Club when the senior camogie championship was annexed for the first time. When it became known that St. Pauls would not be competing in the "A" grade, all clubs showed an extra interest.

St. Brigid's beat Thomastown and Lisdowney in the league section and as their game with St. Lachtains had not been played, a toss gave St. Brigid's the top spot. This put them into the semi-final against Thomastown. Victory in that game saw them into the county final where their opponents were Lisdowney, who themselves had beaten St. Lachtains in their semi-final.

St. Brigid's scored an historic triumph on a scoreline of 2-15 to 1-11. The team who wrote their names into the history books were:

Marie Fitzpatrick, Philomena Byrne, Frances Rothwell, Deirdre Malone (Capt.), Mary Ryall, Tracey Millea, Kay Dunphy, Olive O'Sullivan, Breda Cahill, Mary McGrath, Sinead Millea, Orla Ryall. Subs: Margaret Comerford, Angela Cleere, Celine Egan, Margret Hanley, Catherine Ryall, Kathleen Comerford, Aine Comerford, Carmel Trant, Catherine Keogh.

The Under-21 team had a great game with St. Lachtains in the semi-final before being overrun in the last ten minutes at which stage the sides were level at 1.6 each. St. Lachtains ran out winners by 3-10 to 1-6.

The Primary Schools team and the Under-14 team failed to make any progress in their competitions. At the time of writing the Under-18 team, with victories over Dicksboro and the Shamrocks, have qualified for the county final, but St. Lachtains would appear to have the upper hand in this grade.

After winning the senior county title, the team was looking forward to playing in the Leinster club championship, particularly as they had home venue against the "B"

winners. It is not history that the game was fixed for the Sunday of the senior and minor All-Ireland hurling finals, as a result of which they had to concede a walk-over.

On the inter-county scene it was another successful year with five senior All-Ireland medals and two minor All-Ireland medals coming to the club - Marie Fitzpatrick, winning her seventh medal, Deirdre Malone, winning her eighth, Frances Rothwell, winning her fifth and the Millea sisters, Tracey and Sinead winning their first medals. Tracey Millea came on as a substitute for Frances Rothwell. Sinead Millea, by winning a senior and minor medal, became the first player to achieve this honour on the field of play. In 1990 Claire McCarthy won senior, junior and minor All-Ireland medals

in the same year but she was a sub on the senior team and did not play. Because of her unique record and also for helping club to a first ever senior county triumph, Sinead was selected as the Hotel Kilkenny/Kilkenny People monthly Sports Star award winner for August and at the banquet for all the monthly winners she was selected for the supreme award. Sinead also won a monthly award in April, 1990.

Margaret Comerford also figured on the county minor team which defeated Galway in the All-Ireland final. Ashling Byrne, Laura Drohan and Sonya Ronan were members of the Kilkenny Under-14 team which lost the Leinster final to Dublin.

St. Lachtains win 6th Title

ST. LACHTAINS (Freshford) made it six victories from six county final appearances when they took the Under-18 title by beating St. Brigid's (Ballycallan) on a score of 3-9 to 1-3. St. Lachtains were strong favourites to win this game but had to battle hard in the first half to lead by 1-5 to 0-3 at the interval. The goal scorer was Hilda Butler.

When the same player had another goal within seconds of the restart, the result was never in doubt and St. Lachtains would have had a far bigger win but for the brilliance of Aine Comerford in the losers goal.

The losers used Caroline Muldowney in goal in the first half and moved her to the forwards in the second half with captain Siobhan Dermody, taking over between the posts. Margaret Hickey and Sinead Costelloe were best in defence. Jillian Dillon was the star at midfield getting good support from Cationa Delaney and Kathleen Dooley. Hilda Butler was of the side, with Imelda Kennedy picking off nice

points.

Aine Comerford was the star of the game and made several fine saves. St. Brigid's were delighted with the display of their three younger players, Aishling Byrne, Ann Marie Ryall and Deirdre O'Sullivan, all of whom played very well. Catherine Keogh, Orla Ryall, Olive O'Sullivan, Tracey Millea and Sinead Millea, who got all her team's scores, also did well.

Scorers - St. Lachtain's: Imelda Kennedy (0-8), Hilda Butler (2-1), Margaret Kavanagh (1-0). St. Brigid'a: Sinead Millea (1-3).

St. Lachtains: Caroline Muldowney, Paula Dowling, Sinead Costelloe, Margaret Hickey, Patricia Dalton, Kathleen Dooley, Jillian Dillon, Catriona Delaney, Siobhan Dermody, Hilda Butler, Imelda Kennedy, Margaret Kavanagh.

St. Brigid's: Aine Comerford, Catherine Keogh, Ann Marie Ryall, Tracey Millea, Aishling Byrne, Deirdre O'Sullivan, Orla Ryall, Olive O'Sullivan, Fiona Walsh, Margaret Comerford, Margaret Hanley, Sinead Millea.

CLARA CAMOGIE

CLARA Under-14 camogie team turned in a brilliant performance in blistering heat in September in Mosney to reach the final by beating Kinvara, Galway 3-4 to 1-5. Gillian Meaney got a hat trick of goals and centreback Deirdre Dowling chipped in with three invaluable points. Wing forward Anne Hickey completed the scoring with another point. Ballingarry-Granagh, Limerick were their opponents in the final.

This was a very exciting match with a good display of camogie from both teams, but a strong wind in the second half favoured the Limerick side to secure a gold victory in the last few minutes. The girls contested the Under-14 Roinn B County Final against Mullinavat and were pipped by one point. The Under-16 girls were minor "A" finalists for the first time after winning the "B" final last year. They contested the Under-21 final, but were beaten by a stronger Freshford team.



Castlewarren Community Games Camogie All-Ireland Silver medalist 1991 with the Rose of Tralee in Mosney. Front Row (left to right): B. Foley, E. Dowling, C. Fitzgerald, R. Middleton, S. Brennan, C. Carey, A. Hickey, A. Dreeling, G. Dillon. Back Row (left to right): P. Dowling, C. Neary (trainer), G. Meaney, D. Hennessy, D. Dowling, Deirdre Murphy, Rose of Tralee, H. O'Neill, A. Nolan, C. Prendergast, E. Brennan, T. O'Sullivan, J. O'Mahony (National P.R.O.).



Clara Under-21 Finalists. Front Row (left to right): D. Dowling, J. Kelly, A. Hickey, M. Hickey (Capt.), C. Dowling, R. Middleton, B. Foley. Middle Row (left to right): C. Neary (trainer), E. Dowling, E. Murphy, E. Dowling, D. Dowling, M. Murphy, V. Dowling, P. Dowling (secretary), T. Carroll. Back Row (left to right): S. Byrne, C. Comerford, C. Nolan, J. Dowling, R. Mullins, M. Hennessy, M. Dowling, N. Phelan, A. M. O'Connell (unavailable for photo).



Clara Primary School Roinn B Finalists. Back Row (left to right): D. Kealy, A. Power, G. Armitage, G. Dillon, E. O'Shea, B. Dowling, K. Kealy, E. Brennan, L. Hanlon. Back Row (left to right): C. Fitzgerald, U. Roche, E. Kealy, S. Brennan, M. O'Neill, E. Brennan, L. Roche, E. Dowling, R. Middleton, C. Prendergast.

1991 - A Year of Mixed Fortunes

1991 was a year of mixed fortunes for this ever active club. This year saw the re-organisation of the Juvenile Section. Great emphasis was placed on the coaching and training in the areas which were lacking during the past few years. Lisdowney organised camogie for pupils in Lisdowney, Clontubrid, Gathabawn, Johnstown and Ballyragget schools. These pupils would be lost to the game of camogie had this not been done and a great response was received, with up to 50 players involved. The club ran a very successful league for its own juvenile players during the year. The Primary School's team had good wins over The Gael Scoil and St. Canice's but lost out to Galmoy, St. Patricks and Urlingford.

Great praise is due to Nora O'Carroll N.T., Ballyragget who was the driving force behind the Primary Schools and Under-14 section of the Lisdowney Camogie Club. The Under-14 team had good wins over Castlecomer and Mullinavat but lost out to Tullaroan and Clara. In a play-off game the Lisdowney girls lost out to Castlecomer. Stars of the Primary School's side were Gillian Walsh, Ann Marie Lacey, Deirdre Morrissey, Miriam O'Reilly, Patricia Fitzpatrick, Aishling Fitzpatrick, Sinead Delaney, Emer Delaney, Susan Maher, Denise Ryan, Margaret Tobin and Aine Henderson.

The Under-16 team played neighbours Freshford in their opening game and were narrowly beaten. The second game saw success against Ballycallan. The team had now qualified for the semi-final stages of the competition and were drawn against Clara. With Deirdre Delaney, Mary Brennan, Cora Mackey, Olivia Donnelly and Fionula Grey of the County under-16 panel in their ranks, Lisdowney entered the game with high hopes of victory. On the day, the team never produced its form and Clara duly qualified to meet Freshford in the County Final. Along with those already mentioned, the other members of the Lisdowney team were Noelle Lalor, Angela O'Carroll, Lisa Skehan, Martina Tallis, Belinda Doyle, Tominasina Sharkey, Sinead Bergin, Brid Blanchfield, Karen Walker, Aishling Fitzpatrick, Jean Grogan and Karen Walsh.

In the Under-21 competition our great rivals Freshford had a convincing 3-10 to 0-6 victory over Lisdowney.

The big disappointment of the year was



Lisdowney Senior Camogie Team, 1991. Back Row (left to right): Claire Tallis, Kay Healy, Kay Grace, Ann Dunne, Caroline Glendon, Mary Brennan, Pauline Tallis, Bridget Wall, Deirdre Delaney, Aine Dunne, Olivia Donnelly. Front Row (left to right): Catherine Dunne, Lizzy Fogarty, Marina Downey (Capt.), Ann Marie Hughes, Bridget Barnaville, Veronica Wall, Bridget Sharkey, Eithne Downey, Cora Mackey, Fionula Grey. Mascot: Paul Hindle.

the failure of the Junior team to complete their games. The team played a couple of games early on, but lack of interest among the players forced the club to drop out of the concluding stages of the championship.

The Under-18 team scored two good wins in the competition over Carrickshock and Clara to reach the County semi-Final against St. Lachtains. The Freshford side were victors on this occasion.

In the Senior B competition, Lisdowney also have a semi-final date with Freshford following good wins over Tullogher and the Shamrocks. In the delayed 1990 Senior B competition, Lisdowney have to play St. Brigid's in the semi-final, with Freshford awaiting the winners in the final.

The Senior Camogie championship was particularly competitive this year with St. Pauls no longer taking part. Lisdowney's first game in July was against the eventual County Champions, St. Brigid's. This game was lost 2-10 to 1-2. The second game saw Lisdowney lost to neighbours Freshford on a score of 1-4 to 1-2. The semi-final draw saw Lisdowney playing Freshford once again, this time in Jeninstown. The blustery conditions failed to dampen the determination of both sides and in a game full of skill and style, Lisdowney, with the advantage of the wind, led at the interval 1-5 to 0-2. Despite intense pressure in the second half Lisdowney held out for a

merited one point victory.

In the County Final played at Nowlan Park, Lisdowney played St. Brigid's. The good crowd were treated to a very open competitive game with Lisdowney leading their more fancied opponents 1-6 to 1-2 at the interval. Excellent displays from Mary Brennan, Bridget Barnaville, Veronica Wall, Marina Downey, Lizzie Fogarty and Ann Marie Hughes were mainly responsible for the team's great first half display. The sides were evenly matched up to the closing fifteen minutes when St. Brigid's star player Sinead Millea took over. Scoring brilliant points from all angles she was her team's outstanding player.

St. Brigid's went on to win the final on a score of 2-15 to 1-11. Great credit must go to the Lisdowney trainer Noel Barnaville who worked extremely hard with the panel during the year. Such dedication will surely bring its reward in the near future. The Lisdowney team which played in the County Final was: Veronica Wall, Bridget Wall, Mary Brennan, Bridget Barnaville, Caroline Glendon, Bridget Sharkey, Aine Dunne, Catherine Dunne, Ann Marie Hughes (1-3), Marina Downey (0-4), Ann Dunne (0-1), Lizzie Fogarty (0-3). Subs: Kay Healy, Deirdre Delaney, Eithne Downey, Olivia Donnelly, Cora Mackey, Kay Grace, Pauline Tallis, Claire Tallis, Fionula Grey.

St. Lachtain's Camogie Club

PART of the programme of events held in Freshford to celebrate the Centenary of the G.A.A. in 1984 was the founding of the St. Lachtain's Camogie Club. Since then the club has had an unequalled run of success at under-age level.

1991 brought the club its first adult title when St. Lachtain's won the Senior "B" final beating Lisdowney by 5-8 to 1-5. St. Lachtains gave a top class performance on the day. It was particularly pleasing in that Lisdowney had beaten St. Lachtains by 1-6 to 0-8 in the Senior 'A' semi-final. A noteworthy feature of the final was the fact that team captain Maura Costelloe had her daughter Sinead playing alongside her. Maura and Gillian Dillon were the stars on a day when everything went right for St. Lachtains. To date in 1991 the club has won five championships out of five final appearances – a remarkable record by any standard.

in the Primary Schools Final Scoil Lachtain beat Mullinavat by 7-1 to 2-0. This was St. Lachtain's fourth win at Primary Schools level. The Under-14 team won their fourth title in a row when they defeated Carrickshock by 6-3 to 1-4 and qualified to represent Kilkenny once again at Féile na nGael which was held in Tipperary. Burgess were St. Lachtain's host club this year.

