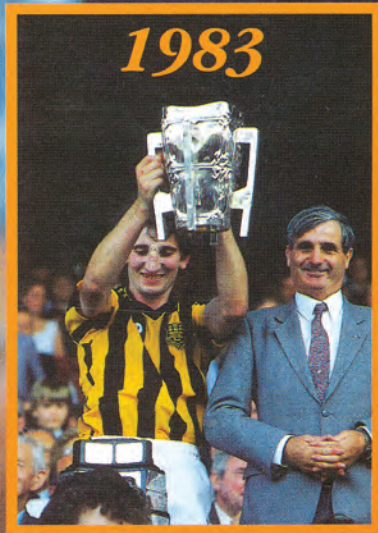


KILKENNY

GAA YEARBOOK
1992



Luach £4

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KILKENNY G.A.A. YEARBOOK 1992

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Liam Fennelly - Captain 1983 and
Captain 1992.

Editorial

IN the words of the most famous Commentator of all, it gives me great pleasure to say to you "Bail o Dhía oraibh go léir a chárde, agus tá fáilte róibh go dtí Irishleabhar Chill Chainnig 1992." In this modern era there is great emphasis placed in getting the "message across".

This is the third attempt by the Kilkenny County Board at getting its message across. And I suppose we could not have picked a better year to register our "hat-trick". There are times when we in the G.A.A. are very slow to boast – for the want of a better word – about our achievements. That to my mind is where good communication is of tantamount importance.

We, in Kilkenny, have had an excellent year. We should be very proud of that fact. We should make no apology for bathing in the glory of that achievement. To that end our Committee has endeavoured to rekindle the joyous memories that paved the road to Croke Park on that first Sunday in September. It's not all about Croke Park either. Famous St. Kieran's are here; so, too, are the Ballyhale Shamrocks and Glenmore. The, now I'm only spoiling the pleasure that I hope this Yearbook will bring into your life.

Having won – for the first time ever in the County's history – the McNamee Award last year, it was always going to be difficult to produce a Yearbook as good as last year. However, I think we have achieved the impossible by doing just that. For that, my grateful thanks goes to my County Board Chairman, Nicky Brennan; my Yearbook Chairman, Tommy Murphy; Brendan O'Sullivan, Gerry O'Neill, Barry Hickey, John Cahill, Ned Kennedy, John Knox (N.T.), Tom Ryall, Ted Carroll, and the only lady on our committee, Ann Downey. They have produced this Yearbook. The credit is all theirs. I hope their efforts give you many hours of pleasure. On a very personal note I wish to say "thank you" to Marie McCormack and David Henriques.

I would also like to say "go raibh míle maith agaibh" to our professional journalists, John Knox (Kilkenny People), Enda McEvoy, and to the many contributors who have made this publication what it is. My grateful thanks goes to the many photographers, both professional and amateur, and to all our advertisers who supported the book. I hope that their investment will prove a lucrative one.

Finally, I would like to record the appreciation of our committee for the staff of the Kilkenny People, whose courtesy and help were abundantly evident at all times.

Go neirí an bothar libh go léir.



Barrie Henriques

BARRIE HENRIQUES
Editor.

Foreword



A cháirde i gcéin is i gcóngar. Gné an-taitneamhach é réamhrá a scríobh d'irisleabhar na bliana seo. Is fíor go raibh an-bliain againn anuraidh. Tá súil agam go gothóidh na haltanna agus na pictiúirí ón leabhar seo dóchas agus muinín ionainn don bhliain atá romhainn. Traoslaím leis an eagarthóir agus a fhoireann a chabhraigh chun an foilseachán seo a chur i gcríoch. Ar son Coiste an Chontae táim fíor-bhuíoch dóibh.

Another year, another Year Book Publication and, I hope, another enjoyable read for you all. This is the third edition of the Kilkenny G.A.A. Year Book which the County Board has produced and all the thrills and excitement of the past year are recorded. The great win in the All-Ireland Senior Hurling Final merits special attention and I am pleased that we have been able to include lots of photographs of supporters which have not been published to date.

I cannot let the occasion pass without briefly referring to the winning of the McNamee Award by the County Board for its 1991 Year Book publication. This was a tremendous achievement for Kilkenny, coming in only the second year we undertook such a project. The winning of the award is testimony to the great work of last year's committee. In this regard I sincerely regret the passing of Tomás De Bhaldraithe during the past year. Tomás was an active and enthusiastic member of the committee since its inception.

After a nine year lapse, Kilkenny have again regained the Liam McCarthy Cup. This time it was the new edition of the cup. How fitting, too, that Liam Fennelly should be the person to captain the side, as he was also the last Kilkenny player to bring the old cup to the county. I doubt if this achievement can ever be repeated.

I was very impressed with the huge level of support

which Kilkenny enjoyed during the year. The first Sunday in September was a special day for us all, no doubt the nine year wait made it all the more enjoyable. Many thanks to our Supporters' Club who worked so hard to ensure a colourful Black and Amber day.

We had some disappointments during the year but I have no doubt we can quickly bounce back to winning ways at all other grades during 1993. The great run of our fine Camogie team came to an end but already they are planning a quick assault on the 1993 championship.

Kilkenny continued to be the dominant county in handball with the elegant Michael "Ducksie" Walsh leading the way.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who assisted the Board in any way during the past year, particularly our main sponsors Mahon McPhillips CEM, Senior League and Championship sponsors St. Canice's Credit Union, Intermediate League and Championship sponsors Vale Oil, and Minor Hurling League and Championship sponsors Iarnród Éireann.

Since the beginning of October the Year Book Committee has been working extremely hard compiling articles and photographs. I thank them all for their hard work, particularly our Editor, Barrie Henriques, who also looked after the securing of advertisements.

Without the generous assistance of all our advertisers it would not be possible to produce this Year Book. I would ask all our readers to support our advertisers at every opportunity.

A special effort has been made this year to include additional photographic material. My thanks to all the excellent photographers who assisted us with their work.

I hope you enjoy the 1992 Year Book. This publication will again see its way around the globe and I extend best wishes to all Kilkenny Gaels wherever they may be.

Finally, to all our readers I extend the compliments of the season and, like you, I again look forward with hope and anticipation to 1993.

Slán agus Beannacht.

Nioclás Ó Braonáin

Cathaoirleach

Coiste Contae Cill Chainnigh.

Well done, Lads!

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Teachtaireacht an Uachtarán

IS GAISCE mór craobh sinsear na hÉireann a bhuachaint. Mar sin, tá áthas an Domhan orm an teachtaireacht seo a sheoladh do muintir Chill Chainnigh san bliain speisialta seo.

It is indeed a particular pleasure for me to be afforded the opportunity of extending this message to all associated with the G.A.A. in Kilkenny in this very special year for the "Cats". As I stood in Croke Park on the first Sunday in September, awaiting the emergence of the teams, I could not help but reminisce on the great previous encounters between Kilkenny and Cork which are part of the colourful history and folklore of the G.A.A. I also reflected that it was nearly a decade since the McCarthy Cup had rested by the Nore and I began to understand that this game must have particular significance for the players and followers of the Black and Amber.

The Kilkenny team accepted the challenge as Kilkenny teams of yore had done. The team was faithful to its birthright and with an exhibition of commitment, flair and skill, they were a credit to their County and the G.A.A. in achieving the ultimate honour.

Kilkenny's success in 1992 is a manifestation of the effort, commitment and organisation at under-age level and the loyalty of some of the senior members who had already etched their names in the great chronicle that is Kilkenny hurling. Everybody who contributed to Kilkenny's success can take justifiable pride in promoting and presenting

hurling at its best to all our followers at home and to the wider audience abroad. I hope, however, that I will be forgiven for mentioning one man in particular, Liam Fennelly. Liam and the Fennelly family had already ensured their place in the G.A.A. Hall of Fame before this year's Final. It was singularly fitting therefore that Liam should have the particular honour of writing his own piece of history in being the only man to lift both the old and new McCarthy Cups in victory, a feat unlikely ever to be repeated.

I know that his late father, Kevin, would have been proud and I am sure that all Gaeldom will see Liam's achievement as a fitting memorial to him.

To all the Kilkenny Officials, teams, players and supporters, I offer my congratulations and thanks for a great year and marvellous memories. Go raibh ráth Dé ar an obair agus go mbeimid beo an t'am seo arís. Táim íor buíoch díobh uile.

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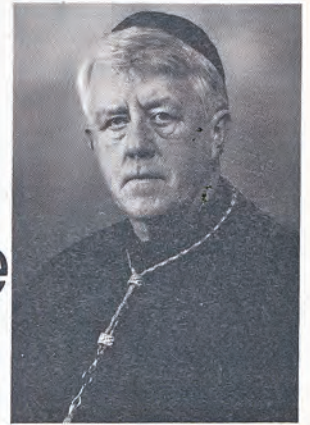
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Another reason for winning the All-Ireland!



PEOPLE enjoy winning an All-Ireland. Whether it was Donegal winning their first or Kilkenny their twenty-fourth, the All-Ireland victories in 1992 brought immense pleasure to followers in both counties.

Even now, three months later, Kilkenny people are still elated with the success of their team. Despite the disappointment of the 1991 Final, it is true that twelve months ago some shrewd followers were quietly optimistic. It is also true, however, that while last Christmas some may have been hopeful about the future, this Christmas we all know that our hurlers have actually won. That is the difference between losing and winning.

This difference was obvious at the annual Dinner Dance of the Kilkenny Association in London in late October. Since the mid-eighties the attendance at this very pleasant event had been dwindling. It was only with difficulty that the hard-working Committee could muster a middling-sized gathering for what should be the Kilkenny night of the year.

It was noticeable that, despite emigration, very few young people – those in the 18 to 30 years age group – even bothered coming. Maybe they felt that the night had little to offer to them – or maybe they could not afford it.

In 1992 all that changed. Kilkenny won the All-Ireland. Liam Fennelly and his team brought the Liam McCarthy Cup to the Dinner Dance at the G.A.A. Clubhouse in Ruislip. They were accompanied by Nickey Brennan, Ted Carroll, Ollie Walsh and other back-room figures in the All-Ireland triumph.

Over 200 Kilkenny people – and the majority of them young – came for what turned out to be a most enjoyable evening. For hours we discussed hurling, Kilkenny, hurling, home, hurling, friends and hurling . . . and hurling.

It was good to meet so many young people from all over the diocese. Some reminded me that I confirmed them; others said that I met them in school; others said I knew their parents – or, all too frequently, their grandparents! These may be rather tenuous points of contact but, given the night that was in it, they were enough to start a conversation.

I could not but feel sad that so many of our finest young people are forced to go abroad for their livelihood. This is the real result in human terms of our economic and unemployment situation here in Ireland.

All spoke in admiration of the spirit of self-sacrifice and dedication required to win the McCarthy Cup. Some even wondered what would happen if those charged with the management of our country and our economy could put some of the same spirit into their task. It is a sobering thought.

However, it was a great evening and all Kilkenny people – in England and at home – are grateful to the Kilkenny Association in London for making it happen. Above all, we are grateful to our hurlers and their mentors because without the Cup we would not have met so many fine young people.

✠ **LAURENCE FORRISTAL**
Bishop of Ossory

Third Glenmore win was no overstatement for team that should have won more

By JOHN KNOX, "Kilkenny People"

In a roundabout way it was a terrific compliment to the eventual winners that, despite the fact they played no better than modestly for all but 30 minutes of the campaign, they ended up being crowned kings of hurling in Kilkenny.

Detractors and pessimists might interpret such events in a different way, and suggest the quality of opposition along the road wasn't that hectic. That is simply a load of rubbish.

Anytime anyone wins a championship in Kilkenny, and particularly the senior crown, then they have proved themselves a team of quality. And because club hurling is so strong in this county, local champions are at least on a par with the best elsewhere.

If proof were needed and the All-Ireland club championship was, as it must be, used as a gauge, then it backs up the argument. On a county basis, Cork lead the honours list with eight wins, followed by Kilkenny with seven. County against county, club against club, Kilkenny can hold its own.

The Kilkenny senior champions of 1992, Glenmore put their name on that national title once. Their latest triumph at home was their third, to go along with wins in 1987 and 1990. Definitely, and one makes the point with due respect to other champions in recent times, Glenmore missed the boat once or twice since they made the initial breakthrough.

A third win was no overstatement of the talents of the O'Connors, Eddie Aylward, Michael Phelan, Pat Barron and intermediate warriors of these times, Paddy Murphy, Seamus Boyle and others who have worn the colours proudly over the past half dozen years or so.



Glenmore captain Pat Barron with the Tom Walsh Cup. (Photo: Tom Brett)



Dear God, let it be wide! . . . Willie O'Connor (Glenmore) seems to pray as the ball heads goalwards in the county final against Tullaroan. Players (left to right) - Seamus Dollard (Glenmore), Richie Walsh (Tullaroan), Michael Deady (Glenmore), Willie O'Connor (Glenmore), Jimmy Walton (Tullaroan).

(Photo: Tom Brett)

TURNING POINT

In a unique senior final, in that the clubs never met before, Glenmore beat Tullaroan by 1-14 to 2-6. Like most matches, there was a turning point. It came at the beginning of the second half.

The opening 30 minutes were less than good, yet Tullaroan, who were seeking their first title since 1958, were happy enough as they led by 1-4 to 0-4 at the break. The opposition wasn't going well. They knew it, and that had to improve their chances.

But before the ball was even thrown in to restart the action a row erupted, and it led to a second incident on the sideline. Two small affairs blown out of all proportion by photographers present from the national media. Those un-

scheduled incidents injected new life into Glenmore. They got stuck in, produced the high level performance they had been searching for all season, and they swept the opposition aside.

"The incidents at the start of the second half did have a good effect as far as we were concerned," admitted Glenmore trainer George Leahy. "But a discussion during the break also helped. They players knew they had not been going well all year and they knew they would never forgive themselves if they let a county title go without doing themselves justice, at least once. They went out and did that, and ended up champions."

The southerners posted warning of their new-found desire when Des Heffernan burst through the Tullaroan defence. However, his low, hard drive missed the target. But instance of drive and determination was indicative of what was to come.



Action from St. Canice's Credit Union County Final . . . John Heffernan (Glenmore) gets there first as Noel Treacy (Tullaroan) tries to deny him. Looking on is Pat Barron (Glenmore), while referee Paschal Long keeps an eye on them all. (Photo: Tom Brett)

First Tullaroan improved their lead with a point from a free by Jimmy Walton (1-5 to 0-4). If Glenmore needed further inspiration they got it from Ray Heffernan, who shot a near-amazing point under heavy pressure from the left sideline at the town end. They day you land a score such as that, you know you have the gods on your side. Ray did on October 11.

REMARKABLE

In the 39th minute John Heffernan was fouled in the big square and a Glenmore penalty earned the reward of a goal for the flying Ray Heffernan. Along with that score came the lead for the eventual winners (1-7 to 1-5).

Heffernan remained his side's only scorer until Denis Mullally had a point in

the 43rd minute. Remarkable, you might think, but then so too was Heffernan's eventual tally of 1-10 (goal penalty, seven points frees). His was one of the greatest scoring shows of all time in a county final.

On a day when his big brother Christy was sidelined with a shoulder injury – and used as a sub. for no useful purpose – Glenmore needed someone to hit the perfect day. Ray Heffernan did that and walked away with the Credit Union (championship sponsors) man-of-the-match award.

If the 29-year-old took the lion's share of the scores, he wasn't alone in the performance of heroic deeds. Willie O'Connor, who carried a career-threatening groin injury into the game, was little short of deadly at corner-back, while Eddie O'Connor, Seamus Dollard and Eddie Aylward also adopted the 'not an inch' stance in a tightly-knit defence.

Michael Phelan started at centre-

forward but came to the fore when moved to midfield. In the best sporting manner he knocked Bill Hennessy out of a stride that was match-threatening from a Glenmore point of view. Phelan, in a different sort of way to Heffernan, helped change the match, and then the likes of John Heffernan, Des Heffernan and Denis Mullally turned the screws on the wilting opposition.

The hurling Glenmore produced during the 30 minutes of the second half was what they had been searching for all season.

"We knew it was there somewhere, it was only a matter of producing it," assured selector Ted Dollard. "What better time to produce our best than when our backs were to the wall in the county final?"

NO ONE COULD BEAT THEM

Real champions are made of stern stuff and Glenmore proved that. Even when they couldn't get their act together properly there was no one who could beat them. Had they played for the entire season as they did in the closing half of the final they would have taken the good out of the championship, insofar as there would never have been any question about the outcome.

Before qualifying for the 97th final, Glenmore beat Clara in the semi-final (1-14 to 0-12). This time the performance was workmanlike more than spectacular. Seven time in all the scores were level, after both had enjoyed moments in front.

The eventual champions, inevitably, were pointed towards the winners' enclosure by a Ray Heffernan point in the 45th minute. Another spectacular effort. From all of 85 yards he hit the target. A like score from brother Des (1-10 to 0-11) left Clara visibly shaken. They had pounded as hard as they could. They could get no change out of the opposition and so the fight was knocked out of them.

Ray Heffernan scored five points that afternoon at Nowlan Park. Earlier in the quarter-final, against Mullinavat in Kilmacow, he shot 11 points (nine frees, one '65'). In the three matches in the run-up to outright victory Ray Heffernan swooped a magnificent 1-26. Some memory for any man to carry from a successful championship.

He was easy-going and magnanimous about it all: "Once you win, it doesn't matter who gets the scores. Glenmore are champions, and everyone is the parish is entitled to share in the joy of it all." Spoken like a real sportsman!

The **Glenmore** team in the final was: Michael Deady, Willie O'Connor, P. J. O'Connor, Seamus Dollard, Eddie O'Connor, Liam Walsh, Des Heffernan, Ray Heffernan, Denis Mullally, Michael Phelan, Pat Barron (capt.), Michael ('Foxy') Phelan, John Heffernan, John Flynn. *Subs:* Christy Heffernan, Dickie Hennessy (used), John Kirwan, Michael Aylward, Frank Kirwan, Paschal Phelan, Sean Doherty, Richard O'Connor, Paddy Murphy, Seamus Boyle, Shay Vereker.

Selectors: George Leahy, John O'Shea, Ted Dollard.

Tullaroan – Edward Holland, Joe Norton, Noel Treacy, Michael Walsh, Philip Doheny, Liam Keogh (capt.), Pat Fennelly, Jimmy Walton, Bill Hennessy, Derek Gaffney, Shem Dunne, Sean Teehan, Dick Walsh, Pat Doheny, Richie Walsh. *Subs:* Bobby Sweeney, Paul Hennessy (used); Vincent Norton, Joe Walshe, Eamon Sweeney, Simon Walton, Anthony Dooley, Eddie Fennelly, Philip Coogan, Seoirse Butler, Michael Walsh, Laurence Cummins.

Selectors: Dick Walsh, John Hall, Ger Doheny. *Trainer:* Martin Fitzpatrick.

Who has the titles?

Tullaroan (19): 1887, 1889, 1895, 1897, 1899, 1901, 1902, 1904, 1907, 1910, 1911, 1915, 1924, 1925, 1930, 1933, 1934, 1948, 1958.

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

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

The Shamrocks (9): 1978, 1979, 1980, 1982, 1983, 1985, 1988, 1989, 1991.

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

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

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

Éire Óg (4): 1939, 1944, 1945, 1947.

Glenmore (3): 1987, 1990, 1992.

Dicksboro (3): 1923, 1926, 1950.

Confederation (3): 1893, 1894, 1896.

Erin's Own (city) (2): 1905, 1909.

St. Lachtain's (Freshford) (2): 1961, 1963.

Threecastles (2): 1898, 1903.

Thomastown (1): 1946.

Graigue (1): 1949.

Slieverue (1): 1954.

John Lockes (Callan) (1): 1957.

Johnstown (1): 1914.

St. Martin's (1): 1984.

Clara (1): 1986.



PASCHAL'S LAST MATCH . . . Referee Paschal Long before the County Senior Final with rival captains Pat Barron (Glenmore) and Liam Keoghan (Tullaroan).

(Photo: Tom Brett)



CLARA – COUNTY SENIOR HURLING SEMI-FINALISTS

Back (left to right) – Lester Ryan, James Langton, Anthony Prendergast, J. J. Ward, Brian Barcoe, Brendan Barcoe, Liam Byrne, Eamon Whearty. **Front (left to right) –** Robert Shortall, Philip Murphy, Stephen Whearty, Joe Casey, John Ryan, Kevin Ryan, Eugene Byrne.



LIAM AYLWARD T.D.

wishes to thank all his constituents and
workers in the Carlow/Kilkenny
electoral area.

Well done, Kilkenny, in '92.

Here's to a successful '93.

JOHN HENDERSON

By: Barrie Henriques

The headlines on the "Kilkenny People" read "JOHN STEPS OUT, AND THEN STEPS IN AGAIN". That was on Friday, January 17th. This was typical Henderson copy. Not for him the screaming banner headline announcing a retirement, after a major defeat. John Henderson was never a headline hugger.

The youngest of the famed Johnstown Henderson clan knew when it was time to hang up his Inter-County boots, and without the aid of any script-writer say, "sin a bhuil".

John Henderson was a contradiction in terms. The Bray based New Ireland Assurance Manager always was, and still is, extremely articulate, friendly, capable, and courteous. Some would say that John Henderson seldom brought, these qualities on to a playing field, and you know those "some" could be right. But then who is to say that John Henderson was not articulate on a hurling field?

Miles of video-tape will bear testament to his special brand of verbal encouragement to playing colleagues, and another form of "verbals" to erring officialdom as the menu demanded. Because John Henderson is, — as Martin Brehany rightly identified in the "Sunday Press" on January 19th — a member of hurlings thinking classes, and is quite willing to say his piece forcibly and honestly.

Like all the Hendersons before him, John Henderson has the courage of his own convictions, and was never afraid to express them. I suppose one could honestly say that John Henderson was one of the friendliest players that ever trod the playing arenas of Ireland — that was before and after a match. Once the lines were drawn and the feadóóg was sounded, the "friendly rivalry" that some scribe write about, are confined to the bleatings of a mis-informed mind.

John Henderson never asked for favour or blessing from anyone; he never gave any either. In truth it could be said that he "suffered" a little when comparisons were drawn between himself and his more illustrious brothers, Pat and Ger.

Not for him the mighty catch of a sliothar among a forest of hurleys; not for him the surging solo runs, nor indeed the punishing drive of the same sliothar into enemy territory. No indeed, John Henderson manned his "patch" with expert efficiency, and he dealt out "favours" like the Dickensian Scrooge dished out five-pound notes. I remember talking to a Galway forward after the 1987 All-Ireland Final. The conversation ran something like this: "What do you think of John Henderson?". The answer given, and I quote "Jasus he is 'like a friggin octopus. He has as many arms and he seems to have two hurls in each arm".

He was such a tight marker that I heard a man say on 2 time at a match in Nowlan Park, that "Henderson was so tight that you couldn't get a grain of oats between him and his opponent, not even with a belt of a mallet". John Henderson doesn't have to apologise to anyone for his success. He earned and deserved every modicum of success that came his way.

Among his major achievements, he can hang up 3 All-Ireland senior medals, 4 National League awards, 2 senior Kilkenny Championship medals, single awards in Railway Cup (1988), Oireachtas (1984), All-Star (1983), Leinster Club Senior Hurling (1975), All-Ireland Minor Hurling (1975) and All-Ireland Under-21 (1977).

Nor is John's achievements limited to the hurling arena — he actually won an All-Ireland Football medal with the Carlow R.T.C. in 1977, a trophy which even his famed brothers cannot lay claim to. John Henderson was made of the "stuff" of champions — he is Kilkenny through and through; born with a great grá for the game of hurling.

It was mandatory, therefore, that given his pedigree, he would return a little to the game that was so good to him. How fitting it was then, that he would try and pass on some of his knowledge to lesser mortals than himself, when he agreed to become the Manager of the less glamorous Wicklow County team, relatively speaking they may be, but it's a fair bet that a more dedicated bunch of "apostles" will not be found anywhere, ready and prepared to worship at the high altar of the John Henderson academy of hurling. John Henderson was good for Kilkenny hurling — he will be good for Wicklow hurling.

We wish him well; we thank him for the great memories that all true hurling men will embellish and re-tell for decades to come.



(Photo: Gerry Deegan)

INTER-COUNTY FOOTBALL FOCUS

By *NICKEY BRENNAN*

Kilkenny now in with the big boys!

A CHANGE in the format of the current National Football League sees Kilkenny in with many of the big-name counties for the first time. Undoubtedly a daunting task. To the credit of all involved with the football scene in Kilkenny, the new format was approached in a positive fashion and a committed and whole-hearted approach was undertaken to training and preparation for the task ahead.

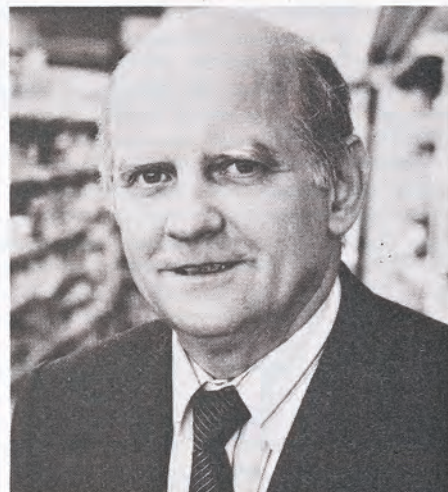
It was never going to be easy. In fact, no one forecast a Kilkenny victory and to date these forecasts have proved spot-on. If winning was the only criteria applying to Kilkenny football the county would have shut up shop many years ago. The absence of a clear football district in the county mitigates against a strong county football side. When all your players are equally accomplished at hurling, it is always going to be a struggle, particularly in a county where hurling is such a dominant game. Still, with eight senior and eight intermediate clubs, Kilkenny is far better organised for the promotion of football than many of the football counties are for hurling.

Reports from Kilkenny's first outing against Fermanagh indicated a far closer game than the final score-line suggested. The absence of strong players in key positions told against Kilkenny. The second outing against Mayo was a painful reminder of the gap between the weak and strong counties. The Westerners were in an uncompromising mood, obviously keen to impress new manager Jack O'Shea. At the time of writing further games lie ahead against Kerry, Armagh, Tyrone, Laois and Wicklow. A tough battle, but one the players and team management are happy to approach with a view towards preparing the side for next year's Leinster junior championship.

FIVE MINUTES OF MADNESS COST KILKENNY DEARLY

The 1992 Leinster Junior Football Championship saw Kilkenny pitted against Westmeath at the latter's Castle-town-Geoghegan. A point three minutes from time by the Railyard's Bernard Maguire saw Kilkenny earn a deserved draw and a return game in St. John's Park.

There should, however, have been no need for a replay had Kilkenny taken their



County Board Football Officer Tom Cunniffie – His work with the minor footballers paid handsome dividends in 1992. (Photo: Tom Brett)

chances, particularly during the opening half when Sean Ryan and Patrick Gahan missed good opportunities. Westmeath led at the interval by 0-7 to 0-4.

Two quick points, on the resumption, for Kilkenny by Patrick Gahan and Liam Kenny reduced the deficit to a single point.



KILKENNY JUNIOR FOOTBALL TEAM 1992

Back row (left to right) – Sean Ryan, Bernard Maguire, Canice Brennan, John Caldbeck, Joe Murphy, Seamus Cummins, Michael O'Shea, Stephen Kennedy. Front row (left to right) – Jamsie Brennan, John Dooley, Florence Brennan, Tommy Fogarty (capt.), Liam Kenny, Michael Walsh, P. J. O'Connor.

(Photo: Gerry Deegan)



Action from the 1992 Kilkenny Senior Football Final where the Railyard won back the title after a lase of 14 years.

(Photo: Tom Brett)

A 43rd minute goal for the Noresiders from Bernard Maguire rocked the midlanders but they quickly replied with an equalising point.

Best for Kilkenny were John Caldbeck, Canice Brennan, P. J. O'Connor, Tommy Fogarty and Shem Cummins.

Kilkenny got off to a great start in the replay, shooting three early points from Liam Kenny (2) and Jamsie Brennan. In fact, Westmeath failed to get the ball into the Kilkenny half of the field until the 9th minute.

When they did breach the Kilkenny defence they found the home side in a generous mood. A litany of disasters hit the side over a five-minute spell when Westmeath crashed home three goals. All three scores came from a series of silly mistakes by goalkeeper and defenders. It left Kilkenny with an uphill battle.

Despite the concession of the three goals, Kilkenny continued to take the game to their opponents but just on the stroke of half-time they were again rocked by a Westmeath goal following a quick passing movement among the winner's attack. This left Westmeath ahead by 4-4 to 0-5 at the interval.

Kilkenny were a transformed side in the second half, helped in no small way by the springing of Brendan Smyth from the substitutes' bench. A great Jamsie Brennan goal gave the side encouragement but the costly first-half mistakes left too much ground to be made up. Nevertheless, Kilkenny had inspired displays from Florence Brennan, Canice Brennan, Jamsie Brennan, Liam Cassin and Brendan Smith. It is worth noting that many of the Westmeath players were to play prominent roles for their senior side in the Leinster senior football championship later in the year.

Kilkenny – M. Walsh (Railyard), J. Murphy (Mooncoin), P. J. O'Connor (Glenmore), F. Brennan (Railyard), C. Brennan (Conahy Shamrocks), J. Caldbeck (Graigue-Ballycallan), M. O'Shea (Piltown),

B. Maguire (Railyard, 0-1), T. Fogarty (James Stephens), S. Kennedy (Dicksboro, 0-1), S. Cummins (Tullogher-Rosbercon), L. Kenny (Piltown, 0-2), S. Ryan (Kilmoganny), J. Dooley (Muckalee, 0-1), J. Brennan (Erin's Own, 1-2). *Subs:* L. Cassin (Bennettsbridge) and B. Smyth (Railyard, 0-4).

SQUANDERED CHANCES AND UNDER-21s ARE OUT

The art of taking your scoring chances was never more underlined when Kilkenny lost out to Carlow in the first round of the Leinster under-21 football championship. Kilkenny enjoyed the lion's share of the possession but failed to reflect good outfield efforts on the scoreboard.

Kilkenny had a one-point lead at the interval and stretched this to two shortly after the resumption. With a decided pull at midfield, Carlow slowly narrowed the gap and their sharper forwards knew the correct passage to goal.

Kilkenny's best were Anthony Teehan, P. J. O'Connor, Eamonn Kennedy, Frank Colclough, Canice Brennan, David Beirne, Seamus Cummins and Sean Ryan.

Kilkenny – A. Teehan, R. Hennessy, P. J. O'Connor (0-1), C. Daly, C. Brennan, F. Colclough (0-1), D. Beirne, E. Kennedy (0-1), S. Fitzpatrick (0-1), J. Dooley, S. Cummins (0-1), L. Kenny, P. Dobbyn, S. Ryan, P. Gahan. *Subs:* N. Maher and P. Drea.

INTERNATIONAL GLORY FOR MINOR FOOTBALLERS

One of the busiest teams in Kilkenny this year was the minor football side. The team took part once again in the South East League and performed with distinction, scoring well-deserved victories over Waterford and Wexford – yes, the same Wexford team that narrowly lost out to the eventual All-Ireland champions, Meath, in the Leinster Final.

The groundwork for these impressive performances was undoubtedly laid in the practice ground when Football Board Officer Tom Cunniffe worked extremely

hard with the players, all of whom showed a keen willingness to improve their skills. At the time of writing, the final of the South East League has still to be played.

Kilkenny, unfortunately, did not transfer their good league form to the championship when they were comprehensively defeated by a fine Westmeath outfit in St. John's Park. Perhaps too much was expected of the side, but on the day they were totally outplayed by a finely balanced midlands side who went on to give many great performances later on in the championship.

At the request of the Kilkenny County Board, Croke Park initiated a new competition in 1992 to cater for the weaker football counties. As it turned out, the competition took on a truly international flavour with a team from England (London) and America (New York). Making up the fourth team was Clare. The competition was staged in Ennis and with football on such a high note in the Banner County in 1992, a more appropriate venue could not have been found.

At the end of the tournament Kilkenny emerged worthy winners, being victorious in all their games. A nice reward, surely, for Tom Cunniffe and all the officials who travelled to Clare for the weekend tournament.

Kilkenny panel – F. Cantwell (James Stephens), L. Shore (Erin's Own), E. Roche (Railyard), C. Lynch (Glenmore), K. Brennan (Erin's Own), B. McEvoy (James Stephens), B. Conway (Mooncoin), P. Gahan (Kilmacow), B. Bolger (Rower-Inistioge), S. Morrissey (Dicksboro), T. Hickey (Dunnamaggin), E. Hennigan (Mooncoin), J. Cunniffe (Dicksboro), J. Phelan (Dicksboro), D. Kerwick (James Stephens), S. P. O'Gorman (Piltown), P. Ryan (Kilmacow), D. Fitzgerald (Glenmore), E. Gahan (Kilmacow), P. Mullally (Glenmore), M. Tyler (Mooncoin), D. Walsh (Railyard), P. Fitzgerald (Glenmore), P. Kearney (Dunnamaggin) and J. Phelan (Glenmore).

CLUB FOOTBALL FOCUS

By *NICKEY BRENNAN*

Glory days are back in the Railyard

FOURTEEN years without a football title is a long time for the Railyard club. Long regarded as the kingpins of Kilkenny football, they have experienced nothing but frustration and disappointment over that period of time, losing seven county titles and three semi-finals.

One can understand their immense joy at capturing the 1992 Kilkenny Senior Football championship and their 18th in total. This victory was perhaps the sweetest of all. In a highly entertaining game they just got the better of the reigning champions, The Village, by a three-point margin.

The trend for victory was set early when

the Railyard's only link with their last success, Michael Fitzgerald, pointed. Fintan Lowery added another from a free before Richie Minogue opened the city side's account with a similar score.

The North Kilkenny side had a 0-7 to 0-4 interval lead and were helped in a major way by the midfield dominance of Bernard Maguire and Larry Buggy over the Village pairing of Liam O'Connor and John Grace. The Railyard had plenty of opportunities of making the game safe but the Village fought back tenaciously with points from Liam O'Connor (2) and Nicky Boyd. The winners, however, finished the stronger with late points from Fintan Lowery and

Martin Buggy to secure a famous victory.

Stars for the Railyard were 'man of the match' Florence Brennan, 20-year-old Michael Dowd, Eamonn Doyle, Larry Buggy, Bernard Maguire, Brendan Smyth and Fintan Lowery. Hard triers for the Village were Liam O'Connor, John Grace, Tommy Fogarty, Nicky Boyd and Richie Minogue.

Final score – Railyard 0-11, The Village 0-8.

Railyard – M. Walsh, E. Roche, E. Doyle, M. Buggy, S. Meally, T. Brennan (capt.), F. Brennan, B. Maguire, L. Buggy, M. Buggy, M. Dowd, N. Dowd, B. Smyth, M. Fitzgerald, F. Lowery.



RAILYARD – Senior Football Champions 1992

Front row (l.-r.): Tom Brennan, Thomas Brennan, Michael Feehan, Thomas Brennan, Florence Brennan, Michael Walsh, Eddie Roche, Noel Geoghegan, Nigel Dowd, Michael Buggy, Martin Dowd, Martin Buggy, Fintan Lowery, Michael Delaney. Back row: Tom O'Reilly, Pat McNally (Trainer), Noel Kerr, Richard Frayne, Michael Fitzgerald, Eamon Doyle, Sean Meally, Liam Mooney, Brendan Smyth, Larry Buggy, Michael Dowd, John Buggy, Damien Walsh, John Dowd, Bernard McGuire, Sean Barron, Kieran Meally (Team Manager). Mascots: Fitzgerald and Geoghegan.

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CLUB FOOTBALL FOCUS

By NICKY BRENNAN

Ballyhale win battle of the Shamrocks in intermediate decider

THE Ballyhale Shamrocks proved too strong for Conahy Shamrocks in the Intermediate Football Final. The Southerners cut loose in the second half, scoring an impressive 1-7 to inflict a second successive defeat on Conahy, who lost out last year to Dicksboro after a replay.

The losers will bemoan many missed chances in the first half with their tally of two points – a poor return for the amount of scoring opportunities that came their way. The Ballyhale Shamrocks, on the other hand, were far more economical in their shooting and their interval lead of 0-4 to 0-2 left them in a commanding position at the break.

The winners totally dominated the first twenty minutes of the new half and when Seán Fennelly crashed home a good goal midway through the half, the game was over as a contest. Conahy to their credit never gave up trying and played particularly well in the closing ten minutes, shooting some fine points. But it was too little too late and the quick-thinking Ballyhale side were always able to pull away for another point when the occasion demanded.

The physical size of the Ballyhale side was a huge advantage to the winners but one must also point to their back-up and support play around the field. Each team member was a willing and able partner to his colleague. Defenders Dermot Fennelly, Michael Fennelly and Tommy Shefflin were invincible while the midfield pairing of Ger Fennelly and Pádraig Farrell dominated up to the last quarter. With the defence and



BALLYHALE SHAMROCKS – KILKENNY INTERMEDIATE FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS 1992

Back (left to right) – John Kenneally, Kevin Fennelly, Pádraig Farrell, Dick Walsh, Robert O'Neill, Michael Fennelly, John Shefflin, Jimmy Lalor, Sean Fennelly, Bobby Aylward, Wattie Long, Liam Fennelly. **Front** (left to right) – Dermot Fennelly, Seamus Grace, Ger Fennelly (capt.), Paul Phelan, Conor Harrington, Tommy Shefflin, Tommy Phelan.

midfield in dominant form, the winners' attack got a liberal supply of the ball and had the Conahy defence stretched to the limits. Here Sean Fennelly, Liam Fennelly and John Shefflin were the key players.

It was a hugely disappointing display from Conahy who were badly hampered by the absent Ciaran Connery and the injured Canice Brennan who, although he lined out at corner-forward, was never comfortable and withdrew at half-time. Conahy would not have been flattered by a three or four-point lead at the interval but some appalling misses cost the side dearly.

With the winners in rampant form in the third quarter Conahy's chances grew slimmer by the minute. The team redeemed some of their pride with a gutsy display in the final ten minutes. Best on the day were Seamus Dooley,



Ballyhale Shamrocks stalwarts at the recent Intermediate Football County Final. From left – Paddy Holden and Paddy Reid.

Kieran Brennan, Geoff O'Shea, Seanie Mahony and Paudie Brennan.

Final score – Ballyhale Shamrocks 1-11, Conahy Shamrocks 0-7.

TEAMS AND SCORERS

Ballyhale Shamrocks – Bobby Aylward, Dick Walsh, Michael Fennelly, Wattie Phelan, Paul Phelan, Dermot Fennelly, Tommy Shefflin, Ger Fennelly, Pádraig Farrell (0-2), John Shefflin (0-1), Sean Fennelly (1-2), Jimmy Lawlor, Kevin Fennelly (0-2), Liam Fennelly (0-3), Seamus Grace (0-1). *Sub:* Conor Harrington.