Once again St. Lachtain's made great progress through the competition and reached the All-Ireland semi-final where old rivals Ballyboden/St. Endas provided the opposition. As the reigning All-Ireland champions St. Lachtain's were going for three-in-a-row, but the Dublin side were triumphant on this occasion, winning by 2-3 to 1-0.

The Under-16 team won their third title-in-a-row when beating Clara on a score of



St. Lactain's – Minor Camogie Champions, 1991. Back Row (left to right): Ann Marie Butler, Ann Wall, Fiona Connery, Catriona Delaney, Kathleen Dooley, Margaret Hickey, Margaret Kavanagh, Teresa Doyle, Imelda Kennedy. Front Row (left to right): Breda Dooley, Kathleen Ryan, Deirdre Byrne, Margaret Dooley, Patricia Dalton, Sinead Costelloe, Paula Dowling (capt.), Moira Maxwell.



St. Lachtains – Under-14 Camogie Champions 1991 and All-Ireland Semi-Finalists Féile na nGael 1991. Back Row (left to right): Amanda Bowden, Catherine Anderson, Susan Phelan, Catriona Delaney, Grainne Dooley, Sile Dooley, Ann Wall, Marie Dowling. Middle (left to right): Orla Brennan, Deirdre Byrne, Tanya Hughes, Kathleen Ryan (Capt.), Breda Dooley, Ann Marie Butler, Margaret Dooley. Front Row (left to right): Sinead Walsh, Leanne Turner, Aisling Phelan, Sinead Hurley.



Scoil Lachtain – I.N.T.O. Seven- A-Side Camogie Champions 1991. Back Row: Claire Dermody, Emma Fitzpatrick, Julie Ryan, Majella Colclough, Frances Cleere. Front Row (left to right): Lisa Ralter, Ann Marie Butler, Mary Carmel Ryan, Breda Dooley, Mairead Kelly.

2-5 to 1-1. Having provided the winning captain, Margaret Hickey, of the All-Ireland Minor Camogie Champions, it was particularly pleasing for St. Lachtain's to retain this championship. In leading Kilkenny to victory over Galway in August, Margaret thus became the first person from Freshford to captain an All-Ireland championship winning team.

The Under-18 side made it five championship wins out of five finals when they beat Clara 7-7 to 1-0 in mid-November. It was an atrocious day for camogie, but St. Lachtain's gave a fine exhibition of camogie as they had a comfortable win over Clara to take their third-title-in-a-row.

St. Lachtain's are one championship short of a clean sweep of all Roinn A under-age titles in 1991.



ABOVE:

Scoil Lachtain – Primary School Camogie Champions, 1991. Back Row (left to right): Rachel Walsh, Breda Dooley, Sharon Brennan, Marcella Dawson, Gillian Burke, Majella Colclough, Mary Ryan. Middle (left to right): Mairead Kelly, Pauline Butler, Claire Dermody, Lisa Rafter, Frances Cleere, Orla O'Connor; Front (left to right): Emma Fitzgerald, Ann Marie Butler, Mary Carmel Ryan, Sinead Hurley (Capt.), Julie Ryan, Orla Mullan.



LEFT:

St. Lachtain's – Senior "B" Camogie Champions 1991. Back: Miriam Butler, Elaine Butler, Carol Brennan, Esther Kennedy, Maura Costelloe, Sinead Costelloe, Margaret Hickey, Paula Cantwell. Front: Patricia Dalton, Imelda Kennedy, Slobhan Dermody, Helen McGrath, Paula Dowling, Hilda Butler, Gillian Dillon, Kathleen Dooley.





Shamrocks captain Liam Fennelly receiving the St. Canice's Credit Union trophy from Joe Doyle, President.

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Martin White, winner of the Smithwicks Hall of Fame Award in 1990.

Seated (l-r): Dick Teehan, Martin White, Johnny Walton. Behind (l-r): Eamon Holland, Pat Molloy, Billy Gaffney, Paddy Clohosey, Gerry Doheny.

Ger Fennelly



Ger Fennelly

IT would take a far better scribe than I to do justice to the inter-county hurler that was Ger Fennelly. Often, as I watched Ger, whether it was with the green and white of Shamrocks, the black and amber of his beloved Kilkenny, or the various colours he donned with distinction on the many representative teams he played on, I was reminded of a great Tottenham Hotspur player, John White, who was nicknamed the "Ghost".

Hurling was good to the "Quiet Man of Ballyhale" but make no mistake about it, Ger Fennelly was good to hurling, the skills of which he perfected and plied with aplomb in oh so many ways and arenas. Ger wouldn't win too many Olympic sprinting medals, but then again Carl Lewis wouldn't be much good to Kilkenny or Shamrocks with three foot of ash in his hand.

Ger defied reasoning. He ran with a gait that was peculiarly deceptive. He had an inbuilt instinct for the game. He never seemed to be in a hurry. He always appeared to have so much time to do things on the field that you would think that there was no one else on the field. To use a well worn cliché, Ger was a great reader of the game. His anticipation was amazing. How often have you seen near hopeless situations been plugged by a timely Ger Fennelly clearance from his own goal line. How often has the bould Ger suddenly appeared in front of opposing posts to drive over telling points with missile like accuracy.

His vision was panoramic – this facet of his game was never better seen than when

By BARRIE HENRIQUES

he was all things to all men with his beloved Shamrocks. If Mason and Mick Fennelly were stopping them, then Ger surely was the creative artist. He made mediocre players look world beaters. He seldom put his fellow players into difficulty – he surely was the John Barbarolli of the Shamrocks and Kilkenny orchestras.

If you are fortunate enough to get Ger into conversation, he is embarrassingly self-effacing. He used the word lucky frequently. He was lucky to play with great players; he was lucky to be on great teams; he was lucky to be coached by great mentors; he was lucky to get so and so scores; and so the lilt of his "luckies" goes on, according to Ger.

One is prompted to suggest that with so much luck Ger should have been a professional gambler – the bookmaking profession would have had a rough time. Of course Ger had a certain amount of favour from Lady Luck, but no more or no less than any other player. Ger made his own luck.

If luck made Ger Fennelly the hurler he was then training and coaching goes out the window. Ger's skill and style had nothing to do with luck. Ger was a superstar who plied his skills with nonchalant ease. He was lethal. He punished mistakes with merciless ease. As Pat Henderson said recently "For his style he stung you like a scorpion". No one ever intimidated him mentally or physically. He could cope with good and bad conditions and his motivating prowess was invaluable to those around him. Pat should know, he

played with and against him, he coached him, he knew more about him than most.

Ger always speaks in the third person, never in the first person. His achievements were so many and so glorious. Ever since he won his first All-Ireland medal as a minor in 1972 Ger was destined for greatness. He got a great thrill from captaining Kilkenny to win their 21st All-Ireland in 1979 against Galway. It was one of many highlights. The medals he won were many – everyone of them giving him a particular kind of pleasure. His five All-Irelands, his eight Leinster Championships, his five National Leagues will fortify him with many pleasant memories in his old age.

But probably, when in his old age Ger reflects on the past glories, the medals he will get most pleasure out of winning are the ones he won with his parish team, with the lads he grew up with. Thankfully he hasn't decided to call it a day completely – he reckons he has a couple of more years to give to the club that made the whole thing happen for him. Great hurlers Kilkenny had, surely Ger Fennelly deserves to stand alongside the best of them.

Thanks for the memories Ger – so far.

Le Dea Mhín ó Chomhairle Laighean C.L.G. M. Ó Dubhsláine (Runai)

SENIOR HURLING:	<i>Kilkenny v Offaly.</i>	<i>Dublin v Wexford or Laois.</i>
MINOR HURLING:	<i>Kilkenny v Winners of Special Competition.</i>	
	<i>Winners v Dublin.</i>	<i>Offaly v Wexford.</i>
UNDER-21 HURLING:	<i>Kilkenny v Laois or Special Winners</i>	
	<i>Offaly v Wexford</i>	
JUNIOR HURLING:	<i>Kilkenny v Wexford</i>	
JUNIOR FOOTBALL:	<i>Kilkenny v Westmeath.</i>	
UNDER-21 FOOTBALL:	<i>Kilkenny v Carlow.</i>	
MINOR FOOTBALL:	<i>Kilkenny v Westmeath.</i>	





"Dining Out" – Section of Kilkenny supporters who travelled to the Leinster Final on O'Loughlin's bus diving into the nosebags.

Radio Kilkenny — meeting the challenges in 1991

By PAT TREACY (Radio Kilkenny)

ONE of the big success stories off the field of play has been the coverage of Gaelic Games on local radio here in Kilkenny.

Radio Kilkenny has gone out into the world of Gaelic Games and has succeeded in bringing the atmosphere, the glamour and, above all, the action into kitchens, living rooms and homes of Kilkenny. Radio Kilkenny's motto has been "To be where the action is" — that means being in Rathdowney or Bunclody in the depths of Winter, to see how our local schools are progressing, or being in Glenmore to sample the atmosphere of a whole community before their local heroes head off for their date with destiny in Croke Park. It also means being there to witness the extraordinary skills of young schoolboys and girls as they mature and blossom on the field of play in schools' board competition in hurling, football and camogie.

The G.A.A. is part of the what we are here in Kilkenny. It is part of our culture, part of our history, it is part of our community. Radio Kilkenny is endeavouring to reflect that role on the airwaves. We try to achieve that objective in a number of ways. Firstly, we try to cover and report on as many Schools' Board G.A.A. and camogie as possible. We in Radio Kilkenny see the schools as being an extension of the family. Hurling, football and camogie involve the children, the parents and the teachers. The commitment, the endeavour and the passion, both on and off the field at these games, has to be seen to be believed.

Second level sport, though more broadly based and less parochial, is equally important. We in Radio Kilkenny feel it is imperative that

we bring all that is happening in this area to our listeners also. Our daily sports bulletins and "The World of Gaelic Games" on a Monday evening at 6.0 p.m. are the main programmes dealing with the action here. Every week Tom Lanigan has all the Bord na nOg and second level G.A.A. news; John Knox previews and reports on all the School Board action, while John Phelan keeps us well up to date on all the camogie happenings.

Radio Kilkenny's coverage of the local championships has been wide and extensive with live commentaries on all the important games. Interviews, previews, match results and reports, analysis and opinions are all part of the format in our coverage of the local G.A.A. scene. The results and reports on the week-end G.A.A. matches at 6.00 p.m. on Sunday evening is now an integral part of our weekend entertainment.

Tom Ryall, so long associated with the G.A.A. and local radio, is an integral part of this coverage. Barrie Henriques brings a dash of colour, with his turn of phrase and wit, to our coverage of Gaelic games. But most of all the co-operation and assistance the clubs give to the making of these programmes is very important. I must say clubs have been excellent in this regard.

Well, the inter-county scene brought us wide and far this year. A good campaign in the League. The heart-stopping run in the championship. The build-up to the All-Ireland, the match itself and, finally, the homecoming. The minor hurlers did likewise, but went one better — they brought home the cup. The Camogie queens, seven in-a-row —

what a year!

The challenge presented to Radio Kilkenny was enormous. We were now competing with the big boys, the national media, R.T.E., the lot.

Well, we whipped them! Why?

Because we brought home to the listeners the whole meaning of being in an All-Ireland final. The history, the tradition, the family involvement, the hunt for tickets, the opposition, the camaraderie and the hysteria.

The Sue Nunn interviews captured the greater family and community involvement. Tom Lanigan got the Tipperary perspective. The interviews in Chawkes Pub in Clonmel brought home the feelings of Kilkenny people there. Then there was the outside broadcast from the Parade the day before the final, the colour and glamour, the hopes and expectations, the commentary on the match and the homecoming.

Radio Kilkenny, Community Radio in Action. All due to voluntary presenters. In 1992 we here in Radio Kilkenny need the flow of information coming from the clubs. I think it is becoming increasingly important that all G.A.A. clubs have good P.R.O.s. In this respect I must compliment Richard Stone of St. Patrick's (Ballyragget) who has done an excellent job as P.R.O. for that area.

While 1992 will bring with it new challenges and new highlights, Radio Kilkenny is looking forward to successfully covering all aspects of the G.A.A. in an informed and entertaining manner.

So, roll on '92. I hope it's as busy as the past year.



Radio Kilkenny Sports team in action (from left): Pat Maher, Tommy Lanigan, Pat Treacy, Barrie Henriques, Frank Coyne and Peter Redmond.

Pic: Gerry Deegan

FORMER President Dr. Mick Loftus was the prime mover for over 40s competition in the G.A.A. After getting a successful Football Inter-County League off the ground in 1990, he co-opted Jimmy Boggan (Dublin) and Eddie Keher (Kilkenny) on the National Committee to help organise a Hurling Inter-County League for 1991.

Eight counties took part - Clare, Kilkenny, Waterford and Laois in Group 1 and Carlow, Kildare, Wexford and Dublin in Group 2. Dr. Loftus at the launch of the League emphasised strongly the medical benefits for players who continue to be active in games in their 40s. He said: "Apart from the enjoyment of playing and the social aspect of meeting again, it is very desirable that hurlers and footballers who retire from county/club activity should be given the opportunity to continue to take part in Gaelic games at a less competitive level".

ENTHUSIASTIC WELCOME IN KILKENNY

The idea got an enthusiastic welcome in Kilkenny and a committee was formed to organise a county team under former County Chairman Mick O'Neill. The rest of the committee included Johnny McGovern, Eddie Keher, Pat Henderson, Fr. Tommy Maher and County Board representative Phil (Fan) Larkin.

A list of 60 potential players was drawn up, and contacted and asked to attend training sessions early in June to prepare for the first game against Clare scheduled for a Clare venue on the 29th June, 1991. There was an excellent response, and 30 players turned up to form a strong panel. The training went well and there were never less than 25 at any one session.

29/6/1991: CLARE 0-7, KILKENNY 1-8

A bus-load of players and supporters (including Roddy Butler who was home from New York) travelled to Crusheen in Clare for the first round. In less than ideal conditions Kilkenny struggled for most of the game and were lucky to have had the training sessions behind them. Clare proved to be very fit, having the backbone of the Crusheen team who won the over-40s club championship in Clare. Kilkenny, with outstanding displays by Noel Skehan in goal and a dogged defence in front of him, survived to take two points. Sean Kiely and Frank Cummins

MASTERS (OVER-40s) HURLING

By EDDIE KEHER

dominated at midfield and Mick Brennan, Mick Garrett and Patsy Moran did most work up front.

Kilkenny: Noel Skehan, Jimmy Kelly, Lotty Harte (captain), Andy Aylward, Pat Ward, Eugene Grehan, Paddy Butler, Sean Kiely (0-2), Mick Brennan, D. McNamara (0-1), M. Garrett (0-2), Willo Phelan, Joe Dunphy, Eddie Keher (1-1), Mossy Murphy (0-1). Subs: F. Cummins (late arriving) for Joe Dunphy, Patsy Moran for D. McNamara, M. Fogarty for W. Phelan.

13/7/1991: KILKENNY 3-11; WATERFORD 0-10

On a lovely Summer's evening with perfect playing conditions at Mullinavat, Kilkenny, and Waterford served up a delightful display of hurling which was enjoyed by the large attendance. Kilkenny got control early on with two goals from Eddie Keher to lead 2-5 to 0-6 at half-time.

Despite a strong challenge from Waterford, Kilkenny's outstanding players, Patsy Moran, Mick Brennan, Peter Dowling, Lotty Harte and Dick McNamara ensured the home team's dominance. Mick Garrett had a great goal and well-taken points in the second half to clinch the issue.

Team: N. Skehan, J. Kelly, L. Harte (captain), B. Kennedy, D. McNamara, B. Harte, P. Butler, S. Kiely, P. Dowling (0-1), M. Garrett (1-3), P. Moran (0-1), F. Cleere, M. Brennan (0-2), M. Murphy (0-1), E. Keher (2-3).

It was with confidence that the team travelled to Rathdowney to take on Laois and came away easy winners to finish with top points and qualified to meet Kildare in the semi-final.

7/9/1991: KILDARE 3-11; KILKENNY 0-16

Kildare caused a major shock in defeating Kilkenny at Nowlan Park. Played in sweltering heat, the Kilkenny team could not match Kildare in fitness and as the game progressed they gained in

confidence. They took some delightful scores to stop Kilkenny's do-or-die challenge in the last quarter.

Kilkenny's efforts to get back in the game were not helped by some extraordinary decisions by referee P. Aherne (Carlow) who disallowed one goal and failed to grant two frees (one penalty) when forwards were blatantly pulled down.

That being said, Kildare deserved victory and their superior fitness told in the end. Eight of their team play in over-40s football and most of them play club championship hurling and football. It was a pity they did not go all the way, but they were eventually beaten by a strong Wexford team in the final.

Team: N. Skehan, J. Kelly, L. Harte, B. Kennedy, D. McNamara, E. Grehan (0-1), S. Kiely (0-1), B. Harte (0-1), Stephen Delaney, P. Dowling, P. Moran (0-2), M. Murphy (0-1), E. Keher (0-4), W. Phelan (0-3), M. Brennan. Subs: F. Cummins (late arriving), M. Lawlor, F. Cleere.

SOCIAL ASPECT

All in all, the competition was a tremendous success and all the players thoroughly enjoyed themselves both at training sessions and games. In the spirit of the "Masters" concept, each host county was obliged to provide a meal for both teams. This brought all the players together and the social aspect was most enjoyable.

The players and committee were most grateful to Avonmore Plc for their generous sponsorship, also to Eamonn Langton, John Street, who hosted the four teams on the day of the semi-finals. And, finally, to the Mullinavat Club who had their field in excellent condition and provided meals for the Waterford and Kilkenny teams.

The Masters team played two charity games against Tipperary in Johnstown and Carrick-on-Suir and beat them on both occasions.

FUTURE

The committee and players are eagerly looking forward to next year's competition and no doubt there will be more players to play in 1992. This is an official G.A.A. competition and is fully supported by the County Board and its future is assured.



Masters Hurling Team v. Clare: 29/6/1991

Front row: Billy Culleton, Joe Dunphy, Andy Aylward, Mick Brennan, Paddy Butler, Willo Phelan, Jimmy Kelly, Noel Skehan, Pat Ward, Mick Fogarty, Peter Dowling. Back row: Michael McGrath, Billy Harte, Dick McNamara, Mossy Murphy, Martin Coogan, Mick Garrett, Frank Cleere, Eugene Grehan, Shem Mulkenny, Lotty Harte, Peter Moran, Sean Kiely, Mick Aylward, Stephen Delaney, Eddie Keher, Johnny McGovern, Paddy Butler (New York)

An All-Ireland experience

By: Sue Nunn
(Radio Kilkenny)



In 1991 I went, not only to my first All-Ireland Hurling Final but to my first All-Ireland Minor Hurling Final and my first All-Ireland Camogie Final. In 1991 I first saw Croke Park with my own eyes. I experienced the thrill of watching Kilkenny win the Leinster Final.

People are bored I'm sure at this stage, listening to my new found realisation that hurling and camogie are all about the place, about belonging, about identity. They are about mothers, fathers, sisters,

brothers, sons, daughters, uncles, aunts, grannies and grandads.

Pat Treacy sat in the same room as myself in Radio Kilkenny – for the couple of months before the senior hurling final. He was selling me the idea of covering the build up to the final on the Radio Programme from a family and community point of view. Having savoured the Seamus Delaney way to the Leinster Final I was sold.

Gradually the atmosphere built, and so too did the listenership to Radio Kilkenny as we talked to Tom Ryall, Christy Heffernan and his very loyal fan Linda Regan from Carlow – amongst many. I must confess that at this stage I wasn't a hundred per cent sure how many players there even were on the team and I certainly was not capable of matching faces to names on the senior team, to which a certain substitute I interviewed at the second last training session would testify!

But we all got by on the tide of enthusiasm which reached its peak when Radio Kilkenny broadcast from the Parade the day before the final. The day was hot and I've never seen Kilkenny people in better form. At the last minute, I was invited to join the team train which travelled from Waterford to Dublin on the morning of September 1st.

I was astounded and honoured when Frank Hogan of Iarnród Éireann stopped the train specially for me in Thomastown! Once the team and officials were safely on board in Kilkenny I settled down to chat to Máiréad Brennan, married to Nickey. She is

a lovely warm person who kept an eye out for me all day, as did Nickey, when they both had lots else on their minds. D. J. Carey, said "Hello Sue" and the other players seemed pretty relaxed and unconcerned by my intrusion. This was one I thought to tell my grandchildren!

One of the very special people, and there were many, whom I met in late Summer '91, was Denis Philippott of Cork and Dicksboro. He exuded enthusiasm and love for his Kilkenny Minors. Denis almost broke the sound barrier when I interviewed him in the very steamy minors dressingroom, just after they won the final. He brought me in to talk to the lads and I dashed up to the Hogan Stand to relay those interviews back to our listeners in Kilkenny, minutes after the final whistle.

Pat Maher, Barrie Henriques and Tommy Lanigan were getting ready for the senior commentary. Barrie and his son were very kind to me too, but you all know Barrie. Yes, I cried real tears when we didn't win, I thought we might have done. I found it hard to speak afterwards and I didn't have much voice left anyway, along with the thousands of Kilkenny fans, I had shouted and shouted support for the team and they did us proud. Pat Treacy was having none of this gloom and he cheered us up – the downcast Mags and their young Treacy's, Déirdre, Ashling, Aoife and Paraic, bantering all the way down the dual carriageway with Tipp supporters, who seemed strangely subdued.

Castlecomer lit its bonfires all the same and we had the camogie to look forward to – sin sceal eile.

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THE prospects looked not only good, but great. If there was ever a sure thing, this was it. The county would celebrate at least one All-Ireland victory, or so it appeared at the start of the 1991 season.

The side that excited everyone closely associated with hurling in Kilkenny was the Under-21 team. This group of immensely talented players won the All-Ireland the previous season and were reckoned to have arrived before their time. Now with 10 of the actual All-Ireland winning team, and 17 of the same panel still eligible, there seemed little to do but get on with the business.

That business turned out to be more difficult and less rewarding than was expected. Offaly, so often the destroyers of Kilkenny hurling dreams over the past decade or so, did it again. They abruptly halted the defending champions gallop in the Leinster final.

The reigning All-Ireland champions, the hottest of hot favourites, didn't even make it out of the province. That was a huge let down. And to make matters worse, Offaly, for all their exciting hurling against the Noresiders, failed in their bid to keep the All-Ireland in Leinster. In fact, Offaly have yet to crack this championship at national level. They are still chasing their first All-Ireland victory.

The losers felt the pain Offaly endured the previous season. Then, the midlanders were reckoned to have a crack outfit. But Kilkenny, terrifically motivated by trainer and current Co. Board chairman, Nicky Brennan, tore into the opposition from the word go and knocked them completely out of their stride.

This time Offaly had the element of surprise on their side. While the game was open until a 50th minute goal from Enda Mulhaire made the difference too great for

Shock of year was the demise of our Under-21 team

By JOHN KNOX
(Kilkenny People)

Kilkenny to pull back, it was the winners stiffer mental attitude that tilted the balance in the end.

Difficult campaign

Despite the availability of All-Ireland winners of 1990 Johnny Holohan, Jimmy Conroy, D. J. Carey, Charlie Carter, Pat O'Neill, Patsy Brophy, John Conlon, Paul Treacy, Tommy Shefflin and Adrian Ronan, this was always going to be a more difficult campaign for Kilkenny than was perceived.

The pressure on champions is always immense, at whatever level. And then there was the attitude that as Kilkenny did so well in conquering a hard and unfriendly championship the previous year, that 12 months on, the players should be that much better prepared for the tests ahead.

The attitude actually permeated into the Kilkenny thinking, and one team official was scolded by a Co. Board officer for his unhealthy approach. Try as he might, trainer Brendan Fennelly (Shamrocks) couldn't knock that idea out of the heads of some players.

On top of that, for D.J. Carey, Adrian Ronan, Pat O'Neill, Charlie Carter and Patsy Brophy the fateful final against Offaly came at a difficult time. Only four days earlier they had been part of the Kilkenny senior squad that beat Antrim in the All-Ireland semi-final, and they must have been consumed by thoughts of figuring in their first senior decider, and that against Tipperary.

D. J. Carey admitted afterwards that he found it hard to put the upcoming senior All-Ireland out of his mind. Understandably, as he was getting a chance to figure in something he had dreamed about since he was a small boy.

In the circumstances, the dice was loaded in Offaly's favour. They had the



Kilkenny Under-21 Leinster Finalists 1991. Back Row (left to right): Richard Bolger, Ger Henderson, John Conlon, Jimmy Conroy, Paul Treacy, Noel Maher, Declan Roche, Pat O'Neill. Front Row (left to right): Matty Walsh, Johnny Holohan, D.J. Carey, Patsy Brophy (capt.), Dermot Lawlor, Charlie Carter, Adrian Ronan.

(Photo: Tommy O'Neill)

motivation, to make up for a shock defeat the previous year, and to down the champions. And they had the players with the commitment and skill to see the job through. In the end they won the Leinster final by 2-10 to 0-12, and but for some wayward shooting, might have ended as even bigger winners.

The exchanges were uncompromising. The champions had problems in attack, despite the trojan efforts of Ronan, Carter and the industrious Matty Walsh. At the break, Offaly trailed by 1-5 to 0-9. Early in the second half they drew level, and it was a mad scramble from there to the end.

Tried their utmost

Along with those already mentioned, Pat O'Neill, Jimmy Conroy and David Beirne tried their utmost to keep the Kilkenny ship on course. In the end the sheer passion of the Offaly XV broke the champions. Once again people learned, there is no such thing as a dead certainty in sport.

Kilkenny's high expectations looked well founded when they wiped out Dublin, who have been making good strides in recent years, in the semi-final. The Dubs were 11 points down after 20 minutes when they ran into a Kilkenny storm. At half time they were beaten when 2-8 to 0-4 down. The finishing difference was 3-16 to 0-7.

The class shown by Johnny Holohan, Pat O'Neill, Ger. Henderson, Diarmuid Lawlor,

THE SCORES - WHO AND WHEN

July 4, Leinster Semi-Final at Portlaoise

Kilkenny..... 3-16 Dublin..... 0-7

Kilkenny Scorers: Diarmuid Lawlor (2-4) Charlie Carter (1-3); D.J. Carey (0-4); Paul Treacy (0-2); Matty Walsh, Pat O'Grady, Adrian Ronan (0-1 each).

August 7 at Portlaoise, Leinster Final

Offaly 2-10 Kilkenny 0-12

Kilkenny Scorers: D. J. Carey (0-5); Adrian Ronan, Charlie Carter (0-2 each); Richard Bolger, Paul Treacy, Matty Walsh (0-1 each).

Noel Maher, John Conlon, Carey and company had team selectors Barry Henriques (John Lockes), Martin Brennan (Erin's Own), Billy Fitzpatrick (Fenians), Michael Hayes (Young Irelands) and Brendan Fennelly convinced there was the makings of champions in the team.

In the weeks before the Leinster final, events elsewhere overtook all, and the Offaly under-21 team was the county's last hope of striking it rich. The Offaly players responded magnificently and lifted the gloom for their own folk, and left a sad, heavy cloud over another county.