Conahy Shamrocks – Pádraig Downey, Seamus Dooley, Nicky Brennan, Pat Gunner, Tom Brennan, Kieran Brennan, Geoff O'Shea, Gearóid Brennan (0-2), Seanie Mahony, Eoin Murphy, John Feehan (0-1), Brian Lacey (0-2), Paul Brennan, Paudie Brennan (0-1), Canice Brennan (0-1). *Subs:* Ciaran Muldowney and Eamon Delaney.



Kieran Meally, Chairman of the Kilkenny G.A.A. Football Board, presents the Intermediate Football Championship trophy to the captain of the successful Ballyhale Shamrocks side, Ger Fennelly.

New Developments in the treatment of sports injuries

By: Nickey Brennan

Hamstrings! The curse of many sportsmen and women. Pulled hamstrings have resulted in athletes missing vital training and competitions. No sport is immune from the problem of the pulled hamstring. Yet, it is only in the last ten years or so that such injuries became so prominent. Surely these same injuries occurred in the past? Perhaps our more leisurely lifestyle and the increased use of automated equipment is making us all that little bit too soft.

Undoubtedly the ability to diagnose such injuries is now due to the sophisticated technology available throughout Ireland and further afield. Thankfully similar technology is also available to help treat these injuries. And so emerged a new kind of 'Medicine Man' on the scene, the Sports Physiotherapist. Sometimes called the Masseur, he or indeed she has now become an important member of the back-room team in all sports, whether it be team sports or individual sports. And yes, along with the ice pack and the wintergreen there has to be a bit of psychology involved too.

For the past few seasons the aches and pains of Kilkenny players have been attended to by Seanie Kelly. Operating under the guidance of team doctor, Bill Cuddihy, Seanie is a vital member of the backroom team. As a former successful cross-country runner having represented Kilkenny. Seanie is very familiar with the tremendous demands that can be put on the human body during heavy training. He also drew on his experience as a hurler with Young Ireland's (Gowran) and Kilkenny at Under-21 and Senior level.

Currently Seanie works as a Sports Therapist in Kilkenny having trained in England. He is now a member of the Independent Professional Therapists International, having completed his ITEC diploma. He is also a qualified Masseur and Aromatherapist, and has studied kinesiology, which is a uniquely successful way of determining how to fix a muscle.

While the diagnosing and treating of injuries is of prime importance to the Sports Therapist, the prevention of injury is also a key rôle. Seanie Kelly regularly

stresses the importance of 'warming up'. Players regularly practice their skills but it is equally if not more important to hone the muscles before commencing each practice session. The most important exercises Seanie states are 'stretching' or 'massage stretching'. A simple routine of stretching before the commencement of any sporting activity unquestionably helps to reduce the risk of injury. It is equally important at the end of a game to allow a "cooling down" process. This helps reduce the build-up of lactic acid and prevents muscle stiffness.

There has been a lot of emphasis in recent times on the importance of correct nutrition in maintaining the body in top shape. Small deficiencies can have dramatic knock-on effects in terms of performance and stamina. Most top sports people now pay greater attention to their diets and to the nutritional supplements that they consume. The increased availability of sports supplements offers new facilities to sports people to assist with their training programmes and indeed rehabilitation from injuries. While these supplements undoubtedly help the athlete, it is desirable to seek professional medical advice before undertaking a programme of such medication.

Back to our hamstring! What happens when a muscle tears? When the muscle

fibres tear they leave an actual gap between the torn muscle fibre ends. Haemorrhage occurs as a result of the rupture of the blood vessels in the area. This blood will then clot. If this clot is not rapidly absorbed it results in the formations of fibrous or scar tissue. The resulting scar tissue hinders the normal action of the muscle. The clotting leads to swelling of the area and causes pain when the muscle contracts. The scar tissue is unfortunately very rough and inelastic. Thus one is left with a tough inelastic scar within the elastic muscle structure. Flexibility during the rehabilitation period will help to minimise this. Massage at the right time is a great help for pulled muscles. As a sufferer of such injuries I can readily agree with that statement.

So, whether you have pulled hamstrings, ankle sprains, knee sprains, calf muscles, tennis elbow, strained back muscles, hand injuries or shoulder injuries, your local Sports Therapist has a vital role to play in your rehabilitation. Thankfully for all sports people the improvement in technology has helped reduce considerably that amount of time injured players are away from their sport. These facilities are now freely available, so no sports person should feel he or she is incurable.

Seanie Kelly operates his Sports Therapy Clinic at 102 Upper Patrick Street, Kilkenny.



Ouch! I don't know what you're laughing at Seanie. 'Tis me that has the injury. Adrian Ronan gets the benefit of Sean Kelly's expertise, while Tom Murphy looks on. Paul Phelan is "next for shaving" while talking to trainer Mick O'Flynn.

The Lory Meagher Memorial Home Project

The home of the legendary Kilkenny hurler, Lory Meagher, is to be painstakingly restored. The house is rare in this area being a large two storeyed thatched residence dating back to 1680. It is, however, in immediate need of repair.

The Tullaroan and District Heritage Group have acquired the house together with a small parcel of land which includes farm buildings and gardens.

Objectives

In year one it is proposed to focus on the restoration of the dwelling house. Work will be done on a phased basis. The initial objective is to restore the thatched roof, thereby preventing further deterioration. Work will then proceed with refurbishing all aspects of the main dwelling house. The intention is to restore the property authentically to the period of the founding of the G.A.A. The Meagher family played a major part in the formative years of the G.A.A. It is therefore appropriate that the county G.A.A. museum is to be housed on this redeveloped site.

The long term objectives are to develop the whole site, incorporating craft workshops, working farm museum, toilets, refreshment facilities, hostel, car parking and other amenities.

"The very name Lory Meagher, the area, and Tullaroan club are a source of pride to Kilkenny people everywhere and they bring a tinge of excitement to hurling lovers throughout Ireland and beyond" declared former Taoiseach Jack Lynch when he officially launched the project last May to an audience of almost 1,000 people which included 4 former presidents of the G.A.A. and distinguished representatives from 17 counties.

Since then a lot of preparatory work has been done. The project is now underway. A FÁS scheme has recently commenced and will provide employment for a number of young people from the parish and surrounding areas. Fund raising has also commenced to raise money for materials required. Tickets are now on sale at £20

each for a draw to take place in early 1993.

The Heritage Group are also offering annual and life membership of the Lory Meagher Memorial Home Project to anyone who would like to be associated with the venture.

The group was founded in the Autumn of 1991 with the following aims:

1. To encourage the development of tourism in the area with a view to creating local employment.
2. To promote the growth of civic pride and community spirit.
3. To improve local amenities and the general environment.
4. To co-operate with neighbouring groups to foster the ideal of self-reliance.

The Lory Meagher Memorial Home Project is the first major undertaking by this voluntary group.



Hurling connection

Lory Meagher was born into a family steeped in hurling tradition. His father, Henry J. Meagher was reputed locally to be a founder member of the G.A.A. in Thurles and a prominent member of the G.A.A. and its foundation in Tullaroan. Lory was obviously influenced in his youth by the feats of his beloved Tullaroan and the great men of that era: Ger Doheny who captained the first Tullaroan (Kilkenny) team to win an All-Ireland in 1904; "Little" Sim Walton who won seven All-Irelands between 1904 and 1913; Dick Grace who was a tower of strength with Tullaroan and Kilkenny for over two decades. Other great men of that era were Jack Keoghan, Jack Hoyne, Pat Clohosey, Jim Molloy, Lar Walsh and the Graces, along with Pat 'Fox' Maher, the 'Father of Hurling', and of course Lory's two brothers, Bill and 'Hennie', with other favourites of the era. Their noble work for the G.A.A. is largely unrecorded.

Lory Meagher came to prominence in the mid-late twenties playing for Kilkenny. His style and artistry at midfield were renowned. His striking both overhead and on the ground and from placed balls is still talked about. The 1931 All-Ireland between Cork and Kilkenny which went to two



At the launch of the Lory Meagher Memorial Home project. Dan Hogan, Eddie Keher, Jack Lynch and Pat Molloy admire a hurley used circa 1904. The hurley was returned for the museum from the U.S.A.

replays is remembered here in Kilkenny as "Lory's Final". Unfortunately, through injury he missed the second replay and Kilkenny folk still maintain if we had Lory that day we would have won! He went on to win 3 All-Ireland medals, against Clare in 1932, and against Limerick in 1933 and 1935. Some say his greatest hour came towards the end of his career in the 1935 final against Limerick. He was captain that day. On a very wet day Lory's skill and artistry helped Kilkenny in no small way to beat a very strong and powerful Limerick team by one point. Lory's name today is mentioned alongside such great names as Christy Ring and Mick Mackey.

His contribution to the parish and life of Tullaroan right up to his death, continued far beyond his distinguished hurling career. There is no doubt that his guidance and enthusiasm for hurling greatly influenced many fine players who came after him. The Teehans, Waltons, Clohoseys, Hogans and Hennessys, to mention just a few, were some of the men who brought glory to Tullaroan in the forties and fifties. The county final wins of 1948 and 1958 will always be remembered. In both those years Lory's brother, Fr. Frank Meagher, was home on holidays from Australia. Fr. Frank, together with Lory and others, created the atmosphere, confidence and

will to win which set the "Little Parish" alight with fervour.

He was a catalyst to all who strove to achieve, and it is fitting that this memorial to him be developed at a time when rural Ireland needs to be revitalised and its people given a new purpose to face the 21st century.

"And they'll oft' re-tell the story of the glory that was Lory's For that was the day that he took away for the first and only time the McCarthy Cup to Kilkenny and Famed Tullaroan".

Avonmore retain Factory League dominance

AVONMORE CREAMERIES from Ballyragget continued their dominance of the local Factory League hurling scene when they scored a deserved four-point win over Suir Electric from Mooncoin in the Kilkenny county final. For years the southerners have been trying to defeat Avonmore, but without success.

The early stages belonged to Suir Electric with the side leading by 0-4 to 0-1 after fifteen minutes. Paudie Everard kept Avonmore in touch with two well-taken goals and these scores left the winners trailing by just one point at the interval.

The third quarter saw the Mooncoin side retain their dominance, thanks mainly to the accuracy of Tom Murphy from placed balls. However, Avonmore kept up the pressure and when the Suir Electric goalie, Mark Taylor, was forced into an error, full-forward Benny Cleere capitalised to shoot home a goal. Richie Minogue popped over a point from a free moments later to level the scores.

Although John Carroll edged Suir Electric ahead again with a point, it was Avonmore who dominated the final quarter of a game powered on by some fine goalkeeping by Ricky Cashin and defenders Nickey Brennan, Richie Minogue and Patsy Brophy.

Final score: Avonmore Creameries 3-11; Suir Electric 0-16.

TEAMS AND SCORERS

Avonmore – Ricky Cashin (Ballacolla), Jimmy Ruth (St. Patrick's), Nickey Brennan (Conahy Shamrocks), Sean Meally (Cloneen), Richie Minogue (James Stephens, 0-7), Patsy Brophy (Erin's Own, 0-1), Bobby Dillon (St. Lachtain's), Liam

Dowling (St. Martin's, 0-1), Michael Walsh (Slieverue, 0-1), Joe Casey (Clara, 0-1), Eamonn Holland (Erin's Own), Derek Gaffney (Tullaroan), Dick Walsh (Tullaroan), Benny Cleere (O'Loughlin Gaels, 1-0), Paudie Everard (Moynempletuohy, 2-0). *Subs:* Pierce Ryan (Moynempletuohy), Johnny Brennan (St. Martin's) and Michael Campion (Lisdowney).

Suir Electric – Mark Tyler (Mooncoin), Jimmy Holden (do.), Wattie Phelan (Shamrocks), Paddy Crowley (Mooncoin), Philip Larkin (James Stephens), Pat O'Neill (Young Irelands, 0-1), Joe Murphy (Mooncoin), Domo Connolly (do., 0-1), B. Hennessy (Tullaroan, 0-1), Tommy Shefflin (Shamrocks, 0-2), D. Walsh (Mooncoin), Cathal Fitzgerald (Young Irelands), Eamonn Delehunty (Mooncoin), Tom Murphy (do., 0-9), John Carroll (Dunnamaggin, 0-2). *Sub:* Paul Long (Kilmacow).

In the Leinster semi-final Avonmore had to withstand many anxious moments before disposing of the challenge of Cosets (Carlow) in a highly entertaining game. Last year's Leinster junior hurling champions from Carlow dominated the opening half and Avonmore had to depend on fine displays from stand-in goalie Michael Walsh and defenders Jimmy Ruth, Patsy Brophy and Richie Minogue to keep them in touch at the interval. Cosets led at the interval by 1-6 to 0-4, the Cosets' goal coming from Ballyragget's Dessie Staunton.

Avonmore were a transformed team on the resumption, thanks mainly to some shrewd sideline changes. The evergreen Billy Fitzpatrick was Avonmore's scoring ace in the second half, crashing home three crucial goals. Another Cosets' goal in

the 44th minute maintained their lead but their joy was short-lived when Billy Fitzpatrick goaled for the North Kilkenny side. A soft goal from 50 yards by Avonmore's Eamonn Holland gave a somewhat flattering look to the score at the end.

Final score: Avonmore Creameries 4-13; Cosets 2-11.

TEAMS AND SCORERS

Avonmore – Michael Walsh (Ballinakill), Jimmy Ruth (St. Patrick's), Sean Meally (Cloneen), Michael Campion (Lisdowney), Richie Minogue (James Stephens, 0-1), Patsy Brophy (Erin's Own), Bobby Dillon (St. Lachtain's), Liam Dowling (St. Martin's, 0-1), Joe Casey (Clara, 0-1), Johnny Brennan (St. Martin's, 0-1), Eamonn Holland (Erin's Own, 1-0), Derek Gaffney (Tullaroan), Dick Walsh (Tullaroan, 0-3), Billy Fitzpatrick (Fenians, 3-6), Benny Cleere (O'Loughlin Gaels). *Subs:* Pierce Ryan (Moynempletuohy), Paudie Everard (do.).

Cosets – M. McNamara, P. Kehoe, M. Keating, N. Brady, J. Bergin, D. Barry, P. Brennan, E. Kennedy, R. O'Neill, N. Bambrick, E. Kelly, P. Hennessy, T. O'Keeffe, D. Staunton, D. Fogarty.

Avonmore Creameries qualified to meet Allied Irish Banks in the Leinster final. This was a repeat of last year's final which Avonmore won in a late second-half rally.

Not to be outdone by their hurling counterparts, the Avonmore Creameries junior football side had a successful campaign. In the local county final they scored an impressive win over the Local Authority side to qualify for a clash against St. Peter's (Portlaoise). In a far closer game, the Ballyragget side emerged worthy winners.



FENIANS – Special Junior Roinn 'A' Champions 1992

Front row (l. to r.): Finbar Delaney, Gerry Quinlan, Eugene Grehan (Captain), Liam McEvoy, P. J. Ryan, Patrick Bowe, Billy Dermody, Tommy Ryan. Back row (l. to r.): Vincent O'Brien, Oliver Sharkey, David Behan, Sé Behan, Paul Phelan, Dan Costigan, Pdraig Sweeney, Brendan Behan, Richard Behan, Brendan Ryan.

'CAPTAIN FANTASTIC' HONOURRED AT HOME AND AWAY

KILKENNY'S 'Captain Fantastic' earned his own rewards on the field and, after his year of excellence, the rewards off it flowed in his direction also.

Captain of the 24th All-Ireland winning senior hurling team, Liam Fennelly was recognised as a star at home and outside the county.

In the Hotel Kilkenny and *Kilkenny People* sports personality of the month awards scheme, the 35-year-old was honoured as the star in September following the victory in the final over Cork.

And a few weeks later he was chosen as the G.A.A. personality of the month by the National Irish Bank.

"I accepted the awards on behalf of the team," said a delighted Fennelly afterwards. "It was a united effort all the way, and everyone played their part in the success."

In the Hotel Kilkenny and *Kilkenny People* scheme, Fennelly was selected for the courageous way he led the team. He also captained the previous All-Ireland senior winning team in 1983. He thus became the only man to be presented with the new and old McCarthy Cups.

He also became the fourth Kilkenny man to skipper two or more All-Ireland winning sides.

It was widely accepted that Fennelly elevated the role of captain to a whole new plain. He led from the front. He was an inspiring leader and gentleman. He



Personality Award winners – At the National Irish Bank Awards for September were: Martin McHugh (Donegal), Tom McMenamin (Reg. Mgr., N.I.B.), Anthony Molloy (Donegal), Sean Young (N.I.B.), Jim Delaney (Manager, Kilkenny), Liam Fennelly (Kilkenny), Noel McCabe (N.I.B.).

brought the best out of those around him and flourished in the role of captain.

On top of everything he maintained a proud family tradition. A Fennelly captain has never failed to bring home the cup for the county in an All-Ireland final. In the past, brothers Ger, Kevin and Sean captained successful sides.

In the monthly awards scheme two other hurlers were honoured during the awards' year which runs from September to September.

In September, 1991, Dan O'Neill, captain of the Kilkenny minor hurling All-Ireland team, was selected after another dramatic win, this time over Tipperary. The Dicksboro lad played an heroic part in the success.

In April, 1992, Ciaran Connery, captain of the St. Kieran's College All-Ireland senior hurling winning side, was the personality chosen. He led his side to a record-equalling eleventh win in the championship.

Earlier, in November 1991, St. Lachtain's camogie club were honoured. The club enjoyed some month. The seniors won the Roinn B title while the under-21 and under-18 teams won their respective championships.

In the National Irish Banks awards scheme, it was pointed out that seven Fennelly brothers won county, provincial and national honours with their club, Shamrocks (Ballyhale).

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JOHNSTOWN TOPS IN LOCAL DERBY

A few physically strong players in the right places and ones who could play a bit too, made all the difference as the boys from Johnstown overcame the challenge of Thomastown in the Leinster Junior Hurling Final at Nowlan Park during the year.

Despite the inclement weather where the wind proved a real spoil-sport, the well prepared sides served up an exciting hour's hurling. Johnstown's edge in physical strength made all the difference as they recorded their fourth win since 1987, and the second on the trot. Owen Behan, with a personal tally of 1-5, proved to be the Johnstown's side most influential player. His goal midway through the second half proved to be the influential score.

The game opened in a welter of excitement and the winners threatened to sweep their opponents aside when they had two points from Behan during the opening four minutes. However, brave

Thomastown put a stop to their gallop, and with Donal Cahalane, Alan Lonergan, Tom Hanrahan, Brian Middleton, Johnny Maher and Brian Dempsey making a big impression on proceedings, they managed to hold their own for the remainder of the half. A 10th minute goal from Ger Treacy gave the team some hope but the side were somewhat unlucky towards the end of the half when a Johnny Maher shot came back into play off the cross-bar. The Johnstown side went in at the break leading by 0-4 to 1-0 having played against the elements.

One expected a Johnstown route in the new half but a dogged Thomastown defence fought with great tenacity. However, once Owen Behan crashed home that vital goal for Johnstown the Northerners began to dominate. Throughout the Leinster campaign, Johnstown were well served by Noel Walsh, Niall Minogue, Mark Dunphy, Colin Dunphy, Neil O'Connor, Kevin Lonergan, Owen Behan and Brendan Joyce.

Scorers:

Johnstown: O. Behan (1-5); B. Ryan (1-0), K. Lonergan (0-2) and M. Dunphy (0-1).

Thomastown: G. Treacy (1-0).

Johnstown: J. Guilfoyle (Emeralds); N. Walsh (St. Lachtain's); D. Tobin (Emeralds); N. Minogue (Emeralds); J. Nolan (Lisdowney); M. Dunphy (Lisdowney); T. Delaney (Emeralds); K. Lonergan (Galmoy); N. O'Connor (St. Lachtain's); B. Joyce (captain, Emeralds); P. J. O'Loughlin (Fenians); O. Behan (Fenians); B. Barnaville (Fenians); C. Dunphy (Lisdowney), B. Ryan (Galmoy).

Thomastown: B. Doheny (Young Ireland's); D. Cahalane (Bennettsbridge); A. Lonergan (Thomastown); M. Kennedy (Rower-Inistioge); B. Walpole (Bennettsbridge); T. Hanrahan (Bennettsbridge); B. Middleton (Young Ireland's); B. Dempsey (Thomastown); H. McEntee (Thomastown); G. Morrissey (Thomastown); D. Wemyss (Bennettsbridge); G. Treacy (Bennettsbridge); J. Maher (Thomastown); J. Grace (Thomastown); S. Dobbyn (Bennettsbridge).
Sub: D. Walsh (Danesfort).



JOHNSTOWN VOCATIONAL SCHOOL - LEINSTER FINALISTS 1992

Front row (left to right): Mark Dunphy, Noel Walsh, Joe Nolan, Brendan Joyce, Niall Minogue, Thomas Delaney, John Guilfoyle. Back row: Brendan Barnaville, P. J. O'Loughlin, Brendan Ryan, Colin Dunphy, Kevin Lonergan, Damien Tobin, Owen Beehan, Niall O'Connor. (Photo: Michael Brophy)

MOONCOIN VOCATIONAL SCHOOL

SENIOR FOOTBALL:

In the Leinster senior football championship, Mooncoin reached the last 16. Mooncoin beat Ballyhale Vocational School and Hacketstown Vocational School. Then then travelled to Ferbane, Co. Offaly. Mooncoin prepared very well and put up a great performance before losing on a score line of 1-14 to 3-4. Ferbane had to bring on two late substitutes and were under intense pressure in the last 10 minutes of the game.

In the Kilkenny senior football championship, Mooncoin beat Thomastown Vocational School in the Final for the second year in succession to retain the Michael Crotty Cup. The team representing the school were:

K. Butler, R. Purcell, W. J. Kinsella, E. Ryan, B. Keane, T. Reddy, M. Murphy, M. Tyler, O. Dunphy, O. Power, W. Walsh, M. Dobbyn, M. Gordon, B. Kenneally, I. Murray.

Subs: P. Haley, G. Kirwan, C. Maher, W. Synnott, J. Falconer.

Our Junior Football team was beaten by Ballyhale Vocational School in the first round of the Leinster Championship.

Senior Hurling

In senior hurling, Mooncoin Vocational School reached the Leinster semi-final for the second year in succession. In the first

match of the championship, Ballyhale Vocational School were our opponents. After a very fine game Mooncoin won by 4 points. Thomastown Vocational School were our next opponents and in a game played in ideal conditions, Mooncoin won, to reach the last four in Leinster.

In this match a very strong Rathdowney were our opponents. Rathdowney got three goals in the first half and won despite the best efforts of Mooncoin, who did improve after half-time.

The team: O. Aylward, R. Purcell, W. J. Kinsella, P. Haley, B. Keane, O. Dunphy, O. Power, T. Reddy, S. Phelan, W. Walsh, M. Tyler, M. Gordon, M. Murphy, I. Murray, E. Ryan.

Subs: P. Walsh, G. Kirwan, W. Synnott, A. Walsh, C. Maher.

Co. Vocational Schools senior hurling:

Mooncoin Vocational School had 4 players on the panel of the Co. Vocational Schools senior hurling team. Mark Tyler, Willie John Kinsella, Oliver Dunphy and Thomas Reddy. This team was very well prepared by Fr. L. Barron and reached the All-Ireland finals where a very good Galway team prevailed.

Under-14 Hurling:

Four players from the school were on the Kilkenny Under-14 hurling team which also lost the All-Ireland Final to Galway. The four players were: Liam Walsh, Gerard Kirwan, Michael Gordon and Edward

Mackey. The four players from Mooncoin Vocational School performed with distinction on this team.

Under-14 Football:

Mooncoin Vocational School had 5 players on the Kilkenny Under-14 football team, Liam Walsh, Tom Falconer, Michael Gordon, Gerard Kirwan and Edward Mackey. This team beat Wicklow and a very good Laois team. Well done to all concerned.

A lot of work is put into Gaelic games in Mooncoin Vocational School. The number of students is increasing, so even better teams are expected in the future.

Tom Murphy, a past pupil of the school was on this year's Kilkenny senior hurling panel that won the Liam McCarthy Cup. Four vocational schools All-Ireland medals were recently brought to the surrounding parishes.

Mooncoin G.A.A. club deserve the thanks of Mooncoin Vocational School, as the club place the use of their fine facilities at our disposal at all times. Piltown G.A.A. club and Mooncoin G.A.A. club also help out with hurleys.

Mooncoin Vocational School is helping in a major way to maintain Mooncoin's reputation as the cradle of hurling and Gaelic games.

Many thanks to everybody who helped out in any way in contributing to that success.



Off the record
Ger "What do
you think of
Liam Simpson"?

Kilkenny journalist
Enda McEvoy quizzes
Cork Captain Ger
Fitzgerald prior to
All-Ireland Final.

Kilkenny C.B.S. take 7th Junior Hurling Title

KILKENNY C.B.S. Junior hurlers started their campaign at windy but dry Jenkinstown on Tuesday, October 6th 1992 against Castlecomer Community School.

Castlecomer C.S. led at half-time 1-4 to 0-5 after a very close and exciting half. The second half was every bit as exciting and in a nail biting finish the C.B.S. levelled the scores when up popped Don Campion with a marvellous point from the middle of the field on the stroke of full time. Score C.B.S. 0-9, Castlecomer C.S. 1-6.

C.B.S. scorers: Alan Trait (0-4), Don Campion (0-1), Adrian Hudson (0-1), Richard Carroll (0-1), Liam O'Brien (0-1), Dermot Beirne (0-1).

ACTION PACKED PLAY

Next game for the C.B.S. was a tussle with their old rivals St. Kieran's College at Nowlan Park on Wednesday 14th October 1992. The C.B.S. emerged victorious after a marvellous hour of action packed play.

This was a game rich in skill, endeavour, passion and all that is good in hurling. The C.B.S. having played into a stiffish breeze for the first half found themselves level with their opponents at half-time on the scoreline St. Kieran's 0-6, C.B.S. 1-3.

With about 10 minutes of the second half remaining the C.B.S. enjoyed a 7 point lead but in the space of two minutes this was reduced to 1 point after St. Kieran's netted twice.

The C.B.S. boys were not going to be defeated however and finished strongly to add two more points to finish victorious on the scoreline C.B.S. 3-7, St. Kieran's 2-7.

C.B.S. scorers: Alan O'Dwyer (2-0), Richard Carroll (1-0), Liam O'Brien (0-3), Dermot Grogan (0-2), Alan Trait and Adrian Hudson (0-1 each).

GAME THREE

On Wednesday, 21st October 1992 the C.B.S. travelled to St. Brendan's Park, Birr to play Birr Community School in the concluding game of the League Section of the competition. After a very tough first half on a heavy, wet sod the teams were level at the interval, C.B.S. 1-1, Birr C.S. 1-1.

In the second half the C.B.S. boys really got going and ran out winners C.B.S. 4-4, Birr C.S. 1-4.

This victory put the C.B.S. boys top of their group and straight into the semi-finals against St. Kieran's College, Wexford.

C.B.S. scorers: Richard Carroll (2-0), Alan O'Dwyer (1-1), Alan Trait (1-1), Liam O'Brien (0-1), Richard Barry (0-1).

SEMI-FINAL

Trait goal turned match on its head

Kilkenny C.B.S. 2-8
St. Peter's College 0-8
SIX MINUTES from the end of a semi-final rich in skill and exciting endeavour, St. Peter's College (Wexford) were leading by a point and the defeat they were to eventually suffer didn't look on.

Kilkenny C.B.S. exploded into life with five minutes remaining when Alan Trait profited from good work by Richard Barry and finished a good move by booting to the net (2-4 to 0-8).

This score co-incided with the arrival on the field of Brian Power, who with his first touch, pointed. Within seconds, the super sub pointed a second time, and his all-action approach earned the next point, via a free by Richard Barry.

All, in the space of four minutes Peter's saw a lead change to a four point deficit. And the bad news didn't finish there, because just on the call of time Richard Barry landed his fifth score, to send the C.B.S. shooting through to the final against St. Kieran's College.

The losers dominated most of the opening half, but poor shooting - 7 wides during the half - meant they didn't enjoy the returns they might. After more than an average amount of hard work, they led by 0-3 to no score after 14 minutes, all the scores coming from the fine stick of Declan O'Connor.



KILKENNY C.B.S. Leinster Colleges' Junior Hurling Champions 1992.

Seated (from left): Richard Barry, Jackie Mulcahy, Liam O'Brien, Adrian Hudson (captain), Adrian Kealy, Dermot Beirne, James Tiernèy, James Maher. Centre row (from left): Tom Keane (Trainer), Dermot Grogan, Conor Shortall, Brian Power, David Glennon, Alan Trait, Keith Kinchella, Pat Trait, Richard Carroll, Brother B. J. Howard (Principal), Martin Murphy (Assistant Trainer). Back row (from left): Mark Gaffney, Paul Hoyne, Barney O'Neill, Alan O'Dwyer, Don Campion, Brian Minogue, Derek Deegan, John Hoyne.

(Photo: Tom Brett)

Against the run of play, the winners got back level in the 16th minute. A ball broke on the edge of the square, and in a flash Dick Carroll planted the ball in the net. Donal Berry and Richard Barry swapped points before a minor score from Liam O'Brien earned the C.B.S. a 1-2 to 0-4 half-time lead.

Peter's tightened the screws early after the change of ends and earned scores per Donal Berry (2) and Barry Redmond without reply. It took the winners 12 minutes to get a score, a point from Richard Barry. Once they found their way, Barry quickly brought them back on terms (0-7 to 1-4).

The C.B.S. nearly jumped in front immediately, but a fierce drive by Alan Trait came back into play off an upright, and a follow-up shot by Dick Carroll was put out for a '65.

Declan O'Connor won back the lead (0-8 to 1-4) for Peter's before the game blew up in their faces. Alan Trait's goal was the effort that helped turn on the turbo power for the C.B.S. Besides the fine hurling of Richard Barry, Adrian Hudson, Barney O'Neill, Dermot Beirne, James Maher, Dick Carroll and lively reserve Brian Power proved too much for the losers to handle.

St. Peter's were a good team, no doubt about that, but they didn't make the best use of their chances, which left a lot of good work by Declan O'Connor, Donal Berry, Barry Redmond, Eddie Harper and John Kirwan go unrewarded.

C.B.S. scorers: R. Barry (0-5), D. Carroll, A. Trait (1-0 each), B. Power (0-2), L. O'Brien (0-1).

Kilkenny C.B.S. - A. Kealy (O'Loughlin Gaels), K. Kinsella (O'Loughlin Gaels), J. Maher (Dicksboro), B. O'Neill (Dicksboro), A. Hudson (Carrickshock), D. Beirne (Dicksboro), D. Deegan (O'Loughlin Gaels), D. Champion (O'Loughlin Gaels), D. Grogan (James Stephens), R. Barry (Dicksboro), A. Trait (Dicksboro), J. Mulcahy (James Stephens), L. O'Brien (James Stephens), A. O'Dwyer (O'Loughlin Gaels), D. Carroll (Young Irelands). Sub: B. Power (Dicksboro).

THE FINAL

C.B.S. tops in high class final

KILKENNY C.B.S...... 2-5
ST. KIERAN'S COLLEGE 1-4

CLASS all round assured that skill abounded, but there was little high drama, mainly because the victors had a bit in hand on the opposition. Not every day, or second or third day at that, do Kilkenny C.B.S. put one over their famous city rivals, St. Kieran's College, who are something akin to masters when it comes to winning hurling titles.

But this was one occasion when mighty Kieran's had to give best to the James's Street lads. The C.B.S. showed a lot of class, and they needed to, when winning their 7th Leinster colleges junior hurling final at wind-swept Nowlan Park.

The winners hit the front when they goaled in the 9th minute. Against the

strong wind, they made good first half gains, and it looked like being downhill from there on.

As ever, St. Kieran's put in a huge effort in a bid to beat opponents and elements, but although they had the arrears back to a goal for a brief period during the second half, they never looked like taking the honours.

The C.B.S. had a good number of dandy hurlers, and if one singles out Dermot Beirne, Richard Barry, Alan Trait and Brian Power it is only because they impressed with a range of skills that one felt would take more years to acquire. They were delicate with the camán, and clever in their use of the ball.

They were a bit, but not a lot, mind, in front of the likes of Adrian Hudson, Jackie Mulcahy and Richard Carroll, who showed that good hurling, allied to hard work, can be a deadly mix.

POOR APPEARANCE

Kieran's had their highly skilled performers too, and in years to come one would expect to be seeing a lot more of David Carroll, Jimmy Comerford, Paddy Doyle, Michael Connelly, Eoin Campbell and Michael Leahy on the colleges scene, and at a high level at that.

Things began to take on a poor appearance for St. Kieran's when they shot only one point, per Paddy Doyle, after a good bout of early pressure. They were rocked in the 9th minute when Jackie Mulcahy put the ball into the danger zone, and when it trickled past a few defenders, Richard Carroll forced it into the net.

There was an exchange of scores after that, before Liam O'Brien and Alan Trait, after fielding a great ball, had small scores for the C.B.S. They had some ground clawed back when Paddy Doyle and John Drea (free) had points, but still the winners stayed 1-3 to 0-4 in front up to the break.

The losers tightened the screws in the early minutes of the second half, but again they got no change out of the tightly knit C.B.S. defence. Then in the 38th minute the winners goaled again, through Richard Carroll again.

Richard Barry pointed and Paddy Doyle goaled for Kieran's to haul them right back into contention (2-4 to 0-4), and for a while they looked really threatening. But the winners weathered the storm, and when Dermot Grogan pointed a 65 later, they got that bit of space they needed to relax and give full expression to their talents as they played themselves out of difficulty, and into the record books.

Kilkenny C.B.S.: R. Carroll (2-0); R. Barry (0-2, frees); A. Trait (0-1); L. O'Brien (0-1); D. Grogan (0-1, 65). *St. Kieran's College:* P. Doyle (1-2); J. Comerford (0-1); J. Drea (0-1, free).

Kilkenny C.B.S. - A. Kealy (O'Loughlin Gaels), K. Kinsella (O'Loughlin Gaels), J. Maher (Dicksboro), B. O'Neill (Dicksboro), A. Hudson (Carrickshock), D. Beirne (Dicksboro), D. Deegan (Dicksboro), J. Mulcahy (James Stephens), D. Grogan (James Stephens), R. Barry (Dicksboro), A. Trait (Dicksboro), B. Power (Dicksboro), L. O'Brien (James Stephens), D. Champion (O'Loughlin Gaels), R. Carroll (Young Irelands).

The other members of the panel were: Brian Minogue (Dicksboro), David Glennon (Tullaroan), Paul Hoyne (Graigue/Ballycallan), Pat Trait (Dicksboro), John Hoyne (Graigue/Ballycallan), David McCormack (O'Loughlin Gaels), Mark Gaffney (Dicksboro), James Tierney (Danesfort), Coñor Shortall (Clara), Alan O'Dwyer (O'Loughlin Gaels).

St. Kieran's College - S. Lanigan (Thomasstown), B. Donohoe (James Stephens), P. Brennan (Clara), M. Leahy (James Stephens), P. Kehoe (Ballygunner), D. Carroll (Dicksboro), J. Murphy (James Stephens), M. Connolly (Four Mile Water), P. J. Cody (John Lockes), J. Comerford (O'Loughlin Gaels), P. Crotty (James Stephens), M. Morris (Drangan), J. Drea (Bennettsbridge), M. Kennedy (Tullaroan), P. Doyle (Emeralds). Subs: E. Campbell (James Stephens), T. Clohessy (Emeralds).

Referee: D. Cody (Graignamanagh).

Looking back to 1958



KILKENNY C.B.S. RICE CUP Team - 1958

Back row: Billy Bourke, Seamie Cody, Eamonn Fry, John Muldowney, Tim Hickey, Jim Murphy, Liam McGrath, Michael Leahy, Michael Holohan. Middle row: Matt Dooley, Tommy O'Brien, Joe Bourke, Sean Hourahan, Sean Brennan, Jackie Banim, Tommy Phelan, Eamonn Hayes, Harry Beale. Front row: John Ryan, David De Loughry.



KILKENNY C.B.S. – UNDER-14 RICE CUP CHAMPIONS 1992

Front row (l.-r.): Br. Howard (Principal), James Cullinan, Adrian Kealy, Paul Carroll, John Hoyne (Captain), Mark Gaffney, Douglas McCann, Patrick Walsh, John Flynn (Coach). Middle row (l.-r.): Brian Duignan, Richard Barry, Diarmaid Herlihy, Brian Power, Robert Falsey, Aidan Drennan, James Tierney, David Mulcahy, Stephen Murphy, Aeneas Daly (Coach). Back row (l.-r.): Oisín Dawson, Richard Carroll, Philip Trehy, John J. Burke, Pat Gleeson, Kenneth McÉvoy, Paul Cullen.

(Photo: Tom Brett)

Kilkenny C.B.S. bridge 34-year gap

ON FRIDAY, 18th September 1992, Kilkenny C.B.S. regained the Rice Cup (under-14 hurling) at John Locke's Park, Callan. It was 34 years since the city school won the competition.

The Rice Cup is for Christian Brothers' schools in the Munster-South Leinster region. With 22 teams from Tipperary, Cork, Limerick, Clare, Waterford and Kilkenny competing, this is a very difficult competition to win. Smaller schools with less than 321 pupils are compensated by being allowed over-age players – (maximum of three) – thus ensuring there will be few if any easy victories.

The C.B.S. had sown the seeds of their victory in February and March '92 having

gained maximum points in its group with victories over Mount Sion (Waterford), Clonmel, Callan and 'walk-overs' from Fethard and Carrck-On-Suir. The quarter-final was played against Ennis in Tipperary and the Kilkenny boys turned on the style to emerge comfortable winners.

The semi-final, however, was never going to be easy as Kilkenny were facing Templemore, the winners of the Tipperary schools section. It was noted that the last time Kilkenny played in a Rice Cup final (1975) they were defeated by this same school. Templemore then had such players as Bobby Ryan, Pat McGrath, Peter Brennan and Paudie Everard.

Neither history nor the gallant efforts of the Templemore boys was to deny Kilkenny this time. In an exciting game full of skilful hurling the city school had a thoroughly merited four points victory. Thus far the C.B.S. had been very well served by D. Carroll, R. Barry, J. Hoyne, B. Power, D. Mulcahy, S. Murphy and A. Kealy.

Callan C.B.S., having been defeated by Kilkenny C.B.S. in the first round, had reorganised its team and had great victories over Doon (Limerick) in the quarter final and Middleton in the semi-final. The scene was now set for a unique final between two Kilkenny teams.

Callan C.B.S. had won the title as recently as 1986 and the early exchanges seemed to indicate they would be celebrating again. By the end of the first quarter Callan was ahead by 2-0 to 0-1.

However, Kilkenny came back for the best score of the day. A 60 yards solo run by Brian Power ended with the Kilkenny-player sending a scorcher to the net to narrow the gap to two points. Adrian Kealy made some great saves for Kilkenny before R. Barry tapped over two points, one from a penalty and one from a free, to level the game. Brian Duignan then scored a goal to leave the city school ahead 2-3 to 2-0 at the break.

A feature of the second half was the very low scoring. Kilkenny had to withstand fierce pressure for the entire 30 minutes. Though the city lads failed to score in the second half they restricted Callan to two points.