The Kilkenny team in the Leinster final was - James Conroy (James Stephens); David Beirne (Dicksboro); Pat O'Neill (Young Irelands); Declan Roche (John

Lockes); Patsy Brophy (Erin's Own); Ger. Henderson (Dicksboro); John Conlon (Bennettsbridge); Noel Maher (Graigue-Ballycallan); Richard Bolger (Rower Instioge); Adrian Ronan (Graigue-Ballycallan); Matty Walsh (Fenians); D.J. Carey (Young Irelands); Charlie Carter (Young Irelands); Paul Treacy (Thomastown); Diarmuid Lawlor (St. Martin's). Subs: Pat O'Grady (Black and Whites); John Buggy (Erin's Own); used; Johnny Holohan (O'Loughlin-Gaels); P. J. O'Connor (Glenmore); Aidan Lawlor (St. Martin's); Tommy Shefflin (Shamrocks); Dick Dooley (O'Loughlin-Gaels); Noel Treacy (Tullaroan); Billy O'Keeffe (Thomastown).



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Thomastown and Bennettsbridge capture county titles

THOMASTOWN EDGE OUT YOUNG IRELANDS IN REPLAY OF 'A' FINAL

It took two games to decide the outcome of the Special Junior 'A' championship final between Thomastown and Young Ireland's. After the sides finished 1-8 each at Callan in a tough encounter, it was on to Nowlan Park for the replay. Thomastown made no mistake on this occasion winning by 3-4 to 0-9.

A nicely tucked away goal by Murty Donnelly eight minutes from time gave Thomastown the break they needed to fend off the dogged challenge of Young Ireland's. The minimum divided the teams going into the closing stages of an energy sapping encounter. Then up popped Donnelly to shoot the vital score that edged Thomastown ahead 3-3 to 0-8.

The first half produced some terrific hurling as both sides showed commendable spirit and effort. Early points for Young Ireland's from Brendan Kehoe (2), John Holden and Thomas Curran gave them an impressive opening. A 19th minute goal from Willie Holden opened the winners account and moments later the sides were level when Tadgh Feeney pointed.

Thomastown began the second half in impressive fashion with a further point from Tadgh Feeney and a Sean Donnelly goal to open up a 2-3 to 0-5 lead, but Young Ireland's were not giving up easily and replied with points from Tom Kehoe,

John Holden and Patrick Farrell to leave the minimum margin between the sides. Murty Donnelly then left his vital mark on the game to clinch a title for Thomastown that in some way compensated for their exit from the Intermediate championship the previous weekend.

While Murty Donnelly wore the hero's mantle with that late goal, others to play well for the winners were goalie Alan Hoyne (he was terrific in the drawn game), Martin Walsh, Richard Galway, Mervyn Holden, Shem O'Hara, Martin Farrell and Sean Donnelly. Best for a sporting Young Ireland's side were Patrick Farrell, Philip Twomey, Jimmy and John Holden and a very impressive Brendan Kehoe.

Scorers: Thomastown: Sean Donnelly (1-1), Willie Holden and Murty Donnelly (1-0 each), Tadgh Feeney (0-2), Martin Farrell (0-1).

Young Ireland's: Brendan Kehoe (0-3), John Holden (0-2), Thomas Curran, Patrick Farrell, Tom Kehoe and Patrick Treacy (0-1 each).

Thomastown: A. Hoyne, M. Walsh, R. Galway, J. Galway, M. Allen, M. Holden, D. Lannon, S. O'Hara, J. Bookle, M. Donnelly, M. Farrell, W. Holden, G. Maher, T. Feeney, S. Donnelly. **Subs:** N. Walsh and S. Morrissey.

Young Ireland's: C. Carter (senior), P. Lannon, J. Bryan, J. Drennan, P. Farrell, T. Kehoe, P. Twomey (captain), T. Fenlon, Jimmy Holden, John Holden, M. Carey, T.

Curran, P. Treacy, B. Treacy, B. Kehoe. **Subs:** B. Quinlan and M. Fitzgerald.

BENNETTSBRIDGE SURPRISE

CARRICKSHOCK TO CAPTURE 'B' TITLE

In the first adult county final of the year Bennettsbridge captured the Special Junior 'B' title following their 1-9 to 1-5 victory over Carrickshock. The losers had an impressive campaign through the South but the 'Bridge, after a one point win in the Northern Final against Conahy Shamrocks, were in a determined mood to capture the title. They recorded a deserved win in a highly entertaining contest.

Little separated the sides until mid-way through the second half when Bennettsbridge started to pull away. The losers were guilty of some woeful misses in the first half and this in the end was the main contributing factor in their defeat. Both goals were scored during that first half. The Carrickshock major was a particularly class effort from Christy O'Dwyer following a movement initiated from defence by Joe Brennan. Slackness in the 'Shock defence allowed Stephen Walsh through for the Bennettsbridge goal. Despite the advantage of the breeze in the second half, the Carrickshock side failed to take advantage and scored just two points to which the winners replied with five.

John Dowling used all his old experience to run the game from midfield, while up front Larry Cleere showed his experience



THOMASTOWN - SPECIAL JUNIOR 'A' COUNTY CHAMPIONS 1991

Back row: Pat Manning, Sean Óg O'Sullivan, Noel Walsh, John Moore, Tom Walsh, Ger Maher, Jimmy Shanahan, Tadgh Feeney, John Galway, Alan Hoyne, Noel Moore, Martin Walsh, Seamus O'Hara, Joe Bookle, John Lanigan. Front row: John Lanigan, Martin Farrell, Sean Morrissey, Declan Lannon, Michael Allen, Richard Galway (captain), Sean Donnelly, Martin Donnelly, Willie Holden, Mervyn Holden.



JOHNSTOWN – Northern Junior Hurling League Division 2 Champions

from bigger battles. Terence Cassin, N. Treacy and John Connolly in particular were dependable in defence. M. Cullen, A. Forde and S. Walsh gave most assistance to Larry Cleere in attack.

G. Gráice at right half back had a great game for Carrickshock. He was ably assisted in defence by Joe Brennan, Wally Broderick and young Pat Rohan. In a hard trying attack Pat Duggan, Bill Cassin, Noel

Maheer and Willie O'Dwyer were best.

Scorers: Bennettsbridge: A. Forde (0-3), S. Walsh (1-0), L. Cleere (0-2), L. O'Neill, M. Cullen, J. Lalor and J. Dowling (0-1 each). Carrickshock: W. O'Dwyer (1-0), P. Duggan, J. O'Shea, B. Cassin, N. Maher and D. Burke (0-1 each).

Bennettsbridge: B. Crowe, A. Forde, T. Cassin, P. O'Connor, J. Connolly, J. Barry, N. Treacy, J. Dowling, Jas. Dowling, M.

Burke, A. Forde, M. Cullen, L. O'Neill, L. Cleere, S. Walsh. **Subs:** J. Lalor and M. Burke.

Carrickshock: W. Power, W. Duggan, W. Broderick, G. Power, G. Grace, J. Brennan, P. Rohan, P. Foran, N. Murphy, P. Duggan, J. O'Shea, B. Cassin, S. Aylward, N. Maher. **Subs:** D. Burke, B. Hearne and M. Raggett.

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National League Handball Winners 1991



From left: Eamonn Law, Mullinavat; Joe Anthony, Mullinavat; Michael Nolan, O'Loughlin's; Pierce O'Keefe, Mullinavat; Philip Parsons, O'Loughlin's and Damien O'Brien, Mullinavat. (Photo: Tom Brett)

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Mr. Camogie—Tom Ryan

By: Barrie Henriques

There are many Tom Ryans chronicled through the pages of all G.A.A. books and periodicals, but there is one Tom Ryan whose records will hardly ever be surpassed never mind equalled. Tom Ryan is the Dunnamaggin Tom who has made training and coaching teams an art form.

I met Tom in the cosy comforts of his lovely home some weeks ago. Fortified with some of his wife's – Carmel – home cooking, and a mug of tea Tom told me of his involvement with hurling since he first donned the South Kilkenny "gansey" as an under-14 player when he won his first medal – "The Frisby Medal" to the present day.

He won championship medals with Carrickshock (1951), Junior All-Ireland with Kilkenny (1951) and championship medals with his beloved Dunnamaggin. He competed with and against such household names as Jimmy Kelly, Tom Walsh, Johnny McGovern, John Sutton, Dick Rockett, Mick Brophy, Martin and Jim Treacy. But it really was about Tom Ryan, the camogie trainer extraordinaire that I wanted to talk about.

It was with the Kilkenny camogie team that Tom really cut his own niche in G.A.A. history. Billy Malone and Carmel Savage were the perpetrators of the move that saw Tom Ryan take over the reins of a camogie set-up that was starved of success for too many years. The Malone/Savage deputation had caste the dye which created the springboard that saw Kilkenny start an unsurpassable run under the magic wand of Tom Ryan.

Seven All-Ireland titles, and five National Leagues down the road the band wagon is still rolling. From the "no hope" situation of just going up to Croke Park this September to take on Cork in the final, the Kilkenny outfit steamed their much vaunted "Corkonians" into the sacred turf of the G.A.A.'s premier stadium.

This year's win was possibly the sweetest of all the victories for Tom, although the 1984 win was equally as satisfying. He found it very difficult to adjust to the camogie scene. He certainly was not familiar with the level of discipline, high standards, lack of bad language and above all the differing rules. This was all new territory to the genial Tom.

Tom was and still is a great admirer of his girls. The word respect figures prominently in Tom's vocabulary when asked to talk about the camogie teams that have gone through his talented hands. "They were and are hugely

dedicated to the task in hand", Tom beams "but above all else everyone of them played for the honour of their county, to the exclusion of everything else; "I was a hard task-master" he continued, "but I always told the girls that if they wanted to stay top of the heap then the hard work is mandatory".

Tom maintains that when his girls put their minds to achieving anything they leave nothing to chance. They are a team in every sense. They have a self-imposed discipline that involves total commitment that produces the excellence that has been the hallmark of this medal bedecked outfit over the past seven years. Tom has a great regard for "The Downey twins", especially Angela, whom he calls his aide-de-camp. The Downeys, Tom says, "are the inspiration of this Kilkenny outfit".

The years have been good to the Kilkenny camogie team, but Tom Ryan has been no less important in the success drive that started in 1984. I put the question to Tom; who were the players he would single out for special mention over the past seven years? With tongue in cheek names like Marie Fitzpatrick, Bridie McGarry, Biddy O'Sullivan, Deirdre Malone and Breda Holmes trip off his tongue. He is quick to emphasise that the future of camogie in Kilkenny is assured with the emergence of young players like Una Murphy, Marina (Flo Jo) Downey, Cillian Dillon, the Millea sisters (Sinead and Tracey) and Brigid Barnaville who is certain to assume the O'Sullivan mantle whenever the Tullogher farmer retires.

Tom takes great care to prevent boredom during training. Often he stands in goal himself and places bets with anyone of the girls to score goals from the 20 metre line. He loved training with the team, and the only thing that annoys him is the fact that he cannot master Angela Downey in any of the short sprints.

Pressing Tom to name some of the great players of his own era, he spoke in glowing terms of men like Nicky Rackard – who never retaliated – Jim Langton – typical Kilkenny stylist, Shem Downey – Angela has his dash and quick stroke, Pat Stakelum, Jimmy Finn, Joe Salmon, Eddie Keher – example to all, Kieran Purcell –



Tom Ryan

great heart. He also was a great admirer of Pat Henderson. As he said "if I was going into battle, there is no man I would want more as my commanding officer than Pat Henderson who never knew the meaning of the word defeat".

At this stage Tom's wife Carmel came in with more tea. Pressing her, I asked did she have any problem coming to terms with the many absences of her spouse during the summer months. "It meant so much to Tom that the whole family were happy to see him being happy" said Carmel. Was she not bothered by the fact that her husband was in the constant company of so many ladies. That didn't worry her in the slightest either.

So finally I really got cheeky and from the sanctuary of the proximity of the sittingroom I asked the homely Carmel, "What would happen if she discovered some ladies 'smails' in Tom's kit bag? After considering the question for some seconds she said "I don't mind doing Tom's washing, but I will draw the line at washing the unmentionables of anyone else", she stated with a glint in her eye.

Somehow I think Carmel will be washing Tom's "smalls" for a year or two yet, although he has now entered his sixth decade. Tom Ryan is such a shy, unaffected individual that it's difficult to get him to talk in the first person. But then again he doesn't need to talk about himself; he simply lets the achievements of his team on the field do his talking for him, and in all honesty what more can he or anyone else add to that.

Tom and Carmel reared a G.A.A. crazy team themselves. Their son Johnny is a stalwart of the Dunnamaggin club, and was a member of the victorious Kilkenny team that beat Tipperary in the All-Ireland Junior Final in 1988. Their daughter Siobhán is a teacher in Clonmel. She too was a panelist on three of the camogie winning teams, while their other daughter Regina works in the l'Arche Workshop in Callan.

'Irelands
have it
if they
truly
believe

DURING 1990 they were beaten in the semi-final, and this time they got to the final, only to bite the dust there. You could say progress was made. Perhaps, but that wasn't the feeling in the Young Irelands (Gowran) camp after they lost the intermediate hurling final against Dicksboro.

The dominant mood was one of fear . . . there was regret and disappointment too. But over-shadowing all other moods was fear. The question that now haunts the club is – is the current good team going to hang around just that bit too long and miss the boat into the senior grade?

That is a possibility, not a probability mind you, if 'Irelands react in a positive manner rather than feel life has dealt them a lousy hand. There are many clubs in Kilkenny who would love to have the skilful playing and dedicated non-playing personnel involved with the Gowran outfit.