A. Kealy, after an uncertain start, was brilliant in goal. Mark Gaffney, Stephen Murphy, Dick Carroll and Douglas McCann were all in top form in a back-line which showed few weaknesses. Further afield B. Power, J. Cullinan and B. Duignan did well. R. Barry played his part by forcing Callan's outstanding player Andrew Hickey to do a 'marking job' for the entire game. Though there were some players to the fore, this was above all else a team victory. Everyone gave 100% until the final whistle.

Others to shine for Callan were Ramie Cahill and Eddie Carey at midfield, D. Nolan (goal), N. Kenny, C. Nolan and W. Kearney in defence. S. Millea showed good touches in attack while P. Nugent was always dangerous. J. Kenny found form when shifted to defence.

Football history for Kilkenny C.B.S.

KILKENNY C.B.S. made history in 1992 by winning the South Leinster Roinn 'C' Junior Football Championship, and then went on to win the Leinster Roinn 'C' Championship.

C.B.S. have been competing in under-14 and 16 South Leinster competitors since around 1980 and have on many occasions qualified for semi-finals and finals, but never were able to make the break through until this year.

In winning this year's competition, Kilkenny C.B.S. beat teams from Carlow, Wexford, Wicklow, Kildare and beat Pobail Scoil Neasiún from Dublin in the Leinster Final.



KILKENNY C.B.S. — Winners of the Roinn 'C' Leinster Junior Football Championship 1991/1992

In front (from left): Mark Campion, Michael Clifford, Michael Gannon, Dermot Beirne, Aidan Begley (captain), Mark O'Brien, Stephen Bergin, Michael Flynn, Matthew Boyle. Middle row (from left): Stephen Dormer, Brendan Kennedy, Adrian Hudson, Damien Knox, Alan Hoyne, Peter Collins, Alan Trait, Robert Neary, Pat Delaney, John Power, Aeneas Daly (coach). Behind (from left): Barry Jenkinson, Mark Bourke, Darragh Phelan, Eoin Delaney, Dermot Grogan, Brian O'Donovan.

(Photo: Tom Brett)

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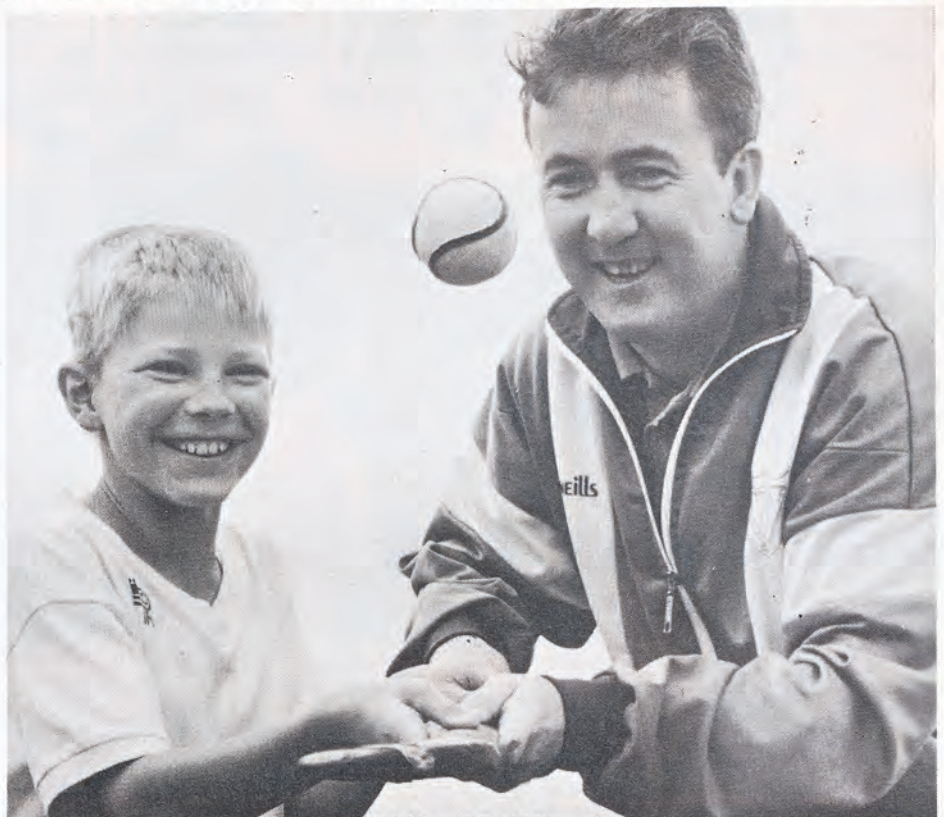
Back to school for Hurling

A HURLING summer school for children in Kilkenny. This rather revolutionary idea was the first project considered by the newly elected County Development Committee. Would boys and girls in Kilkenny be interested enough to actually pay to learn how to improve their hurling and camogie skills?

Having considered the idea the committee, Paul Kinsella Chairman, Barry Hickey Development Officer, John Knox, Eamon Doyle, Billy Hoare, Tom Cunniffe, John Lanigan and Jim Walsh, decided that the project was viable, worthwhile and could only bring the promotion of Gaelic Games to a new level.

The committee decided to have two camps, one in the North based in Lisdowney and the other in the South in Piltown. The criteria used was that the venue have several pitches and that a hall be available for the traditional Irish wet day in summer. An attractive brochure was prepared and circulated to all the schools surrounding the venues. The committee waited with trepidation for bookings (a booking fee of five pounds was demanded).

The reaction was most encouraging and in order to meet the demand in the north, the pitch in Ballyragget was also required. In all over one hundred and seventy



Lisdowney Summer Camp . . . Michael Walsh and David Krawschick. "This is the way we do it on the Continent".
Photo: Tom Brett

children attended and seven coaches with an administrator were needed. The fee of £10 per child and £5 for a second made the camps possibly the bargain of the year. It was very encouraging when an application was received from David Krawschick.

David, whose father is Polish and his mother French, was reared in Ireland for the last two years and was willing to travel from his home in Dublin and stay in Ballyragget for the duration of the camp.

The southern camp, held in the third week of July, had over two hundred and seventy in attendance and all the coaches from the north transferred to the south

and three extra coaches were needed. The support from the southern clubs was phenomenal and buses were arranged from Glenmore, Craignamanagh, Slieverue and the Rower-Inistioge. The reaction from the children over the first few days quickly banished any doubts the organisers had and the weather held good.

The first major test occurred on the Thursday morning when it poured rain, but thanks to a G.A.A. table quiz and a visit from Liam Simpson this obstacle was surmounted. Liam held the interest of all the participants for over an hour, no mean achievement considering his only props were his ability to answer questions,



Lisdowney Summer School . . . "Sir, Sir". Adrian Ronan "Master Class".

Photo: Tom Brett



Lisdowney coaches Dick O'Neill, James Cahill, Dermot Dunphy, Martin Hanrick, Richie Mulrooney. Seated: John Knox, Brendan O'Sullivan, Joe Dunphy, Michael Walsh, Tom Maher

Photo: Tom Brett

raffling a hurley and some T.C. tee-shirts also helped. The first afternoon in Piltown turned out to be a "soft" Irish summer day but the committee knew they were on a winner when every single participant returned on the Tuesday morning bubbling with enthusiasm.

The contribution of the members of the Kilkenny county team was outstanding and their input into the success of the camps cannot be overestimated. In Lisdowney Adrian Ronan, Liam Simpson, D. J. Carey and Michael Walsh signed all the autographs, distributed the posters and stickers and raffled the Kilkenny Supporters' Club tee-shirts. In Piltown, despite preparing for the Leinster final, the hurlers were again present in numbers. Captain Liam Fennelly, Christy Heffernan, Richie Power, John Power, Pat Dwyer and again D.J. Carey and Michael Walsh. Once again the charts were presented, the Mahon McPhillips hats, balloons and tee-shirts raffled off. All the hurlers were very

approachable, very warm with the kids and completely natural. An example of this was Michael Walsh letting each child have a shot at him, imagine the patience needed to stop 230 shots in two hours. All the players proved they were real champions, both on the field and off the field.

The feedback from the schools was very positive and the camp seems to have been a major success. This was due in no small way to the administrator Joe Dunphy, the coaches: James Cahill, Dermot Dunphy, Martin Hanrick, Tom Maher, Richie Mulrooney, Brendan O'Sullivan and Dick O'Neill and in the south Tom Doheny, Viv Dooley and Gerry O'Neill. Servicing officers to the camps were John Knox and Paul Kinsella.

FOOTBALL COACHING

In autumn the Development Committee arranged for the Leinster Field Officer Colm Brady to visit the county. Colm in his first year in the job proved to be a big

hit with the pupils, teachers and coaches he came in contact with during the month of his visit.

During his spell in Kilkenny he visited each venue twice, had sessions with the minor, under-16 panel and the under-14 North and South panels. The primary schools visited were St. Canice's, St. Patrick's, St. John's, Gaelscoil, Gowran, Clara, Thomastown, Piltown, Mullinavat, Bennettsbridge, Kilmanagh, Freshford, Urlingford, Ballyragget, Castlecomer, Mooncoin, Moneenroe, Inistioge and Graignamanagh. The second-level schools were St. Kieran's College, Thomastown Vocational, Mooncoin Vocational, Castlecomer Community and Callan Secondary Schools.

At the end of his spell in Kilkenny Colm made a report to the Development Committee and his suggestions will be considered by them. A similar visit from Lester Ryan for hurling is in the pipeline for next year.



Colm Brady in St. Patrick's De La Salle.

Photo: Tom Brett

Early disruption left champs retreating

By: JOHN KNOX "Kilkenny People"

An already difficult task became doubly so after only a minute of action, when a player was stretchered off the field injured. That was the upsetting introduction to the final for defending All-Ireland champions, Kilkenny in the vocational schools senior hurling championship.

In the decider against the kings of the championship during the last decade and a half, Galway, the Noresiders watched helplessly as goalkeeper, Noel Dunne was taken from the field injured. Even worse, the goal, which resulted from the clash which finished Dunne, was let stand, and Kilkenny were going backwards before they knew what hit them.

Galway made the best of their fortunate opening, and with the opposition understandably in disarray for a while, piled on the pressure. When half-time arrived and the Tribesmen turned over 2-6 to 0-4 to the good, the title hadn't exactly changed hands, but it looked almost certain to do so.

All credit to the losers, they used the rest well, and as good as regained their composure. During the second half the delightful stick-work of Pat Davis, Fran Doyle, Brendan Ryan and Kevin Kennedy punished the opposition at every opportunity.

At one stage when the deficit was back to 0-9 to 2-9 there was unease in the Galway camp. But then two quick points, one a free, boosted morale again, and from there to the finish Kilkenny were a beaten team.

Nothing went right

In the end the Noresiders had to be proud of their efforts. Nothing went right for them early on, but still they hung on grimly for a long time afterwards. On top of losing Dunne, the Noresiders fell 1-2 to no score behind after four minutes. They did well to pick themselves up off the floor,

but the early setback proved extremely costly. The final score was 3-13 to 0-10.

Galway, who once put six wins together in this championship, were a compact outfit. They had seven players from the Athenry team, which won the individual schools senior hurling championship. With such a solid foundation, they were able to piece together a good team.

Kilkenny were chasing their 9th title, to go along with previous wins scored in 1963, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1976, 1977, 1989 and 1991, but the match and crown were always going away from them.

Earlier in the championship, trainer, Fr. Liam Barron watched proudly as Antrim and Kerry were beaten in this open draw competition.

The Noresiders opened their campaign in Jenkinstown, where they entertained the Northerners. On a cold, unfriendly day, the home side were anything but generous hosts on the field.

Antrim had a player sent-off after 14 minutes, a matter of sheer frustration trying to deal with the eel-like Brendan Ryan, who cut the visitors defence to ribbons. Good and all as his hurling was, it wasn't enough to kill off the opposition early. Just before half-time Antrim goaled out-of-the-blue, and that left them better off than they deserved on the run of play (1-2 to 0-7).

Wonderful opposition

During the third quarter Kilkenny restored a proper order on things, and with 9-point man Pat Davis, Fran Doyle, Liam Fogarty and Liam McEvoy all showing a wonderful appetite for the fray, the visitors were beaten by 0-20 to 1-5 at the finish.

The All-Ireland semi-final was a real ding-dong affair. It went to extra time. In Askeaton, surprise packet Kerry shocked the opposition they were so well versed in

the ways of the hurling world.

Both sides had their lucky moments. Both sides endured scares, and had to root themselves out of trouble here and there. At the end of normal time, the score was 0-14 (K) to 2-8.

On they battled, into additional time. Eventually Kilkenny's superior craft told, and they gained the verdict on a 2-21 to 3-10 scoreline. The winners went home that afternoon with a healthy respect for Kerry hurling.

Early in the final, the bottom began to fall out of Kilkenny's world. For the players who had worked so hard for several months, that was a shame. But they didn't go down without a fight, and if they lost the battle, they succeeded in strengthening Kilkenny's standing in the competition.

The Kilkenny team in the All-Ireland final was:

Noel Dunne (Graigmanagh); Liam McEvoy (Fenians); Willie John Kinsella (Mooncoin); Brian Lonergan (Galmoy); Oliver Dunphy (Mooncoin); Kevin Kennedy (Rower-Inistioge); Liam Aylward (Mullinavat); John Costello (St. Lachtain's); Liam Fogarty (Graigmanagh); Pat Davis (Piltown); Brendan Joyce (Emeralds); Alan Morrissey (Graigmanagh); Fran Doyle (Graigmanagh); Declan Maher (Graigmanagh); Brendan Ryan (Fenians).

Subs: Tom Brophy (Erin's Own) (used); Shane Mulhall (Conahy Shamrocks); Anthony Dooley (Tullaroan); Jim Madigan (Thomastown); Barry Morrissey (Thomastown); Dermot O'Shea (Dunnamaggin); Mark Tyler (Mooncoin); Thomas Reddy (Kilmacow); Ray Walsh (Mullinavat); Liam Knox (Slieverue).

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'Cats'
didn't
like
looking
in
from
the
outside

By: John Knox (Kilkenny People)

It was bound to happen some time, and after a fair run, there were few complaints. Great champions they had been . . . proud, dignified, sporting, skilful and utterly dedicated as well.

It was the latter quality, on top of an insatiable appetite for the game, that kept ushing back the 'finished by' date. Seven senior All-Ireland wins on-the-trot. It was some going, by some bunch of talented ladies.

"Don't think we are finished, we will be back", were the fighting words from one who shared and was always central in the glory days, one Angela Downey-Browne.

In August, always threatening Cork at last got the better of the team that had knocked them down so many times during the 'eighties. In their own Ballinlough, the Leesiders ended the run of the Kilkenny senior camogie team. Seven wins together were enough, the Leesiders deemed. There would not be an eight.

On a 2-11 to 1-8 scoreline, the Leesiders ended the bid for yet another All-Ireland success. The semi-final by the Lee did as most close observers of the game had predicted it would, it provided the All-Ireland champions.

If anyone was going to pull Kilkenny down, perhaps it was only right that it should be Cork. They had been beaten by the Noresiders more times in finals than anyone else. The years 1987, 1988, 1989 and 1991 ended with dark finals for the Munster girls. They, more than most, had suffered. There had to be some sort of justice in the way things turned out.

Didn't work

Kilkenny's parting was defiant. Everyone gave what they had to give. It just didn't work out. Angela Downey-Browne, only seven weeks after giving birth to her first baby, Katie — she weighing-in at 7 lbs. 15 ozs. on June 30 — was there on the field, as defiant as the best of them.

Going into the game, Kilkenny knew they were up against it. Cork had already beaten them twice during the National League. The visitors were on top during the opening quarter, but they couldn't get scores. During this period the game, and title, were lost.

The selectors turned to Angela Downey-Browne to try and perform a rescue act. She had travelled as a reserve. Because of the birth of Katie, her training had been severely interrupted. But when call came, she answered it willingly.

"It was funny when I look back on it", Angela mused months later. "On the sideline I could see everything, and what the forwards should have been doing. Going onto the field and trying to do it myself was a different matter".

Noreside officials admitted afterwards, that by the time they turned to Angela, Cork were well settled in a good stride. The home team went in for the break 0-6 to 0-4 in front.

Run ended

Claire Jones was a late starter in the game too. Kilkenny were still very much in the hunt until 10 minutes from the finish, when just two points divided the sides. In the space of a few minutes, the



Kilkenny's Deirdre Malone, Collette O'Mahoney (Cork) and Biddy O'Sullivan. (Photo: Tom Brett)

winner shot 2-1. That ended the run for Kilkenny, who had been champions since 1985.

Later Angela Downey-Browne and a few of the other Kilkenny players went to the All-Ireland final. Sitting in the stand looking on at the action was an eerie experience, bearing in mind their track record. It was enough to make them want more success.

"Even now, before the year has ended, the girls are already looking forward to next season", Angela assured. "The break, a bit of time in the background, won't do us any harm".

In late November some members of the camogie squad had already booked St. Canice's Community hall for a spot of training. Nothing terribly serious. Just a few sessions to keep people together, and keep spirits high.

Angela and her twin sister, Ann, who have been part of the Kilkenny team since around 1972, gave a commitment to continue. So too had another long server, Bridie McGarry. Biddy O'Sullivan, Deirdre Malone and others had no intention of stepping off the inter-county stage either.

"It was not a nice feeling being a spectator at the All-Ireland final this year", Angela recalled. "There is no substitute for playing, for being involved fully. I have no intention of stepping down".

Mad about game

Still as hungry as ever, even after sharing in Kilkenny's 11 senior wins, and into their third decade – 'seventies, 'eighties, and now 'nineties – as senior players.

The young girls who joined the team in recent years are as mad about the game as the twins. Marina Downey, Bridget Mullally, Sinead and Treacy Millea, Jillian Dillon and others, have the skill and commitment to help bring the O'Duffy Cup back to Noreside again.

The rest of the camogie world had better be warned. The 'Cats' were pushed out the door in 1992, and they didn't like it.

Prior to the Cork match, Kilkenny dished out a 9-20 to 0-5 hammering to Clare in the championship.

The Kilkenny team against Cork was: Marie Fitzpatrick (Graigue/Ballycallan); Bibby O'Sullivan (Tullagher); Una Murphy (Tullagher); Bridie McGarry (Dicksboro); Deirdre Malone (Graigue/Ballycallan); Tracey Millea (Graigue/Ballycallan); Ann Downey (Lisdowney); Jillian Dillon (Freshford); Marina Downey (Lisdowney); Breda Holmes (Tullaroan); Sinead Millea (Graigue/Ballycallan); Bridget Mullally (Glenmore).

Subs: Claire Jones (Lisdowney); Angela Downey-Browne (Lisdowney); Bridget Barnaville (Lisdowney); Frances Rothwell (Graigue/Ballycallan).

Youth given its fling in League

The National Camogie League brought no joy to the Kilkenny seniors, but the ladies are hopeful that when the Leinster championship is eventually completed they will have something to sing about.

The ladies, who over the past decade or so made winning more than a habit, a way of life really, bowed out in the semi-final of the League against Cork, the side that eventually ended their seven year unbeaten run in the championship.

Not so long ago Kilkenny put five wins together in the League. During the past two seasons they have been less serious about the competition than during the glory days, and instead of going flat out for the title, decided to 'let youth have its fling'.

One of the rising stars who most definitely grew up, in the camogie sense, during the last winter was free scoring forward, Bridget Mullally. The immensely talented Glenmore girl has been on the senior team a while, but during the League this season she showed a maturity about her game that would suggest she will become a big, big name in the not too distant future.

Young Mullally climbed to the highest point as a county minor. She has sampled the big time with the seniors. There was that edge about her game this year that suggested she will be a powerful performer in the immediate and long range future.

Kilkenny scored wins over Wexford and Clare in the League, but then lost to Cork. The latter then fell, against the odds, to Wexford, so there was a three way tie at the top. In their wisdom, someone ordained that there should be a toss-up to sort things out instead of a play-off. In the toss, Wexford fared best, and won passage through to the final.

The Noresiders and Leesiders were left to fight it out in the semi-final. This they did in Lisdowney, and the Munster girls gained the verdict.

A campaign in which Kilkenny were less than full blooded ended thus. After so many glory days in the past, it was hard to get excited about another during some of the worst days of the year.

Kilkenny had a 'go'. Things didn't work out. No one shed any tears. Some of the younger crew members showed promise. That made the venture worthwhile.

Among those who played with Kilkenny during the League were: Marie Fitzpatrick (St. Brigid's, Ballycallan); Bridie McGarry (Dicksboro); Deirdre Malone (St. Brigid's); Una Murphy (Tullagher); Francis Rothwell (St. Brigid's); Jillian Dillon (Freshford); Ann Downey (Lisdowney); Marina Downey (Lisdowney); Sinead Millea (St. Brigid's); Bridget Mullally (Glenmore); Esther Kennedy (Freshford); Mary McGrath (Ballycallan); Bridget Barnaville (Lisdowney); Biddy O'Sullivan (Tullagher); Treacy Millea (St. Brigid's); Joan Aylward (Glenmore).

Subsequently, Kilkenny played Dublin in the Leinster championship. The Dubs were wiped out. The return to action of Breda Holmes made a huge difference. This competition has yet to be finished. Kilkenny are hopeful of success.



Race for possession! Cork v Kilkenny semi-final – Sandie Fitzgibbon and Angela Downey-Browne.



Linda Mellerick, Frances Rothwell, Biddy O'Sullivan and Helen Holmes – Kilkenny v Cork in semi-final.

(Photo: Tom Brett)

COLLEGES CAMOGIE

THE ST. BRIGID'S college, Callan senior camogie team had their sights set on a place in the All-Ireland final which had eluded them for 17 years. The last time they contested the final was back in 1975, when the Downey twins donned the St. Brigid's colours.

The Callan girls scored convincing wins in the preliminary rounds against Thomastown, Kilkenny vocational school and St. Louis, Dundalk. The quarter-final against Presentation Kilkenny was an uphill struggle. Eventually they pulled away in the second half. The final score was 3-3 to 0-4. Scorers: S. Millea (2-2), M. Comerford (1-1).

The opposition in the semi-final was provided by F.C.J. Bunclody. Again, Callan made hard work of winning. They got through by 1-6 to 0-4. Scorers: B. Maher (1-0), S. Millea (0-4), T. Millea, O. O'Sullivan (0-1 each).

The Loreto, Kilkenny faced St. Brigid's in the Leinster final. Watched by a massive crowd of over 1,500 in Bennettsbridge, this game had everything – skill, full-blooded exchanges and most of all, rivalry. This was a great team performance, commanded by centreback T. Millea and Aine Comerford, who made brilliant saves in the winners' goal. Up front M. Comerford and S. Millea notched the scores. The final score was 1-7 to 1-4. Scorers: S. Millea (0-7), M. Comerford (1-0).



St. Brigid's: Back Row (left to right): O. O'Sullivan, A. Dunphy, A. O'Carroll, F. Holohan, M. A. Cleere, A. Comerford, N. Rice, E. Walsh, C. Campion, E. A. Maloney. Front Row (left to right): M. Maher, B. Maher, J. Sweeney, M. Comerford, C. Kehoe, T. Millea (Capt.), S. Millea, M. Brennan.

The All-Ireland semi-final was played in Portmore, Armagh against A.C.H.E. The match was played in dreadful conditions. Callan pulled out all the stops, and ran out convincing winners (3-4 to 1-4). Once again, A. Comerford was coolness personified in goal. O. O'Sullivan lorded it at midfield, ably assisted by M. Maher. The backs played well as a unit. Up front B. Maher and S. Millea shared the scoring. Scorers: B. Maher 2-0, S. Millea 1-4.

The scene was set for the All-Ireland

final in Tullamore. The day was not Brigid's. They were beaten by 7-7 to 2-4 by a truly superlative St. Raphael's, Loughrea. Despite the valiant efforts of the backs, in particular M. Brennan and C. Kehoe, Callan were unable to hold flying full forward C. Lynch, who finished with a personal tally of 4-4. This performance goes to prove why Raphael's have won the title for the past seven years.

Nevertheless, this was a great year for Callan.

First Leinster Junior Title in 32 years



Junior County Team beaten in All-Ireland Semi-Final. Back Row (left to right): D. Dowling, H. Butler, M. Hickey, S. Costello, D. Lannen, K. Dunphy, J. Aylward, S. Dooley (Capt.), M. Comerford, M. Maher. Front Row (left to right): E. Kennedy, M. McGrath, P. Dowling, A. M. Hughes, H. McGrath, M. Costello, I. Kennedy, J. Sweeney.

THE-County's Junior Camogie team opened their championship campaign with a home win over Offaly. This victory was hard earned as the team's preparations had been restricted but was none the less well deserved.

A surprisingly resilient Meath team were defeated away in the second round. This result qualified the team for the Leinster Final which was played in Nowlan Park.

Here the Kilkeny Junior Camogie team created a little bit of history as they won the Leinster Junior Camogie championship for the first time in 32 years, having fortunately reserved their best display for this match.

Kilkenny won the inaugural junior championship in 1959 (this was Kilkenny's first intercounty camogie final win) and retained the title the following year but had not won it since, although they had reached the final in 1977, 1983 and 1991.

Kilkenny, having elected to play against the breeze in the first half, got off to a sluggish start and went in at the interval trailing Carlow by one point on a scoreline of Carlow 0-6, Kilkenny 0-5.

At this stage Kilkenny were having difficulties dealing with Carlow's strongest line in midfield where the accuracy of Valerie Crean from frees was dominating the match. The best score of the first half came from the same player when she floated the sliotar over the bar from a sideline cut approximately 30m from the endline.

Shortly after the restart, Kilkenny came much more into the game and quickly levelled with a point from a free. Carlow

were then rocked by two goals within the space of a few minutes but recovered by virtue of their excellent free-taking to come back within a single point of Kilkenny. For some time after this, the game remained delicately poised, with the sides exchanging a pointed free each, until Kilkenny eventually drew clear with three unanswered points which gave them a comfortable four point cushion during the closing stages.

Eight of Carlow's twelve points came from frees which is both testimony to the freetaking skill of Carlow's Valerie Crean and an indictment of the number of fouls committed by Kilkenny.

As for Kilkenny, Helen McGrath dealt effectively with the little that came her way, the game marked a welcome return to form for both Paula Dowling and Margaret Hickey; Esther Kennedy and Joan Aylward performed efficiently as wing-backs; Sinead Costelloe was excellent at all times and gains the unique distinction of being the first Kilkenny camogie player to win both junior and minor Leinster medals in the same year.

Kay Dunphy and Marie Maher both had their hands full dealing with their more experienced opposite numbers, but coped admirably.

Mary McGrath contributed two points to Kilkenny's final tally and also laid off one beautiful pass to Imelda Kennedy who unfortunately hand passed wide with only the goalie to beat. However Imelda finished as top scorer with 1-5 to her credit and displayed many skilful touches during the game. Although Margaret Comerford

did not get her name on the scoreboard, she worked hard to break the ball for the other forwards. Ann-Marie Hughes came on as a substitute in the second half and scored a delightful point from play.

As for the evergreen Maura Costelloe, who is one of the rare number of player-managers in camogie, she displayed a hunger and determination which her younger compatriots would do well to emulate. She also gained the unusual distinction of winning her third Provincial medal twenty years after winning her second!

Leinster Junior Camogie Championship Final - Kilkenny 2-10, Carlow 0-12.

Kilkenny Team: Helen McGrath, Paula Dowling, Esther Kennedy, Sinead Costelloe (0-1), (all Freshford), Joan Aylward (Glenmore), Margaret Hickey (Freshford), Kay Dunphy (Graigue/Ballycallan), Marie Maher (0-1) (Tullaroan), Mary McGrath (0-2), (Graigue/Ballycallan); Maura Costelloe (1-0), (Freshford), Margaret Comerford (Graigue/Ballycallan), Imelda Kennedy (1-5 0-4 frees, 0-1, 30m free) (Freshford); Ann-Marie Hughes (0-1), (Lisdowney), Slobhan Dooley (Capt.), (Dicksboro), Janet Sweeney (Tullaroan), Hilda Butler (Freshford), Elizabeth Dowling (Clara), Delores Lanigan (Tullagher).

Tipperary, however proved to be too strong in the All-Ireland semi-final but some comfort can be taken from the fact that Kilkenny came closer to the eventual All-Ireland champs than any of their other opponents.

One of the principal reasons for this year's success was the strong team spirit and hopes are high among the panel that the lessons learned this year can be used to achieve an even greater degree of success next year.

TULLOGHER CAMOGIE CLUB

SATURDAY, 26th September, 1992, was a memorable date for the girls from the Tullogher Camogie Club. Displaying great skill and determination, the Tullogher team recorded an outstanding victory in the inaugural final of the Plate competition At the All-Ireland Seven-a-side Tournament played at the Kilmacud Crokes ground, Stillorgan. The players – Elaine Nolan, Ety Phelan, Bidy O'Sullivan, Bridget Ryan, Catherine Murphy, Breda Murphy, Dolores Lanigan, Eileen O'Gorman and captain Una Murphy – were each presented with a beautiful piece of Dublin Crystal.



TULLOGHER – Winners of the All-Ireland Seven-a-side Plate
Front – Ellen O'Gorman, Bridget Ryan, Una Murphy, Loretta Phelan.
Back – Brenda Murphy, Elaine Nolan, Bidy O'Sullivan, Catherine Murphy, Dolores Lanigan.



Pictured at the National Irish Banks Camogie 'Player of the Year 1991' award presentation were (l. to r.): Sheila Wallace, Árd Runaí; Ann Downey; Jo Golden and Bean Uí Mhaolagáin, President of the Camogie Association.

Bad end, but otherwise enjoyable

THOMASTOWN Vocational School won the 1992 Leinster Vocational Schools junior camogie championship. They defeated Ballyhale, Kilkenny and Borris on the way to the semi-final.

The semi-final against Johnstown was the hardest match during the Leinster campaign. On paper, Johnstown appeared a superior team as they included a number of players with inter-county experience. Home advantage probably helped Thomastown, who won by 6-3 to 2-4. Patricia Dalton and Olivia Donnelly were outstanding for Johnstown, while Thomastown had stars in Jennifer Walsh, Yvonne Malone and Therese White.

The Leinster final against Oldcastle, Co. Meath, was played in atrocious weather in Tullamore. Thomastown adapted much better to the blizzard conditions, and ran out easy winners on a score of 8-3 to 0-1. Brenda Murphy was the star. She scored five goals. Others who shone were Deirdre Lanigan, Georgina Foley and Michelle Power. The Leinster trophy was proudly accepted by captain Dolores Lanigan.

The All-Ireland campaign began in Borrisokane, where Thomastown and Loughrea played a thrilling draw. Two days later, in another outstanding match, Thomastown won the replay in Durrow by a single point. Great thanks are due Florence Lanigan, Olivia Hayden and Louise Walsh.

The great run finally came to an end in the All-Ireland final when Thomastown were defeated by a superb Roscrea team (1-9 to 2-1). Thomastown were best served by Mary Norris and captain Dolores Lanigan, who got all the scores. It was a disappointing end, but it was an enjoyable year.



THOMASTOWN – Leinster V.S. Junior Camogie Champions, 1992
Back row – Catherine Kenny, Shirley Walpole, Pauline Grace, Sandra Kenny, Deirdre Lanigan, Liz Dempsey, Florence Lanigan, Brenda Murphy, Elaine Dunne, Valerie Minogue, Catherine Naddy. Middle row – Olivia Burke, Michelle Power, Olivia Hayden, Therese White, Yvonne Malone, Dolores Lanigan, Mary Norris, Jennifer Walsh, Georgina Foley, Lisa Fennelly. Front row – Mary Doyle, Sharon Ireland, Valerie Doyle, Joanne Donohue.

TULLAROAN

1992 proved to be a very successful year for Tullaroan Camogie Club. Under the guidance of Ann Grace and Jackie O'Dea, the Under-14 team won the county final, beating Ballycallan in convincing style. No doubt the highlight of the year was the victory of the Junior team over the Blacks and Whites in the Junior County Final. This was a great win for a team who only formed in 1991 and under the guidance of player/trainer Breda Maher, the team hope to make a big impact on the senior championship in 1993.

TULLAROAN – Under-14 Camogie Roinn 'B' Champions

Back row: Ann Grace (trainer), Mary Ellen Butler, Olive Hennessy, Cathriona O'Dea, Ann Marie Cleere, Jackie O'Dea (Trainer), Rose Walsh. Front row: Paula Doheny, Fiona Coogan, Deirdre Maher, Martina Maher, Oonagh Hennessy, Margaret O'Dea, Olivia Maher. (Captains were Olive Hennessy and Martina Maher).



TULLAROAN – Junior Camogie Champions 1992

Back row: Ann Hennessy, Breda Holmes, Michelle Coogan, Ciara Holmes, Grace Walsh, Marie Ann Cleere, Caroline Campion, Bernie DOheny, Cathriona O'Dea, Suzanne Mullally, Joanne Sweeney. Front row: Ann Grace, Ann Marie Coogan, Jannette Sweeney, Marie Maher, Breda Maher (Captain and Team Trainer), Brenda Maher, Claire Hennessy, Martina Maher.



Three for Leinster

Three Kilkeny girls were picked on the Leinster Junior Camogie team defeated by Connacht. They were Mary McGrath (Ballycallan), Maura Costello and Paula Dowling (Freshford).

Six in Gael Linn Final

Six Kilkeny girls played for Leinster in the Senior Gael Linn Final against Munster.

From left: Ann Downey, Jillian Dillon, Una Murphy, Angela Downey, Bridget Mullally and Marina Downey (Captain).



THIRD TIME LUCK, YOU MUST BE JOKING

By: JOHN KNOX "Kilkenny People"

THE cliché could be rolled out that there was third time luck and all that involved! A load of poppycock! Skill had a lot to do with it. Determination too. And there was tremendous character shown as well as highly talented St. Brigid's (Ballycallan) were toppled.

Ever improving Lisdowney were the history makers on the Kilkenny senior camogie scene this season. In the county final they scored a deserved, but hard-earned 5-9 to 3-4 win over St. Brigid's. It was their first.

It was the winners third appearance in the decider. Twice they tasted defeat. This time they got everything right, and claimed the title. Years of hard work and dedicated service to the cause by people in the background like Billy Fogarty, John Phelan and Noel Barnaville at last ended with history.

Lisdowney camogie club was founded 12 years ago, and it has made a big impact on the local scene. Numerous titles have been harvested along the way, but senior county final defeats against then mighty St. Paul's in 1990

and St. Brigid's in 1991 left some wondering how far off was the big success.

In the semi-finals St. Brigid's had a handy enough 2-7 to 1-2 win over Tullogher. In the second semi, Lisdowney saw off St. Lachtain's (4-9 to 3-3). A repeat of the '91 showdown, when there was nothing in it up to the closing 10 minutes before Sinead Millea rattled home two goals to tilt the balance for Brigid's, conjured up images of another epic encounter.



LISDOWNEY - SENIOR COUNTY CAMOGIE WINNERS 1992

LISDOWNEY: Back row (l. to r.) C. Glendon, A. Downey, C. Jones, A. Downey, B. Wall, O. Donnelly, B. Barnaville (captain). Front row (l. to r.) L. Fogarty, M. Downey, V. Wall, Paul Hindle, C. Dunne, A. M. Hughes

(Photo: Tom Brett)



T.C. TYRES "MAN OF THE MATCH" PRIZEWINNERS

Front row: Tom Coogan, Paul Buggy, Eugene Keneally, Richard Holland. Second row: Chris Maher, Kevin Shortall. Third row: John Egan, John O'Neill, T. J. Fitzgerald, Paul Sheehan, Wayne McMahon, Jimmy Duggan. Back row: James Duggan, John Barron, Niall Kiely, Liam Simpson, Michael Walsh, Liam Fennelly, Tom Cantwell.

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Respect

The 9-point win scored at Nowlan Park was unexpected, because Lisdowney had the utmost of respect for the opposition, that boasted proven performers in the Millea sisters, Sinead and Treacy, Marie Fitzpatrick, Frances Rothwell, Deirdre Malone, Orla Ryall, Mary McGrath, Margaret Comerford and Catherine Kehoe, to name a few.

Brigid's fought bravely all the way, and once the arrears were down to a none too healthy three points. But try as they might, the losers couldn't break down the Lisdowney defence, in which Brigid Barnaville was unbeatable and an inspiring figure, and Brigid Wall hit the kind of glittering form that comes only rarely to the best of players.

On top of that, that ageless campaigner, Angela Downey turned on the style as well. Only 10 weeks after giving birth to her first baby, she was racing around full of mischief. Her tally of 4-1 highlights the huge influence she had on proceedings.

Lisdowney had the title within their grasp at half-time when they led by 2-6 to 1-3. Within seconds of the change,

Angela Downey crashed home another goal to put a mountain like task in front of Brigid's.

Big and all as the task was, Brigid's tackled it with relish. To their credit, they produced probably their best camogie when they needed to most. Margaret Comerford and Kay Dunphy put their names on goals to leave them there with a shout with less than 10 minutes gone in the half (3-8 to 3-4).

In sharp contrast to the way the final had finished the previous year, Lisdowney stepped on the gas this time. Their high octane drive to victory saw them zip away from the opposition, courtesy of goals from Lizzie Fogarty and Angela Downey.

Many heroines

The winners celebrated wildly afterwards. There were many heroines. The defence as a unit was disciplined and tight. Brigid Wall and Caroline Glendon stood full-blooded behind the powerful Brigid Barnaville. Catherine Dunne was composed in the corner, and 'keeper Veronica Wall marshalled the defence well.

In midfield, Marina Downey, Ann Downey and Olivia Donnelly faced talented opposition, and they didn't give an inch. Up front Angela Downey was the main woman, but she had able performers in Lizzie Fogarty, Claire Jones and Ann-Marie Hughes.

Scorers: Lisdowney: Angela Downey (4-1); Marina Downey (0-4); Lizzie Fogarty (1-1); Ann-Marie Hughes (0-2); Claire Jones (0-1). *St. Brigid's:* Margaret Comerford (1-1); Treacy Millea, Kay Dunphy (1-0 each); Sinead Millea (0-3).

Lisdowney panel: Veronica Wall, Caroline Glendon, Catherine Dunne, Brigid Wall, Brigid Barnaville, Ann Downey, Marina Downey, Olivia Donnelly, Angela Downey, Lizzie Fogarty, Ann-Marie Hughes, Claire Jones, Catherine O'Loughlin, Áine Dunne, Brigid Sharkey, Deirdre Delaney, Fionnula Grey, Cora Mackey.

St. Brigid's panel: Marie Fitzpatrick, Philomena Byrne, Catherine Kehoe, Deirdre Malone, Frances Rothwell, Treacy Millea, Kay Dunphy, Olive O'Sullivan, Sinead Millea, Mary McGrath, Margaret Comerford, Orla Ryall, Margaret Hanley, Breda Cahill, Aidling Byrne, Carmel Trant.

Leinster camogie title for Kilkenny minors

KILKENNY, the defending All-Ireland champions in this grade, opened their defence with facile wins over Offaly and Meath.