There is a good under-age structure involved that has nurtured the current fine crop of intermediate players, and a very small thing could bridge the gap into the top flight, from whence 'Irelands slipped during the 'seventies.

In relative terms, the club is a youngish one, having been founded in 1952. Five years later 'Irelands contested the junior county final, but lost to Tullogher. It took them until 1964 to win that title, and later followed a few appearances in senior semi-finals.

If 'Irelands really believe in the talent they have, then they can make the jump. If they lose faith in their own ability, then the will to succeed will be weakened and



Sticks aloft for Matt O'Neill (Young Irelands) and Carrickshock's Richie Power. Referee Paddy Neary keeps an eye on proceedings.
Photo: Gerry Deegan

instead of going out and proving themselves, they will begin to settle for second best.

Deserve better

The club, and players, deserve better than that . . . second best. On their day D. J. Carey, Charlie Carter and Pat O'Neill wouldn't be second best to anyone at almost any level. Likewise, in the club sense, with Pat Kennedy, Ciaran Phelan and Toss Farrell. Throw-in good, solid club performers like Pat Drea, Cathal Fitzgerald and Joe Walsh and you can readily appreciate Young Irelands have a strong foundation on which to build a team capable of storming the intermediate championship.

That is not a feeling expressed to gain favour, or make people feel good, but is a firmly held belief. Retired trainer, Martin 'Goggy' Brennan (Castlecomer) brought 'Irelands forward a number of steps. One thing the players didn't pick up along the way, and this was no one's fault in particular, was a cold blooded streak and an ability to kill off teams when they had them on the run.

Young Irelands have a lot going for them, if they believe in themselves. This year they chopped and changed their forces, even in the final – the selected team showed eight changes on the day –

and that might have been a mistake. By the time they got to the decider, the team should have picked itself, 1 to 15, barring injuries.

The Gods haven't been as hard on 'Irelands as they might want to believe. With a determined spirit they can win over the Gods, and can join the elite **Club of 12** in Kilkenny.

If there was a club that had everyone's sympathy after the championship, it was Carrickshock. They lost out in the semi-finals, by a single point. Sadly, they got no reward from a penalty awarded during the match. That magnificent man for club and county, Richard Power nearly made it happen, and scored 3-2 from midfield between the quarter and semi-finals.

Richard had a brilliant year. New trainer Paddy Johnston worked the oracle, and inspired 'Shock to their best season in at least a decade. Pat and Eddie Dwyer, Pat Power, John Power, Pat Fennelly and John Cannon all blossomed under Johnston's guiding hand. Patrick Farrell, too, made a massive impact, and if he keeps up the progress shown this season, a place on the county senior team cannot be far away.

Hit hard

The other losing semi-finalists were Thomastown, who were hit hard by injuries in the run up to the match. They

showed the form of champions of a long time, but then lost their footing. Still, Paul Treacy, Billy and Tom O'Keeffe, John Brennan, Brendan Treacy, John Donnelly and returned exile David Hoyne enjoyed good times.

The trap-door opened under Bennetts-bridge and the Rower-Inistioge in the quarter-finals. The 'Bridge left on a sour note. Persistent fouling threw the door open for Dicksboro to beat them. The Rower looked all over winners during the opening quarter against Carrickshock, but then a smashing goal out of the blue from Richard Power turned the match. In the second half, Patrick Farrell went scoring mad, and out went the Rower.

John Lockes (Callan) again depended to a large degree on John Power to stoke their fires, although Liam Egan did some great work too in the early part of the season. The tail on their team was a bit too long to mount a sustained assault. Piltown mixed the good with the ordinary, and despite some heroic work by Liam McCarthy, never got among the contenders. After a few years during which they threatened to do great things, they will now have to guard against a slide.

Conahy Shamrocks and O'Loughlin-Gaels were involved in some good games, but often found themselves at the wrong end of the result. One win and a draw kept Conahy clear of the relegation zone. This issue was fought between Barrow Rangers (Paulstown) and Tullogher-Rosbercon. The former, junior champs of the previous year, didn't distinguish themselves even in this one, although they did enough to survive.

Tullogher faced relegation for the second year running. This time they didn't survive. It was a tough year all the way for them.

ROLL OF HONOUR

Conahy (4) 1930, 1932, 1977, 1986.
 Graignamanagh (3) 1976, 1980, 1985.
 Urlingford (1) 1929.
 Danesfort (1) 1931.
 St. Fiacre's (1) 1934.
 John Lockes (Callan) (1) 1935.
 Slieverue (1) 1936.
 Eire Og (1) 1937.
 Coon (1) 1973.
 Shamrocks (Ballyhale-Knocktopher) (1) 1974.
 Muckalee/Ballyfoyle Rangers. (1) 1979.
 O'Loughlins (1) 1978.
 St. Patrick's (Ballyragget) (1) 1979.
 Glenmore (1) 1981.
 Clara (1) 1982.
 Thomastown (1) 1983.
 St. Lachtain's (1) 1984.
 Graigue/Ballycallan (1) 1987.
 Tullaroan (1) 1988.
 Mullinavat (1) 1989.
 Mooncoin (1) 1990.
 Dicksboro (1) 1991.

30 Inf. Bn – Stephens Bks. HURLING YEAR 1991

By: B.S.M. JOHN SHERIDAN



ALL ARMY HURLING TROPHY AND CHAPLAINS CUP

(Photo: Gerry Deegan)

Left to right: Sgt. S. Kiely, Cpl. O. Cullen, Lt. Col. H. Quirke (O/C 30 Inf Bn Stephens Bks Kilkeny), Capt. K. Brennan, Sgt. Major J. Sheridan, Cpl. P. Prendergast.

1991 was a good year for the 30 Inf. Bn hurling team. The team competed in the All-Army Chaplains Cup competition in which it has been the holder for the last two years. This competition has direct similarities with the present Club Championships.

The 30 Inf Bn competed within the Curragh Command initially before qualifying to represent the Comd. in the All-Army series. This year's competition commenced in April with the 30 Inf. Bn. playing the 3rd Inf. Bn. (more renowned for its football prowess) in Nowlan Park in the semi-final of the Comd. Competition. This game was duly won on a scoreline of 4-12 to 0-6.

The final against the Military College was played in the Curragh, again the 30 Bn. winning 1-19 to 0-3. Prominent player for the Military College team was Canice Brennan, a member of Conahy Shamrocks and recently selected Intermediate Footballer of the Year in Kilkenny.

Having qualified to represent the Curragh Comd. the 30 Inf. Bn. played the semi-final of this competition against the Naval Service in Cork, beating them again comprehensively 4-15 to 0-6.

The Final was played in the Curragh on Wednesday, 26th June. Conditions were poor with heavy rain and a strong wind. Our opponents were the 4 Inf. Bn from Cork and needless to say the rivalry at this level is as intense as it is at inter-county level. The 4 Bn team was comprised mostly of players from the big city clubs in Cork. A crucial goal by Cpl. P. Prendergast (Graignamanagh) just before half-time left the 30 Inf. Bn. in a reasonably strong position at the break, 1-4 to 0-3.

For the second half, it took a major effort from the 30 Inf. Bn. to withstand a

strong challenge from the 4 Inf. Bn. team. A second goal twenty minutes into the game by last year's Tipp. U-21 player, Lt. G. Deeley, sealed a fine victory for the 30 Inf. Bn. team on a scoreline of 2-8 to 0-6.

A lot of the players who play for the 30 Inf. Bn are involved with local club at various levels in the Kilkenny championships. The balance of the team is made up of players from Wexford, Waterford, Tipperary and Limerick. Having no pitch of its own to play, the 30 Inf. Bn team is indebted to O'Loughlins G.A.A. Club for the use of their excellent facilities for training purposes. Indeed their Intermediate team provided a very good challenge game for the team prior to the All-Army Final. In addition the team has on a number of occasions been given permission to use Nowlan park for staging important games.

Many of the players who played with the 30 Bn represented the Curragh Comd. in the Inter Comd. Championships in Baldonnel during July. Again our opponents were the Southern Comd which was eventually won by two points. The trophy presented to the winners of this competition was presented to the Army in the early 1920's by the G.A.A. and the present McCarthy Cup is a close replica of it. The Bn also had two players, Sgts. S. Kiely and E. Grehan on the Kilkenny Over 40's team which lost to Kildare in the semi-final.

30 Bn Team: Cpl O. Cullen (Capt.); Sgt. S. Kiely; Pte. J. Whelan; C/S. S. O'Grady; Pte. M. Conlon; Pte. T. Fitzhenry; Pte. G. Watters; Pte. N. Dunphy; Cpl. D. Robinson; Cpl. P. Prendergast; Lt. E. Stapleton; Pte. O. O'Leary; Capt. K. Brennan; Lt. G. Deely; Pte. S. Creane.

ROLL OF HONOUR - 1991

COMPETITION

Senior Hurling Championship
Intermediate Hurling Championship
Junior Hurling Championship
Senior Football Championship
Intermediate Football Championship
Junior Football Championship
Under-21 Hurling Championship Roinn 'A'
Under-21 Hurling Championship Roinn 'B'
Under-21 Football Championship Roinn 'A'
Under-21 Football Championship Roinn 'B'
Special Junior Hurling Roinn 'A'
Special Junior Hurling Roinn 'B'
Minor Hurling Championship Roinn 'A'
Minor Hurling Championship Roinn 'B'
Minor Hurling Championship Roinn 'C'
Minor Hurling League Roinn 'A'
Minor Hurling League Roinn 'B'
Minor Hurling League Roinn 'C'
Minor Football Championship Roinn 'A'
Minor Football Championship Roinn 'B'
Under-16 Hurling Championship Roinn 'A'
Under-16 Hurling Championship Roinn 'B'
Under-16 Hurling Championship Roinn 'C'
Under-16 Hurling League Roinn 'A'
Under-16 Hurling League Roinn 'B'
Under-16 Hurling League Roinn 'C'
Under-16 Football Championship Roinn 'A'
Under-16 Football Championship Roinn 'B'
Under-16 Football League Roinn 'A'
Under-16 Football League Roinn 'B'
Under-14 Hurling Championship Roinn 'A'
Under-14 Hurling Championship Roinn 'B'
Under-14 Hurling Championship Roinn 'C'
Under-14 Hurling League Roinn 'C' (11-a-side)
Under-13 Hurling Championship Roinn 'A'
Under-13 Hurling Championship Roinn 'B'
Under-13 Hurling Championship Roinn 'C'
Under-13 Hurling Championship Roinn 'D'
Under-13 Hurling Championship Roinn 'E' (11-a-side)
Under-13 Football Championship Roinn 'A'
Under-13 Football Championship Roinn 'B'

CAMOGIE

COMPETITION

Senior 'A' Championship
Senior 'B' Championship
Intermediate Championship
Junior 'A' Championship
Junior 'B' Championship
Under-21 Championship
Under-18 Championship
Minor 'A' Championship
Minor 'B' Championship
Under-14 'A' Championship
Under-14 'B' Championship
Under-14 'C' Championship
Primary Schools 'A' Championship
Primary Schools 'B' Championship

WINNER SCORE

Shamrocks 3-16
Dicksboro 4-9
Glenmore 3-7
James Stephens 1-9
Dicksboro 2-4
Dicksboro 0-7
Shamrocks 3-6
Dicksboro 1-7
Rower-Inistioge 4-7
Not Finished
Not Finished
Thomastown 1-8
Thomastown 3-4
Bennettsbridge 1-9
James Stephens 3-8
Dunamaggin 2-12
Lisdowney 2-6
Graigue/Ballycallan 1-12
Dunamaggin 2-6
Lisdowney 1-8
Not Finished
Not Finished
James Stephens 3-11
Piltown 3-5
Mullinavat 3-6
James Stephens 4-15
Dunamaggin 5-7
Emeralds 5-8
James Stephens 3-4
Graignamanagh/Blacks & Whites 0-11
James Stephens 2-7
Kilmoganny 1-13
Dicksboro 0-5
Dicksboro 3-3
Thomastown 7-4
Tullaroan 3-5
Tullaroan 6-9
Kilkenny C.B.S. 4-2
Dunamaggin 5-4
Mullinavat 5-0
Tullagher/Rosbercon 5-8
Newmarket 0-5
Newmarket 2-4
St. Patrick's De La Salle 3-6
Bennettsbridge 2-2
Bennettsbridge 1-4
James Stephens 1-6
James Stephens 3-9
James Stephens 0-12
Fenians 2-9
Conahy Shamrocks 1-16
Shamrocks 0-18
Lisdowney 2-15
Clonee 2-13

WINNER SCORE

St. Brigid's (Ballycallan) 2-15
St. Lachtain's (Freshford) 5-8
Tullagher 4-6
Dicksboro 2-5
Mooncoin 4-2
Mooncoin 1-8
Mooncoin 1-3
St. Lachtain's (Freshford) 7-7
St. Lachtain's (Freshford) 3-9
St. Lachtain's (Freshford) 2-5
Tullaroan 6-7
St. Lachtain's (Freshford) 2-2
St. Lachtain's (Freshford) 6-3
Mullinavat 2-0
James Stephens 4-0
St. Lachtain's (Freshford) 7-1
Ballyhale 9-1