However, the Leinster final, in which they faced Dublin, proved to be a real cliff-hanger with Kilkenny scoring the winning goal in the dying moments of the game, having come from being a point behind with time running out. The final scoreline read: Kilkenny 4-6, Dublin 3-6.

This was Kilkenny's fifth Leinster minor title in a row and was regarded as an upset given that the Dublin U-14 team had defeated Kilkenny in the corresponding final two years previously.

Further partial cardiac arrest followed for the team's mentors in the All-Ireland semi-final against Antrim when a replay was only secured after Kilkenny scored an equalising point in the last minute of the game.

A true reflection of the two teams' abilities became apparent in the replay in Nowlan Park when Kilkenny emerged very comfortable winners.

Tipperary provided the opposition in the All-Ireland and although Tipperary deserved their title win, the final scoreline did not do justice to the merits of the Kilkenny team.

Despite their ultimate defeat, great credit is due to the entire panel for their achievement in reaching a fifth successive All-Ireland against some very worthy opponents, for their



KILKENNY – Leinster Minor Camogie Champions 1992

Back row – Eavan Dowling (Clara), Pauline Hogan (Dicksboro), Sinéad Costelloe (Freshford), [captain], Margaret Kavanagh (Freshford), Niamh Phelan (Clara), Fran Shore (Castlecomer), Louise Slevin (Castlecomer), Michelle Fennelly (Carrickshock), Aisling Byrne (Graigue-Ballycallan), Deirdre O'Sullivan (Graigue-Ballycallan), Caroline Atkins (Mullinavat), Fiona Connery (Freshford). **Front row** – Sandra Gleeson (Castlecomer), Cora Mackey (Lisdowney), Ann Hickey (Clara), Caitrona Carey (Clara), Kathleen Ryan (Freshford), Ann Sunderland (Dicksboro), Deirdre Phelan (James Stephens), Ann-Marie Trait (Dicksboro).

unwillingness to accept defeat when it appeared inevitable and for their commitment and dedication during a period which for some included the Junior Certificate exams.

Clara crowned camogie queens



Clara Camogie County Champions U/14 Roinn A. Front Row (left to right): Y. Kealy, S. Brennan, C. Fitzgerald, C. Carey, B. Foley, R. Middleton, J. Dillon, B. Dowling, D. Dowling (Capt.). Back Row (left to right): P. Dowling (selector), C. Neary (Trainer), B. Dooley (County Skills Champ), H. O'Neill, E. Brennan, D. Hennessy, A. Dreeling, E. O'Shea, C. Prendergast, E. Dowling, J. Dowling (coach). Photo: I. O'Neill

THE Clara under-14 camogie team was victorious in Galway, and captured the Feile-na-nGael cup, which was a massive achievement

The players were hosted by the Ardrahan/St. Coleman's club. All had a fabulous weekend.

The first match was against Ardrahan. Clara were first to attack. The opposition scored 1-1 before Clara got going. A cross by Catriona Carey was guided to the net by Elaine Brennan.

Deirdre Dowling pointed a 30 and Deirdre Hennessy goaled. The final score was 2-5 to 2-3 in favour of Ardrahan. This

left Clara under pressure. All matches had to be won.

Next they played Limerick's Grannog/Ballingarry. Clara were very determined, and led by 0-2 to 0-1 at half-time.

The second half was fast and exciting. Catriona Carey scored a great goal. Limerick returned for another goal. Rebecca Middleton made good saves and Susan Brennan, Jennifer Dillon and Brid Foley were in top form in defence.

Deirdre Dowling got in a fine clearance, and then pointed from a long range free to help Clara to a 2-3 to 1-4 win. Elaine Brennan scored the winning goal. In the third match, Clara faced Kinvara. The Noresiders won by 3-7 to no score.

The semi-final was played in Ballymacoda, against Cork's Bishopstown. The Leesiders got off to a good start and scored a goal, which was disallowed. A free from Deirdre Dowling went to Catriona Carey, who netted and then added a point.

During the second half Susan Brennan made two good saves. Deirdre Dowling scored a point from a free. In the second half Tipperary had an early goal. A smart save by Deirdre Dowling was cleared, and then she had a point from a free.

Deirdre Hennessy scored the closing two goals. Rebecca Middleton made a stunning save before the final whistle. All the girls played their hearts out, and were delighted with their victory.

Captain of Captains

WHEN CLARE JONES nodded her head in favour of playing camogie with her adopted Lisdowney, she could hardly have realised the boost she gave her fellow players. She played at full-forward in the county semi-final against Freshford. She scored two goals in as many minutes, and gave a taste of what was to come.

But a torn hamstring picked up during that game halted her return to the county side. It has never been in dispute that Clare is one of the most gifted players in the sport, and her strength of character has never been in doubt.

She has always displayed a real appetite for a fight. Her real character was evident in Cork when she entered the fray, carrying the hamstring injury. The former Clare captain has truly made her mark since her return, and there is no doubt she will command a place on the Kilkenny team for many a year to come.



Captain of captains . . . (Pictured left to right): Cadet Ciarán Connery (Jenkinstown) of the 69th Cadet Class, Captain Clare Jones, Training Officer of the Cadet School and Cadet Noel Maher (Graigue/Ballycallan) of the 68th Cadet Class. Two former captains of St. Kieran's College teams come under the command of camogie star, Captain Clare Jones at the Cadet College at the Curragh Camp.

**Rower-Inistioge 5-2
Clara 0-1**

THE Rower-Inistioge girls captured their second Under-13 Camogie Primary Schools Championship, in only three years, when they had a convincing victory over Clara in this Roinn B final, played at a sunny and well attended Thomastown recently.

Having defeated Clara by a somewhat similar score, in an earlier round played in the Rower Park, they displayed great courage and skill, to fully avenge last years narrow defeat in the replayed county semi-final. This was a sweet victory for the Rower-Inistioge girls, eight of whom had played in last years semi-final.

Unbeaten this year

The Rower has scored earlier, championship wins over Mooncoin and Tullaroan, both away, to qualify for this final. In fact they were undefeated this year, after playing approximately ten games. This victory was an outstanding team success, as our girls displayed teamwork, fitness and dedication, qualities so vital in order to attain success. Great credit is due to former Kilkenny All-Ireland camogie star Noreen Tierney (trainer) and selectors Mary Lyng, Mary Cottrell and Benny Holohan for their efforts to achieve this success.

Captain shows way with vital goal

Straight from the throw-in, the Rower girls went into attack, but Clara defied their efforts to score. Then in about the eight minute, after some good chances had been missed, it was centreforward and captain, Mairead Holohan led by example, she opened the scoring, when she sent a good ground stroke from twenty yards to the back of the Clara net. This goal steadied the Rower girls, With their defence ably led by Linda Cottrell and Miriam Lyster dominating at centrefield, Clara were now under severe pressure. The Rower-Inistioge had their second goal, when a ball broke just outside the square,

**Rower-Inistioge
are
Kilkenny U-13
Camogie
Champion**

and corner forward Lina Minogue was in like a flash to slam the ball to the net to leave the half-time score:

Rower-Inistioge 2-0; Clara 0-0

Rower-Inistioge take control in second half

Clara tried hard in the early stages of the second half to get back into the game

but the Rower girls held firm, and would not yield. Miriam Lyster was now playing brilliantly at centrefield and she scored the third goal. After this goal Clara began to lose heart; when Miriam Lyster added another 1-2 from frees the Rower girls were now in a strong position. Máiread Galavan completed the scoring with a good goal as the Rower entered the final minutes. Clara's only reply was a point scored also in the final minutes. Final score: Rower-Inistioge 5-2 to Clara 0-1.

Becky Dempsey made many five saves throughout the game. Máiread Kelly was a tower of strength at full back making many fine clearances. Ann Bolger and Ann Barron formed a solid full back line. Linda Cottrell at centre-back played

brilliantly while Miriam Lyster had another brilliant game scoring 2-2 and was the best player on view. Máiread Galavan and Siobhán White formed an impressive midfield partnership. Máiread Holohan played a captain's part at centre-forward scoring the first vital goal. Lizzie Cahill, Deirdre Brennan and Linda Minogue were always dangerous.



ROWER-INISTIOGE – PRIMARY SCHOOLS CAMOGIE CHAMPIONS – ROINN B – 1992
Back row: Nora Barron, Anita Mooney, Aoife Murphy, Mairead Kelly, Linda Cottrell, Anne Bolger, Mairead Galavan, Miriam Lyster, Anne Barron, Sarah Barron, Mary McDonald, Heather Vigors. Front row: Catriona Holohan, Michelle Flood, Elizabeth Cahill, Mairead Holohan (captain), Becky Dempsey, Deirdre Brennan, Siobhán White, Linda Minogue, Elaine McCarthy.

Like Father, like Daughter!

From left to right: Sinead Millea, Joe Millea, Tracy Millea, Pa Dillon, Jillian Dillon, Angela Downey, Shem Downey and Ann Downey.

How many Senior All-Ireland medals do the above group hold in total?
– Answer: 32.



They win two Leinster Titles

JOHNSTOWN vocational school enjoyed tremendous success on the camogie field in 1992. The senior team won two Leinster titles, both for the first time.

In March, the Leinster senior schools title was won. In May the Leinster senior colleges 'B' championship was added. These achievements were due to the talent and dedication of an outstanding bunch of girls, who brought distinction to

themselves and their school.

The Leinster senior vocational schools title was the primary objective from the outset. Victories followed over Rathdrum V.S. and Ballyhale V.S., the champions of the 1991 season. The final was played in Johnstown. After a tremendous match, Johnstown V.S. emerged victorious by two points. In the All-Ireland semi-final, Johnstown were defeated by the Connacht champions, Loughrea V.S.

The Leinster senior colleges 'B' campaign began in late February. St. Mary's convent, Granard provided stiff opposition in the first round; but were eventually defeated by eight points.

The Leinster final against Donaghies community school, Dublin, in Thomastown was a great game. Johnstown, with the aid of a strong wind, led by three points at half-time. A tenacious display by the backs in the second half, and a wonderful goal by Catherine Anderson, paved the way for victory. Johnstown's final victory margin was four points.

The Johnstown team was comprised of players from Lisdowney, Freshford, Gortnahoe and Tullaroan camogie clubs. The successes are due in no small measure to the healthy state of the game in these clubs. Johnstown's inspiring captain was Caroline Dooley, an All-Ireland medal winner in the minor grade with Tipperary.

The outstanding player of the season was Brigid Wall, another All-Ireland winner with Kilkenny. She was closely challenged for this accolade by Finuala Gray, Olivia Donnelly and goalkeeper Kay Grace. Patricia Dalton was a tower of strength at full-back, while Fiona Delaney and Belinda Doyle performed valiantly in a sound defence.

The attack was capably led by Deirdre Delaney. She was flanked by the skilful Triona Maher and Cora Mackey. Ashling Delaney was the star in the Leinster vocational school final, when she scored two fine goals. Catherine Anderson was the most improved player during the season. Marie Dowling and Noelle Lalor starred against Granard and Castlecomer respectively. Other capable deputies were Bernie Crosby, Sinead Bergin, Carol Fox and Tomasina Sharkey.



Johnstown senior panel: K. Grace (L), P. Dalton (F), F. Delaney (J), B. Wall (L), B. Doyle (Gal.), C. Dooley (Gort), O. Donnelly (G), F. Gray (Gal), C. Mackey (G), D. Delaney (J), T. Maher (Gort), A. Delaney (J), N. Lalor (G), C. Anderson (F), M. Dowling (F), B. Crosby (T), S. Bergin (L), T. Sharkey (J), C. Fox (U).
L=Lisdowney; F=Freshford; J=Johnstown; Gal=Galmoy; Gort=Gortnahoe; G=Gathabawn; T=Tullaroan; U=Urlingford

Photo: T. O'Neill

St. Brigid's (Ballycallan)

FOR the first time in many years there was no All-Ireland or any county medal won during the year. The Under-21 team with victories over Tullogher and Clara, have qualified for the semi-final but are not expected to overcome the winners of the St. Lachtain's v Lisdowney game. It is unacceptable that at the time of writing (mid-November), no arrangements have been made to play the Lisdowney v St. Lachtain's game. Surely with the county team out of the All-Ireland championship race since the middle of August, there is no excuse why all the local championships could not have been completed by the end of October. The sooner the Camogie Board adhere to their fixtures the better for everyone.

The St. Brigid's senior camogie team won all their games in the league section and qualified to play Tullogher in the semi-final, a game they won by 2-7 to 1-2. Lisdowney however, proved too good for them in the county final. Played on a terrible evening of rain and wind, St. Brigid's did not make use of the elements in the first half and were behind at the interval.

Goals by Margaret Comerford and Kay Dunphy early in the second half narrowed the gap to a goal, 3-7 to 3-4. Lisdowney however showed their superiority in the closing stages by adding a further 2-2 to run out convincing winners by 5-9 to 3-4.

Lisdowney also defeated the Under-18 team by 3-6 to 3-1. The winners laid the foundation of victory in the first half, narrowed the gap to two points, but Lisdowney came away for the clinching goal right on the stroke of full time. St. Brigid's had beaten Mullinavat in the first round.

The Minor team lost out to Dicksboro and James Stephen's. The Primary School team also failed to qualify for the final although later in the year they won the Ballingarry tournament.

The Under-14 team beat Castlecomer and James Stephens in the Roinn B championship but were beaten by Tullaroan. This gave them a semi-final place against Castlecomer whom they defeated again to qualify for the county final against Tullaroan. This game took place in Callan and was a good contest. St. Brigid's, thanks to a fine midfield display by Ann Marie Ryall, some good goalkeeping by Aoife Neary and with Ellen Hanley doing well in defence and

Pauline Comerford also prominent, the side had a lot of the play but could not score. Tullaroan led at the interval by 2-0 to 0-1, helped mainly by a sharper set of forwards. The highlight of the second half was a great goal by Ann Marie Ryall but Tullaroan added two further goals to run out winners by 4-0 to 1-2.

The team was: Aoife Neary, Ellen Hanley, Bernadette Marnell Mary Hearn, Andrew Murphy, Lynn Holden, Ann Marie Ryall, Mary Purcell, Deirdre Treacy, Sonya Ronan, Patricia Delaney, Pauline Comerford. Subs: Fiona Walsh and Ellen Murphy.

A number of club members – Tracey Millea, Sinead Millea, Áine Comerford, Olive O'Sullivan, Catherine Keogh and Margaret Comerford, were members of the St. Brigid's College (Callan) team which won the Leinster Colleges Senior Camogie Final but were beaten by St. Raphael's (Loughrea) in the All-Ireland Final which was played in Tullamore. Tracey Millea captained the team.

Deirdre Malone captained the Kilkenny senior camogie team which lost out after seven years as champions when they were beaten by Cork in the All-Ireland semi-final: Marie Fitzpatrick, Tracey Millea and Sinead Millea were



BALLYCALLAN SENIOR COUNTY CAMOGIE FINALISTS – 1992

Back row (l. to r.) K. Dunphy, O. O'Sullivan, M. Comerford, O. Ryall, D. Malone, F. Rothwell, T. Millea. Front row (l. to r.) P. Byrne, M. McGrath, C. Keogh, M. Fitzpatrick, S. Millea.

(Pic: Tom Brett)

also on the team while Frances Rothwell was a substitute.

Three club members – Mary McGrath, Kay Dunphy and Margaret Comerford were on the Kilkenny Junior team which won Leinster honours for the first time since 1960. They were beaten by Tipperary in the All-Ireland semi-final. Mary McGrath was later selected on the Leinster Gael Linn Junior Camogie team. They lost the semi-final to Connacht in Turloughmore by two points.

Ashling Byrne and Deirdre O'Sullivan were members of the Kilkenny minor camogie panel which won the Leinster title and beat Antrim in the All-Ireland semi-final after the sides had drawn in Casement Park, Belfast. Kilkenny lost out to Tipperary in the All-Ireland Final which was played in Holycross.

Ann Marie Ryall and Pauline Comerford were members of the Kilkenny Under-14 camogie team which defeated Offaly but lost to Wexford and Dublin.

The senior camogie team took part in the Kilmacud-Crokes 7-a-side tournament on the eve of the All-Ireland Senior camogie final. They defeated Clane (Kildare) and St. Ibar's (Wexford) but lost out to Na Fianna (Dublin) by one point (3-1 to 2-3) after they had protested that they scored a goal which was not flagged. The umpire in question was unsure. Nevertheless it was an enjoyable day and if the full team had been available, it was not beyond their capabilities to win the event. Roll on 1993.

The club suffered a sad loss when their No. 1 supporter 'Granny' Comerford died suddenly. She had attended a camogie game in Shipton but passed away suddenly later that night. She never missed a game at any level. May she rest in peace. Another sad bereavement was the death of Jack Lyons. Jack was another great supporter. His daughter Bernadette played with the club for a few years. His wife Mona is also a wonderful supporter. The club was grieved by the death of such a staunch supporter. May he rest in peace.

Congratulations to Breda Cahill on her marriage during the year. We hope to welcome back Breda to our playing ranks during 1993.

FIRST WIN FOR URLINGFORD



EMERALDS, URLINGFORD – Camogie County Champions 1992

Back row (left to right) – Elaine Fox, Claire Doyle, Audrey Butler, Angela Fogarty (captain), Marie Darcy, Maura Brennan, Henry O'Grady (trainer). Front row (left to right) – Chrissy Hughes, Sheila Doyle, Eileen Healy, Aoife Coughlan, Kay Lyng, Catherine Breen.

FRIDAY, 26th June, will long be remembered in Urlingford as the date when the school camogie team won their first Roinn C county title. In the final the opponents were Piltown. Earlier Galmoy, O'Loughlin's, Gaelscoil, St. Canice's and Lisdowney were beaten.

The match was played in Dicksboro. Both teams earlier went to St. James's Park, only to discover that the venue was unavailable. Urlingford were quickly into their stride and from early on it was evident they had the stronger side. A point from Audrey Butler was followed goals from Angela Fogarty (2), Catherine Breen and Chrissy Hughes. Another point from Angela Fogarty left Urlingford winners by 4-2 to 0-1.

There were ecstatic scenes at the end of the game when the trophy was presented to winning captain Angela Fogarty. Great credit for the victory must go to team coach Henry O'Grady who did trojan work for camogie in Urlingford.

Panel of players – Angela Fogarty, Marie Darcy, Audrey Butler, Claire Doyle, Christina Hughes, Eileen Healy, Aoife Coughlan, Maura Brennan, Elaine Fox, Sheila Doyle, Catherine Breen, Kay Lyng, Elaine Bowden, Brenda Cleere, Jean Costello, Dolores Lanigan, Aoife Phelan, Suzanne Stapleton, Tina Breen, Sarah O'Gorman.

A YEAR OF PROGRESS

GLENMORE Camogie club has been up and running since 1989. The club has done well since then. They reached the junior county final, and this year the semi-final. All was not lost. They made up for it all in the year's junior B championship by beating the Ballyhale Shamrocks. It was a great win, and will be remembered by everyone.

The players have been improving each year. Maybe in the future the club can add some more players to the county team. At the moment Glenmore have two excellent players, Joan Aylward and Bridget Mullally, playing their part.

In the junior B championship, Glenmore beat Carrickshock, Clara and Shamrocks in the final.

Players on Junior B team: M. Doherty, B. Murphy (capt.), K. Phelan, M. Hanrahan, J. Aylward, E. Drohan, M.H. Doherty, M. Murphy, B. Mullally, V. Boyle, C. Dollard, A. Garvey. Subs: A. Boyle, C. Hennessy, M. Walsh, S. Hennessy, E. Doherty.

The minor players are still young, and are gradually making their way up the ladder. One of the club players jetted off to America to work. She was wished the best of Luck. Marie Emmet was also part of the team.

The trainers were Paddy Murphy and Willie Mullally. Selectors were Maureen Murphy and P.J. O'Connor.



Back Row (l-r): A. Walsh, E. Drohan, K. Phelan, B. Mullally, J. Aylward, M. Doherty, S. Boyle, M. Hanrahan, E. Doherty, A. Boyle, C. Hennessy. Front Row: C. Dollard, M. Murphy, A. Garvey, B. Murphy (capt.), M.H. Doherty, V. Boyle, C. Dollard, H. Murphy (Mascot).

St. Lachtain's Camogie Club

HAVING won all the Roinn A under-age titles in 1991, the year of the "clean-sweep", St. Lachtain's were obviously under more pressure than usual to retain their titles this year. Of those five titles, three have already been retained, one has been lost, while the fifth – the under-21 – is still to be decided.

The Scoil Lachtáin team set the scene for the year by holding on to the Primary Schools' Roinn A championship when they beat Mullinavat in the final by 5-2 to 0-0. They also won the Seven-a-side competition for the second year in a row, beating Clara in the final by 3-2 to 0-1. Arising from that, Scoil Lachtáin had the unique distinction of having four girls qualify for the mini-sevens exhibition games held in Páirc an Chrócaigh on the day of the All-Ireland semi-finals and All-Ireland Final day itself.

Our Under-14s were unbeaten in local competition since 1987. Once again they progressed to the Co. Final where they met Clara. A close, exciting game saw Lady Luck at last favouring Clara who held out for a well-deserved one goal victory.

A week previously St. Lachtain's used up all their luck when the Under-16s retained their title for the fourth year in a row by beating Clara 1-2 to 0-2 in their final. This game was noted for an incredible exhibition of goalkeeping by Kathleen Ryan.

The Under-18s won their fifth title in a row when they had a comprehensive victory over Lisdowney by 5-7 to 1-2.

The Under-21s are still involved in the championship. The Seniors reached the



▶
Emma Fitzpatrick, Mary Carmel Ryan, Mairead Costelloe and Claire Dermody represented Scoil Lachtain in the mini-sevens exhibition games in Croke Park on All-Ireland semi-final and All-Ireland Final Day.

County semi-final but failed to fulfil their potential and went out to neighbours Lisdowney.

Once again St. Lachtain's provided the captain of the Co. Minor camogie team. Sinéad Costelloe had the honour of leading Kilkenny to their fifth All-Ireland final in a row. This time there was no joy, however, as Tipperary inflicted a heavy defeat by 4-9 to 1-3. Also representing Freshford were Kathleen Ryan, Margaret Kavanagh, Fiona Connery and Patricia Dalton. Kathleen Ryan

saved Kilkenny from a more embarrassing defeat that day with another marvellous goal-keeping display.

Kilkenny Juniors embarked on the Leinster championship campaign as complete underdogs. Kilkenny hadn't won the trophy since 1960. With club representatives Maura Costelloe and Sheila Dowling at the help as team-trainers, they put in a great amount of work and brought back the Leinster Junior championship for the first time in 32 years. St. Lachtain's had eight on the panel: Helen



SCOIL LACHTÁIN, FRESHFORD – Primary Schools' Roinn 'A' Camogie Champions 1992

Back row: Pauline Butler, Marie Fitzpatrick, Pamela Byrne, Julie Ryan, Kelly Long, Claire Dermody, Claire Burke, Emma Fitzpatrick. Front row: Breda Wall, Orla Mullan, Mairead Costelloe, Mary Carmel Ryan (Captain), Shiela Dalton, Emma Watson, Sinead Shortt, Ann Marie Delaney.



ST. LACHTAIN'S (Freshford) – Under-18 Camogie Champions 1992

Back row: Sinead Costelloe, Margaret Hickey, Paula Dowling, Caroline Muldowney, Ann Wall, Sinead Butler, Breda Dooley, Imelda Kennedy. Front row: Margaret Kavanagh, Hilda Butler, Margaret Dooley, Kathleen Ryan, Kathleen Dooley (Captain), Patricia Dalton, Ann Marie Butler, Fiona Connerly.

McGrath, Paula Dowling, Esther Kennedy, Sinéad Costelloe, Margaret Hickey, Maura Costelloe, Imelda Kennedy, Hilda Butler. This team bowed out of the campaign at the All-Ireland semi-final stage when losing to Tipperary, who were later crowned All-Ireland champions. Kilkenny's achievement can be measured against the fact that this was Tipp's first team which next year will perform in the senior championship.

Gillian Dillon played with Kilkenny Seniors, who were beaten by Cork in the All-Ireland semi-final. Gillian also played on the Leinster senior team beaten by Munster in the Provincial final. Representing Kilkenny on the Leinster Junior team were Maura Costelloe and Paula Dowling. They were beaten by Connacht.

One notable event concerning camogie in Kilkenny this year took place on Páirc Lachtáin. The first official 15-a-side game involving a Kilkenny team was the first round of the new National Junior Camogie League played in October against Offaly.

That history-making Kilkenny team was: Helen McGrath, Esther Kennedy, Paula Dowling, Elizabeth Dowling, Margaret Hickey, Sinéad Costelloe, Paula Dowling, Elizabeth Dowling, Margaret Hickey, Sinéad Costelloe, Joan Aylward, Kay Dunphy, Marie Maher, Hilda Butler, Maura Costelloe, Mary McGrath, Dolores Lanigan, Margaret Comerford, Imelda Kennedy, Brenda Maher, Kathleen Dooley.

The eighth holder of the Cumann Lachtáin Shield – the club's own under-13 competition – is Julie Ryan.



Breda Dooley, St. Lachtain's Camogie Club, Freshford, who represented Kilkenny in the Skills Competition at the All-Ireland finals of Féile na nGael held in Galway this year.

CASTLECOMER CAMOGIE CLUB

CASTLECOMER Camogie Club had a very successful year under the guidance of Ted Browne and his able managers, Raymond Hurley and Jason Dunne.

The Castlecomer club has been developing for a number of years. In 1989 Ted took over as trainer, entering two teams in the local competitions – Under-14 and Under-16. His hard work finally came to fruition this year with a great win in the Under-16 Roinn B championship. Castlecomer won their zone by defeating James Stephens, Dicksboro, and St. Brigid's (Ballycallan). This brought them through to a semi-final meeting with Mullinavat. An impressive display by the team in this game left no-one in doubt that they would be tough opponents for the Shamrocks in the County Final.

The Southerners dictated matters in the first half of the final and by the interval had built up a commanding seven point lead. An improved display by Castlecomer in the second half saw the team gradually pull back the Shamrocks' lead and in the end a draw was probably a fair result.

The replay was a completely different game with Castlecomer dominating from start to finish winning by an impressive 22 point margin. It was a great display from the Castlecomer girls. Proud team captain,



CASTLECOMER U-16 – Under 16 Roinn B Camogie County Chajmpons 1992

Back: Ted Browne (Trainer), Julianne Coogan, Elaine Moylan, Noreen Boland, Mary Rose Ryan, Orla Slevin, Mary Murphy, Geraldine Brennan, Raymond Hurley (Asst. Trainer), Jason Dunne (Asst. Trainer). Front: Sandra Gleeson, Martin McGrath, Deirdre Hosey, Louise Slevin, Fran Shore, Lorna Callinan, Sharon O'Neill. Missing from photo: Ellis Dunne and Ethel O'Flynn.

Photo: T. O'Neill

Louise Slevin, accepted the cup on behalf of the team from Camogie Board Chairperson, Teresa Dillon. All the players attend Castlecomer Community School and come from Castlecomer and the surrounding parishes.

Team: Louise Slevin (Capt.), Julianne Coogan, Noreen Boland, Fran Shore, Mary Rose Ryan, Deirdre Hosey, Sharon O'Neill, Sandra Gleeson, Elaine Moylan, Mary Murphy, Maggie Walsh, Martin McGrath, Lorna Callinan, Orla Slevin.

"FLO-JO" TO LEAD THE 'CATS'



NEXT year there will be a new captain of the Kilkenny senior camogie team. Marina Downey has been nominated by her club, Lisdowney, the county champions.

This is what the 23-year-old Avonmore employee has dreamed of since she first caught a camán in her hand. She didn't always think it would come true. At one time she couldn't even visualise her club participating in the senior championship, let alone winning it.

She looked back fondly to the days when Mary Moylan and John Phelan transported 16 or 18 girls to matches. They would celebrate on the way home if they were lucky enough to score. In 1982 she won the Féile na nGael skills competition in Kilkenny and was fourth in the national finals. Later she represented the county at under-14 and under-16 level. By that time her club started winning championships. She has now bagged medals at under-18, under-21, junior and senior level.

To date Marina has captained the Kilkenny junior team and has been on the senior side for the past five years. She won four Leinster, four All-Ireland and three National League medals. She won one Gael Linn inter-provincial with Leinster. She was captain of this year's team which lost to Munster.

Name: MARINA DOWNEY

Date of Birth: 28-5-1969.

Club: Lisdowney.

Occupation: Clerical worker in Avonmore.

Achievements: Four All-Ireland senior medals, three League medals, two Gael Linn medals, one senior club championship medal, numerous under-age medals.

Greatest disappointment with county team: Being substituted and losing to Cork in this year's All-Ireland semi-final.

Most memorable game: 1991 All-Ireland Final against Cork.

Favourite food: Chicken, salads, chips, mayonnaise.

Likes: Sports, music, dancing, socialising.

Dislikes: Not enough publicity given to ladies' sports.

Person she would most like to meet: Axel Rose.

Marina is a versatile player, known for her speed, fast pick-up and ability to shoot scores from acute angles, left or right. She has distinguished herself as a midfielder or forward. Senior team trainer Tom Ryan refers to Marina as "Flo Jo" because of those attributes and her ability to lose her marker.

All were seen in Croke Park in 1991 when Marina, oozing confidence, had her finest hour in the Black and Amber. She tore the hearts out of Cork and Joe McGrath with her menacing runs up the left flank. She laid off the balls at the right moment and set up her colleagues for numerous scores.

Let's hope Kilkenny and Marina will grace Croke Park in 1993. Hopefully, Marina will make history and become the first Lisdowney camogie club woman to climb the Hogan Stand steps to receive the O'Duffy Cup.

For her development as a player Marina Downey pays tribute to many people — John Phelan, Tom Ryan and Noel Barnaville in recent years; Jimmy and Billy Fogarty all throughout her career; her grandmother, whose love for the game never ceases; her mother, Carmel, who has been behind her from the start; her family and friends for their continued support.

At present, Marina is chairperson and joint P.R.O. of Lisdowney camogie club, where she has been involved in an official capacity for the last seven years. No doubt, all her leadership qualities will be of immense value during 1993. Marina has experienced the two sides of camogie. Win or lose, Kilkenny will have a worthy captain in Marina Downey.

PLAYER PROFILE

Marie Peggy Fitzpatrick

Name: MARIE PEGGY FITZPATRICK

Date of birth: 5-4-1967.

Club: Ballycallan.

Occupation: Secretary to Mr. John O'Shea, M.D. Iverk Products.

Achievements: Seven senior All-Irelands, four League medals, one junior Gael Linn, four senior Gael Linn, All-Ireland skills 1980.

Greatest disappointment with county team: Losing All-Ireland semi-final to Cork this year, 1992.

Most memorable game: 1990 All-Ireland final.

Favourite food: Steak, chicken, strawberry cheese cake, all fruit and veg.

Likes: Swimming, squash, training, eating out.

Dislikes: Walking, running, someone hitting the ball too hard at her, alcohol, dieting.

Person she would most like to meet: Tom Cruise.

Wishes for '93: (1) Win League, Leinster and All-Ireland '93; (2) play full-forward against Cork for about 15 minutes (providing it was the same as last year); (3) run the Dublin City Marathon.





SHY BUT STRONG LEADER

AFTER a season in virtual obscurity as far as the Kilkenny senior camogie team was concerned, talented Ballycallan girl Deirdre Malone is hoping to lead her charges to victory in the final game this year.

The Leinster final still has to be played. Hopes are high Kilkenny can salvage something from what has been the leanest year for senior camogie in some time.

From her earliest days with Kilkenny, there was always the hope that the shy Ballycallan girl would mature into a good

player. Nobody envisaged she would quickly become a major influence in the development of the game in Kilkenny. Her name has become synonymous with camogie.

Deirdre has applied herself to the game diligently. This year she has played some of her finest games in the Kilkenny colours. In some ways it was a peculiar year for the ladies. A case of so near and yet so far. They were involved in some thrilling games, but rarely did individuals shine.

Deirdre's job wasn't made easy by the absence of Angela Downey. But Deirdre will do everything in her power to capture the Leinster crown that Kilkenny lost last year.

Name: DEIRDRE MALONE

Date of Birth: 26-6-1965.

Club: Ballycallan.

Occupation: Self-employed.

Achievements: Eight All-Ireland senior medals, five League medals; two Gael Linn medals, one senior county league medal, one senior county championship medal, numerous under-age championship medals.

Greatest disappointment with county team: Losing to Cork this year in semi-final.

Most memorable game: 1988 All-Ireland Final against Cork.

Favourite food: Salads and chicken.

Likes: Sports, crafts, music.

Dislikes: People who give opinions on girls playing camogie and have never been to a camogie match . . . and beans!

Person she would most like to meet: Andre Agassi.

Wishes for 1993: Kilkenny to win both camogie and hurling finals in 1993.

LORETO SECONDARY SCHOOL – Colleges' Camogie 7-a-side Leinster Champions 1992



The Loreto Secondary School gained a small measure of compensation for their defeats in the Leinster Colleges Camogie Senior and Junior Finals when their 7-a-side team defeated Castlecomer C.S., Presentation S.S. and Thomastown V.S. to win their first title in this grade.

Cantwell's miracles land title for James Stephens

ARNRÓD ÉIREANN were the gracious sponsors of the Minor Hurling Championship for the first time and what an exciting championship it turned out to be. Some top class hurling was the order of the day as clubs North and South set out in quest of the cup.

Graignamanagh/Blacks & Whites blazed an impressive trail through the South, collecting the “scalps” of Thomastown and Mooncoin on the way. They beat Thomastown by 4-19 to 1-4. Next to fall were the Mooncoin lads on a score of 0-11 to 1-4, the match being a lot easier than the score would suggest for the Graig lads.

In contrast, James Stephens had a far tougher campaign in the North. They had a narrow win over Craigue/Ballycallan – 1-12 to 1-10. This was a classic hurling match in every sense, with fortune favouring either side in a evenly contested game. In the end the city lads just



“Up The Village!” . . . James Stephens captain Clive Kenny shows his delight after receiving the Minor County Championship trophy. (Photos: Tom Brett)

Bentley's night Club

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Congratulations to all the Kilkenny lads.



GRAIGNAMANAGH/BLACKS & WHITES – MINOR HURLING COUNTY FINALISTS 1992

Front row – Declan Maher, Patrick Ryan, Jarlath Bolger, Fran Doyle, Alan Morrissey, Michael Ryan, Ger Walsh. Back row – Cian Fogarty, Leo Bolger, Patrick Hayden, Ken Walsh, Henry Roberts (capt.), John Brett, David O'Neill, John Flood.

(Photo: Tom Brett)

about deserved to take the spoils. In another brilliant match the "Stephens" just edged out their city neighbours by 2-9 to 2-7.

St. Lachtain's from Freshford were "burning grass" on their side of the Northern championship. They had a terrific win over the Fenians of Johnstown on a score of 2-12 to 1-12. They recorded the same score against Erin's Own from Castlecomer who replied with 1-8. And so it was to the Northern final. In a good

game St. Lachtain's had to give best to the lads from the city, losing by 1-17 to 2-7.

For the third year running the stage was set for a James Stephens versus Graignamanagh/Blacks & Whites county final. Customary to tradition, the game preceded the senior hurling final between Glenmore and Tullaroan.

In ideal conditions, the match was one of the best contests seen in this competition for many a long day. From the outset Graignamanagh/Blacks &

Whites took the initiative and played superb hurling which caused untold trouble for the "Stephens".

Gradually the city lads asserted themselves but they still found themselves four points down coming into the last furlong. Miraculously they clawed their way back and a goal on the call of full time by Stephen Drennan earned them a chance of another "rap" at the Graig lads.

Did the Graignamanagh/Blacks & Whites miss the boat? Only time would yield the answer to that conundrum. The replay was set for the following Sunday, again in Nowlan Park and again with competent Pat Dunphy on the *feadóig*.

If the first match was excellent the replay was no less exhilarating and it provided an abundance of thrills and excitement for a big crowd. However, the roles were reversed as James Stephens raced into a 1-3 to 0-1 lead in the first ten minutes. This time the "Graig" men had to "get on their bikes". Clive Kenny, Shane Doyle, Peter Barry, Liam Smith and Derek Kerwick were hurling out of their skins in a first half that saw The Village go in at half-time leading by 1-4 to 0-3. Four minutes after the restart they added another goal, compliments of Fergal Cantwell.

This surely should have sealed the fate of the Graig men. But they are made of stout stuff down on the banks of the Barrow. Henry Roberts, John Flood, Fran Doyle and Michael Ryan led the Graig recovery. But for Francis Cantwell in the

"Man of the Match"... Graignamanagh/Blacks & Whites player Fran Doyle received some consolation for his side's defeat against James Stephens when he was selected for the *Iarnród Éireann* "Man of the Match" award. Making the presentation is Frank Hogan, Marketing Manager, *Iarnród Éireann*.

(Photos: Tom Brett)



'Stephens' goal it's debatable whether the cup would have ended up city-side. Cantwell performed miracles between the sticks. The Village did manage to weather the storm and two points from play late in the game enabled the city side to run out winners by 2-9 to 1-9.

In addition to those already mentioned, Vinny O'Brien – who had brilliant games on both days – Kevin Grogan and Conor Cleere positively "glistened" for James Stephens, while for the "Craig" lads, in addition to those aforementioned, Ken Walsh, Jarlath Bolger, Alan Morrissey and Liam Fogarty were superb.

The **James Stephens** panel was as follows: Francis Cantwell, Conor O'Dwyer, Conor Cleere, Brian Dooley, Vincent O'Brien, Shane Doyle, Peter Barry, Clive Kenny, Kevin Grogan, Robert Kearney, Liam Smith, Brian McEvoy, Fergal Cantwell, Derek Kerwick, Stephen Drennan.

The **Graignamanagh/Blacks & Whites** panel was: David O'Neill, John Brett, Henry Roberts, John Flood, Patrick Hayden, Ken Walsh, Liam Fogarty, Ger Walsh, Jarlath Bolger, Declan Maher, Leo Bolger, Michael Ryan, Patrick Ryan, Frank Doyle, Alan Morrissey.

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MINOR HURLING LEAGUE

Lisdowney deprive Glenmore of minor double

LISDOWNEY deprived Glenmore of a double when they came from behind to score a 2-4 to 0-9 win in the Minor Hurling League Roinn B. Played in atrocious conditions of rain and wind, the game produced a great second half and finished in a welter of excitement.

Ollie Blanchfield, who kept a great goal for fifty minute, moved outfield and scored 1-2 to snatch a dramatic win. Glenmore led by 0-5 to 0-0 at the interval and were ahead by 0-7 to 0-0 before Lisdowney got their first score in the 35th minute.

A Pat Phelan goal gave hope to Lisdowney and then came that closing

ten minutes to come from five points behind to win by one.

In addition to Ollie Blanchfield, the winners had good players in P. J. Kenny, Declan Fitzpatrick, Mark Dunphy, Tony Moore, Richard Mackey and John Moore who made a great save in the last minute.

Glenmore's best were Ciarán Lynch, Richie Mullally, Liam Vereker, Paddy Mullally, Mark Mullally who was a big loss when he had to go off, and John Phelan.

THE TEAMS AND SCORERS

Lisdowney – Ollie Blanchfield (1-2), Niall Kennedy, P. J. Kenny, John Dooley, John

Dowling, Declan Fitzpatrick, Joseph Nolan, Mark Dunphy (0-1), Tony Moore, Donal Fitzpatrick, Richard Mackey (0-1), Vivian Mullally, Pat Phelan (1-0), Colm Dunphy, John Moore.

Glenmore – Willie Fitzgerald, Brian O'Shea, Ciarán Lynch, Thomas Barry, Richie Mullally, Liam Vereker, Paddy Mullally, Mark Mullally (0-4), Martin Dowling, Kenneth Cotterell, John Phelan (0-3), Dominic Fitzgerald (0-1), Paul Fitzgerald, Donal Dowling, Noel Doherty. *Subs* – Fergal Freyne (0-1), Declan Cody.

Referee – Paddy Neary (James Stephens).



BARROW RANGERS – Northern Special 'B' Junior Hurling Champions

Front row (l.-r.): P. Maher, O. O'Neill, T. Staunton, M. Medlar, P. Doyle, J. Meaney, L. Gittens, J. Meaney, M. Healy. Back row (l.-r.): W. Hanlon, P. Brennan, M. Doyle, M. Barcoe, W. Murphy, S. Brennan, M. Carpenter, J. O'Neill, J. Hanlon, J. Drennan, S. McDonald, J. Barcoe.

MINOR HURLING ROINN A LEAGUE

Graigue-Ballycallan retain John Tobin Cup

GRAIGUE-BALLYCALLAN won the Roinn A Minor Hurling League and with it the John Tobin Memorial Cup for the fifth time in six years when they defeated Graiguenamanagh/Blacks & Whites in a great final in Bennettsbridge on a 3-5 to 1-5 scoreline. It was a galling defeat for the losers as they have now lost three championship finals and three league finals over the past three years.

The winners got a great start when they led by 1-1 to 0-0 after seven minutes. Graigue-Ballycallan had a player sent to the line in the eighth minute and it looked good for the losers. Playing with the breeze, Graigue-Ballycallan led by 1-4 to 0-3 at the interval and when Graiguenamanagh/Blacks & Whites levelled the scores at 1-4 each four minutes into the new half it looked as if they were on the road to victory.

The Graigue-Ballycallan defence, with Pat Comerford having a stormer, stood up to tremendous pressure and when Damien Cleere flighted a long ball into the square, Sean Byrne broke the ball to Eamonn Marnell who whipped home his second goal. The losers tried desperately to get back into the game but Philip Butler in goal, Paddy Dwyer, Paul Ronan and emergency corner-back Michael Quirke held firm, and when Denis Butler, under pressure, kicked a point the winners, playing with spirit and determination, were not going to lose.

Sean Byrne finally closed the door on the losers when he goaled in the 46th minute. Denis Byrne had a penalty saved



GRAIGUE/BALLYCALLAN – Roinn A Minor Hurling League Champions 1992

Back row (left to right) – P. G. Hogan, Sean Dermody, Dermot Ronan, Damien Cleere, Philip Cody, Eamonn Marnell, Gerard Ronan, Paul Ronan, Thomas Dermody, Pat Comerford, Johnny Butler, Eddie O'Dwyer (injured in All-Ireland semi-final replay). **Front row (left to right)** – Paul Hoyne, Tommy Manogue, Philip Butler, James Young, John Manogue, Patrick O'Dwyer, Denis Byrne (captain), Sean Byrne, Michael Quirke, Alan Hoyne. Missing from photograph: Nicholas Teehan.

in the last minute and Graiguenamanagh/Blacks & Whites came down the field to force a penalty at the other end. Fran Doyle's well-struck shot was deflected over the bar.

The two heroes for the winners were Pat Comerford and Eamonn Marnell. Others to do well were Paddy Dwyer, John Manogue, Ger Ronan, who struck a lot of ball, James Young, Damien Cleere – a class player – and Denis Byrne.

For the losers Declan Maher did well in goal, Barry Ryan, Henry Roberts, Sean Kealy, Ger Walsh, Michael Ryan, Leo Bolger and Fran Doyle did best.

TEAMS AND SCORERS

Graigue-Ballycallan – Philip Butler, Alan Hoyne, Paddy Dwyer, Paul Ronan, Pat Comerford, Johnny Butler, John Manogue, James Young, Ger Ronan, Damien Cleere (0-2), Denis Byrne (0-2), Eamonn Marnell (2-1), Thomas Dermody, Sean Byrne (1-0), Michael Quirke.

Graiguenamanagh/Blacks & Whites – Declan Maher (0-1), John Brett, Ken Walsh, John Flood, Barry Ryan, Henry Roberts, Sean Kealy, Ger Walsh, Patrick Hayden, Alan Morrissey, Michael Ryan (0-4), Liam Fogarty, Leo Bolger (1-0), Fran Doyle (1-0), Shane Corbett.

Referee – Paddy Neary (James Stephens).

MINOR HURLING ROINN C LEAGUE

League win for Mullinavat

TULLOGHER-ROSBERCON just lost out on completing the minor hurling double when they lost to Mullinavat in the Roinn C League final which was played in Piltown. Mullinavat had a big semi-final victory over Tullaroan, while Tullogher-Rosbercon were impressive winners over Emeralds.

Mullinavat, fielding a number of players who won the Under-16 Roinn C hurling championship made amends for their championship defeat by Tullogher-Rosbercon. Star of the show as Raymond Carroll

who scored all but one point of his side's total. The goal came from a penalty, while three points came from frees and five from play. Also to the fore for the winners were Derek Duggan, Willie Atkins, Brian Conway, who kept a clean sheet in goal, John Butler, Pat Roughan and John Geary.

The losers best players were Thomas Healy, Enda Cummins, Mark Malone, Martin Bookle and Eamonn Ryan.

TEAMS

Mullinavat – Brian Conway, Eamonn Aylward, John Butler, Patrick Aylward,

Maurice Murphy, Pat Roughan, Maurice Holden, John O'Keeffe, Willie Atkins, Brendan Conway, Raymond Walsh, Derek Duggan, Oliver Aylward, John Geary, Raymond Carroll.

Tullogher-Rosbercon – Thomas Healy, John Ryan, Enda Cummins, Enda Malone, John Foley, Mark Malone, Ray Roche, Colm Phelan, Martin Bookle, Edmund Hanrahan, Eamonn Ryan, James Lyng, Kevin Deegan, Pat Phelan, Paul Kiilty.

Glenmore minors complete great year for their club

GLENMORE minor hurlers completed a great year for the club when they swept to victory in the Roinn B Minor Hurling Championship. Having won the senior championship, they also won three under-16 titles – Under-16 Roinn B hurling championship, Under-16 Roinn B hurling league and the Under-16 Roinn B football league. They are also odds-on favourites to add the Under-16 Roinn B football championship to their impressive tally for 1992.

Like the A grade, this year's Roinn B championship produced a lot of close games. Indeed, it was a goal by John Phelan in the last minute which gave Glenmore victory over Conahy Shamrocks in an exciting final.

Lisdowney and Clara set the trend in the first round with Lisdowney coming through by 2-8 to 2-6. St. Patrick's (Ballyragget) and Barrow Boys played a draw on a scoreline of 0-6 to 1-3. Unfortunately for Barrow Rangers, their two outstanding county minors, Dermot Maher, who missed both games, and Ned Drea, who received a broken arm in the drawn game and was out of the replay, resulted in Barrow Rangers conceding a walk-over. In the only one-sided game, Conahy Shamrocks defeated St. Martin's by 6-16 to 2-5.

O'Loughlin Gaels, who came down from the A Grade, beat Young Irelands, also down from the A Grade, by 2-11 to 2-3. Both Northern semi-finals were decided by one-goal margins. Lisdowney beat near neighbours St. Patrick's (Ballyragget) by 2-10 to 1-10 while Conahy Shamrocks saw off the challenge of O'Loughlin Gaels by 1-7 to 1-4. Conahy Shamrocks retained

their Northern crown when they beat Lisdowney by 1-8 to 0-6.

The Rower Inistioge, who were favourites for the title, having won the Under-16 Hurling League Roinn B two years ago, had an easy win over Ballyhale Shamrocks in the Southern semi-final, while Glenmore easily accounted for John Lockes. Glenmore came from behind to beat the Rower-Inistioge in the Southern final by 1-10 to 1-7.

Conahy Shamrocks suffered a triple setback before the county final, missing Ciaran Connery who could not gain his release from the Army Cadet School; Kenny Dooley and John Hurley, both of whom were injured. The final was a dull game for three-quarters of an hour with Conahy Shamrocks looking like making amends for last year's loss to Dunnamaggin. After an even first half it was a Seamus Comerford opportunist goal which gave Conahy an interval lead of 1-3 to 0-3.

When Ciaran Muldowney from a free and Seamus Comerford again goaled following a fine save by Willie Fitzgerald, Conahy Shamrocks looked on the way to victory, leading 3-2 to 0-3. During the next fifteen minutes Glenmore, powered on by the fine hurling of Paddy Mullally who won the Iarnród Éireann Man of the Match award, Dominic Fitzgerald, Martin Dowling, Billy Vereker and substitutes Fergal Freyne and Thomas Barry, the Southern side added three points to leave just five points between the sides.

Then seven minutes from time came the vital score of the game when Noel Doherty, who had looked dangerous all through, crashed home a goal for

Glenmore. The match was now top class as Glenmore came looking for an equalising point. However, right on the stroke of time came the winning goal. John Phelan, although closely marked, got enough room to power a low drive into the corner of the net for that vital goal, leaving the final score Glenmore 2-7, Conahy Shamrocks 3-2.

In addition to those already mentioned, Glenmore had a fine goalkeeper in Willie Fitzgerald while Mark Mullally, Kenneth Cottrell and Noel Doherty were prominent in the victory.

It was a cruel blow for the North Kilkenny club who looked likely winners for twenty minutes of the second half. They had an outstanding goalie in Pdraig Downey. Others to play well were Tom Brennan, David Muldowney, who had a great second half, Shane Mulhall in the early stages, Ciaran Muldowney and two-goal Seamus Comerford.

TEAMS AND SCORERS

Glenmore – Willie Fitzgerald, Brian O'Shea, Ciaran Lynch, Donie Doherty, Paul Fitzgerald, Billy Vereker, Paddy Mullally, Dominic Fitzgerald, Martin Dowling (0-1), Ken Cottrell, John Phelan (1-1), Mark Mullally (0-3), Fintan Walsh, Eamonn Aylward, Noel Doherty (1-2). *Subs:* Fergal Freyne and Thomas Barry.

Conahy Shamrocks – Pdraig Downey, Willie Conroy, Paul Byrne, Declan Buggy, David Muldowney, Tom Brennan, Eddie Moloney, Brian Buggy, Shane Mulhall, Willie Lawless, Ciaran Muldowney (1-2), Noel Bourke, Seamus Comerford (2-0), Edward Comerford, Paul Nolan. *Sub:* Thomas Buggy.

Referee: Christy Whelan (Dunnamaggin).



GLENMORE – Roinn 'B' Minor Hurling Championship Winners.

Back row: Donie Dowling, Brian O'Shea, Fintan Walshe, Martin Dowling, Kenneth Cottrell, John Phelan, Billy Vereker. Front row: Willie Fitzgerald, Paul Fitzgerald, Dominic Fitzgerald, Ciaran Lynch, Mark Mullally, Noel Doherty, Paddy Mullally, Eamonn Aylward.

CLOSE WIN FOR TULLOGHER-ROSBERCON

ANOTHER club completing a great year when they won the Roinn C Minor Hurling Championship was Tullogher-Rosbercon who had already won the Junior Hurling Championship and the Under-14 Roinn C Hurling Championship titles.

Mullinavat defeated Windgap in the first round of the championship but lost out to Tullogher-Rosbercon in the South semi-final. Carrickshock created a surprise when they eliminated Slieverue by 2-9 to 1-7. The South final was an easy win for Tullogher-Rosbercon who romped to victory over Carrickshock by 2-6 to 0-3.

The first round of the Northern championship threw up some very close games. Cloneen did not field against James Stephens II while Bennettsbridge ousted the No. 2 team from Dicksboro by 2-5 to 2-4. Galmoy had a deserved win over the Emeralds with Alvaro Duggan scoring a good goal.

Tullaroan had one-point to spare over Danesfort on a score of 2-9 to 3-5. In the Northern semi-finals Galmoy got the better of Tullaroan (2-14 to 2-11) while James Stephens II beat Bennettsbridge. In the Northern final Galmoy had a comfortable victory over the city side with a final score of 4-12 to 0-5.

The county final resulted in a great game and belied its Roinn C rating with some great passages of hurling. Tullogher-Rosbercon withstood a great last quarter rally by Galmoy to hold out for a 2-5 to 1-7 victory. Tullogher-Rosbercon, thanks to a Paul Kiely goal in the 28th minute, led by 1-2 to 0-3 at the interval. They nearly drove their supporters to despair in that period with a succession of wides.

Following a mistake by the Galmoy goalie Paul Morrissey, who stopped a ball going wide and had his clearance blocked down, Pat Phelan scored his side's second goal, leaving the winners ahead by 2-5 to 0-4. Then the Galmoy selectors made the move that almost brought them a division of the spoils. They brought Morrissey from goal to midfield with Declan Fitzpatrick taking over in goal. Morrissey began to give his team more of the play and when Liam Corcoran goaled the fat was in the fire. The North Kilkenny side edged closer point by point but just missed out when the referee blew the whistle.

Enda Cummins at full-back won the Iarnród Éireann sponsored 'Man of the Match' award with a faultless display for the winners. John Ryan, Enda Malone and Mark Malone stood out in defence. Martin

Bookle, who had also played in the junior victory, did well at centre-field. Best of the forwards were Edmund Hanrahan, Eamonn Ryan and Kevin Deegan.

Paul Morrissey for Galmoy made one fantastic save in the second half to atone for his mistake and almost won the match when he moved to midfield. In corner-back Enda Doherty they had one of the best players on view. Leo Doherty and Brian Lonergan also did well in defence. Philip Brennan was impressive at midfield. Kevin Lonergan and Brendan Ryan were best in attack.

TEAMS AND SCORERS

Tullogher-Rosbercon – Thomas Healy, John Ryan, Enda Cummins, Enda Malone, John Foley, Mark Malone, Ray Roche, Colm Phelan, Martin Booke (0-2), Edmund Hanrahan (0-2), Eamonn Ryan, James Lyng, Kevin Deegan, Pat Phelan (1-0), Paul Kiely (1-0). *Sub:* Colm O'Leary (0-1).

Galmoy – Paul Morrissey, Leo Doherty, John Phelan, Shane Doherty, David Delaney, Brian Lonergan, Sean Doherty, Declan Fitzpatrick, Philip Brennan (0-5), Philip Butler, Kieran Lonergan (0-1), Brendan Ryan (0-1), Joe Doyle, Liam Corcoran (1-0), Rory Moore.

Referee: Liam Dewberry (Dicksboro).

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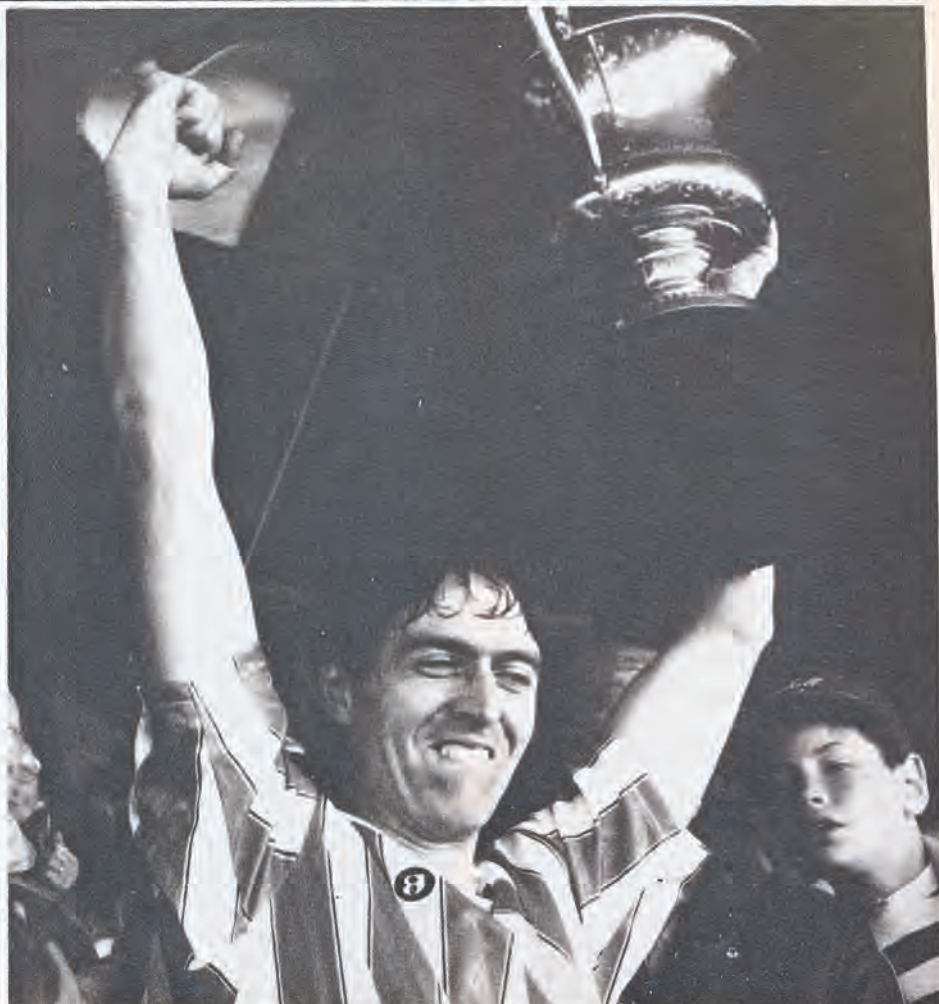
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'Irelands win has lessons for all

By:

JOHN KNOX

"Kilkenny People"



John Brennan, Captain of Young Irelands (Gowran) is a happy man following his team's impressive win over Conahy Shamrocks in the Vale Oil Intermediate Final. Photo: Tom Brett

FOR THOSE who wanted to learn, there were lessons for all who took an interest or watched Young Irelands (Gowran) victory in the Vale Oil Intermediate Hurling Championship. The reminder for players was that no matter how many knocks were endured, it was important to maintain self belief. And for club officials looking after teams, the necessity to get a settled unit as quickly as possible was heightened.

Those were the striking features after 'Irelands in the end coasted past Conahy Shamrocks (2-12 to 1-7) in the decider to gain promotion to the senior grade in 1993. Not since the mid-seventies have Gowran paraded their talents in the senior division. They make a return with a combination of players who in time, could make a huge impact.

Good enough getting there, but it has happened in the past that after striving for so long to make it, clubs found that by the time they did, their team was on the wane. Not so Young Irelands. They have a nicely balanced and youngish team, and with a reasonable crop of good players in the background they would appear to be well armed to live in the higher grade, given any sort of reasonable period to find their feet.

The pick of their crop is that hurling master, D. J. Carey. His delightful skills can only blossom in the senior grade. With parishioners of senior inter-county experience like Charlie Carter and Pat O'Neill beside him, part of the basis on which a decent team to tackle the future can be built is surely there.

BIT THE DUST

'Irelands day of glory came after a tougher fight than the finishing scoreline would suggest, and after a share of disappointments in the Intermediate Division. They reached the final of 1989, but lost to Mullinavat. Last year they were knocked back when at the door again, when Dicksboro slipped one over them and gained promotion instead.

As if that was not enough, earlier in the year 'Irelands won through to the Vale Oil Intermediate League final. Again they bit the dust. Worse than that, they got a bit of a mauling from Mooncoin. On reflection, new trainer Kevin Fennelly and fellow selectors Dick O'Neill and Michael Hayes used that competition more to try things out than anything else.

After the county final defeat of the previous year, there was considerable debate within the club that some players lost their effectiveness because of being

switched hither and thither during the campaign, and even in the county final. The 'Irelands mentors came out of the league with a fair idea of the shape of their team. They were forced to make changes en-route to claiming the title, but generally they knew what they wanted.

The county final win was achieved in part without the services of the mighty Carey. He took a knock late in the first half and was concussed. In the 54th minute, he was to be assisted from the field. He didn't know where he was, or what was going on around him.

Still, during his time he made a big contribution to the success, without ever scoring. During the opening half his use of the ball was impeccable. 'Irelands led by 1-6 to 1-4 at half-time. In virtually all instances, Carey had some say in the scores. He made the goal for Charlie Carter, and with luck, the latter might have netted once or twice more as well.

USEFUL EFFORTS

Conahy went on the offensive after the change of ends. However, a lot of good work by Gearoid Brennan, John Feehan, Kieran and Paudie Brennan came to nothing, and likewise with useful efforts from Eamon Delaney and Pat Gunner. While they all did well, Conahy's best was goalkeeper, Paul Brennan, who made at least four first class saves during the hour.

With 10 minutes remaining, the title was still up for grabs when the score stood at 1-9 (Y.I.) to 1-7. 'Irelands captain, John Brennan, who was a source of inspiration



Intermediate Hurling Final Action – Conahy's Seanie Mahony scores a first half goal for his side despite the close attention of Young Ireland's players John Kennedy and John Middleton. (Photo: Tom Brett)

The victories, the years

Conahy Shamrocks (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) – 1973.
 Shamrocks, Ballyhale/Knocktopher (1) – 1974.
 Muckalee/Ballyfoyle Rangers (1) – 1975.
 O'Loughlin/Gaels (1) – 1978.
 St. Patrick's, Ballyragget (1) – 1979.
 Glenmore (1) – 1981.
 CLara (1) – 1982.
 Thomastown (1) – 1983.
 St. Lachtain's, Freshford (1) – 1984.
 Graigue/Ballycallan (1) – 1987.
 Tullaroan (1) – 1988.
 Mullinavat (1) – 1989.
 Mooncoin (1) – 1990.
 Dicksboro (1) – 1991.
 Young Irelands, Gowran (1) – 1992.

to all around him during the afternoon, battered and battled his way through for a decisive goal.

The goal from the captain was followed by minor scores from Pat O'Neill, Charlie Carter and Brennan himself to leave courageous Conahy further behind than they deserved.

The inter-county trio certainly paid their way for 'Irelands, and Carter carried off the man of the match award. But John Brennan, who finished with 1-3 from play to his credit, was a tremendous performer too, as were wholehearted defenders, Brian Farrell, John Middleton, Pat Drea and Ciaran Phelan.

Toss Farrell had suggested earlier in the season that he was finished. How right people were to get him to change his mind. He was a valuable ace against Conahy, and when moved to partner Cathal Fitzgerald at one stage in midfield, played gloriously.

Earlier in the semi-finals, 'Irelands beat Carrickshock after a replay, and Conahy conquered the Rower-Inistioge (3-15 to 1-12). The eventual champions looked like seeing off Carrickshock the first day at Nowlan park, but a late goal from Patrick Farrell drew the match (2-11 (Y.I.) to 3-8).

In the replay, Carrickshock fell apart. They were never at the races, and were well beaten on the score 2-14 to 2-5.

NO CONTEST

In their one match before that, the quarter-final, D.J. and his lively partners saw off O'Loughlin-Gaels. This was never a contest. The city side was beaten by 2-14 to 1-5.

As mentioned, the big plus factor for 'Irelands is that they are a team of the future. If they build on the potential shown over the past three years, they won't go too far wrong, and they will have plenty more celebrating to do.

The Young Irelands team in the county final was – Martin Carey, Brian Farrell, John Kennedy, John Middleton, Patrick Farrell, Pat Drea, Ciaran Phelan, Cathal Fitzgerald, David O'Neill, Toss Farrell, Pat O'Neill, John Brennan (capt.), James Fitzgerald, D. J. Carey, Charlie Carter. Subs: James McDermot, Pat Kennedy used; Charlie Carter (snr), Tony Byrne, Jack Carey, Ciaran Carey, Tom Fenlon, Philip Twomey, Pat Lennon, Brian English, Pat Treacy.

Conahy Shamrocks: Paul Brennan, Tom Brennan, Paudie Brennan, Pat Gunner, Geoff O'Shea, Gearoid Brennan, Philip Carroll, Canice Brennan, Kieran Brennan, Eoin Murphy, Eamon Delaney, John Feehan (capt.), Seanie Cahill, Seanie Mahony, Ciaran Muldowney. Subs: Nick-ey Brennan, Liam Murphy, used; Padraig Downey, Seamus Dooley, Brian Lacey, Shane Mulhall, Kevin Heafy, Timmy Mahony, Ciaran Connery.

THE OCCASIONS clubs claim titles are marked down as definite pluses, but as there are not enough championships to go round, it does not automatically follow that the losing majority have nothing to be happy about. Sport is not as black and white as that, and the vast grey area between the winners and the rest has its own success stories.

That point won't have been lost on Conahy Shamrocks, losing Vale Oil intermediate hurling championship finalists. They went within eight minutes of claiming what would have been a famous victory. They were that close after a tough, demanding year, a championship that was far from a downer for them.

In the end, they saw the silverware edged out of their reach by a strong finishing, strong hurling Young Irelands (Cowran) team, who, it must be pointed out, were appearing in their third final in the grade in four years. The intermediate championship is a testing, difficult one to negotiate and any club who goes well in it has proved there is talent there.

By comparison with the previous year's effort, Conahy had to be reasonably happy with this championship. All season there was a keenness about their approach. Hard work on the training ground produced positive results on the field. Anyone who tangled with them, in the hurling sense, didn't escape without being made fight for every inch they gained.

Selectors Tommy Downey, Toddy Lacey and Shem Muldowney didn't make earth shattering changes from the previous year. They found the will to do something worthwhile was there among the players, and after a good start against Mooncoin – an exciting 3-13 to 3-12 win – the efforts of all simply snowballed.

If the season is to count for anything, then Conahy must endeavour to build on the gains made. They have bright young players in Ciaran Connery, Paul Brennan, Ciaran Muldowney, Canice Brennan, Tom Brennan and Seanie Cahill, who must be better for the experience of winning through to a county final.

LETHAL POTION

Added to the know-how of Kieran Brennan, Pat Gunner, Gearoid Brennan, Eamon Delaney and even Co. Board chairman, Nickey Brennan, who at 39 was able to make telling contributions this time, they appear to have the kind of mix that could be concocted into a lethal potion. An encouraging start has been made. If the right will is there, who knows what the future might hold.

Remember, Young Irelands lost two Intermediate Finals – Championship of 1991 and League of 1992 – before they feasted at the table for victors.

If there was a title going for sympathy won during the campaign, then Carrickshock would have earned it hands down. For the second successive years, they lost out in the semi-finals, this time after a replay.

*Next stop
for Conahy
is to
build on
progress
made*

One of the finest club and county men in the country, Richard Power all but burst a gut trying to make it happen for his native parish. He has not given up hope that a return to the senior grade might be on for Carrickshock before he retires. If it ever happens, the "I am delighted for Richard Power" comment will be uttered in many a quarter in Kilkenny.

The arrival of Paddy Johnston as trainer has made a difference with the 'Shock during the past two years. He has dragged a full-blooded effort from the players, and he has been getting more from Pat Dwyer, Eddie Dwyer, Patrick Farrell, Pat Power, Brian Hudson and company. They are heading in the right direction.

Barrow Rangers (Paulstown) mixed the very good with the very bad. There were times, even during the same game, when they looked like all-stars, and alternatively, like an office side. At their best, their hurling was most impressive. Ed. Drea and Dermot Maher are two exceptional prospects here. Charlie Purcell, David Holmes, Michael Doyle and Philip Maher have stacks of ability. They need to find consistency.

New trainer, Eddie Keher injected some life into his native parish team, the Rower-Inistioge. One of their best results was the day they beat Mooncoin, who only weeks earlier had won the League. But in the

championship semi-final they flopped, and didn't appear to know what they were about.

LIVELY ADDITION

Former Dublin player, Jim Lyng was a lively addition, and one would wager he was surprised by the standard of play in the competition. He was surrounded by capable performers in Tom Lyng, Liam Ryan, Edward Prendergast, Gerry Lyng and promising youngster, Richie Kelly.

John Lockes (Callan) performed more threatening than for a while. Coach Barry Henriques obviously instilled a new found belief in his charges. They started with a bang, and ran throughout Piltown (1-11 to 0-6).

They kept up a strong rhythm throughout. John Power was in the vanguard in every spirited assault, and with more from Philip Comerford, Jim Lynch, Declan Roche, in defence and attack, Kevin Coffee, Jim Lynch and Sean Hogan they ruffled a few feathers. For them the victory of the season was to learn, that with the proper attitude, they were as good a any around.

The season never really got going for Thomastown or O'Loughlin-Gaels, who got caught up in a long drawn out process over an abandoned game against Glenmore. That was eventually sorted out by Central Council. There is more there, in Thomastown and O'Loughlins, than was evident this time round.

Neither did it happen for junior champions, Glenmore, who created history when they played their first match. It was a unique happening to have a club with teams involved in the senior and intermediate championships at the same time.

Once proud Bennettsbridge just avoided the drop back to the junior grade. The worst day in decades for the club was when they played Thomastown, and scored one point in each half.

NOT RIGHT

Relegation looked on the cards for the once mighty club that won the senior championship 12 times, the last in 1971. In the end, relegation was avoided by beating Piltown by 2-17 to 1-6. That was more like what people expect from the 'Bridge. Imagine Bennettsbridge as a junior side? Somehow it doesn't seem right.

County man, Liam McCarthy experienced the highs and lows of hurling, all inside a month. In September he climbed the steps of the Hogan Stand in Croke Park as part of a senior All-Ireland winning team. In October, he saw his club, Piltown relegated back to the junior grade.

There will be no easy days there for Piltown during 1993. Strange as it may seem, they produced some good showings. On May 17 they clattered the 'Bridge by 6-13 to 2-12. How do you equate that performance with relegation? Perhaps the players can tell you!

THERE was a touch of old times and things of the past about the 97th Kilkenny senior hurling final, which had one of the 'greats' from years gone by in there fighting to the finish for the honours.

Hurling has always been big in Tullaroan, who won the senior championship a record 19 times – the last time in 1958. Not since their last success did the proud standard-bearers from the North appear in the senior showdown. But the love and devotion of the people to the game never varied. Having Tullaroan in the final brightened it up somewhat . . . gave it that little bit extra appeal.

Victory wasn't Tullaroan's lot on this occasion, but being part of the event, and getting first-hand experience of the pressures that go hand-in-hand with such a match, can only stand to the players. Remember, Kilkenny lost the senior All-Ireland in 1991. Look what they did this time round!

In their disappointment, Tullaroan people should remember that. The club enjoyed a good season. Pity the semi-final and final were played back-to-back, with only a week between matches. A longer period would have allowed the people in this proud parish more time to savour all the more the achievement of winning through to the final, and getting the feel for it.

In Kilkenny, one of the most enjoyable parts of the game is the preamble, the talk, the stories, the hype before big matches. Because of the rush this time, that lovely and genuine aspect of the final was lost. The semi-finals were played one Sunday, the final the next. Think of the enjoyment we would all have missed if the All-Ireland had been played the week after the semi-final?

The Co. Board was caught in a bit of a corner because of a crammed schedule. As a result of the rush, the people in Tullaroan and Glenmore were robbed of what is an essential part of the county final. Let us hope the same situation will not occur again.

ACHIEVED SOMETHING

Tullaroan, under the driving influence of

Tullaroan's presence added extra touch to Final

By JOHN KNOX
(*Kilkenny People*)

coach, Martin Fitzpatrick (Fenians) won't be happy that they lost the final. But they must surely be happy with their season otherwise. They achieved something very difficult, when they remained inactive for weeks on end between the quarter-final win over Graigue-Ballycallan and the semi-final win over Fenians (Johnstown).

Tullaroan came out after that 'rest' as good, probably a bit better than they went into it. That took a bit of doing, to keep the players interested, eager, fit and, above all, to stop them going stale. Fitzpatrick and selectors Dick Walsh, John Hall and Ger Doherty achieved something bigger than most might realise.

It was easy keeping county man Bill Hennessy in the mood, because of the highs he achieved with Kilkenny, but Liam Keoghane, Jimmy Walton, Sean Teehan, Pat Fennelly, Derek Gaffney and others weathered that break well too.

One man came through it gloriously. That was Richard Walsh, who had one of those days you get in a lifetime, when he scored 2-3 in the semi-final against Fenians. If he lives to be 90 he can tell well-founded tales about the day in '92 he skinned the Fenians.

There was a time during the campaign

when the Johnstown crew looked capable of putting one over everyone. They had the look of possible winners when they edged out St. Martin's (Muckalee-Ballyfoyle-Coon) in a rousing quarter-final. A lack of 'muscle', physical presence in the form of more big players, turned out to be their greatest enemy.

They have the hurling talent with the likes of P.J. Delaney, Billy Fitzpatrick, Billy Purcell, Pat McCormack, Stephen Grehan, Ger and John Henderson, Jimmy Carroll and company. If they are to achieve the big success again, it better be quickly, before their 'senior brigade' are past it. Otherwise the wait might stretch on another decade or so.

GOOD GOING

Clara reached the championship semi-final, too, and on the way sent defending champions, Shamrocks (Ballyhale) packing. That was perhaps the highpoint in a season of change. They won the title in 1986, but nine of those players were gone this time. Good going in the circumstances.

The fine hurling of Anthony Prendergast, Lester Ryan in midfield, Eamon Whearty, Robert Shortall, Kevin Ryan, Stephen Whearty and Joe Casey gave rise to considerable hope for the future.

Another side that made considerable progress this year was Mullinavat, under the no-nonsense rule of former Shamrocks man, Maurice Mason, who was brought in as trainer. They qualified for the League final. Overall there was a more menacing look to their hurling all season. Tom Frisby, Dan Power, Joe Walsh, Paudie Holden, John Dunphy and particularly Michael Dunphy had a lot to be happy about. There were times when intermedaite champions, Dicksboro, found the going tough, and other times when they looked capable of great deeds. A lack of scoring forwards was their achilles heel. Survival was a step in the right direction.

James Stephens were unhappy with their lot after falling out of the running early in the League and Championship. Their pride was hurt, and they won't be down for long.

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ADUBIOUS honour it may be, but the Kilkenny junior hurlers of this year distinguished themselves in one way . . . they ended a sequence stretching back to 1984 that had kept people in the county happy, and things ticking over nicely at a level of the game that is often taken for granted.

Stretching back to the Centenary of the G.A.A. (1984), Kilkenny had won the All-Ireland (1984), Kilkenny had won the All-Ireland junior championship every other year. There were celebrations in 1984, and again in 1986. They continued in 1988, and the cup was back on the Noreside again in 1990.

All things being equal, in accordance with that run at any rate, Kilkenny should have been toasting their 9th success in the championship this season. It didn't happen. In fact, the challenge never even got off the ground, and the Noresiders were sent packing in their opening test.

Kilkenny, the Leinster champions of the past two years, and losing All-Ireland finalists last season, looked to have achieved the difficult part in a tough opening clash when they played Wexford in Wexford Park, and came away with a draw.

In fact, it was a match the Noresiders might easily have won. Twice during the second half of a close and tight match, they got four points clear, the last occasion barely five minutes from the finish. But they were unable to hold out, and high spirited Wexford got back to earn a replay, which was played at Nowlan Park.

CLOSE AND DOGGED

Bearing in mind how they had performed away, the Noresiders had reasonable grounds for thinking that home advantage would be a help. It didn't turn out that way, and after another close and dogged match, the visitors won through to the semi-final.

The Slaneysiders then did what the records suggested Kilkenny might – they went on and won the championship.

From the moment the Leinster championship draw was made, Kilkenny were uneasy about travelling to Wexford. In 1991 they won the Leinster final three (3-12 to 2-6), but when selectors John Comerford (Young Irelands), John Healy (Tullagher-Rosbercon), Paddy O'Keefe (Thomastown), Tommy Hoyne (Carrickshock), Seamus Fitzpatrick (Dicksboro), and team manager, Noel Skehan (Bennettsbridge), took up office, they knew going there again would be doubly difficult.

In fairness to all concerned, the mentors worked hard at searching the county for talent, and the players responded by working hard. But when it came down to it, lessons learned during the draw, and discipline on the field during exciting moments, proved crucial.

For the replay, the Slaneysiders juggled their forces about and pushed former All-

Star Eamon Cleary up from fullback to lead their attack. It was a useful move, that while it didn't bear startling results, was an advantageous one nonetheless. Kilkenny didn't match that level of inspiration.

Yet, for all their faults – one score from Michael Walsh during the closing quarter – Kilkenny might have swung it, but for two moments of madness in the closing stages of the replay. Four minutes from the end the teams were locked in a gripping contest, and the score stood at 0-13 each.

Then a rash foul on Noel Conroy earned Wexford a penalty. Ray Quigley took direction from the sideline, and settled for a point. Moments later an over zealous challenge on Eamon Cleary earned the visitors a second penalty. Quigley settled for a minor score again. Kilkenny were beaten by 0-15 to 0-13.

Winning Junior sequence ends

By: JOHN KNOX
(Kilkenny People)

OUT THE WINDOW

Into injury-time the home side nearly made amends. The promising Sean Ryan slithered through the opposing defence, but his well struck shot was kept out of the net by goalie Michael Quigley. Out of the championship went Kilkenny. Out the window went a sequence of wins that in the passage of time, could have looked good as part of history.

Playing away, Kilkenny had promised a lot. David Beirne was terrific at corner-back. Johnny Holohan played with assurance, and Tom Lyng used his strength and experience well. At midfield Brian McGovern looked a world beater on occasions, and even if the supply was not always constant, up front Sean Ryan looked extremely capable. As a worker, and one

to make space for others, Paul Treacy was ideally cast, while former senior, Pat Walsh suggested he had the might to pull Wexford's Castle apart.

The tie finished level at 1-15 each. At half-time breeze assisted Kilkenny led by 1-8 to 0-8, and early second half points from Sean Ryan and Charlie Carter suggested they were going to repeat the result of their previous visit to Wexford Park. Further on, and with the minutes ticking away, the home side trailed by 0-12 to 1-13, and later still by 0-13 to 1-14.

A Patrick Byrne goal was followed by a Ger Cody point, and Wexford escaped with a draw. They went within an inch of winning, when a rasper from Michael Foley came back into play off the angle between the Kilkenny crossbar and upright.

The visitors inconsistency cost them dear. And for the replay, Wexford were highly motivated, to the point of being brash.

The home side was always under pressure, and only led once. This was at half-time, when a late Charlie Carter point saw them lead by 0-9 to 0-8 at the rest. However, the scores were level five times, the last time in the 56th minute at 0-13 all. Then the defending Leinster champions pressed the self-destruct button and blew themselves away.

Knowing the commitment of manager, Noel Skehan to this team, one knew there was pain involved over the result. Kilkenny felt hollow after it. They didn't begrudge Wexford their moment of glory, but they knew they got two chances at home and away, to get things right. They didn't do that. Inconsistency in Wexford Park, and over exuberance in defence at Nowlan Park, carried a stiff price. Lessons for the future, to be sure.