RUNNER-UP SCORE

St. Martin's 1-8
Young Irelands 2-8
St. Lachtain's 0-12
Railyard 1-7
Conahy Shamrocks 2-4
Conahy Shamrocks 0-4
O'Loughlin Gaels 0-3
Graignamanagh/Blacks & Whites .. 0-5
Tullaroan 0-0
Young Irelands 1-8
Young Irelands 0-9
Carrickshock 1-5
Graignamanagh/Blacks & Whites .. 1-4
Conahy Shamrocks 3-5
Mullinavat 0-6
Graignamanagh/Blacks & Whites 0-10
Conahy Shamrocks 1-5
Tullagher/Rosbercon 1-7
Mooncoin 0-6
Erin's Own 0-6
Emeralds 2-5
Mooncoin 2-4
Erin's Own 2-4
Mullinavat 3-4
Piltown 0-2
Young Irelands 2-4
Dicksboro 0-6
Muckalee 4-1
Graigue/Ballycallan 1-2
Graigue/Ballycallan 1-7
Fenians 4-7
Clonee 0-3
Tullagher/Rosbercon 0-3
Kilmanagh 1-8
Callan 1-2
St. Canice's 1-7
Lisdowney 1-3
Windgap 1-2
Windgap 2-1
Kilkenny C.B.S. 0-0
Castlecomer 2-2
Castlecomer 0-4
Emeralds 0-9
Emeralds 0-15
Emeralds 0-8
Dicksboro 0-5
Barrow Rangers 1-5
Rower Inistioge 1-13
Windgap 1-12
Blacks & Whites 3-4

RUNNER-UP SCORE

Lisdowney 1-11
Lisdowney 1-5
Blacks & Whites 0-5
St. James's (Glenmore) 1-5
Tullaroan 4-2
Tullaroan 2-5 (after extra time)
Tullaroan 0-0
Clara 1-0
St. Brigid's (Ballycallan) 1-3
Clara 1-1
Dicksboro 0-3
Carrickshock 1-5
Carrickshock 1-4
Clara 0-5
Thomastown 0-0
Mullinavat 2-0
Clara 1-0

ROLL OF HONOUR – 1990

COMPETITION	WINNER / SCORE	RUNNER-UP / SCORE	COMPETITION	WINNER / SCORE	RUNNER-UP / SCORE
Senior Hurling	Glenmore 3-15	Clara 2-6	Under-16 Hurling Roinn 'A'	Graigue/Ballycallan 2-5	Mooncoin 1-3
Intermediate Hurling	Mooncoin 4-9	Thomastown 1-9	Under-16 Hurling Roinn 'B'	St. Lachtain's 1-9	Rower-Inistioge 1-6
Junior Hurling	Barrow Rangers 3-5	Kilmacow 2-8	Under-16 Hurling Roinn 'C'	Conahy Shamrocks 5-6	Glenmore 1-4
	Barrow Rangers 6-9 (after extra time)	Kilmacow 3-10	Under-16 Hurling League Roinn 'A'	James Stephens 2-9	Mooncoin 2-8
Senior Football:	Muckalee 1-11	Glenmore 0-4	Under-16 Hurling League Roinn 'B'	Rower-Inistioge 2-9	Kilmacow 2-7
Intermediate Football	Barrow Rangers 4-7	Lisdowney 1-5	Under-16 Hurling League Roinn 'C'	Conahy Shamrocks 3-5	Mullinavat 2-5
Junior Football	Dicksboro 0-9	Mullinavat 2-2	Under-16 Football Roinn 'A'	Rower-Inistioge 2-3	Dicksboro 1-5
Under-21 Hurling Roinn 'A'	Erin's Own W/O	Shamrocks Scr.	Under-16 Football Roinn 'B'	Ballyragget 4-5	Craignamanagh 2-4
Under-21 Hurling Roinn 'B'	Barrow Rangers 4-4	Tullagher 2-2	Under-16 Football League Roinn 'A'	Dicksboro 2-10	James Stephens 1-8
Under-21 Football Roinn 'A'	Dicksboro 2-16	Piltown 0-4	Under-16 Football League Roinn 'B'	Kilmacow 2-12	Conahy Shamrocks 2-5
Under-21 Football Roinn 'B'	Muckalee 3-6	Kilmoganny 0-5	Under-14 Hurling Roinn 'A'	Graigue/Ballycallan 1-7	Dicksboro 0-5
Special Junior Hurling Roinn 'A'	Clara 1-12	Shamrocks 0-4	Under-14 Hurling Roinn 'B'	Dunamaggin 2-8	St. Martin's 2-0
Special Junior Hurling Roinn 'B'	Piltown 2-8	O'Loughlin Gaels 2-8	Under-14 Hurling Roinn 'C'	Glenmore 4-15	Bennettsbridge 0-1
Minor Hurling Roinn 'A'	Piltown 2-10	O'Loughlin Gaels 3-5	Under-13 Hurling Roinn 'A'	Kilmanagh 3-7	Kilkenny C.B.S. 1-0
Minor Hurling Roinn 'B'	Dicksboro 0-10	Graignamanagh 0-5	Under-13 Hurling Roinn 'B'	Ballyhale 3-3	Rower-Inistioge 1-4
Minor Hurling Roinn 'C'	Kilmacow 1-5	St. Lachtain's 1-4	Under-13 Hurling Roinn 'C'	Dunamaggin 2-3	Mullinavat 1-0
Minor Hurling League Roinn 'A'	Conahy Shamrocks 5-9	Mullinavat 2-3	Under-13 Hurling Roinn 'D'	Conahy Shamrocks 3-3	Lisdowney 1-0
Minor Hurling League Roinn 'B'	Graigue/Ballycallan 1-8	Graignamanagh 1-2	Under-13 Football Roinn 'A'	Thomastown 4-4	Kilkenny C.B.S. 0-3
Minor Hurling League Roinn 'A'	Kilmacow 3-9	Carrickshock 3-9	Under-13 Football Roinn 'B'	Callan C.B.S. 2-7	Castlecomer 1-0
Minor Hurling League Roinn 'B'	Kilmacow 0-12	Carrickshock 1-5	Byrne Cup Open Hurling	James Stephens 0-15	St. Martin's 1-8
Minor Hurling League Roinn 'C'	Conahy Shamrocks 2-13	Mullinavat 0-1	Junior Hurling Open Draw	Dunamaggin 2-9	Kilmacow 1-7
Minor Football Roinn 'A'	Kilmoganny v. James Stephens		Paddy Cahill Cup (Hurling)	James Stephens 2-10	Blacks & Whites 1-11
Minor Football Roinn 'B'	Kilmacow v. Conahy Shamrocks or Muckalee		North Open Draw - Junior Hurling	James Stephens 2-4	Clara 0-5



BARRY'S TEA



...Every day should have its Golden Moments

RICHIE POWER — *our man in Kilkenny*

THE REDEMPTION

By: Sean Lawlor

WHATEVER it is they're teaching them up in the university these days it most certainly isn't manners.

When I went into the Tubberbrack Drinkery the other night for my usual there was Snot-Murphy's young lad, all hair-mousse, deodorant and pimples, making a puny effort to overcome a pint, having planked his little backside on my stool.

"Ahem!", I coughed, giving him one of my famous withering looks and then lowering my eyes significantly in the direction of my long accustomed seat which was now partly hidden beneath the dangling tail of his shirt.

"Whá? Whá?", he panicked looking anxiously backwards and downwards. Then realization glimmered in his little round granny-glasses and he coyly squirmed his little bum all over my stool seat. "I suppose it didn't reach this backwoods yet" he smirked, "but hanging shirt-tails are all the fashion in the civilized world now".

I was going to tell him that hanging smart-assed students was extremely fashionable in Tubberbrack these days but I didn't get a chance because he began spouting a sermon out of him about how living in out-of-way places like Tubberbrack gives people the mental alacrity of a boiled turnip. And every now and then he'd spit out a big quotation from Shakespeare or some other big-shot Dublin writer. And even when, with a fearsome glare, Slops Brophy, mine host and toilet-cleaner of the Tubberbrack Drinkery, plonked my pint directly in front of him this bombastic usurper changed neither his argumentative or sedantary position one iota.

I think I showed no weakness when, for peace sake, I reluctantly sat on the stool beside him.

Fortunately, Jig Dunphy came in then and, when he had overcome the disorientation of finding me on the wrong stool, occupied the space to my right – he usually sat at my left elbow. So I turned my back on the still proclaiming student and engaged Jig in the usual talk of weather, crops and prices. Soon my left ear was appreciating a sullen silence broken only by the occasional slurp from a glass followed by the soft eructation of gas from a stomach in revolt.

Presently I began to feel his flickering eyes like a tickle on my left profile and I

continued to ignore him uneasily. But when he emitted a noise that was half way between belch and hiccup I wheeled around to glare my disapproval only to be met by the assertion, "I don't like your face, boy". My retort was a benign smile which brought a little sparkle of anger to his roundy granny-glasses.

"You're a fierce ugly looking oul' hoor", he leered.

"Thank you", I purred and his assurance began to deflate.

"You have a face like a stepped-in cow-shite", he spewed and the last few words of the insult rose an octave as Jig Dunphy wrapped his hands around my abuser's throat.

"You dirty little jumped-up pocket dictionary!" snarled Jig and the heat of his anger fogged up the little roundy granny-glasses. "That face, boy, sacrificed its looks for the honour of Tubberbrack. By cripes, I've a mind to kick you out of them jeans, as tight as they are, for insulting what's the equal of a War Hero's Monument. Puss Power wears his face like a medal, boy – with pride!" And he shook the terrified boy like a dog shakes a rat.

"Let him go, Jig" I commanded. "He is inspired more by beer than education. They evidently don't teach them any local history up in that university".

"Well, you'd better educate him then", said Jig, releasing his grip and allowing the youth's Adam's apple to flutter huffily up and down his bruised throat. "Go on, man! Tell him how your face saved the honour of a people on the brink of humiliation. And you'd better start at the beginning because this fella's generation doesn't know how it was in those days at all".

"Right!" I said. "Slops, set up a glass for young Maguire here, and two pints for the men".

We helped the young lad on to the stool that Jig had vacated, I reoccupied my customary position and Jig regained the left. The pints were put up and, with proper order restored to the world, I cleared my throat, glared my vocal cords with a long swig and began – at the beginning.

"It was never actually proved that the Dooramuckie boys nobbled Tubberbrack Glory before the final of the duffer stakes at the 1935 Ballysnag Coursing Meet. But when a mangy cur the like of Dooramuckie Dunghill, that was reared on a diet of turnip skins and bogwater, led the Glory by five lengths to the turn, well – I'm

saying nothing, but – enough said! Anyway, the upshot of it all was that severe damage was done to the collective pride, and pocket of the citizens of Tubberbrack and, ever since, relations between the two parishes have been "unfriendly" so to speak. So unfriendly that an unwritten convention came into existence that no social intercourse take place between the estranged peoples under any circumstances. And, fair dues to everyone concerned, the convention was strictly adhered to for years".

"Except", interjected Jig Dunphy, "the time young Pup Nowlan got the Dooramuckie barmaid into trouble. But sure that didn't count because the bad liquor she plied him with made him deficient in his discernment".

I winced at this unsavoury interruption and Jig acknowledged his guilt with a shrug. I continued.

"There was, however, one permissible exception to the rule. The hurling teams of Tubberbrack and Dooramuckie were more or less obliged to take part in the Annual Hurling Tournament at the Ballysnag Church Carnival because the respective pastors of all three parishes were first cousins. Needless to say, the rivalry at these matches was always awesome and sometimes gruesome.

A magnificent victory in the first year went a long way to restoring pride in Tubberbrack hearts but the smouldering resentment and begrudgery in Dooramuckie brought peace no nearer. Then disaster struck. Some of our best men, the cream of Tubberbrack's youth, went to fight for the good lads in the Spanish Civil War. They got fond of the winter there and never came back.

Year after year our depleted team suffered humiliating, crushing and bruising defeat. Indeed, through those long, harsh years of the Emergency in Ireland it was in Tubberbrack alone that any genuine emergency was experienced. So much so that our parish priest took to praying in secret for the deliverance of his unhappy flock from torment. That man must have been a lapsed saint because not only did his prayers bring an end to Hitler's war but Soldier Kennedy arrived home from the conflict carrying among his meagre luggage a real leather football.

Now, towards the end of the Emergency leather footballs and the money to buy them had become very scarce commodities indeed. It was surely an act

of God that now delivered into the possession of Tubberbrack's sportsmen the only real football in the Northern Deanery. And myself it was who go the idea that would-deliver us from our misery. We would spend the long summer evening diligently practising all manner of skills with our football and on the last Sunday of July when the priest's field would be cleared of the hay we would play Dooramuckie, not in the Annual Ballysnag Hurling Tournament, but in the Annual Ballysnag Football Tournament. Our sainted priest could be relied upon to persuade his cousin to arrange it that way. And the poor Dooramuckie boys, not having handled a real football since before the Emergency, would be incapable of matching the silken and practised skills of the stalwarts of Tubberbrack. What do you think of that, boy?"

The student, who for some time now had been regarding his drink more as an enemy than a lover, shook himself slightly and surprised us with a brief demonstration of the inquiring nature of the university trained mind.

"How did ye get the Dooramuckie fellas to agree to that? Were they all shaggin' eejits or whá?"

"They were shaggin' eejits", explained Jig. "They were gone so bloody arrogant after their string of hurling victories that they thought they could beat us at anything from pitch 'n toss to all out war. So they saw no problem at all in accepting the challenge. Now drink up there before it goes flat".

The student puffed out his jowls as the unco-operative liquid refused to descend his gullet and then he let it flow back into the glass again. When he lowered the tumbler I could see that the blinds had been drawn in his roundy granny-glasses and that my effective audience was now probably reduced to one. However, I continued to address my story to the scholar.

"On the last Saturday of July, Picadilly Fitz, home on holidays from London where he worked on the underground, impaled Blocker Butler's foot on his unpractised hay-fork as we cleared the last strands of hay from the priest's field. Blocker was our goalkeeper and there was no way he could hold that position efficiently on one leg but consternation was avoided when Soldier Kennedy conscripted me to fill the vacancy. Now, even in those days, my accomplishments were essentially of an intellectual and philosophical nature and I, and the rest of the team, expressed doubts as to my ability to carry myself well in hand-to-hand combat. But Soldier was able to allay our fears by pointing out that my great height and uncommonly long arms were excellent attributes for one who would be required to impede the flight of high, low and viciously angled footballs. I accepted the imposition and spent a sleepless night praying that no sacrifice of life and limb would be required of me in

the Redemption of Tubberbrack's Soul.

The match – as a match – was probably the most disappointing ever in the long history of confrontation between Tubberbrack and Dooramuckie. The tension was inhibiting and our practised silken skills never shone through. In subtlety and team-work we were just as deficient as our opponents. It was a dour struggle brightened only by the odd act of brutality and at half-time both teams had failed to score.

Then, mid-way through the second half, God smiled on us for a second. Cissy Parker, the Dooramuckie half-back, who had spent the whole match seeking out the positions least likely to require defence because of their isolation from the action, was suddenly astonished to find himself in possession of a stray ball. "Kick it!" roared the Dooramuckie supporter as Dumper Tierney, the Tubberbrack hit-man, thundered towards him with malicious intent. "Kick it, for chrissake!" The way forward promised only serious injury so Cissy turned around, closed his eyes, and, with the sweetest kick of the match, drove the ball sailing between his own posts. I'd have kissed him like a soccer player if he hadn't scampered from the field chased by a shrieking posse of his own supporters.

And now Tubberbrack was within seconds of a soul-healing, one point victory, when Soldier Kennedy cramped and our defence was breached. Through the gap roared Blinky Kelly making straight for goal, toe-to-hand, toe-to-hand, this new-fangled manoeuvre of Gaelic football consuming all his concentration. And still he came, toe-to-hand, not daring to take his eye off the ball. Toe-to-hand still and then a sudden change of direction and – crunch! – Blinky smashed against the goalpost and he crumbled into a deep slumber as the ball trickled harmlessly wide. But the roars of exultation from the Tubberbrack supporters subsided into a groan of consternation and then rose again to a crescendo of booing as the little referee was seen gesticulating frantically for a penalty. A penalty? Preposterous! Admittedly, Blinky may have stubbed his toe against my left boot as I went to meet his onslaught on my goal and this may have contributed a little to his sudden change of direction but I assure you a penalty was harsh and unjust in the extreme. But I heard after that the little referee was still owed money for a dodgy greyhound pup that he'd sold to Blinky a couple of weeks previously so – enough said!

Long argument augmented by bouts of fisticuffs failed to change the little Hitler's mind and he proceeded to step out the fourteen yards from my goal line. Now this referee was a little pumped-up fart of a man with legs like a dachshund and his fourteen paces hardly brought him outside the square. I pushed him aside but even my long legs placed the penalty spot uncomfortably close to the goal.

Soldier Kennedy limped over to me with

words of encouragement. Looking furtively over his shoulder he drew me aside and whispered. "Listen. I've seen this at soccer matches across the water. When yer man is running up for his shot look him in the eye and you'll know which way he's going to shoot. Then you'll have the advantage because you can throw yourself in that direction even before he cocks his leg to strike. Remember now, his eyes will tell you."

Armed with this advice I took up my position and sought out the penalty kicker. He had his back to me as he listened to the encouragement of his comrades. From my vantage there was nothing remarkable about him – except for his legs. They were only massive, and it was a tribute to the quality of flourbags at the time that the togs which his mother had made for him didn't burst under the strain of his muscles. And the lower extremities of these titanic limbs were adorned with a pair of hob-nailed working boots.

Little Hitler placed the ball on the agreed spot and blew his whistle imperiously. Everybody stood back and now it was all down to me and the Thigh Boy. He turned to face the ball. His massive legs began a pump-action dance as though some bad guy from the Wilde West was shooting bullets at his toes. The seams of his flour-bags were stretched to the brink of immodesty. He pranced two steps back, one step to the side, gave a his and charged at the ball. Would his togs stand up to it, I wondered, staring at the straining seams.

"His eyes, boy! For chrissake, his eyes!" roared Soldier Kennedy.

I raised my eyes to meet those of the oncoming charger – and there Aughrim was lost and Banagher beat. I'd seen crooked eyes before – the new barmaid in Dooramuckie is a case in point. One or both eyes look inward towards the point of the nose. But this fella's eyes would defy the magnetic compass to describe their bearing. They looked outward and loosely in the general direction of east and west. But as each hobnailed boot struck the ground they would swing to north-east and south-west or points in between. I was transfixed, mesmerised, hypnotised and couldn't take my gaze from his rotating orbs. There was a mighty thump as his hob-nailed boot met the ball and this released my eyes to follow the flight of the jet-propelled leather. It was rocketting straight for my face but I was still immobilised by the memory of those eyes. The growing sphere intruded more and more on my field of vision as it roared nearer. Bigger and bigger it grew until it became the whole world exploding in my face. Myriads of stars flashed and flared and gradually faded away into total darkness.

A grateful Tubberbrack had finished the celebrations by the time I regained consciousness. I woke up in the best bed in the District Hospital and when it was

known that I was allowed visitors many high-ranking citizens of the parish made pilgrimages to where I lay, bearing gifts of minerals, Lourdes Water and back issues of The Messenger as a token of their gratitude. And when the swelling had subsided and the full extent of the re-arrangement of my facial features became known a collection was made to send me to a famous plastic surgeon in London. But when the priest suggested that the money might be better spent on a face-lift for the parish church it was decided to allow my face to remain a living memorial to the day that the soul of Tubberbrack was redeemed by one of the most dramatic saves ever executed on a football pitch".

"There you are now, boy", said Jig, "what do you think of that?"

The blinds of the roundy granny-glasses snapped open, revealing eyes full of chaos and alarm. "I think", he muttered, "I'm going to get sick".

And he did. All over my Sunday suit.

That's another thing they're not teaching them up in the university anymore - how to hold their drink. Yarra, we're living in changed times.

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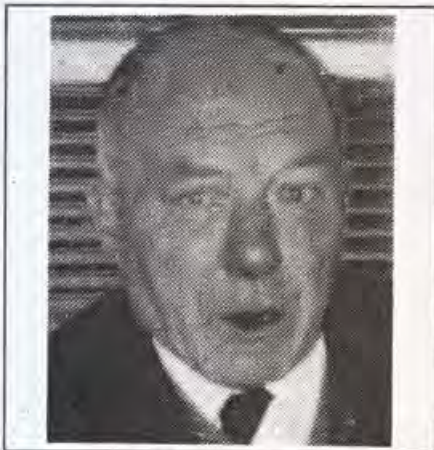
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OBITUARIES

CHRISTY DELANEY



FORMER All-Ireland handball champion Christy Delaney died suddenly in November at the age of 62.

Kilkenny Corporation members adjourned their Monday meeting as a mark of respect to the brother of their colleague Councillor Tommy Delaney.

A familiar and popular figure throughout Kilkenny, Christy had recently moved from James's Street in the city to his new home in Vicar Street.

A tailor by profession, Christy brought honours to Kilkenny as an All-Ireland handball champion in the 1950's, and played with such famous handballers as John Joe Gilmartin and Jasper Dunne.

An avid G.A.A. follower, he never missed a League or an All-Ireland match. This year, when Christy had no ticket for the All-Ireland final, Councillor Delaney gave him his own ticket so that Christy's record of one hundred per cent attendance would remain unbroken.

"He was delighted with his new house because it was so near Watergate, where all the family was born and grew up," said Councillor Delaney.

At the Corporation meeting, members paid many tributes to the late Christy. The proposal to adjourn the meeting was made by Cllr. Michael McGuinness who described Christy as "a gentleman and a man who had brought great honour to the city as a handballer".

Seconding the proposal, Cllr. Margaret Tyran pointed out that the Delaney family had been associated with Kilkenny for many generations. "His death is a great shock to his family and to everyone who knew him," she said. "He was quiet, unassuming and a gentleman and I sincerely regret his loss."

Cllrs. Carmel Boyd, John Bolger and Liam Quigley also paid tribute to Christy and extended their sympathy to his family.

Mayor Tom Crotty pointed out that Christy had been a neighbour of his for a long time and he and the people of Kilkenny sincerely regretted his passing.

Corporation members attended the funeral service in their official robes.

Coiste Contae Chainnigh extends sympathy to the Delaney family on Christy's death.

JOHN FITZPATRICK

ANOTHER LINK with the great Kilkenny team of 1932-33 was severed during 1991 with the death of John Fitzpatrick of Knockmoylan.

Only two members of that famous side are now alive: Martin White who resides in Dublin and Jim Grace from Tullaroan who lives in Bray, Co. Wicklow.



John Fitzpatrick came on the Kilkenny team at a stage when the county was after experiencing a barren period, having not won an All-Ireland title since 1922. He first hit the headlines when he helped Knockmoylan to win the County Junior Final of 1926, in which they beat Conahy at St. John's Park on March 13th 1927.

The previous year Knockmoylan won the junior championship but lost it on an objection to Danesfort. He won his second county junior medal in 1928, when he helped the newly formed Carrickshock club to beat Wellbrook on February 24th 1929.

He had a tremendous innings with the Carrickshock senior team and played in the county senior finals of 1929 (draw and replay), 1931, 1932, 1933, 1934, 1935, 1938 and 1939, winning county medals in 1931 and 1938.

John Fitzpatrick collected his first All-Ireland medal in 1928 when he helped the Kilkenny junior team to beat Tipperary in the final played in Waterford on May 5th 1929. Fitzpatrick is credited with scoring a point in that final.

John was back on the Kilkenny junior team in 1931 and they again took Leinster honours. However, following an objection, this Leinster final was declared null and void.

His displays with the junior team and with Carrickshock in the senior championship earned him a call-up to the senior county side. He won his first All-Ireland medal as a substitute in the 1932 final against Clare.

He won a permanent place on the team for the National League, and the Noresiders went on to take the title for the first time with a 3-8 to 1-3 victory over Limerick in a game played in Nowlan Park. Fitzpatrick played at corner forward.

Later in the year John was at right corner-forward when the Noresiders defeated Limerick by 1-7 to 0-6 to win his second All-Ireland senior medal. John Fitzpatrick played a brilliant game against Dublin in the Leinster Final. This was a sensational game.

So well did John Fitzpatrick play in 1933, that he was an automatic choice for the Leinster Railway Cup team in 1934, at a time when selection on the Provincial side was considered a real honour. Leinster lost that final to Munster on a score of 6-3 to 3-2.

In 1934 John Fitzpatrick toured America with the first Kilkenny team ever to play in New York. They were beaten by Dublin in a replayed Leinster Hurling Final after coming back from America.

John Fitzpatrick maintained his interest in the game throughout his life, and was a regular attender at games at local and national level. His passing leaves a deep void in his family. Kilkenny County Board extends its deepest sympathy to John's widow and family on their sad bereavement.

PETER PRENDERGAST

THE DEATH took place during the Summer of Peter Prendergast, the brilliant Thomastown defender who had played a big part in the 1947 All-Ireland senior triumph.

Peter came to prominence with the Thomastown junior team that swept all before them to win the title, beating the city team St. Rioch's in the final. The following year, 1946, he was on the county junior team that swept to All-Ireland glory.

Following his fine displays with that junior team, Peter was promoted to the senior team and played a big part in helping the Noresiders to again reach the All-Ireland.

Kilkenny had lost the finals of 1945 and

Continued ▶

1946 to Tipperary and Cork respectively and were hoping to make 1947 third time lucky. Peter Prendergast had a real baptism of fire going into that final. His immediate opponent was the late Christy Ring, then at the height of his career. The previous year he had run riot against the Noresiders.

It is now history that Peter kept the great Ring scoreless from play before having to retire with an injury ten minutes from the end. His withdrawal saw the Kilkenny defence loose in solidness and Cork got through for two goals but the Noresiders triumphed by 0-14 to 2-7.

Peter continued to play for the county and figured in another All-Ireland in 1950 which was lost to Tipperary by 1-9 to 1-8. He was also a member of the Kilkenny team which lost three Leinster championships to Laois in 1948, 1949 (Final) and 1951.

He helped Thomastown to a unique feat in 1946 when they came straight from junior ranks to win the senior title – their only success at this grade. Bennettsbridge achieved the same distinction in 1951/52.

Peter Prendergast played it hard but fair and took the hard knocks in the spirit of the game. He did not stand on ceremony when clearing his lines but no opponent could say he took an advantage of him. He continued his interest in the game when he retired and followed Kilkenny teams all over the country. He also retained a strong interest in local games. May he rest in peace.

MARTIN (Watty) RYAN



ON MONDAY the 23rd September as he had done on so many occasions during his life, Watty Ryan was loading sheep for the Mart when she was suddenly called to his reward. Watty was another member of the Thomastown team which took county junior and senior honours in successive years 1945 and 1946.

Like his team mate Peter Prendergast, he was an avid follower of the Gaelic game, both hurling and football. He never missed a game at both local or national level. It was a way of life with him. Just eight days

before his death he had thrilled to the magnificent football of Down and Meath in the All-Ireland football final.

He was a great judge of hurlers and served on the Kilkenny senior hurling selection committee. He won a county minor medal with Thomastown in 1941 and was selected on the Kilkenny minor team of 1942. This was a great Kilkenny team which included in their ranks players of the calibre of Jimmy Heffernan, Jimmy Clohosey, Liam Reidy and Dan Kennedy.

Due to the Emergency, the minor competition at All-Ireland level was suspended. Leinster ran their competition but the final did not take place until the 5th September 1943 as a curtain raiser to the Cork v. Antrim All-Ireland senior hurling final. The Noresiders had an easy 3-10 to 0-4 win over Dublin.