The Kilkenny team that faced Wexford in the replay was – James McGarry (Bennettsbridge); David Beirne (Dicksboro); John Marnell (Dicksboro); Tom Lyng (Rower-Inistogie); Ger Henderson (Dicksboro); Derek Shelly (O'Loughlin-Gaels); Donal Carroll (Dicksboro); Richard Moran (Bennettsbridge); Brian McGovern (Slieverue); Austin Cleere (Emeralds); Paul Treacy (Thomastown); Patrick Farrell (Carrickshock); Charlie Carter (Young Irelands); Pat Walsh (Windgap); Sean Ryan (Dunnamaggin). Subs: Sean Caulfield (Kilmacow), Michael Walsh (Slieverue); Tom O'Keefe (Thomastown). Also involved in the drawn match was Michael Holohan (O'Loughlin-Gaels).

SCORES – BUT NOT ENOUGH

MAY 6, AT WEXFORD PARK, LEINSTER QUARTER-FINAL

Wexford 1-15

Kilkenny 1-15

Kilkenny Scorers: Pat Walsh (1-3), Sean Ryan, Charlie Carter (0-3 each); Ger Henderson (0-2, one free, one 65); Paul Treacy, Brian McGovern, Richard Moran (0-1 each); Michael Walsh (0-1, free).

MAY 15, AT NOWLAN PARK, LEINSTER QUARTER-FINAL REPLAY

Kilkenny 0-13

Wexford 0-15

Kilkenny Scorers: Charlie Carter (0-6, four frees); Ger. Henderson (0-3, two frees, one 65); Patrick Farrell, Pat Walsh, Sean Ryan, Michael Walsh (0-1 each).

Success galore for Kilkenny Handballers

It would appear to be effortless – although in truth it is far from it – but Kilkenny's handballers at every level seem to waltz their way through opponents every year achieving success after success.

Of course, Ducksie took major honours – even though he nursed a serious injury all year. Billy Bourke regained his All-Ireland title at top level. Nicky Reilly emulated his 'old man' and won a handball All-Ireland – and more than one, at that!

O'Loughlin's were a major success – with Philly Parsons and Michael Nolan showing skill and determination to win a plethora of medals each.

Our veterans were also to the fore. Although our greatest over-age player, Pat O'Keeffe is starting to find it difficult to reach his tremendous levels of skill and fitness but he still outscored the lot to set a

new record and it is encouraging to see that others are carrying his flag while at the other end of the scale juveniles continue to come through who can match the best in the country.

Peerless Ducksie

The year began disastrously for Ducksie. He has very identifiable aims – beat John Joe Gilmartin's record of 24 senior titles; beat Paddy Perry's record of 8 senior singles titles – his greatest aim is probably, simply to win every game.

He lost the final of a tournament in Connacht early in the year and togged out the next night to play a local championship tie. One pull and he knew he was in trouble – an injured shoulder almost wrecked his year.

His first championship was in 40 x 20 doubles where he and hurling star D. J. Carey tried hard to compensate for



Tommy O'Brien

Walsh's injury but they fell gallantly to eventual All-Ireland winners Meath in the Leinster final.

Ducksie and D. J. were scheduled to meet in the Leinster senior singles semi-final to see who would meet Walter O'Connor (Meath) in the final. As it turned out both had to withdraw – Ducksie's shoulder injury was getting more serious and D. J. injured a hand against Down.

Ducksie still had 60 x 30 to play and rested to find a cure. He turned out with Eugene Downey to attempt a record 6th title in-a-row but lost – once more it was Meath opposition and once more they went on to take the All-Ireland title.

The most important tie of all was going to be the singles final.

Not alone was it the only target left for Ducksie but he was attempting to equal Paddy Perry's record of 8 titles in-a-row. A sell-out Croke Park crowd saw a mammoth duel between the Kilkenny ace and Walter O'Connor but even though not at full fitness. Ducksie won through to equal the 8 titles in-a-row. A sell-out Croke Park crowd saw a mammoth duel between the Kilkenny ace and Walter O'Connor but even though not at full fitness. Ducksie won through to equal the 8 titles in-a-row and keep his unbeaten singles record in championship ties since 1984.

The senior hardball singles title is one which has evaded Kilkenny players for a long time. From the mid-1940s until 1985, Kilkenny had failed to win the title but Billy Bourke bridged that gap 7 years ago and was determined to do so once more this year.

The hardball singles championship was run in a fairly haphazard manner – due to the scarcity of hardballs and the lack of suitable dates.

It was, nevertheless, seriously contested and it proved to be an all-Kilkenny final with Billy Bourke facing Willie Pratt in the final.

The first set was all Bourke with the former champion winning at his ease. Then Pratt showed his great skill and courage by



Well done 'Duxie' from John Hoban (Referee) and Lorcan O'Rourke (Secretary Irish Handball Council).

(Photo: Sportsfile)

coming right at his opponent and almost making it one set all. A late, late Billy Bourke rally saw him through. However, to ensure that Kilkenny had won 2 of the three senior singles crowns on offer.

Novice Domination

Kilkenny also dominated the Novice grade this year with O'Loughlin's players starring in both codes. Nicky Reilly, son of peerless Paddy, former All-Ireland senior champion, showed a skill which belied the term 'Novice' as he outclassed a large number of rivals to win the All-Ireland novice singles crown at Croke Park.

Michael Nolan dominated the Novice Doubles section. He followed a marvellous win in 40 x 20 with Bobby Falsey to add the 60 x 30 crown to his list, this time with Philly Parsons as partner. The strong O'Loughlin's combination then followed up with Novice Club Championship All-Ireland title – the men aboard this winning ship were Nicky Reilly, Philly Parsons, Jim O'Neill, Michael Nolan and ageless Eddie Leahy.

Overage Stars

The overage All-Irelands have been dominated for quite some time by Pat O'Keeffe and the aforementioned Eddie Leahy.

They found the going tough in 60 x 30 but still had too much class and style for the best of the rest in 40 x 20 where their All-Ireland Golden Masters Doubles title gave them a record 5th title in-a-row and won for them the Kilkenny Co. Board's "Players of the Year".

Seamus Reade and Anthony Greene showed that we have players following in the same mould. They combined to win a hotly contested Masters Doubles title in 60

x 30 and give hope for continued success in these championships while Jim O'Neill and Doc Hennessy came ever so close to adding the Silver Masters title.

Juveniles Tops

Our juveniles also showed that we have hope for the future. Alan Hawe of Windgap added the Under-16 singles All-Ireland title to his under-15 doubles title of last year. Joe O'Gorman and Brendan Hosey of Clogh were impressive in winning the under-17 doubles crown at national level while Brendan Walpole, Kilfane, hero for 1992, was the best in the country in Under-17 singles – a title which won his Kilkenny's "Juvenile of the Year" award.

Windgap reached the final of Division I in Féile na nGael in Galway with Enda Hawe, Niall Kenny, P. J. Hawe and Owen Guinan making up a formidable quartet.

A new national competition, a Primary Schools championship at national level, was organised. Roinín McCormack, whose brothers had been successful only a year ago, won the Girls Singles crown for Kells N.S. William Love and Andrew Hosey won the Boys Doubles crown for Clogh N.S. while St. Canice's Co-Ed made it a double – Timmy Clifford winning the boys singles and Emily Delahunty and Karen Delaney coming out on top in Girls Doubles.

Coaches

A coaching seminar was organised by Con Moore and some highly successful club coaches came through the demanding tests. Among them were Ned Lawlor, Billy Love, Stephen Hawe, Sean Walsh, Johnny Brennan, Pat O'Keeffe and Con Moore.



Billy Bourke . . . Senior Hardball Singles All-Ireland Champion.
(Photo: Tom Brett)

The full list of Kilkenny County champions are:

40 x 20 County Champions

U-10 (B) Ger Anthony (Mullinavat). **U-10 S.:** Andrew Hosey (Clogh); **U-10 D.:** Andrew Lawlor/John Keane (Clogh); **U-11 S.:** William Love (Clogh); **U-11 D.:** P. J. Hawe/Owen Guinan (Windgap); **U-12 S.:** Timmy Clifford (O'Loughlin's); **U-12 D.:** Ivan Sheridan/Rory Dunne (Kells); **U-13 S.:** Perry Holden (Kilfane); **U-13 D.:** Kevin Conway/Niall McCormack (Kells); **U-14 S.:** Daniel Love (Clogh); **U-14 D.:** Niall Kenny/Enda Hawe (Windgap); **U-15 S.:** Alan McCormack (Kells); **U-15 D.:** Pat Mullaly/John Purcell (O'Loughlin's); **U-16 S.:** Alan Hawe (Windgap); **U-16 D.:** David Gardiner/Declan Barcoe (Goresbridge); **U-17 S.:** Brendan Hosey (Clogh); **U-17 D.:** Joe O'Gorman/Owen Maher (Clogh); **M.S.** Joe Daly (O'Loughlin's); **M.D.** Joe Daly/Willie O'Neill (O'Loughlin's); **U-21s:** Graham O'Brien (Mullinavat); **U21 D.:** Graham O'Brien/Eamon Law (Mullinavat); **Special Novice:** P. J. Egan (Windgap); **Special Novice:** P. J. Egan/Mick O'Shea (Windgap); **Novice S.:** Joe Doyle (St. Canice's); **Novice D.:** Tom O'Keeffe/Billy O'Keeffe (Kilfane); **Junior S.:** Ollie Falsey (O'Loughlin's); **Junior D.:** Michael Nolan/Eddie Leahy (O'Loughlin's); **Intermediate:** Gerry Murphy (O'Loughlin's); **I.D.:** Gerry Murphy/Jim O'Neill (O'Loughlin's); **Senior S.:** Seamus Reade (Talbot's Inch); **S.D.:** Anthony Greene/Seamus Reade (Talbot's Inch); **Masters S.:** Willie Pratt (St. Canice's); **Masters D.:** Anthony Greene/Seamus Reade (T. Inch); **Masters (B):** Michel Delaney (O'Loughlin's); **Masters (B) D.:** Joe O'Shea/Stephen Hawe (Windgap); **Silver Masters:** Doc Hennessy (T/Inch); **S.M.D.:** Gerry Murphy/Jim O'Neill (O'Loughlin's); **Golden Masters:** Johnny O'Mara (M/vat). **G.M. D.:** Jackie Ryan/Jim Tyrrell (Goresbridge); **Novice team of four:** Galmoy: John Duggan, Pat McCormack, Jarleth Duggan and Jim Sweeney. **Junior Team of Four:** Clogh: Michael Maher, John Doyle, Pat Maher and Ned Lawlor. **Club Team of**



Sean McEntee (President Elect Irish Handball Council) presents the All-Ireland Cup to "Duxie" Walsh as All-Ireland Senior Singles Champion.
(Photo: Sportsfile)

Four: St. Canice's: Joe Doyle, Jim Long, Willie Pratt, Louis Pratt; **Leinster U-12 champion:** (60 x 30 and 40 x 20): Timmy Clifford; **U-21 D.: Leinster Champions:** Graham O'Brien and Michael Maher; **U-13 S. Leinster Champion:** (40 x 20): Perry Holden.

County Champions 60 x 30, 1992

U-10: Shem Kelly (Mothel); **U-10 D.:** Andrew Lawlor/Sean Maher (Clogh); **U-11:** Pat Kiely (O'Loughlin's); **U-11 D.:** P. J. Hawe/Owen Guinan (Windgap); **U-12:** William Love (Clogh); **U-12 D.:** David Donoghue/David Hurley (Clogh); **U-13:** Perry Holden (Kilfane); **U-13 D.:** Michael Falsey/Alan Dowling (O'Loughlin's); **U-14:** Daniel Love (Clogh); **U-14 D.:** Enda Hawe/Aidan Mackey (Windgap); **U-15:** Pauraic Maher (Clogh); **U-15 D.:** Robert Falsey/Timmy Clifford (O'Loughlin's); **U-16:** Alan Hawe (Windgap); **U-16 D.:** Tom Hanrahan/Adrian Walpole (Kilfane); **U-17:** Brendan Walpole (Kilfane); **U-17 D.:** Joe O'Gorman/Brendan Hosey (Clogh); **M.S.:** Seamie Phelan (O'Loughlin's); **M.D.:** Joe Daly/Pat Geoghegan (O'Loughlin's); **U-21 S.:** Michael Maher (Clogh); **U-21 D.:** Michael Maher/Colm Love (Clogh); **S.p. N.S.:** Richie Falsey (O'Loughlin's); **S.p. N.D.:** Richie Falsey/Kieran Phelan (O'Loughlin's); **N.S.:** Kenneth Cottrell (Glenmore); **N.D.:** Nicky Reilly/Tom Comerford (O'Loughlin's); **J.S.:** Nicky Reilly (O'Loughlin's); **J.D.:** Michael Maher/Colm Love (Clogh); **I.S.:** Damien O'Brien (M/vat); **I.D.:** Canice Quigley/Tom Reade (T/Inch); **S.S.:** Johnny Brennan (Mothel); **S.D.:** Pearse O'Keeffe/Eamon Law (M/vat); **Mas (A) S.:**



"Duxie" and his wife Sheena share the All-Ireland triumph with Sheena's parents Mr. and Mrs. John McDonald. (Photo: Sportsfile)

Willie Pratt (St. Canice's); **Mas. (A) D.:** Paddy Reilly/Michael Delaney (O'Loughlin's); **Mas. (B) S.:** Michael Dalton (Kilfane); **Mas. (B) D.:** J. O'Mara/M. Murphy (Mullinavat); **S.M.S.:** Anthony Greene (T./Inch); **S/M.D.:** D. Hennessy/A. Greene (T./Inch); **G.M.S.:** Johnny O'Mara (M/vat); **G.M.D.:** Jackie Ryan/Paddy Irwin (Goresbridge); **Novice Team of 6:** (O'Loughlin's) Michael Delaney, Seamie Phelan, Richie Falsey, Anthony Bergin, Mick Bergin, Kieran Phelan, Mick Clifford; **Junior Team of 6:** (O'Loughlin's) Jim O'Neill, Tom Comerford,

Nicky Reilly, Eddie Leahy, Joe Daly, John Galvin; **Club Team of 6:** (St. Canice's) Willie Pratt, David Clifford, Joe Doyle, Paul Clifford, Philly Carroll and Louis Pratt; **Novice Team of 4:** (O'Loughlin's) Nicky Reilly, Michael Delaney, Seamie Phelan, Richie Falsey.; **Junior Team of 4:** (O'Loughlin's) Joe Daly, Jim O'Neill, Eddie Leahy, Tom Comerford; **Club Team of 4:** (Mothel) Johnny Brennan, Sean Walsh, Jimmy Barcoe and Martin Ryan.

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Well done Ollie and the lads.

PROUDLY THEY DID IT FOR THE PARISH

By: JOHN KNOX
"Kilkenny People"

TO PICK yourself up off the ground and make something of yourself is not easily done, and takes all kinds of strong, praiseworthy qualities. Sometimes it can be easier to take the simple option, but rarely does it bring the longed for result, or anything really worth achieving.

That is not to say that hard work and sacrifices are always rewarded. They are not. The sporting world is littered with strong willed, dedicated people who didn't get what they circled their life around getting. Runner Eamon Coghlan and an Olympic Games medal is just a case in point.

In Kilkenny this year we had a typical example of a club being single-minded in its attitude to something. The players worked hard. The mentors did too. And their combined toils brought honour and glory to the parish, which is the core of what Gaelic games is all about. Players do things for themselves, their families and, of course, the parish.

Tullogher-Rosbercon players more than once this year answered the call 'do it for the parish'. Not an unfamiliar call in dressing-rooms before games all over the country, but it was one the Southerners heard, took stock of, and answered with a vengeance in the junior hurling championship.

At the end of the day they ended as champions of what was a great championship in Kilkenny. You can have your senior and intermediate deciders, but there is a romance attached to the junior grade that the others simply cannot match. Perhaps it is tradition. Perhaps it is the fact that most players start there. Or maybe it is that no matter what age we are, we feel we could still do it in the junior division.

Praised to hilt

Talking about delusions of grandeur. No way. This is a championship that is hard won. It takes a lot on the part of any player to face the trials of the grade, and come out a winner. Hence, Tullogher-Rosbercon must be praised to the hilt. They had been knocked about badly during a two year stint in the intermediate division. After being relegated, the easy option would have been to lie down under things.

On the contrary, the true spirit of the club was regenerated. Players who had opted out earlier, came back, were made feel welcome, and together everyone marched on to history. Tullogher-Rosbercon's 2-13 to 1-10 county final win over Black and Whites was their third overall. Now the years 1957, 1989 and 1992 are particularly significant ones for the Southerners. They are milestones of achievement during the passage of life in the parish.

In the case of Tullogher captain, Tommy Morrissey the win was particularly sweet. During a year when Kilkenny learned all about how a 'Captain Fantastic' could inspire his troops, Morrissey had his own particular achievement to celebrate. Back in 1986 he captained Tullogher to a junior football championship success. Now he had the privilege of being a winning skipper a second time. No matter how long he lives, no one can take that great, for great it is, achievement from him.

During the season, one took a particular interest in the fortunes of long serving full-back, Paddy Heffernan. The best of club men stay the distance. In good times and bad, Paddy has always been there, in the backs or forwards, wherever he was needed. He was glorious in the Southern final draw against Slieverue, never was he less than dependable.

He was joined in the team by brothers, Liam and Jimmy, and all are sons of Jimmy Heffernan, who starred for Kilkenny in that magnificent All-Ireland senior hurling final of 1947 when Cork were conquered. Jimmy (senior) was part of a committed county team that was in its fourth attempt to win All-Ireland title No. 13. Previously there were losses in 1940, 1945 and 1946.

Utmost respect

To get to the county final, Tullogher-Rosbercon climbed over Thomastown, Kilmacow and Slieverue in the preliminaries.

In the semi-finals, the opposition was once again provided by Noel Skehan's Kilmacow. The teams gave each other the utmost of respect, nearly too much, and virtually smothered the game.

Kilmacow led by 1-6 to 0-3 at half-time, and were still in front into the last quarter. Then in the 48th minute Jimmy Heffernan showed neat skill and goaled for Tullogher. That was the spark of inspiration that ignited the team, and levelled the game at 1-7 each. A point further on the scores

were still level, but Tullogher's ambitions were at a higher pitch than those of the opposition.

Late Tullogher points from Tom Murphy (3) earned a hard 1-11 to 1-9 win, and just reward for some fine hurling by Jimmy Heffernan, Ed. Walsh, Shem Cummins, Liam Heffernan, Tommy Morrissey, Martin Bookle and Seamus Bookle.

The Southern final against Slieverue was a real humdinger, probably one of the five best local games of the year. The score: Tullogher 0-17; Slieverue 3-8, a draw. There was a time when Slieverue looked dead and buried when 0-6 to 0-13 down during the third quarter, and against the stiff breeze at that.

Two remarkable goals from Lenny Doyle, and another from Michael Walsh saved Slieverue's bacon. That bacon was cooked in the replay. Tullogher won by 2-9 to 1-8. The game attracted a record 'gate' of £1,730. The winners had shining stars in Jimmy Heffernan, Tommy Morrissey, Shemy Murphy and Michael Bookle.

Good form

The county final was a unique occasion, in that it was the first time the combatants met in a hurling championship. Tullogher were in good form, although the final wasn't wonderful. Black and Whites were led all the way (Half - time: 1-4 to 0-4).

John Murphy (Ballyreddy) had a 41st minute point to leave the scores at 1-9 to 0-7, and it looked as if Tullogher would ease their way to victory. Things looked

Who won, and when

Glenmore (4) 1923, 1953, 1980, 1991.
Mooncoin (4) 1920, 1937, 1942, 1961.
Mullinavat (4) 1915, 1916, 1939, 1984.
James Stephen's (3) 1924, 1929, 1955.
Dicksboro (3) 1910, 1914, 1919.
Thomastown (3) 1927, 1945, 1962.
Barrow Rangers (3) 1982, 1988, 1990.
Carrickshock (3) 1928, 1954, 1979.
Tullogher/Rosbercon (3) 1957, 1989, 1992.
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.
Windgap (2) 1970, 1986.
Graigue/Ballycallan (2) 1946, 1985.
Windgap (2) 1970, 1986.

One each: 1905 Owen Roes (Urlingford); 1906 Erin's Own (city); 1908 Suir Side Rovers (Mooncoin); 1913 Mong; 1922 Clonmore; 1926 Knockmoylan; 1933 South Selection; 1935 Bonnettstown; 1936 Eire 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 (Castlecormer); 1959 St. Lachtain's (Freshford); 1960 Lisdowney; 1963 Rower-Inistioge; 1964 Young Ireland's (Cowran); 1967 Coon; 1968 Fenians (Johnstown); 1971 Newpark Sarsfields; 1972 Graignamanagh; 1973 Shamrocks (Ballyhale/Knocktopher); 1974 Muckalee/Ballyfoyle Rangers; 1975 O'Loughlin's; 1976 Conahy Shamrocks; 1978 St. Patrick's (Ballyragget); 1981 Piltown; 1983 Tullaroan.

doubly so when Tom Murphy goaled for the winners within 60 seconds.

Just when most expected them to fold, Black and Whites were revived with a goal from Michael Ryan. The match burst into life. The Northerners at one stage had the difference back to 1-10 to 2-10, but assured Tullogher kept their ship afloat. They had come through too many hard days, to mess things up at this juncture.

The confident and stylish hurling of Martin Bookle, John Murphy (Ballyreddy), Shem Phelan, Liam Heffernan, Tommy Morrissey, Paddy Heffernan, Jimmy Heffernan and Shemy Murphy answered the call 'to do it for the parish'. The players did. And all in the Tullogher-Rosbercon areas should be proud of them. Intermediate teams watch out, they will be gunning for you next season.

Tullogher-Rosbercon: Ed. Walsh, Eddie O'Sullivan, Paddy Heffernan, Michael Bookle, John Murphy (Ballyfoyle), Seamus Phelan, Shem Cummins, Liam Heffernan, Tommy Morrissey (captain), John Murphy (Castle), Jimmy Heffernan, Martin Bookle, Eamon Bookle, Joe Murphy, Tommy Bookle, Sean Kennedy, John Ryan, Robert Hennessy, Darragh Moore, Eamon Phelan.

Selectors: Paddy Gaule, Michael Rellis, John Healy; **trainer:** Pat Ronan.

Black and Whites: Pat O'Grady, Michael Doyle, Andy Barcoe (captain), M. G. Doherty, John McDonnell, Michael Kelly, Pat O'Grady, Martin Farrell, James Carroll, Ned Kelly, John Byrne, Denis Carroll, Michael Ryan, Tommy Farrell, Alan Byrne.

Subs: S. Kealy, Michael O'Dowd (used), L. Aylward, P. Farrell, J. Barcoe, R. Dowling, J. Aylward, P. Barcoe, T. Doyle.

Selectors: Seamus Murphy, John Barcoe, Jim Kennedy; **Trainer:** Declan Connolly.

Losing Finalists can expect tough life

BRAVE and all as their efforts were throughout the season, beaten junior hurling finalists Black and Whites face a tough season in 1993, and there will be no guarantees.

The Whites were satisfied that they won their first Northern junior hurling title in history. They were less than satisfied with their effort in the county final against Tullogher-Rosbercon. It was one of those occasions when a team was part of the big day, but failed to do itself justice when it mattered.

During the closing 10 minutes of the final, Black and Whites looked like the team that shook up the Northern championship. For the rest of the match, they were less than their ebullient selves, the team that left the likes of St. Lachtain's (Freshford), Threecastles, Danesfort, Lisdowney and the rest behind them as they trotted out one win after another to take the divisional honours.

Trainer Declan Connolly enjoyed working with the players, because, he admitted, they were a willing lot. No matter what he asked of them, they did, or tried their best to do. Honesty of effort. He liked that. It made his job that bit easier, and at the same time, improved the club's chances of achieving something, anything after so long in the wilderness.

Black and Whites had as good a player as was in the grade in Denis Carroll, the former Kilkenny junior player who is still a competitor with a good spirit and lots of guts. He was brave when the need arose. He was unselfish, a team man, when needed. Always he was a leader, one to which others looked for a moment of inspiration in a crisis. He never disappointed.

Served for decades

There always ready to fight the good fight with him were John Byrne, who had more bright than dark days, Michael Kelly, Ned Kelly, goalkeeper, Pat O'Grady and big hearted captain, Andy Barcoe, who worked himself as hard as any of the youngsters in the pursuit of hurling riches for a club he has served for decades.

After the county final experience, Black and Whites now face into a campaign in which every game will be cruel. The opposition in the North will be out to down the champs. Not an easy tag to live with, that of champions, when the feeling is like the whole world is out to get you.

As Black and Whites sit out this Winter, they would do well to dwell on that fact, and ponder their approach in the new year. They went far this time. Their sights should be aimed high again. But gone now will be the element of surprise, now that they are defending champions. They have a lot to live up to, when the work starts all over again.

The Northern championship was a championship full of surprises during 1992. At the start of the campaign, few would have backed Black and Whites, Threecastles, Clara and Emeralds (Urlingford) as the quartet for the semi-finals.

Apart from the ventual winners in the division, Threecastles made a fantastic impact. One good result followed another, and exiles from the area now living in Australia were even on the 'phone after games wanting to know the result in double quick time. The area, and its people, were over the moon for a few weeks in July and August.

Once they got into their stride, Threecastles couldn't be stopped. Trainer Marty Buggy had the players flying. But the pressure and high hopes that grew around the players looked like having a negative effect in the semi-final against Clara.

Blew opposition away

Threecastles looked ordinarily as they fell 1-3 to 1-7 behind during the opening half. Amazingly, they blew the opposition away afterwards, and won by 6-10 to 2-10. Their defence was utterly defiant after the

change of ends, particularly Marti O'Donnell and Lorcan Carroll, while Michael Manogue, Jerry Campion, Vincent Bolger and Michael Dermody worked slavishly to the point of collapse.

In the Northern final Threecastles were beaten by 2-17 to 1-12 by Black and Whites. That match may have ended the hurling, but it didn't obliterate the many fine memories the season threw up for people who love the game with a fierce passion.

Emeralds never turned out to be the force many reckoned they might. They were well beaten in the semi-final by Black and Whites (1-21 to 1-7), despite the diligence of Declan Tobin, Liam Cody, Tom Phelan, Pat Ryan, Austin Cleere and Michael Rafter. They must look to other times.

Clara made an impact, thanks especially to good hurling by Martin Óg Carrigan, Mark Galvin, Paschal Connolly, Colman Ryan and John Nolan. In a year when their seniors made the semi-finals, the juniors did well also.

In the South, Slieverue lost the divisional final to the eventual champions, but only after a replay. Their big chance to slip one over the rest was in the drawn match, when they came from the brink of disaster to within an ace of stealing a win. Had they edged through that evening in Mullinavat, who knows what might have happened.

In Pat Phelan, a consistent player for the past number of years, Paul Murphy, Larry O'Brien, Eamon Dowling, Pat Power, Brian McGovern, Michael Walsh, Sonny Walsh and Ger Frisby they had more good ones than the average quorum who can make a difference at this level. They have been there or thereabouts for the past few years. The time to make a decisive move is at hand.

Genuine article

Kilmacow went through a year of change, not dramatic, but important nonetheless. Youngsters like Dermot Tierney and Paddy Gahan were given their head. They didn't look out of place, and at times, looked the genuine article. The exposure will have served them well, and in time they will give more assistance to dependables Jim Kinsella, Thomas Quinlan, John Forristal, Eamon Gahan and Sean Caulfield, who enjoyed some magnificent moments.

Their year ended with a 1-9 to 1-11 loss to Tullogher-Rosbercon in the semi-finals.

The second semi threw together Slieverue and Dunnamaggin. For the second year running, the former had the measure of Dunnamaggin (3-8 to 2-10). Without playing all that well, the losers led by 1-6 to 1-0 at the break after playing with the stiff breeze.

They simply died in the second half, despite game efforts by Jimmy Dunne, Brian Mackey, Eamon Kennedy, Sean Ryan, Jim and Tom Hickey.



The fruits of victory

County Secretary Ted Carroll and his wife Angela enjoy the fruits of victory at the All-Ireland Final Reception.



THIS IS HOW IT SHOULD BE!!!
Selectors Ollie Walsh and Pat Aylward in a jovial mood following a team training session prior to the All-Ireland Final.

(Photo: Sportsfile)



Milo Grogan (Vice-President St. Canice's Kilkenny Credit Union) presenting Ray Heffernan (Glenmore) with his "Man of the Match" award after the Senior Hurling County Final.

(Photo: Tom Brett)



Pain in defeat, but loss of three-in-a-row really hurt

By JOHN KNOX, "Kilkenny People"

THE actual defeat which ended it all wasn't the root cause of the deeply-felt disappointment; more the general handling of affairs and the possible magical achievement that was missed. Who knows? the same opportunity might never arise again. If it does, it could take a long, long time.

The failure of the Kilkenny minor hurling team to retain the *Irish Press* Cup or even make the final was the clear winner of the title "disappointment of the year".

A side that was full of promise scraped through the Leinster final, then threw away a four-point lead in the All-Ireland semi-final before being well beaten in the replay. With that defeat went the chance to add a third win to those scored in 1990 and 1991. A magical three-in-a-row gone, even thrown away, one would suggest.

Records for this competition stretch back as far as 1928. In that time three counties have put three wins back-to-back, and two of them did it twice. Cork did it between 1937 and '39 and again in 1969, 1970 and 1971. Tipperary reached such dizzy heights in 1932, 1933 and 1934 and they repeated the feat between 1955

and '57.

Kilkenny had their own three-in-a-row in 1960, 1961 and 1962 and the whole county was looking forward to another treble this time. Had it been achieved, it would have been Kilkenny's 16th success in the minor championship and it would have left the county at the head of the overall winners' table. Cork, Tipp and Kilkenny have 15 each at the moment.

So much lost. So much disappointment. The chance got this season doesn't come around too often. And let's be honest about it, there was substantial evidence to suggest the county "blew it".

'PICK' LOOKED STRONG

The basis for optimism was the fact that three Kilkenny teams figured in the Leinster colleges' senior hurling semi-finals. The victors in that championship, St. Kieran's College, went on to win the All-Ireland. At the same time the Kilkenny Vocational Schools' team qualified for the All-Ireland final but lost to Galway.

The 'pick' available seemed to be strong, what with survivors from the 1991 All-Ireland team like Martin Carey, Eddie

Dwyer, Dermot Maher, Ger Walsh, Denis Byrne and Michael Owens – over a third of a team – eligible again.

Yet Kilkenny never produced anything in the championship to suggest that all the best talent had been used for the common good. Selectors Jim Neary (Graigue-Ballycallan), Tommy Lanigan (James Stephens), Paddy Corbett (Graignamanagh/Blacks & Whites), Tom Delahunty (Mooncoin) with Bord na Óg chairman Joe Pyke (Clara) – all dedicated workers at under-age level in the county – appeared to get stuck in a mode of thinking that did nothing to inject badly-needed life into the team, even after an extraordinary escape in the Leinster final against Wexford.

The argument will be put forward that when Kilkenny were beaten by Galway in the All-Ireland semi-final replay the injury to centre-back Eddie Dwyer (a very serious one), the earlier loss of Dermot Maher and the sending off of Michael Owens were crucial. They didn't help, granted.

The defending champions had shown brittleness long before that. All that was done was to shuffle players about which

KILKENNY – LEINSTER MINOR HURLING CHAMPIONS 1992



Back row – Liam Smyth, Ger Ronan, Ed Drea, Joe Dowling, Henry Roberts, Denis Byrne, Michael Owens, Diarmuid Maher. Front row – Brian McEvoy, Pat Davis, Eddie Dwyer, Martin Carey, Fran Doyle, Ciaran Connery, Shane Doyle.

was only toying with the problem. Inquiries drew the response that the talent wasn't as bountiful as it appeared, but there were few takers for that one.

What capped the disappointment altogether was that Galway went on to beat Waterford in what was no more than an ordinary All-Ireland final (1-13 to 2-4). Later it really dawned on people what had been missed – a three-in-a-row, on top of a senior/minor All-Ireland double.

BETTER TEAM LOST

It has to be admitted the champions would have learned nothing from their opening match against Dublin, which saw them score a runaway 24-point win.

The next outing – the Leinster final against Wexford – was a different proposition. Ironically, the better team that day, Wexford, lost. The Slaneysiders had a nice cut about them during the opening half when they put together a lead of 0-8 to 0-2.

Kilkenny tore into the opposition after the change, and within minutes had the difference back to 0-6 to 0-9. As suddenly as that hurling storm blew up, it died. The scores refused to come and it looked curtains for the champions when Wexford were awarded a penalty in the 52nd minute.

Amazingly, with four points in hand and the opposition in obvious trouble, Wexford went for a goal. The ball cannoned back into play off the Kilkenny crossbar. In a few moments Ger Ronan pointed at the other end. Then Michael Owens sprinted up the field and pumped the ball forward. It fell kindly for the in-form Fran Doyle who flicked to the net (0-11 to 1-7).

Two late points from Doyle saw Kilkenny steal a win. The finish was unbelievable. Wexford players just fell to the ground and cried afterwards.

The All-Ireland semi-final against Galway at Croke Park was Kilkenny's for the taking when they led by four points with three minutes remaining. Instead of closing up shop, they continued to be bold and an injury-time goal earned Galway a lucky draw.

For the replay the Tribesmen had their homework done and, having learned more

The games, the scores

JUNE 30, AT PORTLAOISE – LEINSTER SEMI-FINAL

Kilkenny..... 1-24; **Dublin** 0-3

Kilkenny scorers: Denis Byrne (0-6), Dermot Maher (0-6), Joe Dowling (1-1); Fran Doyle (0-4); Ger Ronan, Liam Smith, Pat Davis (0-2 each); Brian McEvoy (0-1).

JULY 19, AT CROKE PARK – LEINSTER FINAL:

Kilkenny..... 1-9; **Wexford**..... 0-11

Kilkenny scorers: Fran Doyle (1-3), Denis Byrne (0-2, frees), Brian McEvoy, Liam Smith, Dermot Walsh (0-1 each), Ger Ronan (0-1, "65").

AUGUST 9, AT CROKE PARK – ALL-IRELAND SEMI-FINAL:

Kilkenny..... 1-16; **Galway**..... 1-16

Kilkenny scorers: Denis Byrne (0-9, six frees), Pat Davis (0-3), Ger Walsh (1-0), Ger Ronan (0-2, one "65"), Pat Gahan, Brian McEvoy (0-1 each).

AUGUST 23, AT LIMERICK – ALL-IRELAND SEMI-FINAL REPLAY

Galway..... 3-12; **Kilkenny** 1-10

Kilkenny scorers: Ger Ronan (0-6, four frees, two "65s"), Fran Doyle (1-1), Michael Owens (0-1), Denis Byrne, Ger Walsh (0-1 each, both frees).

lessons than their opponents from the Croke Park clash, took a giant step towards their second All-Ireland win. The Connacht champions were the more eager team. They scored two goals just on half-time that shook the opposition (2-7 to 1-4).

NO FORWARD SCORED

During the closing half Kilkenny scored six points but not one came from the forward line. Midfielder Ger Ronan hit five from frees from all angles and distances and Michael Owens had the other. It was a sad way for Kilkenny to make their exit. Not even glorious in defeat.

On the day, Martin Carey was safe in goal and showed good judgement in tight situations. Ned Drea was dependable, particularly under dropping balls. Ciaran Connery, who was asked to take over at centre-back after the unlucky Dwyer departed, proved a valuable asset to the team. Midfield was well beaten although Ger Ronan made a big impression by virtue of his free-taking. Pat Gahan worked hard but ran himself out before the finish.

In earlier rounds Fran Doyle earned distinction particularly in the Leinster final when his 1-3 saved the team. Dermot Maher and Michael Owens looked good prospects too, but one always felt the latter was lost in the team as a wing-back.

Indeed, the impression was formed that his sending-off had a bit to do with his feeling out of place and having to face opponents running at him. He looked more at home with St. Kieran's when doing the exact opposite.

That is all in the past now, but to this day there is still a strong feeling in the county as to what might have been. For that reason Championship '92 will be remembered for a long time.

The Kilkenny team in the All-Ireland semi-final replay was – Martin Carey (Young Irelands), Shane Doyle (James Stephens), Ned Drea (Barrow Rangers), Ciaran Connery (Conahy Shamrocks), Joe Philpott (Dicksboro), Eddie Dwyer (Graigue-Ballycallan), Michael Owens (Erin's Own), Ger Ronan (Graigue-Ballycallan), Brian McEvoy (James Stephens), Denis Byrne (Graigue-Ballycallan), Pat Gahan (Kilmacow), Ger Walsh (Graignamanagh), Pat Davis (Piltown), Clive Kenny (James Stephens), Fran Doyle (Graignamanagh). *Subs:* Henry Roberts (Graignamanagh), Richie Kelly (Rower-Inistioge), Joe Dowling (St. Patrick's), (used); Francis Cantwell (James Stephens), John Ayres (Dicksboro), Eamon Mackey (Mooncoin), Liam Smith (James Stephens), Peter Barry (James Stephens).

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Well known local broadcaster Barrie Henriques "in action" in Croke Park on the day of the All-Ireland semi-final v. Galway. Assisting Barry are Joe Hennessy (Kilkenny) and Sylvie Linnane (Galway). Joe's son Mark also has his say!
 (Photo: Gerry Deegan)

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*Well done to our men in
Black and Amber*



Liam waves "Liam" at civic reception on steps of Kilkenny Courthouse watched by Ald. Seamus Pattison, Mayor of Kilkenny. (Photo: Tom Wernys)

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NO JOY IN CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

THE CLUB championship, which has been good to Kilkenny down the years and produced All-Ireland winners in Shamrocks (Ballyhale), James Stephens, St. Martin's and Glenmore, turned sour in the year under review and provided little joy for the county.

The standard bearers in the Leinster Championship were Shamrocks, following a scintillating 9th victory in the local championship final after beating St. Martin's (3-16 to 1-8) they went in search of their fifth provincial title.

The Ballyhale Brigade made it as far as the Leinster decider, but there was no joy for them as they were swept away in a torrent of hurling produced by Birr (Offaly), who made a stunning impact in their first such final.

The Noresiders demise was in November, which turned out to be an awful month for hurling. In the semi-final the tidy opposition came from Dublin's finest, Cuala. The weather was simply terrible.

The following week, again back in Portlaoise, overnight rain turned the goal areas into a sea of mud. Not finished at that, the rain resumed just before the hurling action commenced, and stayed for the duration of the game.

Rarely, if ever, has Portlaoise hosted consecutive games in such trying conditions. The weather had nothing to do with the Shamrocks fall, but those advocating a long Winter break from hurling had their case strengthened very considerably by the type of conditions Shamrocks, Birr and Cuala were forced to put up with during November.

TOO GAMBLE

"It wasn't that we took the competition for granted, but we didn't train for it", admitted a Shamrock official afterwards. "We played well against Cuala, and took a gamble against Birr. But on the day no one could have lived with Birr. They were tremendous".

The Offaly champions were handsome 2-14 to 0-3 winners of the Leinster championship. Now, it may seem totally contradictory to the scoreline, but Shamrocks didn't play as badly as it might appear.

Birr were all go, and every one of the players was on top of this game. Still, Shamrocks had their chances. During the opening half they got no reward from a penalty. They also shot nine wides, and ended up 0-2 to 0-5 behind at the interval.

Goals from full-forward Ray Landy in the 33rd. and

50th. minutes, which helped boost the winners advantage to 2-8 to 0-3, slammed the door in the face of the Shamrocks. The losers forwards weren't given an inch after the change, but in Paul and Watty Phelan, Michael Fennelly and Tommy Phelan they had performers who beat off all and every challenge the opposition put up to them.

Earlier, again at Portlaoise, the Kilkenny champions beat Cuala (Dublin). in the colours of the Dubs was Craignamanagh's Michael Morrissey, who on the strength of his showing here, won a place on the county panel and went on to win an All-Ireland senior medal with Kilkenny.

In treacherous conditions, both teams were full of energy, and both wanted to win. Shamrocks right corner forward, John Shefflin roasted the opposition. During the first half he bagged 1-2, and later added one of just two second half Shamrocks points.

SHOOTING POOR

Thanks in large measure to Shefflin's exciting form, the Noresiders built-up a 1-8 to 0-2 interval lead. Again their shooting was poor, and this time their wides tally was eight.

When wind assisted afterwards, Cuala won the lion's share of possession, and prominent in all their best work was Morrissey. However, they got little change out of a sure footed Shamrocks defence, in which Sean Fennelly, stand-in full-back Seamus Ryan and Paul Phelan didn't stand on ceremony.

The following week the Kilkenny champions fell to the superbly turned out Birr team, which was trained by Tipperary goalkeeper, Ken Hogan.

Shamrocks, minus the injured Frank Holohan (cartilage) and Brendan Fennelly (ankle ligaments) during the campaign, didn't shed any tears. Three times previously they had scaled to the summit in the competition. This time young and eager Birr had more heart for the battle than they had.

The Shamrocks team in the Leinster final was - Kevin Fennelly, Michael Fennelly, Seamus Ryan, Watty Phelan, Dick Walsh, Paul Phelan, Sean Fennelly, Ger Fennelly, Tommy Phelan, Tommy Shefflin, Jimmy Lawlor, Dermot Fennelly, John Shefflin, Liam Fennelly, Brendan Mason. Subs: Pdraig Farrell, John Kenealy, Patrick Phelan, Bobby Aylward, Noel O'Keeffe, Brendan Cahill.

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A new title and Shamrocks are first winners

By JOHN KNOX, "Kilkenny People"

HAD those cold, calculating people, the bookies, opened the betting on it, surely they would have plumped for the old faithfuls, the honour-laden Shamrocks (Ballyhale). The southerners would have been quoted at short odds to land the title and make history.

The nine times senior hurling championship winners had another target to aim at this season – the Credit Union senior league. It was no great surprise that the championship winners of '91 became the first holders of the glittering Matty Power Cup, but what was a bit of a shocker was their livelier than usual early season form.

The league commenced on April 19 and from day one Shamrocks showed good form and, dare one say it, more urgency than usual so early in the season. Not that they ever lost too many games since they hit the top in the late 'Seventies, but in other years they invariably gave the impression that they were a team playing their way to full fitness.

The Shamrocks opened in a clash of champions – senior v. intermediate – against Dicksboro and while they didn't disgrace the opposition they did, nonetheless, put the newly-promoted senior side in their place. It was like an old boxing pro. going in against a junior. The street-wise operators weren't going to be caught by a sucker punch, and merely did enough to fend off the eager but outclassed opponent.

During the league Shamrocks saw off nearly all in their grasp – Dicksboro (0-13 to 2-2), James Stephens (1-10 to 0-8), Glenmore (2-15 to 0-16), Clara (3-10 to 2-9) before drawing with Fenians (3-12 to 1-10 (F.)). They amassed nine points, more than anyone else in the entire competition.

FAMILIAR LOOK

There were glimpses of the Shamrocks of years past here and there. They way they saw off the 'Boro had a familiar look about it. Shamrocks were unruffled, unhurried and did things the way they wanted. Michael Fennelly, Ger Fennelly, Paul Phelan, Jimmy Lawlor and company were at their ease.

The fourth match, against Clara, was a sizzler for the later-to-be-crowned champions. They got stuck in a mode, and the opposition got a run on them. Clara looked all-over winners, until a most unusual happening turned the match on



Paul Phelan (Shamrocks) receives the Matty Power Memorial Cup from Mrs. Nancy Power. Shamrocks were the first winners of the Senior Hurling League. (Photo: Tom Brett)

its head. Shamrocks had two players sent off within a minute of each other in the last quarter.

They were infuriated and, when others might have lost their heads and struck out in all directions, they channelled their energies into hurling and destroyed the opposition. *The Magnificent 13* screamed a *Kilkenny People* headline that week in salute to a smashing performance.

If that was pleasing, then the beating of Glenmore in Mullinavat in an earlier match was just as good. This match was hyped up and was seen as an important pointer towards the rest of the season. As ever in the seething cauldron, Shamrocks produced the goods and with Liam Fennelly and Tommy Phelan scoring four points each from play during the second half, they set a pace Glenmore simply couldn't live with.

The Shamrocks were good the whole way through and after dropping just one

point in the preliminaries they zipped through to the semi-finals for a meeting with Graigue-Ballycallan. The northerners were always there within striking distance but all the time the Shamrocks looked capable . . . capable of upping the tempo and leaving the opposition for dead.

PUT BRAKES ON

They didn't, and satisfied themselves with a 1-14 to 1-11 victory after the teams had been level at half-time (1-4 to 0-7) (S.). Kevin Fennelly, Michael Fennelly, Frank Holohan, Tommy and John Shefflin, Pdraig Farrell and 'man of the match' Paul Phelan simply put the brakes on a side that had run up some impressive scores earlier. In one match Graigue had score 18 points. Twice they ran up impressive scores of 1-12. The Shamrocks didn't give them an inch, and won a lot earlier than the closing scoreline might suggest.



BALLYHALE SHAMROCKS – Credit Union Senior Hurling League Winners 1992

(Photo: Tom Brett)

Back row (l.-r.): Pdraig Farrell, Michael Fennelly, John Shefflin, Sean Fennelly, Jimmy Lawlor, Dick Walsh, Seamus Ryan, Frank Holohan. Front row (l.-r.): Tommy Phelan, Ger Fennelly, Paul Phelan, Dermot Fennelly, Tommy Shefflin, Liam Fennelly, Kevin Fennelly.

That success put Shamrocks somewhere familiar to them – in a final. And to make things even better, they were asked to stage the historic first league final at Shamrocks' Park, Ballyhale. They were able hosts but they handed out no presents to opponents and neighbours Mullinavat.

The match was barely a minute old when Mullinavat 'keeper John Dunphy had already taken the ball out of the net twice. Dermot Fennelly and Tommy Shefflin were the early tormentors and scorers of those goals. A rout looked on.

Mullinavat, to be fair to them, didn't lie down under those acts of intimidation.

With Michael Dunphy making his mark at midfield and virtually running the match, thanks in part to a dependable half-back line of Joe Walsh, Jimmy Roughan and Dan Power, they retrieved the tie.

Just before half-time Dunphy had a series of points to level the scores at 2-1 to 0-7. Before the break Shamrocks had a point from Dermot Fennelly to leave them with a bit in hand at half-time, which wasn't great bearing in mind the uplifting start they had enjoyed.

SWIFT RESPONSE

Michael Dunphy squared the tie early in the second period before Shamrocks had points from Dermot Fennelly and John

Shefflin to edge 2-4 to 0-8 clear. Dunphy weighed in with a small score. The swift and match-clinching response from Shamrocks came in the shape of points from Liam Fennelly, Tommy Shefflin and Ger Fennelly.

It was never easy, but Shamrocks held out for a 2-11 to 0-11 win. If there was any consolation for Mullinavat it was that they had pushed the champions further than most others had been able to do.

Were it not for Ger Fennelly's eclipsing of Michael Dunphy when moved onto him who knows what might have happened? Dunphy was a potential match-winner until the Shamrocks' mentors made a move that turned the game for them and earned Fennelly the 'man of the match' award presented by the Credit Union. If Fennelly was deemed best, he was pushed hard for the honour by brother Sean, Paul Phelan, Dermot Fennelly and Tommy Shefflin.

The inaugural senior league was, without a shadow of a doubt, a huge success and drew back crowds to games in increasing numbers. There were a couple of £1,000-plus "gates" which helped boost the finances of clubs.

For Shamrocks it was a particularly pleasing competition. They had something to celebrate at the finish – another county title and the first winners of it at that.

The Shamrocks team in the final was – K. Fennelly, M. Fennelly, F. Holohan, S. Ryan, D. Walsh, P. Phelan, S. Fennelly, P. Farrell, G. Fennelly, T. Shefflin, J. Shefflin, T. Phelan, L. Fennelly, J. Lawlor, D. Fennelly.

Mullinavat – J. Dunphy, T. Frisby, P. Holden, E. Law, J. Roughan, D. Power, J. Walsh, B. Aldridge, M. Dunphy, P. McEvoy, S. Foskin, H. Watters, W. Carroll, P. Hoban, M. Law. Subs. – S. Walsh, E. Walsh.



MULLINAVAT – Senior Hurling League Runners-up 1992

Back row: Paudie Holden, Stephen Foskin, Dan Power, Pat McEvoy, Joe Walsh, Michael Dunphy, Michael Law. Front row: Tom Frisby, Willy Carroll, John Dunphy, Jimmy Roughan, Pat Hoban, Brian Aldridge, Harry Watters, Eamonn Law.

MOONCOIN LAND LEAGUE IN SURE FASHION

By: JOHN KNOX

MOOONCOIN, a club synonymous with excellence on the hurling fields of Kilkenny, lived up to what can sometimes be a hard-to-match past when they scored an historic first win in a county championship this season.

The newly introduced Vale Oil Intermediate Hurling League was captured by the southerners. Not only that, they put away the opposition with such ease in the decider, that there appeared to be nothing ahead to stop their march back into the senior grade when the championship came round.

Some time later the Rower-Inistioge put paid to the ambitions of gaining promotion. While the disappointment that followed was a natural thing, the fact Mooncoin won the league and took hold of the Tierney Cup should in no way detract from their achievement in a really tough division.

The inaugural leagues, senior and intermediate, turned out to be top class competitions. Clubs took them seriously. Supporters took them seriously. They threw up many good matches. To capture one of the titles was no mean achievement, because there was no one who didn't want to win.

Back in 1990, Mooncoin won the Intermediate Championship and promotion to the senior grade, a championship they won 12 times in all, the last occasion being 1965. The latest return to the premier division was an unhappy one.



Man of the Match – Joe Murphy (Mooncoin) receives his 'Man of the Match' award from Michael Hayes, (Vale Oil – Sponsors), following Mooncoin's easy victory over Young Irelands (Gowran) in the Vale Oil Intermediate Hurling League Final.

Photo: Tom Brett

BEST MOVE

In that light, Mooncoin's success this year must be seen as a huge step forward. So often after what happened to Moon-

coin in 1991, clubs can suffer adversely. The Southerners enticed former Shamrocks (Ballyhale) stalwart and former Kilkenny senior selector, Johnny Walsh to join them as trainer.

"It was one of the best moves we ever made", a club officer admitted long before Mooncoin made any impression in the league.

Walsh's strong leadership drew a first class response from the players. There was a healthy buzz at training. On the field the players never gave less than 100%. Most certainly a year of progress. Old values and old pride were restored.

In the league final in Ballyhale, the Mooncoin men peaked, if not physically, then mentally. That wasn't meant to happen, but when the players walloped Young Irelands (Gowran) by 2-10 to 0-4 they gave more of themselves than they realised. They gave more than team handlers probably realised at the time, and it was hard to recharge the batteries for the knockout test that followed. No one's fault. A quirk in a part of life we call sport. The league showdown was magical, from Mooncoin's point of view. They had a marked advantage in physical strength, which was important on a wet and dreary evening. What was even more important,



Jimmy Dunphy, captain of the Mooncoin team receives the Pat Tierney Memorial Cup from Noreen Tierney. Also in the picture are Padraig and Liam Tierney, twin sons of the late Pat Tierney.

Photo: Gerry Deegan



MOONCOIN – Intermediate Hurling League Champions

Back row (l.-r.): Ger O'Shea, Michael Walsh, Pat Hogan, Vinny Holden, Domo Connolly, Jack Kearns, Tom Murphy. Front row (l.-r.): Johnny Kearns, Eamon Delahunty, John Mahon, Mark Tyler, Jimmy Dunphy, Tomás Kearns, Joe Murphy, Paddy Crowley.

(Photo: Gerry Deegan)



YOUNG IRELANDS – Intermediate Hurling League Finalists

Front row (l.-r.): Charlie Carter, Charlie Carter (snr.), D. J. Carey, "Toss" Farrell, Jack Carey, David O'Neill, John Middleton. Back row (l.-r.): Pat Drea, John Kennedy, James McDermott, Cathal Fitzgerald, John Brennan (Captain), Pat Kennedy, Brian Farrell, Ciaran Phelan.

(Photo: Gerry Deegan)

was the skill brought to the fore in trying conditions.

Uncompromising centre-back, Joe Murphy seemed to play half the 'Irelands forwards on his own. His performance was a real tour de force. John Mahon and Paddy Crowley displayed a kind of fearless approach that showed they had optimum pride in self and club. Domo Connolly was like a hurling lord at midfield and boy, did he rule with authority. Phew!

Michael Walsh crucified the 'Irelands defence. His tally of 2-3, all but two points from play, reflected accurately his immense involvement throughout. Tom Murphy and Pat Hogan were two others who did a lot to make it all happen for the parish.

BRILLIANCE

The losers were in the hunt at half-time, when they trailed by 0-1 to 1-4. The match went from them in the 33rd. minute when Michael Walsh took a finely weighted pass from Johnny Kearns before shooting his second goal. The Mooncoin bandwagon rolled on from there.

Earlier in the semi-final, the eventual champions beat Carrickshock by 3-11 to 2-6. Two minutes of brilliance just before the break, which netted 2-1, did irreparable damage to the opposition. Tom Murphy landed the two goals, one from 80 yards, and Jack Kearns put his name on the point.

From the day they started in the league with an exciting 3-13 to 3-12 win over Conahy Shamrocks, the Southerners had a

look of intent about them. Their hurling throughout the league was good, and excellent, in the final. The season 1992 marked a new beginning for one of Kilkenny's finest!

The Mooncoin team in the league final was: M. Tyler, J. Dunphy, J. Holden, J. Mahon, John Kearns, J. Murphy, P. Crowley, D. Connolly, T. Kearns, P. Hogan, T. Murphy, G. O'Shea, M. Walsh, E. Delahunty, Johnny Kearns. Sub: N. Dunphy.

Young Irelands: C. Carter (snr), B. Farrell, J. Kennedy, J. Middleton, C. Fitzgerald, P. Drea, C. Phelan, J. McDermot, T. Farrell, C. Carter, J. Carey, J. Brennan, D. O'Neill, P. Kennedy, D. J. Carey. Subs: J. Fitzgerald, P. Treacy.

Under-14 Hurling & Football Championship Round-up

By TOM RYALL

The curtain has just rung down on another successful year in the Under-14 Hurling and Football competitions. Honours were well divided. Mooncoin regained the Roinn A hurling title after a lapse of fourteen years. Young Irelands (Gowran) took the Roinn B title, while Tullogher-Rosbercon completed a notable 'double' by winning the Roinn C title and the 11-a-side Roinn C League.

Graigue-Ballycallan won the Paddy Grace Memorial Tournament for the first time and so represented Kilkenny at Féile na nGael in Galway during the Summer.

Football honours went to Dicksboro in Roinn A and John Lockes in Roinn B.

Fourteen year wait over for Mooncoin

Mooncoin and Dunamaggin, along with Graigue-Ballycallan and Dicksboro qualified for the semi-finals of the Roinn A championship after the league section had been played. Mooncoin scored a resounding 5-7 to 1-2 win over a Dicksboro side who were short their best player, Richie Barry, out with an injury. Graigue-Ballycallan, who had to play off with James Stephens and O'Loughlin/Gaels to make the semi-finals, had an easy win over Dunamaggin.

Mooncoin proved too good for Graigue-Ballycallan in the final. The southerners got a good start despite playing against the breeze and led by 3-2 to 0-1 at the interval. Goals by Ger Kirwan, Diarmuid Mackey and Eoin Doyle in the first half put them in a very favourable position. The losers, following the switch of Micheal Hoyne to midfield and Sean Millea to right half-forward, had more of the play in the second half but did not have the forwards to press home the opportunities. A further goal by Lee Kelly seven minutes from time helped Mooncoin to a 4-6 to 0-3 victory.

Liam Walsh had a magnificent game at full-back for the winners, with goalie Sean Tyler and defender Eddie Mackey in fine form also. In midfielder Ger Kirwan, Mooncoin have possibly the best u-14 hurler in the county. Laurence Dunphy was equally prominent in the county final victory. The diminutive Diarmuid Mackey, the bustling Gerry Moran and Lee Kelly in the second half were other stars for the winners.

The losers' best players were Micheál Hoyne, James Cullinane, who had a magnificent game, Sean Millea in the second half, a good and plucky goalie in Paul Dermody, while the full-back line of Samuel Ryall, Martin Bourke and Anthony Drohan soaked up a lot of pressure.

TEAMS AND SCORERS

Mooncoin: Sean Tyler, Paul Fewer, Liam Walsh, Richard Roche, Karl Phelan, Eddie Mackey, Patrick Delahunty, Ger Kirwan (1-4), Laurence Dunphy, Lee Kelly (1-0), Tom Walsh (0-1), Eoin Doyle (1-0), Neville Synott, Gerry Moran, Diarmuid Mackey (1-1). Subs: Ciaran Dunphy, Pat Phelan and John Paul Mackey.

Graigue-Ballycallan: Paul Dermody, Samuel Ryall, Martin Bourke, Anthony Drohan, James Cullinane, John Kenny, Patrick Nugent, Dermot Hoyne, John Hoyne, Ken Byrne, Micheál Hoyne (0-2), David Byrne, Edward Brennan, Joseph Young (0-1), Sean Millea.



GRAIGUE-BALLYCALLAN – Under-14 Football Finalists

Front row: Brendan Marnell, Alan O'Shea, Tom Butler, Gearóid Cleere, Anthony Drohan, John Hoyne, Edward Brennan, Paul Dermody, James Ryall, Jimmy Lynch. Back row: Samuel Ryall, John Kenny, Micheál Hoyne, Sean Millea, Martin Bourke, Ken Byrne, James Cullinane, Joseph Young, Dermot Hoyne, Michael Teehan, Robert Byrne, Thomas Fitzpatrick.

Gowran boys take Roinn B title

The Roinn B hurling final on the eve of the All-Ireland Senior Hurling Final was a well contested game as Young Irelands (Gowran) came from behind to beat St. Lachtain's (Freshford) by 1-6 to 1-3. St. Lachtain's, with Noel Hickey having a fine game at midfield, had the better of the first half and a John Joe Burke goal gave them an interval lead of 1-2 to 0-3. The Freshford boys would have been much further ahead but for some brilliant goalkeeping by David Kenny, who made a number of great saves.

Dick Carroll came much more into the game in the second half and they got the vital breakthrough in the 42nd minute when John Paul Carroll goaled to put his side ahead by 1-5 to 1-2. Both sides exchanged points in a rip-roaring finish.

In addition to David Kenny, the winners had good players in Robert Simpson, Barry O'Donnell, Aidan Drennan, Eoin Drea (when he came to centre half-forward), and two delightful corner forwards in David Carter and John Paul Carroll.

St. Lachtain's best players were Liam Cahill, Paul Costelloe, Noel Hickey, Colin McGree and Brian Duignan.

TEAMS AND SCORERS

Young Irelands: David Kenny, Alan Power, Robert Simpson, Colm Madden, Padraig Bolger, Barry O'Donnell, Andrew Carter, Dick Carroll (0-3), Aidan Drennan, Brian Whelan, Thomas Drennan, James Comerford (0-1), John Paul Carroll (1-1), Eoin Drea, David Carter (0-1). Subs: Stephen Byrne.

St. Lachtain's: Brian Manogue, Roy Kavanagh, Michael Kavanagh, David Burke, John Flynn, Liam Cahill, Paul Costelloe, Noel Hickey (0-2), Brian Butler, Niall Phelan, Brian Duignan, Colin McGree, Richard Teehan (0-1), John Joe Burke (1-0), Ger Dalton. Subs: Darren Burke and Pat Morrissey.

Great 'double' for Tullogher-Rosbercon

Tullogher-Rosbercon and Bennettsbridge met in both the championship final and the 11-a-side league final. The league final was a tremendously exciting game with Tullogher-Rosbercon just holding out for a two point win on a 2-4 to 1-5 scoreline.

The championship was back to 15-a-side with the final played at Nowlan Park. On this occasion the Southerners ran out winners on a score of 7-8 to 2-5. The final score would give the impression of a one-sided game but it was a close hard-fought game for fifty minutes, at which stage the winners led by 4-5 to 2-5.

At this stage Bennettsbridge had a goal disallowed for a square infringement. Had the score been allowed it would have made for a grandstand finish. Tullogher-Rosbercon opened the flood-gates in the final closing minutes, scoring 3-3 without reply. The winners led by 1-3 to 1-2 at the interval after playing against the breeze. Goals early in the second half by Martin Nolan and John Barron sent them on the road to victory.

Brian Walsh at left half-forward was the star player for the winners. P.J. Rigby was magnificent in defence with John Phelan giving him good support. Richard Walsh was the best midfielder on view. John Barron and John Gaule were two other forwards to play well.

Owen Hanrahan was best in the losers' defence where Robert Griffiths mixed the good with the bad in goal. Donal Cahalane was the losers' best player with Niall Cody the most successful of the forwards. Adrian Walpole also did well.

TEAMS AND SCORERS

Tullogher-Rosbercon: John Barron, Canice Grennan, John Phelan, Alan Long, Luke Grennan, P.J. Rigby, David Mullally, Richard Walsh (0-1), Richard Lanigan, Patrick Greene (1-0), John Barron (1-1), Brian Walsh (1-3), Martin Nolan (1-0), John Gaule (2-2), Kevin Murphy (0-1). Subs: Brian Barron (1-0) and Ted Culleton.

Bennettsbridge: Robert Griffiths, Michael Denieffe, Joe Gubbins, John Denieffe, Vincent Freyne, Owen Hanrahan, Noel Sugrue, Donal Cahalane (0-2), Tim Dooley, Adrian Walpole (0-2), Keith John Leighton, Paul Cullen, Thomas Kilroy, James Conway, Niall Cody (2-0). Subs: Graham O'Brien (0-1) and Peadar Dooley.

Graigue-Ballycallan capture Paddy Grace Memorial Tournament win

Graigue-Ballycallan defeated James Stephens in the Paddy Grace Memorial Tournament final after a fine game by 1-12 to 2-2. The winners got off to a great start and led by 1-7 to 0-0 after twenty minutes. However, it took two marvellous saves by the diminutive Paul Dermody in the Graigue-Ballycallan goal to keep the losers out. The city side improved before the interval and scored 1-2.



JOHN LOCKES, CALLAN – Under-14 County Football Champions Roinn 'B'

Front row (l.-r.): Paddy Fitzpatrick, Keith Doheny, Raymond Power, Alan Morrissey, Declan Burke, Joey Gormley, Trevor Kirwan, Christopher Vaughan, John Norris, Michael Dunne, Brian McCormack, Ross Holden, John O'Neill, Ger Corcoran. Back row (l.-r.): Laurence Maher, Paddy Casey, Conleth Nolan, William Doheny, Kevin Fitzpatrick, William Barry, Martin Kennedy, John Paul Corcoran, Denis Nolan, Ger Tobin, Damien Burke, Michael Roche.

James Stephens put on a lot of pressure in the second half but their only reward was a goal by Tomás O'Dowd. Paul Dermody continued to excel in the winners' goal during the second half. In addition to Dermody, the winners had good displays from Michael Hoyne, Martin Bourke, John Hoyne, Edward Brennan and Sean Millea.

James Stephens put on a lot of pressure in the second half but their only reward was a goal by Tomás O'Dowd. Paul Dermody continued to excel in the winners' goal during the second half. In addition to Dermody, the winners had good displays from Michael Hoyne, Martin Hoyne, Edward Brennan and Sean Millea.

James Stephens had good displays from John Murphy, Stephen Murphy and Tomás O'Dowd. The Graigue-Ballycallan team and scorers were:

Paul Dermody, Samuel Ryall, Martin Burke, Anthony Drohan, James Cullinane, John Kenny, Patrick Nugent, Micheál Hoyne (0-5), Dermot Hoyne, Ken Byrne (0-1), Joseph Young, David Byrne, John Hoyne (0-2), Edward Brennan (0-3), Sean Millea (0-1).

Graigue-Ballycallan travelled to Galway for the Féile na nGael finals and were based in Athenry. They lost their first game to the home side, a bad start proving their handicap. They gave a sterling performance against Ballyboden St. Enda's in their second game which finished in a welter of excitement with the sides all-square: Graigue-Ballycallan 2-2, Ballyboden St. Enda's 1-5. The Kilkenny boys did have a chance of snatching a dramatic win in the last minute but missed a good scoring opportunity. The Dublin side went on to win their section and eventually won the Féile final, capturing the Christy Ring trophy for the first time.

Graigue-Ballycallan had an easy win over Castlegar in their third game. Overall it was a very enjoyable weekend for the Graigue-Ballycallan boys.

First Under-14 Football title for the 'Lockes

John Lockes (Callan) won their first ever football title at Under-14 level when they defeated Graigue-Ballycallan by 3-4 to 1-4 in the Roinn B final played at Bennettsbridge. John Lockes had good wins over Graiguenamanagh/Blacks & whites, Shamrocks and Kilmoganny by one point to qualify for the final. Graigue-Ballycallan had victories over the Railyard, Clara, Young Irelands and Bennettsbridge.

John Lockes laid the foundations of victory in the opening stages when goals by Damien Burke and John Norris put them ahead by 2-1 to 0-0 after nine minutes. The Callan boys had another goal by Kevin Fitzpatrick to lead by 3-1 to 0-3 at the interval.

The John Lockes, with goalkeeper Michael Dunne and central defenders John Paul Corcoran and Denis Nolan in terrific form, weathered the best the losers could throw at them and in a three minute spell came away for three good points to lead by 3-4 to 0-4. A late goal by Robbie Byrne put a more respectable look on the scoreboard for the losers.

In addition to those already mentioned, the winners had good players in John Norris, Ger Tobin, Conleth Nolan, Damien Burke and Joey Gormley. Best for the losers were Gearoid Cleere, James Cullinane, Anthony Drohan, Micheál Hoyne, Sean Millea and John Hoyne in the closing stages.

TEAMS AND SCORERS

John Lockes: *Michael Dunne, Michael Barry, John Paul Corcoran, Brian McCormack, Ross Holden, Denis Nolan, Martin Kennedy, Ger Tobin, John Norris (1-2), Joe Gormley, Conleth Nolan (0-1), John O'Neill, Christopher Vaughan, Kevin Fitzpatrick (1-0), Damien Burke (1-0).*

Graigue-Ballycallan: *Joseph Young, Samuel Ryall, Martin Bourke, James Lynch, Anthony Drohan, James Cullinane, Gearoid Cleere, Micheál Hoyne, Dermot Hoyne, Ken Byrne (0-1), Edward Brennan (0-2), Robbie Byrne (1-1), Sean Millea, John Hoyne, Alan O'Shea. Sub: Paul Dermody and Brendan Marnell.*

Kilkenny just lose out in Tony Forristal tournament

Kilkenny took part in the Tony Forristal Memorial Tournament but were not expected to make an impression. This year, however, they took their preparations more seriously and held numerous trial games. Bredan O'Sullivan took over the coaching of the team and did a great job.

Limerick defeated Kilkenny in the opening game by 3-3 to 2-5, but the side came good in their second game, defeating Clare by 2-5 to 0-4. This left Kilkenny on top of their group due to their superior scoring average. In the semi-final Kilkenny defeated Waterford on a 1-9 to 1-4 scoreline to earn a final place against Galway.

The final took place in Walsh Park on the 30th August. The weather was at its worst with a gale-force breeze blowing. Kilkenny won the toss and elected to play against the wind. In retrospect, this decision had a bearing on the outcome of the game. The Connacht boys led at the interval by 1-9 to 0-2.

While Galway scored just two points in the second half, Kilkenny notched two goals and a point but were eventually to lose out on a scoreline of 1-11 to 2-3 in favour of the Westerners. Nevertheless, the team had done much better than expected.

The Kilkenny team in the final was: *Peter Mullally (Kilmacow), Mark Long (Piltown), Liam Walsh (Mooncoin), Brian Blanchfield (Thomastown), Micheál Hoyne (Graigue-Ballycallan), Liam Cahill (St. Lachtain's), Eddie Mackey (Mooncoin), Ramie Cahill (Dunamaggin), Richard Mullally (Glenmore), Richard Gordon (Plitown), Ger Kirwan (Mooncoin), Richard Walsh (Tullagher-Rosbercon), Brian Power (Dicksboro), Dick Carroll (Young Irelands), Diarmuid Mackey (Mooncoin).*

Subs: Noel Hickey (St. Lachtain's), Kieran Philpott (Dicksboro), John Hoyne (Graigue-Ballycallan), Eoin Drea (Young Irelands), Denis Brennan (Dicksboro), Adrian Kealy (O'Loughlin/Gaels).

Had Richie Barry (Dicksboro) been available, it could have made a difference.

Jimmy Coogan is the 1992 Féile Skills Champion

Jimmy Coogan (Tullaroan) won the 1992 Féile na nGael skills competition in Kilkenny. Controversy surrounded this event with a case of mistaken identity, but there was no doubt that Jimmy Coogan was the rightful winner of the competition. Jimmy did the county proud in Galway, where he finished second – the best placing since Pat Ryan (Young Irelands) won the competition in two successive years – 1975 and 1976.

Michael Hoyne is the 1992 Long Puck champion

Michael Hoyne (Graigue-Ballycallan) won the 1992 Under-14 long puck competition and this represented Kilkenny in the Leinster championship. He qualified for the final following a heat held in Dr. Cullen park (Carlow). Controversy surrounded Michael's effort in the Croke Park final. One of his efforts struck the marker down for the leading player and the ball rebounded back and this was adjudged to be his position. It was noticeable at the All-Ireland final of the competition that the markings of the player's position with flags was not used as heretofore. Michael is young enough for the competition again in 1993.

Footballers just miss out

The Kilkenny Under-14 footballers took part in the Leinster Tournament Blitz. They won two of their four games but just missed out on qualifying for the final stages of the competition.

Under-14 Football "A" Championship County Final, 1992

Dicksboro 4-3
Mooncoin..... 1-5

HEAVY overnight rain meant that conditions were very difficult for Mooncoin and Dicksboro players at the start of this county final in Ballyhale. Both teams, however, made light of the situation and served up one of the best under-14 football finals of recent years. The game flowed from end to end with both teams playing good, constructive football.

Mooncoin opened the scoring with a glorious Mark Walsh point. Dicksboro replied swiftly with an equaliser from Oisin Dawson. 'Boro captain Cathal McDonald, gathering a Patrick Walsh clearance, sent in a high cross which dipped under the crossbar, deceiving goalkeeper Kevin Dobbyn. This was the start of a purple patch for Dicksboro, who had a goal from Stephen Guidera, a point from Brian Power and a cheeky goal from lively corner forward Keith Nicholson.

Mooncoin responded with vigour and were rewarded with points from Lee Kelly and David Nolan, but they met with stern resistance from the 'Boro back line of Patrick Walsh, Richie Barry and David Barry. Goalkeeper Graham Doyle was splendid, bringing off some remarkable saves, but it was centre-back Kieran Philpott who held the Mooncoin attack in check with a powerful display. At half-time the 'Boro led 3-2 to 0-3.

Mooncoin proved much more determined in the second half, with Gerry "Ogie" Moran leading the attack. Points followed from Ger Kirwan and Mark Walsh, but a goal from 'Boro wing forward Brian Power rocked Mooncoin and



Tom Delehunty, Football Board, presents Cathal McDonald, Dicksboro, with Under-14 Roinn Football Trophy.

restored Dicksboro's composure. With Niall O'Gorman and Mark Gaffney coming more and more into the game at midfield, where Carl Phelan and Thomas Walsh had been holding sway, time was running out for the lads from Mooncoin. A goal and a point from David Nolan came too late for the gallant losers and, after a great game, Dicksboro finished deserving winners.

For Mooncoin, Ger Kirwan, Liam Walsh, Carl Phelan, Thomas Walsh, Mark Walsh, Diarmaid Mackey and David Nolan gave first class displays. Dicksboro's Graham Doyle, Richie Barry, David Barry and Patrick Walsh were very sound in defence. David Kerwick and Kieran O'Sullivan played their parts, and Niall O'Gorman and Mark Gaffney never flinched. Cathal McDonald played a captain's part and led his forwards

splendidly. Brian Power and Stephen Guidera were always a thorn in Mooncoin's side while Richard Teehan marked Mooncoin's full-back Liam Walsh very well. The teams were:

Mooncoin – Kevin Dobbyn, Pat Delehunty, Liam Walsh, Sean Tyler, Paul Fewer (capt.), Ger Kirwan, Ed Mackey, Carl Phelan, Thomas Walsh, Lee Kelly, Gerry Moran, Mark Walsh, Diarmaid Mackey, David Nolan, Pat Phelan. *Subs:* Eoin Doyle, Laurence Dunphy.

Dicksboro – Graham Doyle, Patrick Walsh, Richie Barry, David Barry, Kieran O'Sullivan, Kieran Philpott, David Kerwick, Niall O'Gorman, Mark Gaffney, Cathal McDonald (capt.), Stephen Guidera, Brian Power, Oisin Dawson, Richard Teehan, Keith Nicholson. *Subs:* Oisin Breathnach, Richard Nagle.



DICKSBORO – UNDER-14 "A" FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS, 1992

Back row – Stephen Rochford, Kevin Ryan, Mark Gaffney, Peter Gunn, Niall O'Gorman, Richard Teehan, Stephen Guidera, David Kerwick, Graham Doyle, Kristian Knox, Oisin Breathnach, David Barry, Kieran Philpott, Richie Barry, Richard Nagle, Patrick Walsh, Mick Lane. **Front row** – Kieran O'Sullivan, Oisin Dawson, Keith Nicholson, Cathal McDonald, Brian Power, Eoin Peters, Gerard Hayes, Stephen Rochford, Liam McCormack, John Hayes.

D	L	G	I	A	R	M	D	O	W	L	I	N	G
W	F	E	E	N	S	Y	N	E	L	L	P	A	T
Y	Y	O	B	E	L	C	A	M	C	H	U	G	H
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M	I	R	E	M	C	C	A	R	T	H	Y	D	E

**SHADE IN THE WORDS AND FIND THE MESSAGE
(Words can be horizontal, vertical or diagonal).**

- Mick O — is manager of the Kildare football team.
- O' — Park is the county ground of Laois.
- Fr. Michael — is the coach of the Cork hurling team.
- The — Cup is the All-Ireland Senior Hurling Trophy.
- Dublin supporters are sometimes called the — for short.
- Martin — is the Carlow Hurling Coach.
- are Kilkenny Senior Football champions.
- Ned — is chairman of the Kilkenny Southern Board.
- Lester — is the Leinster Hurling Development Officer.
- Phil — is the Limerick hurling coach.
- The Irish word for a hurling ball.
- The bottom of the hurley is called the —
- This family make the 'Star' hurley in Kilkenny.
- This D.J. is not a disc jockey.
- Pat — was the Glenmore senior hurling captain.
- Martin — was No. 11 for Donegal in the All-Ireland.
- The Hendersons who came between Pat and John.
- Leahy is the Waterford senior hurling coach.
- This O'Sullivan retired after the All-Ireland hurling final.
- Jim and John — play hurling for Offaly.
- The Kilkenny senior hurling manager's christian name —
- O'Dwyer and O'Neill have this in common —.
- Cúl means a —.
- The O'Connor who plays corner back.
- Tommy and Declan — play for Dublin and Tipperary.
- Lyster is the Sunday Game host.
- Moran manages the Kerry football team.

Word Sleuth

Send your answers (on a postcard) to:

**Brendan O'Sullivan,
Jerpont Church,
Thomastown**

before January 31st, 1993.

The winning entry will be picked on the Saturday Sports Programme on February 8th, 1993.

PRIZE:

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1993.**

OVER-40's MASTERS' HURLING

Kilkenny again took part in the Masters' Over-40's championship. They were drawn in the group that included Tipperary, Waterford and Laois. In their first outing they had a terrific win over old adversaries, Tipperary, on a score of 2-8 to 2-6. In a riveting game played at the Dicksboro ground, Tipperary dominated the early stages of the first half, racing into a three-point lead.

However, Kilkenny fought back and turned over at the 'break' one point to the good — 2-5 to 2-4. Kilkenny just about shaded the second half to just get home on the line. Kilkenny's scorers were Frank Cleere 1-1, Mick Garret 0-3, Pat Ward 1-1, Sean Kiely, Eamon Cahill and Bobby Jackman 1 point each.

In their next outing Kilkenny played Waterford in the Mount Sion ground. They led at half-time by 1-8 to 1-3 and it should have been much more. At one stage in the

second half Kilkenny were cruising by seven points. However, the home side put in a tremendous late rally, and with two late goals the Kilkenny men were hard set to hold on for a creditable draw. The Kilkenny scorers were Sean Kiely 0-4, Mossy Murphy 1-1, Mick Garrett 0-3, Willo Phelan 0-2, Frank Cleere 0-2, Bobby Jackman, Joe O'Shea and Dick Walsh 1 point each.

A win or a draw would see Kilkenny qualify for the semi-final spot. They played Laois in Ballyragget, and while the Laois men put up a terrific resistance, they were just not good enough on the day, losing by 3-9 to 2-8. The Kilkenny scorers were Bobby Jackman 2-0, Joe O'Shea 0-4, Mick Garrett 0-2, Mossy Murphy 1-0, Sean Kiely 0-2 and Paddy Gaule 0-1.

So it was on to the semi-final against Dublin, in Ballyragget. The Kilkenny men really pulled a tartar in the "Dubs". The

Metropolitans were far fitter and faster to the ball, as many of them were still playing senior club hurling in Dublin. Dublin won by 1-11 to 0-9, and deservedly so. Joe O'Shea was Kilkenny's top scorer, scoring 7 points, with Sean Kiely and Willo Phelan getting the other two points between them.

In the final, Tipperary beat Dublin quite easily, while Wexford, powered by Tony Doran, beat Kilkenny in the Plate final.