Watty won a junior All-Ireland medal as a substitute in 1946. He was on the Kilkenny team beaten by Laois in the first round of the 1951 championship.

At club level, Watty played with Thomastown, Graigue and Bennettsbridge. A great servant of the game. He will be missed from the bank at Nowlan Park.

God grant mercy to his soul.

BILLY KELLY



BILLY KELLY died a few weeks ago. Another former Kilkenny player, he helped Carrickshock to win their first senior title in 1931. As a result he captained Kilkenny in the first round of the 1932 Leinster championship against Laois. An injury in that game put paid to his inter-county career. Kilkenny went on to win both the Leinster and All-Ireland titles in that year.

His club mate Jimmy Walsh took over the captaincy of the county team and in 1939 became the only Kilkenny man to take the McCarthy Cup twice.

Billy Kelly maintained his interest in the game throughout his life.

May he rest in peace.

MRS. MAUREEN GRACE



THE DEATH of popular Kilkenny lady, Maureen Grace during the year saddened her many friends throughout the Gaelic world. The charming wife of the late and legendary Paddy Grace of Kilkenny hurling and administrative fame, was well known throughout Ireland and overseas. The late Paddy often referred to Maureen as "My Great Right Arm", and that indeed she was, in addition to being a devoted mother to a large family.

It was Maureen who answered the countless telephone calls that came from all over Ireland and indeed from Gaels overseas, asking for information on fixture dates, times and availability of teams, officials and referees. It was the same Maureen who tended so caringly to the Kilkenny jerseys and always had them ready for the next encounter.

Many G.A.A. followers and indeed club and County Board officials will readily recall the hospitality that greeted them when they visited the Grace household in Newpark. Maureen, like countless other wives of G.A.A. officials, performed herculean work for Cumann Luthchleas Gael here in Kilkenny.

The County Board and all G.A.A. followers extend deepest sympathy to the Grace family on their sad loss.

STEPHEN KINSELLA

STEPHEN KINSELLA of Rockshire Court, Ferrybank, who died in October, had a tremendous involvement with Kilkenny hurling: over five decades from the late 1950s to 1991 when, though at death's door, he was still in the Kilkenny dressing-room on All-Ireland Sunday. Stephen's friendship with the Kilkenny players and his loyalty to the Black and Amber cause was unique.

A Ferrybank man born and reared, Stephen was part of the local scene, you could not pass through the place without seeing him. Stephen played a little hurling as a boy, once playing minor with Ferrybank, and developed a grádh for the

Camán game. He loved the clash of the ash, the crunch of the tackle, the schmozzle in the square, the speed of foot and the artistry of the good hurler.

When there was great rivalry in Ferrybank, with two clubs – the Pearse's and the Emmet's – Stephen was attached to the Emmets, but his loyalty to Kilkenny saw him often as a supporter of Mooncoin teams, and he numbered amongst his friends such as Jack Duggan, Locky Byrne, and Bill "Crawn" Walsh who played with Mooncoin and Kilkenny.

Stephen loved a gamble on the dogs and the horses, but he was a most unlucky punter, and one of his few worthwhile wins came on a day at the Gowran Park races when he backed an outsider which won at 33 to 1. A friend asked him "Where did you get that one, Stephen?" and Stephen said: "It was the colours that took my fancy, I never saw a nicer black and amber outfit than the owner's stripes on the jockey, the silks were glistening in the sunshine."

Father C. Kelly, in the homily at Stephen's funeral, told the story about the two members of a religious sect who called to Stephen's house one night promoting their God. Stephen invited them in, and pointing to a picture of the Sacred Heart with the lamp in front said 'that is my God No. 1'. Then he showed them a photograph of a famous Kilkenny hurler, and he said 'that's my God No. 2, and I haven't room for any other'.

Stephen's first involvement was probably when he drove some of the Southern players to training sessions on match-days. At first Paddy Grace wondered a bit about this – a Ferrybank man being part of the Kilkenny scene, with Waterford going great guns at the time and the possibility that Kilkenny could be meeting them in the final, but like the rest of us, he soon realised how genuine his man was. It wasn't enough for Stephen to support the team on match-days, he had to contribute, he had to be involved.

Many a Kilkenny hurler of the '50s and '60 has a souvenir of his playing days because of Stephen's generosity. He collected team and action photographs at the local newspaper offices, had them hand-painted and framed and presented them to the players.

Stephen was always in the Kilkenny dressing-room, looking after the jerseys, seeing that every player took the field numbered in accordance with the Official programme, acting as a hurley man on the sideline, providing and looking after the drinks, minding the wallet or the few pounds during the game – these were safer with Stephen than if they had been lodged in the Bank.

He wanted to be part of the scene, the excitement and the banter. He savoured Kilkenny's wins, his disappointment at defeat was even greater than that of the players, but there was always the next game, the next year to look forward to.

Stephen's home is painted in black and amber, it is a museum-piece of Kilkenny hurling. There is a collection of Kilkenny hurleys used by many of our famous players, a wonderful collection of team and action photographs, and many other souvenirs; the last he collected on the Wednesday night before the All-Ireland, though a very sick man he went to Kilkenny to wish the players well, and to have them autograph a hurley.

When it came to selling tickets for the G.A.A. or charity Stephen had no equal. Because of his expertise in recent years when the County Board was involved in major raffles for fund-raising purposes, Stephen was asked to sell tickets on commission. He would have none of it, he would sell all the tickets that he could, but every penny collected would go to the County Board.

When the first Kilkenny Supporters' Club was formed, Stephen travelled about with a bag of Supporters' Club ties and collected the £10 membership fees and, as usual with Stephen, the first £10 was contributed by himself. Stephen's attitude was that it was for Kilkenny hurling, and if you couldn't contribute £10 to Kilkenny hurling, then you weren't a Kilkenny man at all.

Stephen believed that just as it was an honour for any Kilkenny man to wear the Black and Amber, it was a tremendous honour for him to be part of the hurling scene. Stephen was an idealist, people like him are the heart and soul of the G.A.A., and the very reason why the G.A.A. remains such a great sporting organisation.

These are changing times for the G.A.A. as well as all sports, but I would hope that in an era of new ideas, proper presentation of games and so on, we will not forget the role of the voluntary person like Stephen, that we will always find a place in our hearts for his likes. We would be much the poorer as an organisation if we could not find a place for the likes of Stephen.

If Stephen watched and enjoyed Kilkenny men play the game of hurling, he has now played the game of his life, and attained his goal. We will miss you, Stephen.

Ar Dheis Lámh Dé go raibh a anam dilis.

MICHAEL BROPHY

ONE OF the greatest supporters of all things Kilkenny went to his Eternal Reward on February 20, 1991, at the young age of 66 years. Michael, or Mick to his friends, was the epitome of so many 'Paddies' who were forced to leave their native sod and eventually become giants of industrial development in foreign climes.

Mick was born in Ardra way back in 1924. Before he emigrated he played the 'ould game' with Danesfort, Clara. Muck-



alee, aye, and even in Carlow. His heroes were Jimmy Langton, Jimmy Kelly, Jimmy O'Connell, Jack Mulcahy, 'Diamond' Hayden and the greatest hurler he ever saw – Paddy Phelan.

He carried his love for the game with him to London where he was actively engaged in starting the St. Columille's Club in St. Alban's. Mick together with his brother Tom (now residing on the Bleach Road) got themselves involved in the construction of so many sporting complexes including the running track at Wembley Stadium for the 1948 Olympic Games.

Mick died a wealthy man, but his wealth could be measured not only in monetary values but also in terms of human happiness. Anyone who ever had the pleasure of meeting him could not but be impressed by his modesty, his generosity and by his manners.

Mick treated all men as equals. He mixed with Royalty and titled people as unobtrusively as he did with subs. on an under-12 hurling team. He had some great philosophies on life. He had a self-determination and a passion to help any human being whom he perceived was worse off than himself. On money – he always said that when you concentrated on doing your best then money would be a natural by-product.

One of the greatest friends he ever had in the G.A.A. was Paddy Grace. In admiration for 'De Grás' he made sure – if indeed he had to – that Paddy would be forever immortalised by donating a splendid cup and two sets of very valuable medals for the finalists in the Féile na nGael County Final ever year. In fact, his last will and testament has ensured that the arrangement is continued for posterity.

Mick was always laughing and a great man for the "crack". On his memorial card are the lines: "Where did you come from in Ireland, Paddy?/Don't know, Sir, It was dark when I left". I can't see anyone but Mick Brophy saying those lines.

His dying wish was that his ashes be spread around his spiritual home – beloved Nowlan Park. Amidst a galaxy of personalities, family, friends and giants of industry both from Ireland and England the

ceremony was performed with great reverence and dignity on Easter Bank Holiday Monday in March this year.

As a perpetual memorial the Mick Brophy Hurling Veterans Championship is to be an annual event sponsored by the Brophy Family Trust. The first match was played in July at Nowlan Park between the classic teams of Kilkenny and Wexford . . . Wexford won that day, but I'm sure Mick was well pleased because of the excellent standard of skill and sportsmanship shown by all the veteran players on the day.

TOM KENNY



One of the greatest servants of Windgap Hurling Club and Lamogue Football Club – Tom Kenny – died suddenly during the first half of this year at the young age of 50 years.

Tom Kenny was the epitome of what great club men were all about. During his early playing years Tom manned the centre-back position with a determination

and resolution that was the hall-mark of his game-style from 1959 to the day he retired in 1974.

He hurred in the Junior Championship up to 1976 when the boys from the "Windy Gap" were County Champions. He then finished his hurling days in the highest plains of Senior hurling in Kilkenny.

Tom Kenny on the playing fields was a scant respecter of reputations; he had a heart as big as the Rock of Dunamase; he had a pride in the red "gansey" of his beloved Windgap that was infectious. When Tom and Windgap won their way into the Senior ranks, both he and his team were very unlucky to be in the company of such great club sides as the Fenians of Johnstown, and Bennettsbridge.

Tom was so good a Junior centre-back that he played many games for Kilkenny in the National League. He also played in two Leinster Intermediate Finals for Kilkenny in the early 'Sixties.

It will be as a footballer that Tom will be best remembered at a time when football was very respectable in Kilkenny. An 'automatic' on all Kilkenny teams for over a decade, Tom will forever be remembered for his no-nonsense attitude and a die-hard will to honour the Black and Amber he wore with great pride.

Tom created some kind of record within the county when he lined out in a Senior Football Championship match against Kildare, and then rushed to Wexford Park to play Wexford in the Leinster Intermediate Hurling Championship. Tom played in three Senior Football Finals for his beloved Lamogue.

He will be remembered by many with great love, and a fierce sense of loss, particularly by his wife, Mary; his sons, Philip, Eamon, Thomas, Catherine; his brothers, Gerry, John, Noel, Pat; his sisters, Rena Drennan (Gowran), and Breda Cahill (Dublin), and especially his dear mother, Kitty, who still lives in Butlerswood, Windgap.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam.

MRS. BRENDA FENNELLY



THE untimely death of Brenda Fennelly took place on Sunday, September 8th, 1991, at the age of 31 years. Brenda was the wife of Shamrocks and Kilkenny hurling half-back Sean Fennelly and she was the daughter of Phil and Nuala Moore, Kilmoganny, another family steeped in the traditional G.A.A. mould.

In her short life Brenda was so much part and parcel of the joys, tribulations, up – nearly always – and downs – seldom – of the success story which her husband Sean was such an integral part of.

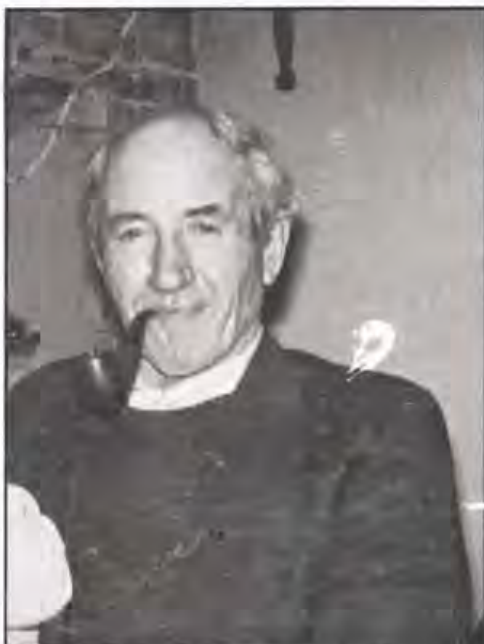
She was a loving and caring mother to Krystle, Belita and Sorcha (daughters), to whom she is an inestimable loss.

She was educated in Kilmoganny N.S. and St. Brigid's College, Callan. She was a dedicated worker of the Kilmoganny branch of the Order of Malta, which she was instrumental in organising.

Her passing will be mourned by many, but especially by her husband and children, her mum and dad, Kevin (Snr.) and Teresa Fennelly – who idolised her – and numerous relatives, friends and neighbours.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam.

Luke Gaule, a member of the 4-in-a-row Carrickshock Championship team (1940-1943) who passed away during the year



DERMOT SMITH

DERMOT SMITH, Managing Director of Vale Oil Co., late of Ashurst, College Road, Kilkenny, formerly from Keady, Co. Armagh, whose tragic untimely death at a young age left family, colleagues and friends in a state of shock.

He was a keen follower of all sport with a special place in his heart for Gaelic games and it was with this love and vision for the future promotion of the games that he decided that Vale Oil should become the first company to sponsor the Intermediate Hurling Championship in Kilkenny.

He was the best of company, with a winning ability to relate to all people who met him during his four years in Kilkenny. Though we grieve at his passing, we will always remember the friendship we shared with him.