All in all, the whole campaign was a very worthwhile exercise and great credit must be accorded to mentors Eddie Keher, Johnny McGovern and Mick O'Neill. Credit, too, to the Dicksboro and Ballyragget clubs for their facilities, Ted Carroll and the Co. Board for the equipment they provided, and finally to Billy Culleton for handling the players' needs.

Stephens Barracks, Kilkenny G.A.A. Round-up

By SERGT.-MAJOR JOHN SHERIDAN, 30th Inf. Bn.

In a year in which the Kilkenny hurling team after a lapse of nine years brought the McCarthy Cup back to the Noreside, no hurling or football trophy came to Stephens Barracks. Both the Chaplains' Cup and Inter-Command hurling trophies were lost to the Naval Service and Eastern Command respectively.

This year's hurling campaign, which commenced against the Military College, who had Noel Maher (Graigue-Ballycallan) and Canice Brennan (Conahy Shamrocks) playing for them, got off to a good start with the 30th Infantry Battalion team winning by four points. Conditions were very bad and the 30th Inf. Bn. team were also handicapped by the fact that five members of the team had, the previous night, just returned from the Lebanon. With defeat staring them in the face, a spirited last ten minutes resulted in the four-point winning margin.

The final of the Chaplains' Cup (Curragh Command series) was played in Nowlan Park against the Army Apprentice School. This pitted a very young, fit team against more mature players from the Kilkenny side. Again this game could have gone either way but in the end the 30th Inf. Bn. won by a margin of three points. This was an excellent game of hurling played in ideal conditions and the final result was in doubt right up to the end.

Having won the Curragh Command series of the Chaplains' Cup, the 30th Inf. Bn., now representing the Curragh Command, played the Western Command representatives in the quarter-final of the competition. This game was again played in Nowlan Park and resulted in a comprehensive win by eighteen points by the 30th Inf. Bn. team. This was the first game in which the team played really well

and prospects looked very good for the remainder of the competition.

The semi-final was played in Dublin against the Eastern Command representatives and this was a very tough, physical game. With two minutes of normal time remaining the Eastern Command representatives were two points ahead and looked to be heading for the final. However, an outstanding individual goal by Lieut. G. Deely rescued the 30th Inf. Bn. team and a further excellent point from play by Cpl. P. Prendergast led to a two-point winning margin.

The final of this competition was held during All-Army Week on the night of 22nd June, 1992. Our opponents were the Naval Service who had never won this competition before and who had provided only token opposition to hurling teams from the 30th Inf. Bn. in previous games. However, the injection of new blood through an on-going recruiting campaign had left us in little doubt that they would provide serious opposition. How true this turned out to be.

Ten minutes into the second half the 30th Inf. Bn. team looked to be on their way to a fourth consecutive win in this competition when leading by seven points. However, the Naval Service, backed by a slight breeze, began a comeback which resulted in a winning margin of eight points for them on a scoreline of 3-10 to 1-8. A campaign which had commenced with high hopes for the season finished on a disappointing note, though it must be said that it's always nice to see a new name added to the list of winners.

The week following the All-Ireland hurling final saw the Inter-Command hurling competition being run in Dublin. The Curragh Command, with a large

representation from the 30th Inf. Bn., beat the Southern command in the semi-final but lost the final of the competition to the Eastern Command by a margin of five points. So the trophy, which had been won in some style the previous year, was relinquished to the Eastern Command who were winning the competition for the first time in ten years. A combination of a weakened team and over-enthusiastic celebrations of Kilkenny's victory the previous Sunday took its toll in the final.

The most disappointing aspect of the G.A.A. scene in Stephens Barracks in 1992 was the fact that due to operational commitments we were unable to participate in the Medical Services football competition (Inter-Command series). This was particularly disappointing as we had won the competition the previous year for the first time.

On the representative scene, we had Sgt. S. Kiely starring for the Kilkenny over-40s hurling team. Cpl. Greg Waters played midfield for the Wexford football team in the Leinster championship against Dublin in Portlaoise.

Overall, despite not retaining any trophies won in 1991, we got to both finals though, as luck would have it, lost both. However, 1993 is another year and hopefully we can bet back to winning ways again.

With no playing pitch attached to the Barracks we rely on the co-operation of others to allow us to both train and play our matches. In this respect we are most grateful to O'Loughlin's G.A.A. club for the use of their pitch for training and to the relevant G.A.A. authorities in Kilkenny who gave us the use of Nowlan Park when required during the year. We hope to have the same co-operation in 1993.



Front row (left to right) – N. Power, O. Cullen, S. Kiely, E. Grehan, K. Brennan, D. Robinson, J. Griffin, S. Crame, E. O'Sullivan. Back row (left to right) – J. Cuddihy, R. Hogan, L. Brennan, D. Cowhig, G. Walters, M. Conlon, P. Conman, N. Dunphy, S. O'Grady, C. Kelleher.

TULLAROAN

Credit Union Senior Hurling Finalists 1992



BACK ROW (l.-r.): Joe Norton, Derek Gaffney, Edward Holland, Richie Walsh, Pat Doheny, Sean Teehan, Shem Dunne, Noel Treacy. FRONT ROW (l.-r.): Master Richard Butler, Master James Fennelly, Pat Fennelly, Phillip Doheny, Bill Hennessy, Liam Keogh (Captain), Dick Walsh, Michael Walshe, Jimmy Walton. Four boys in front (right): Richard Walshe, Stephen Looby, Tommy Walshe, Martin Walshe.

(Photo: Tom Brett)

JAMES STEPHENS

Kilkenny Minor Hurling Champions (Sponsored by Iarnród Éireann)



BACK ROW (l.-r.): Stephen Drennan, Conor O'Dwyer, Robert Kearney, Francis Cantwell, Brian McEvoy, Brian Dooley, Peter Barry, Conor Cleere. FRONT ROW (l.-r.): Shane Doyle, Kevin Grogan, Liam Smith, Clive Kenny (Captain), Fergal Cantwell, Vincent O'Brien, Derek Kerwick.

(Photo: Tom Brett)

Galmoy first winners of new Under-21 competition

GALMOY 8-10
WINDGAP 2-3

THIS special 11-a-side Under-21 hurling competition brought together Galmoy and Windgap, two clubs which have been ravaged in recent times by emigration and a general reduction in population. This year four teams entered the competition – Galmoy defeating the Emeralds and Windgap overcoming Slieverue in their respective semi-finals. The game itself turned out to be a one-sided affair with the North Kilkenny side comprehensive winners. With a 4-7 to no-score interval lead, Galmoy already had the final won with the second half of academic interest.

Windgap fielded with a number of Under-16 players in their side and against stronger opponents this made their task very difficult. Galmoy, who contested the recent Roinn C minor hurling final, showed

the advantage of playing together recently with some fine teamwork. Once Philip Brennan crashed home his side's first goal, Windgap were always fighting an uphill battle.

But full credit to an outstanding Windgap defence in which Edward Meehan, John McKenna and goalie Robert Jackman excelled. This trio ensured that Galmoy had to fight hard for all their scores.

Despite the big interval deficit, Windgap, with the advantage of the breeze in the second half, gave a good account of themselves, helped by the fine hurling of Alan Hearne in the middle of the field. Hearne got Windgap off the mark with a pointed free in the ninth minute, followed shortly afterwards by another Windgap score – a Tommy Egan goal. But Galmoy continued to dominate and in the end ran out worthy and easy winners.

A solid winner's defence was never over-stretched but Brian Doherty and

Cathal Doherty stood out. Michael Brennan and Brian Lonergan dominated midfield while Philip Brennan, Alan Grey and Kevin Lonergan gave the Windgap defence a busy afternoon.

Best for Windgap were Robert Jackman, Edward Meehan, John McKenna, Alan Hearne and William Walsh.

Galmoy: Paul Morrissey, Shane Doherty, John Phelan, Brian Doherty, Cathal Doherty, Michael Brennan (0-1), Brian Lonergan, Philip Brennan (2-5), Alan Gray (3-2), Declan Fitzpatrick (1-1), Kevin Lonergan (2-1).

Windgap: Robert Jackman, Edward Meehan, John McKenna, Tommy Egan (1-0), Alan Hearne (0-3), Alan Hawe, Vincent Meehan (1-0), Gerry Meehan, William Walsh, Eamonn Murphy, Paul Murphy.

Subs: Richard McKenna and John Kennington.



WATERFORD REGIONAL TECHNICAL COLLEGE — Fitzgibbon Cup and Higher Education Division I Hurling League Champions 1992.

Back row (l.-r.): Ger Crosse (Tipperary), Donnacha O'Donnell (Cork), Paul Lee (Clare), Alan Hickey (Cork), Owen Cummins (Tipperary), Sean Ryan (Kilkenny), Paudie O'Keeffe (Tipperary), Denis Mulally (Kilkenny). Front row (l.-r.): John Holohan (Kilkenny), Padraig Fanning (Waterford), Michael Hubbard (Waterford), Peter McKenna (mascot), P. J. Delaney (Kilkenny), Noel Dalton (Waterford), David Beirne (Kilkenny), James Aherne (Cork). Subs (not in photo): Brian O'Meara (Tipperary), Pat Fanning (Waterford), Brian Flannery (Tipperary), Declan Crosse (Tipperary), Richard Murphy (Wexford), Michael Dunne (Wexford), J. J. Kearney (Cork), Andy Comerford (Kilkenny), Brian McCarthy (Cork), Phil O'Callaghan (Wexford), Willie O'Riordan (Cork). Management team: Colm Bonnar, Eugene McKenna, Phil Fanning and Noel Dalton (snr.).

MICK O'FLYNN

Born: Ringaskiddy, Co. Cork.

Moved to Cork City: (Turner's Cross).

Played with Coláiste Chríost Rf hurling and football and won many under age trophies with Nemo Rangers. In athletics Micko came to prominence in 1969 when he was a surprise winner of the Irish Senior Triple Jump Championship.

In 1970 he turned his attention to soccer for a few years. He was capped 3 times for the Irish Universities team and played against England, Scotland and Wales. The following year he played for St. Patrick's Athletic – the Dublin League of Ireland team.

In 1974 he decided to concentrate on Athletics and over the next nine seasons won 6 Irish Senior Titles for Triple Jump and Long Jump – in fact from 1974 to 1983 he finished either 1st or 2nd in the Senior Championship, including 4 in-a-row from 1977 – 1980. Micko has the unique distinction of having won Senior titles in three different decades. 60s, 70s, 80s. During this time he was capped for Ireland on numerous occasions. He



competed for his country all over Europe from Iceland down to Italy. In 1979 and 1980 he was captain of the Irish team which included the likes of Eamonn Coghlan and John Treacy.

In the 1980s Micko devoted a lot of his time and energy to the Kilkenny City Harriers club but also found time to train James Stephens when they won the Co. Senior Hurling Championship in 1981 and the All-Ireland Club Championships in the following year.

In the last number of years Mick has coached a number of local athletes to win National titles but his biggest achievement was the opening of the magnificent 5-athletic track at Loughboy – a project which he was involved with over the last ten years.

His involvement with the Senior Hurling Team started in January '91 when Ollie Walsh approached him after the hammering by Limerick in Nowlan Park. The challenge was one that Micko could not refuse.

THE G.A.A. is by far the most powerful sporting organisation in the country. With almost 3,000 Clubs, 800,000 members and in excess of 300,000 registered players, it dwarfs every other sporting organisation in the country.

While Gaelic games retain their amateur status, the organisation is becoming more progressive as more money pours in under new sponsorships, deals etc. In theory, it is a voluntary, non-profit making organisation but in practice it has become more like a business over the past 2/3 years.

Not so long ago the G.A.A. was widely perceived as a bungling bureaucratic and badly managed organisation, but now Club, Counties, Provincial Councils and Central Council have all sharpened up their performance.

It is interesting to note that in the U.K. there are 164 Clubs making it the third biggest 'County' after Cork which has 260 Clubs approx. and Dublin which has 230 Clubs approx. In Canada and the U.S. there are over 100 Clubs, with 50 of them in New York alone. In Australia there are about 50 Clubs.

SCORING OWN GOALS

By: *BARRY HICKEY, Development Officer*



County Kilkenny has 40 Clubs which makes it very small by any standard.

Some of the smaller and less successful Counties will have problems in the future as they won't be able to attract sufficient finance through sponsorships to enable them to employ full time coaches etc. and they will be left behind unless the G.A.A. provides some sort of funding for them on a yearly basis.

County Boards in turn will have to keep an eye on the smaller Clubs with falling numbers and make adjustments in County structures when and where it is needed. The bigger and growing urban Clubs will have to cater for larger groups at all

age levels.

The presentation of our games at Club and County level is more important than ever. Potential sponsors will look at the way we run our games, the way we conduct ourselves on the field of play and as Club officials and mentors. Our players must be properly togged out in uniform colours, etc.

Our pitches must be well maintained and properly lined etc. With the availability of Social Employment Schemes there is no excuse for not having them in good condition. The attitude of Clubs to the presentation of proper information for the match programmes amazes me. For so long we have been saying to

Clubs how important it is to get the correct information on team positions and we find that we had more problems this year than ever before for our games.

I think we will have no option but to 'fine' clubs in the future to ensure that we overcome the problem and what a pity that is the way. It is a case of 'shooting ourselves in the foot' and giving our begrudgers something to talk about.

There is no doubt that the G.A.A. has a big P.R. job to do and the area to start at would be finance. One County Board meeting each year should be kept free for a full discussion on the finances of the G.A.A. and it should be attended by the Financial Controller of the G.A.A. or his representative.

How often have we heard 'what would I do only for the games on Sundays' and it is so true. The G.A.A. has become such an important part of life that we need to protect its principals and maintain its amateur status. The game of hurling in particular needs to be preserved and we in Kilkenny, as one of the strong hurling counties, must play a big part in same.

GLENMORE

Credit Union Senior Hurling Champions 1992



BACK ROW (l.-r.): Des Heffernan, Seamus Dollard, Eddie Aylward, Michael Phelan, Ray Heffernan, P. J. O'Connor, Denis Mullally, John Flynn. FRONT ROW (l.-r.): Liam Walsh, Michael 'Foxy' Phelan, Michael Deady, Pat Barron (Captain), John Heffernan, Eddie O'Connor, Willie O'Connor.

Photo: Tom Brett

YOUNG IRELANDS (Gowran)

Vale Oil Intermediate Hurling Champions 1992



BACK ROW (l.-r.): James McDermott, Tony Byrne, Patrick Treacy, Pat Lennon, Brian Farrell, Claran Phelan, Pat Drea, Patrick Farrell, John Brennan (Captain), Pat Kennedy, Charlie Carter, Cathal Fitzgerald, Pat O'Neill, Brian Treacy. FRONT ROW (l.-r.): Phillip Twomey, Kieran Carey, Tom Fenlon, "Toss" Farrell, D. J. Carey, James Fitzgerald, Martin Carey, Charlie Carter (jnr.), David O'Neill, John Middleton, John Kennedy, Jack Carey.

KILKENNY

All-Ireland Senior Hurling Champions 1992



FRONT ROW (l.-r.): Nickey Brennan (County Board Chairman), Willie O'Connor, Eddie O'Connor, Liam McCarthy, Jamsie Brennan, Liam Fennelly (Captain), Michael Walsh, D. J. Carey, Bill Hennessy, Liam Walsh, Ollie Walsh (Team Coach). MIDDLE ROW (l.-r.): Ted Carroll (County Board Secretary), Seanie Kelly (Team Masseur), Adrian Ronan, John Power, Liam Simpson, Pat Dwyer, Michael Phelan, Eamonn Morrissey, Christy Heffernan, Dermot Lawlor, Pat Aylward (Selector), Mick O'Flynn (Team Trainer). BACK ROW (l.-r.): Doctor Bill Cuddihy (Team Doctor), John Healy (County Board Vice-Chairman), Paul Phelan, Charlie Carter, Richie Power, Pat Hoban, Michael Morrissey, Joe Walsh, Tom Murphy, Pat O'Neill.

“Loughman” – the forgotten man of Kilkenny hurling?

MICHAEL (Mick) LOUGHMAN was born in St. Patrick's parish in 1896, one of six children of Mr. and Mrs. James Loughman. As a young man, Mick Loughman took an active part in the struggle for independence and was a leading member of the Kilkenny Brigade of the old I.R.A.

Following the capture and burning of Hugginstown Barracks in 1920, Mick, though not one of those involved in the incident, was one of the many Kilkenny men arrested. He spent terms of imprisonment in Mountjoy, Wormwood Scrubs and Ballykinlar Internment Camp, where he underwent periods of hunger strike. On his release at the end of the “troubles”, he joined the Post Office staff, where he served for forty years. He also worked in Kilkenny Theatre as a checker. A personal friend of General Richard Mulcahy, he was a member of Cumann na nGael and later the Fine Gael Party and held strong and implacable political views. He was also a member of the Gaelic League and helped organise Ceilidhes in Desart Hall and in the Town Hall.

However, it is of “Loughman” the G.A.A. man I wish to write, and of his lifetime of unsung service to that organisation. Mick began his career as a player with James Stephens and was involved with them until a split developed in the club in 1927. In 1930, Rev. Br. McNamara called a meeting in Kilkenny C.B.S. with a view to the formation of a club drawn from the pupils and past pupils of that school. Mick Loughman and Rev. Br. Kealy attended this meeting as did Rev. Wm. Brennan, curate of St. Mary's (late P.P. Glenmore), the club's first patron. These were immediately joined by Dan Dunne and Christy Murray, affectionately known as “Dr. Kildare”, a lifetime ally of Mick's in the preparation and training of teams.

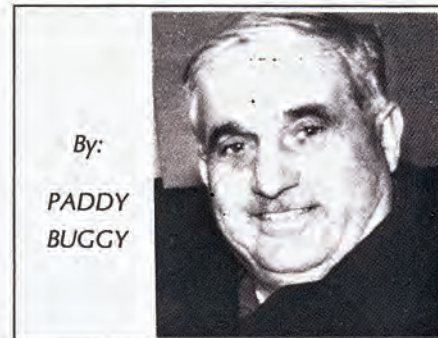
Originally named Young Irelands, with blue and white colours and a harp as crest, the infant club changed its name within a year to Éire Óg, and, having no finances, were glad to accept Leinster jerseys, of which there was an abundance in the city in those days, from such players as Billy Burke, Podge Byrne and others. Thus the green and white of Leinster became Éire Óg's colours for the lifetime of the club.

The C.B.S. was the nursery of Éire Óg, winning the Leinster Junior Championships of 1930, '34 and '35, and the Senior title in 1936, beating Blackrock of Dublin in the final. The 1936 panel: Martin McEvoy (capt.), Tom Prendergast, Christy Bollard, Sean Byrne, Richard Shortall, Tom Lennon, Tom Wal-

dron, P. Dunne, P. Brennan, J. Maher, Nicky Hyland, P. Campbell, Tom Delaney, Pádraig McKenna, Tom Murphy, Phil Treacy, J. Prendergast, Pat Kavanagh, Jimmy Kavanagh, Jimmy Langton and Eamonn Tallent.

It was now that Mick Loughman's work with young players began in earnest. There being no restrictions, such as parish boundaries, in those days, Mick cycled the length and breadth of the county in search of talent for the Éire Óg minor hurling team. Bobby Hincks was recruited from Slieverue, and later, Jack Duggan from Farnogue, club policy being to get the best. This practice closely simulated collective training at this level and paid great dividends when the county Minor team won their first All-Ireland title in 1931, winning again in 1935 and 1936, all three teams being captained by Éire Óg players – John Shortall, Paddy Grace and Eamonn Tallent.

Kilkenny's success at Minor level, even in the present day, can be attributed partly to the pioneering work of Mick Loughman. It was he who instituted the successful selection process, and his organisational ability established patterns that are still in use. He fought successfully for the recognition and support of the county Minor team, organising training, finance, travel and hotel



By:
PADDY
BUGGY

arrangements in the face of a Kilkenny officialdom which was heavily biased towards the Minor team. He was universally acknowledged as an exceptional judge of talent, and his sideline astuteness won many a game for both Éire Óg and the County Minors.

His care and concern for his players was equalled only by his strict discipline, and it was not unknown for Mick to strike a player who stepped out of line, or to suspend a player for breach of the pre-match curfew.

Though he never suffered fools gladly, Mick was capable of generous sporting gestures. Feeling that the courageous 1947 Kilkenny Minor team, beaten by Dublin in a Croke Park replay, had deserved better fortune, he presented them with a special set of medals. With twelve county panelists on the 1933 Éire Óg minor team, he conceded home venue in the County Final to Mooncoin, who were without a panel member. His generosity cost him the final and Mooncoin won their first title 5-2 to 2-2!

The Éire Óg club was one of the great success stories of Kilkenny hurling, and Mick was there from the beginning. He was involved in the winning of five Minor County titles, the first in 1932 (beating John



A group of Kilkenny minors photographed after the county had retained that title in 1936. The players are (back row) – Sean O'Brien, Robert Brannigan, Jack Mulcahy and Jim Langton. Front row – Eamonn Tallent and Tom Delaney. The three officials – Paddy Phelan, then at the zenith of his brilliant senior career – Christy Murray and Mick Loughman (seated).

Lockes in a replay), and again in '34, '35, '36 and '37. They won the Junior Championship in 1936, the Intermediate in '37, and lost the Senior final to Carrickshock in 1938. Their first Senior title came in 1939, followed by further victories in 1944, '45 and '47. The club also won a Junior football title in 1937. Christy Murray shared with Mick in all these triumphs, training teams throughout the '30's, and he was also involved with the Kilkenny Minor team. For more than a decade Éire Óg was one of the outstanding club sides in the country, winning admiration everywhere for their teamwork and skill.

The Éire Óg story continued into the mid-sixties but Loughman's connection with the club ended in the early 'forties. A spell in Peamount Hospital in 1942, probably occasioned by the hardships he endured during the troubles and his internment, led to his temporary removal from the scene. On his return, Mick found himself confronted with an active club committee, comprising such as Tom Neary, Jimmy Walsh, Billy Holohan and later Mick Neary and Paddy Johnston. Never a man to play second fiddle, he found the committee system of debate and discussion unendurable, and he left Éire Óg to join Dicksboro. His sudden death in 1965 saw him still heavily involved with the G.A.A. in the form of St. Canice's Hurling Club, the Minor wing of Dicksboro.

However, those early years with Éire Óg and the Kilkenny Minors were unquestionably the glory days of Mick Loughman. He was directly involved in the winning of three All-Ireland titles, including Kilkenny's first, in the 1930's, one of the great under-age decades in the county's history, when such greats as Jim Langton, Seanie O'Brien, Bobby Brannigan, Paddy Boyle, Tom Delaney, Eamonn Tallent, Marty McEvoy, Paddy Grace, Jack Mulcahy, Terry Holohan, Marty Grace, Tom Waldron, and Bobby Hincks graced the juvenile fields.

Two of the great full-backs of the modern game, Diamond Hayden and Nick O'Donnell played with Éire Óg. Two Éire Óg players, Jack Mulcahy and Paddy Johnston, went on to referee All-Ireland senior hurling finals. In 1941, Éire Óg had the services of eleven Railway Cup players, including Paddy Pheland and Peter Blanchfield, and yet Carrickshock beat them in the County Final. 1947 was probably Éire Óg's greatest year, when they won the County title and had eight players on the Kilkenny panel which beat Cork in the epic final of that year: "Diamond" Hayden, Jack Mulcahy, Jimmy Langton, Liam Reidy, Paddy (Chunky) O'Brien, Paudie Lennon, Nick O'Donnell and Tommy Murphy. It is regrettable that an Éire Óg player never had the honour of captaining a Kilkenny team to an All-Ireland title. Jimmy Langton in 1940, Peter Blanchfield in 1945, and Jack Mulcahy in 1946 led Kilkenny when they lost to Limerick, Tipperary and Cork in finals.

It was tragic, but probably inevitable, that Éire Óg should eventually fade away. Never having had a home of their own, and training in such places as the Fair Green and the side



ÉIRE ÓG – 1932 MINOR HURLING CHAMPIONS

Standing (left to right): Billy Guilfoyle, Dan Dunne, Billy Holohan, Gerry Dunne, Sean Byrne, Matt Gargan, Paddy Grace, Dinny Sullivan, Milo McCabe, Johnny Power, Johnny Dunphy, Ml. Meaney, Dick Phelan, Dick White, John Denieffe, Liam Cody and Michael Loughman. Seated (l-r): J. McGuinness, Paul Fennelly, M. Barry, M. Doyle, Father Wm. Brennan, Ed. Shortall, Gerry O'Sullivan, Tommy Marnell, and Paddy Kelly.

of Nowlan Park, they led a nomadic existence. They were a club without roots or tradition and the introduction of the three parish rule, and subsequently the one parish rule, made the continued existence of such a club very difficult. Ironically, Mick Loughman's autocratic style of leadership may even have contributed to their demise, in that having conditioned the club to leave all organisational matters to him, his departure left his successors with an almost impossible act to follow.

Mick Loughman believed in success, and would leave no stone unturned in his quest for it. It all began with Kilkenny C.B.S., extended to Éire Óg and the Kilkenny Minor hurling scene, which laid the foundation for the successes of Éire Óg in the senior

championship and the All-Ireland success of 1947. Mick was a fearlessly outspoken man, and because of his sincerity, he was respected even by those who differed with or disliked him. Like or dislike Mick Loughman, agree or disagree with his forceful, abrasive methods, one must still pose the question: Will any one man contribute so much to Kilkenny hurling again?

(This article was written at the prompting of Paddy Brett of Éire Óg, who, whenever we met over the past three years, always raised the subject of Mick Loughman, urging that his heroic work for Kilkenny hurling should be recalled for readers of the Kilkenny Yearbook.)

Paddy Buggy



ÉIRE ÓG – 1939 SENIOR HURLING CHAMPIONS

BACK (L-R): Jim Dunne, Martin Trehy, Mick Tyrrell, Dick Gorey, Paddy Power, Jack Downey, Paddy "Chunky" O'Brien, Syd Bluett. Middle Row: (l-r): A.N. O'Her, Seanie O'Brien, Eddie Brett, Kieran Carroll, Johnny Power, Billy Holohan, Lar Carroll, Joe Walsh, Paddy Larkin, Jack Duggan, Mick Loughman. Front Row (l-r): Christy Murray, Jim Larkin, Jack Mulcahy, Billy Guilfoyle, Ramie Dowling, Jim Langton, Paddy Boyle, Pat Fahy, Paddy Kavanagh. Mascot: Fr. Paddy Dowling.

ST. KIERAN'S COLLEGE

All-Ireland Colleges' Senior
Hurling Champions 1992



BACK ROW (l.-r.): Ciaran Muldowney (Conahy Shamrocks), Alan Forde (Bennettsbridge), Sean Foley (St. Patrick's, Ballyragget), Kyran Vaughan (Mullinahone), Michael Fitzgerald (Clara), Chris Foley (St. Patrick's, Drangan), Tom Hogan (Selector), Lorcan Carroll (Threecastles), Liam Smith (James Stephens), Justin Hanrahan (Clara), Dámlen Hurley (St. Lachtain's), Art Anglin (Selector), MIDDLE ROW (l.-r.): Nicholas Lacey (Ballinakill), Brian Cahill (St. Lachtain's), Joseph Philpott (Dicksboro), Richie Kelly (Rower-Inistioge), Ciaran Conner (Conahy Shamrocks, Captain), Martin Carey (Young Irelands), Clive Kenny (James Stephens), Peter Barry (James Stephens), Shane Doyle (James Stephens), Tommy Langan (Coach), FRONT ROW (l.-r.): Ken Hughes (Emeralds), Eugene Somers (James Stephens), Brendan Dalton (Dicksboro), Vincent O'Brien (James Stephens), James Young (Graigue-Ballycañan), Michael Owens (Erin's Own). ABSENT: Ollie Blanchfield (Ussdowney). (Photo: Tom Burt)

KILKENNY MINOR FOOTBALL TEAM

Winners of the International Football Tournament in Ennis during the Summer



BACK ROW (l.-r.): S. Kennedy (Selector), Ned Gahan, John Phelan, Brendan Bolger, Brian Conway, Eoin Hennigan, Mark Tyler, Paudie Gorman, Peter Ryan, John Dowd, John Dooley, Paul Fitzgerald, Tom Cunniffe (Manager). FRONT ROW (l.-r.): Pat Mulrooney, Kieran Meally, James Cunniffe, Claran Lynch, Paul Kearney, Ken Brennan, Derick Kerwick, Liam Shore, James Phelan, Tom Hickey, Francis Cantwell, Eddie Blackmore.

Tomás de Bhaldráithe



SOME occasions arise in a lifetime when one's understanding of life is completely undermined. The unexpected death of Tom Waldron, which took place on 23rd May, 1992, was one such occasion, leaving all who knew him feeling a great sense of personal loss. For Tom's wife, Maureen, and family in particular and for those who had seen and spoken with him just moments before, it was a singular, unexpected blow. Déanaimíd comhbrón arís leis an gclann go léir agus lena chairde uilig. Toil Dé a bhí ann nuair a tháinig an Chlao ar an Máistir. Nárbh aoibhinn dó féin 'an Chlao sin tar éis dó bheith i láthair ag cluiche iománaíochta agus é ar a bhealach chun glóir Dé a cheiliúradh ar Aifreann.

That evening having watched St. Lachtain's in action in the Northern Junior Hurling League and having commented on the proceedings in his own inimitable way, Tomás left Páirc Lachtáin to lead the choir in the Vigil Mass in St. Lachtain's Church. He collapsed as he entered the Church. Word filtered back immediately to the hurling field. Bhí an Máistir ar lár. As a mark of respect the game was called off. Over the next three days the people of

Freshford, together with those friends from his native city and the acquaintances made during his days as a local and national public figure, all came together to pay tribute to the man who in his time was teacher, Co. Councillor, President of I.N.T.O., Co. Board official and friend to all.

It is first and foremost as a teacher that Tomás de Bhaldráithe will be remembered in Freshford, and indeed in the country in general. He began his teaching career in 1938. It is acknowledged by past pupils and colleagues alike that as a teacher he was a man ahead of his time having an immediate regard and concern for the interests and abilities of his pupils. For nearly forty years his influence on generations of Freshford pupils was profound.

Throughout Tom's life his regard for and knowledge of the game of hurling was evident to all who came in contact with him. His early enthusiasm for the game was rewarded when he lined out at left-half-back for Kilkenny minors in 1936. They beat Cork in the All-Ireland that year. Cork turned the tables in Killarney in 1937 when Tom lined out at centre-back. When C.B.S. won the Leinster championship in 1936, he was selected to play on the Leinster Colleges team in the Inter-Provincial games.

His club hurling in Kilkenny was with Eire Óg, Lisdowney and Freshford.

Tom's greatest contribution to Kilkenny hurling, which was acknowledged at the graveside oration, was the setting up of Cumann na mBunscoileanna in 1939 with Br. James of the C.B.S. and Joe Dowling of Clinstown. He was also co-founder of the Under-16 Board in 1946. Looking back on those days when transport to and from meetings and games was difficult to arrange, the commitment of those pioneering men of hurling was, it must be said, the springboard from which all Kilkenny's All-Ireland victories since was launched. To be numbered amongst that select band of men, is to be acknowledged as a contributor to the tradition which is Kilkenny hurling. Tom Waldron was to the fore in that group of far-seeing people.

At parish level it can be said that with the arrival of the Master in Freshford in 1948, hurling fortunes were rekindled in the parish. Championships at Under-14 in 1951 and 1954, Under-16 in 1954 and the minor in 1955 rolled in to the success-starved club. Freshford had five players on the Kilkenny minor hurling team which lost to Tipperary in the 1956 All-Ireland final. All who represented the parish on Kilkenny hurling teams from that era on can be grateful to the Master who introduced them to the game at school level.

His guiding hand helped Freshford climb further up the hurling ladder by winning the 1959 Co. Junior title. The pinnacle was reached when St. Lachtain's won the Co. Senior championships of 1961 and 1963. The Centenary year Intermediate Final victory gave him great pleasure as St.

Lachtain's got back on the winning trail after a number of years in the wilderness. The development of Páirc Lachtáin towards the end of the eighties was also a source of pride.

Tom was a Kilkenny minor selector from 1954 to 1957 and a senior selector in 1962, '63, '64 when Kilkenny won an All-Ireland and the first National Hurling League title since 1933.

There were so many facets to Tom's life and all of them seemed to revolve around his G.A.A. activities. Indeed, while holding the prestigious position of president of the I.N.T.O. in 1982 - '83, one of his proudest moments occurred, not in the presence of Presidents or Prime Ministers, though those too he could handle, but in the company of the Liam McCarthy and the Sam Maguire Cups at his Presidential Dinner in 1982. The occasion arose as both All-Ireland winning captains of that year were then teaching colleagues of Tom in his I.N.T.O. District.

His love of all things Irish was combined with his G.A.A. involvement by his holding the position of Gaelic Officer on the Co. Board since the position was established in 1979. His quiet devotion to that task meant that Kilkenny Co. Board was well represented and well directed when "Cursaí na Gaeilge" were under discussion at local or national level.

As an actor, singer, script-writer and song-writer Tomás has left us a store of memories. Surely "The Tullaroan Victory Ball" and "One Day in Kilkenny", commemorating Tullaroan's and St. Lachtain's victories in the 1958, '61 Co. Finals are amongst the finest of victory songs.

As a man of hurling he has left a legacy of achievement and ideals to his Club and County which we must strive to emulate and fulfill.

Más mian linne bheith dílis do na huaisle go léir a thug treoir náisiúnta dúinn, leanaimís féin dea-shampla an Mháistir gach lá d'ár saol.

Go dtuga Dia Suaimhneas sioraí d'á anam uasal Gaelach.

"Tá ceó dubhach ar gach sliabh,
Ceó nach dtáinig roimhe riamh;
Ta ciúineas duairc i n-am nóin
Ach amháin trom-ghuth ar bhróin . . .

Ní leanfaidh sé an fiadh go deóidh,
Faoi ghleanntaibh dubha ná sléibhte ceóidh,
Ní chluinfear adharc go binn ag séideadh
Ná guth a ghadhar ar bhinn an tsléibhe.

A lámh bhronntach go fann ina luighe,
A chroí meanmnach marbh gan bhrígh,
Síol na gcuradh ás cara na mbárd,
Searc na gceólaírf chanas go hard.

Ní fheicfear é ar luath-each óg
Thar chlaidhe ás fál ag déanamh róid;
Ta claichlodh ar a mhaise go deóidh,
Ar a mhórdhacht do thuit trom-cheó . . .

Éamonn Ó Cinnéide.

What a year for supporters' club

BY:
BILL DEEGAN

My closing remarks in last year's Review of 1991 were "next year we'll bag the big one". And we did! "What a difference a year makes" was the common cry in the Croke Park dressingrooms after this year's final.

From the doom and gloom of '91 grew the resolve to make amends in '92 and bring Liam back to the Nore. I got a very distinct feeling with about twenty-five minutes to go in the Offaly match that Kilkenny would go all the way this year. We had drawn level and 'No Way' were Offaly going to be allowed score again. One could see the resolve, especially among our 'backs'. A memory which I will have for a long time is the sight of John Power coming into the dressingroom in Croke Park after the All-Ireland. We all know the earnest endeavours of John on the field of play and he hurled that day as if he was 'wired to the moon'. He still hadn't made a lunar return as he came into the dressingroom. An unfortunate old antiquated bench, which is used as a massage bed, received the full vent of his

feelings as he drew down on it with his hurl and accompanied it with a shriek all the tension was released and he was back among us again. To all involved with the success, on behalf of all Kilkenny supporters I say – well done and thank you.

As regards the Supporters' Club, we set out at the beginning of the year to concentrate on enrolling new members. Our extensive drive paid off. The ridiculous 1991 total of seventy-five Kilkenny Supporters' was boosted tenfold this year and the club is now in a position where it has an excellent base for future expansion.

We were delighted to be able to help out the various teams and individuals in many ways during the year. Our aim is to spread our funds over a broad section of every unit of G.A.A. activities within the county. This year we assisted at schools and colleges level. We also sponsored the "Man of the Match" award in the Football County Final. Other contributions included the summer coaching schools at Piltown and Lisdowney. It is very pleasing to be in a position to present our Senior hurlers with tickets for their forthcoming holiday in Tenerife.



Although the hype before this year's final did not match last year's, there was still a fabulous atmosphere throughout the run-up to the big game, not to mention the colour at the Canal End terrace on the day of the final. Many of the banners so evident on that day featured prominently in our very successful Banner Parade the day before. The various shops throughout the county which sold our favourite colours made it easier for supporters to acquire hats, flags, scarves etc. It was often said that Kilkenny supporters were slow to show their feelings at matches. That myth is exploded. We have now become one of the foremost counties for expressing ourselves. All that was needed was a bit of encouragement. Supporters will have an opportunity this Christmas to purchase a special Supporters' Club Christmas Card which also contains a photograph of our champions. This will make an ideal card for anyone sending greetings to relatives or friends abroad. The cards were designed and distributed exclusively by the club.

My wishes for 1993 are (a) that our senior hurlers will return from Tenerife refreshed with the spirit to retain the title. (b) That referees' interpretations of the rules will be consistent. (c) That we will continue to enjoy watching the various games and (d) That each and every one of us will have every happiness throughout the coming year.

I must not let the occasion pass without thanking Nickey Brennan and his Board for their co-operation during the year and to my own committee I am deeply indebted to them all for their work on behalf of the club and for the organisational skills which they displayed in promoting the various successful events of the past year. Thanks are also due to the media in Kilkenny for their very genuine interest in the club's affairs and for their assistance in promoting our interest. Oh! I nearly forgot – next year we'll bag the double!!

IT WAS a funny old National League for Kilkenny, but at the end of it, few by the Noresiders were laughing. On the contrary, there was a lot of crying, in the sense of giving out, and the mood in the county after it all was that Kilkenny were heading nowhere, and fast.

The year changed dramatically afterwards, but when the Noresiders finished in the Hurling League on March 22 with a 7-point win over Down, a good run in Leinster never mind the All-Ireland championship, looked more than a million miles away.

To this day, Kilkenny can't explain what happened in the restructured League. The competition was over for the Leinster champions in mid-February when they still had two matches left to play.

In the restructured Winter competition, a county could only lose one game, because a second reverse saw the door to the lucrative semi-finals closed in their face. There were no quarter-finals, so the margin of error was smaller than usual.

In a competitive sense, the League had true value, as far as Kilkenny were concerned, during the opening three matches. The fourth test against Offaly brought a win that guaranteed against finishing bottom of the table, and then victory in the closing match against Down consolidated a mid-table position.

But heavy earlier defeats back-to-back against All-Ireland champions, Tipperary before Christmas and then Limerick after the mid-Winter break, gutted Kilkenny followers.

FRINGE PLAYERS

No one wanted to hear the sob-stories. The players selectors Ollie Walsh (team manager), Nickey Brennan (Co. Board chairman) and Pat Aylward (Shamrocks) wanted were not always available. But the fringe players, many of whom had been through the All-Ireland final with the county the previous September, just didn't look the part, and nowhere did there appear to be a morsel of comfort.

Coming out of Gaelic Park after the 14 points thrashing by Limerick, the players and supporters from Kilkenny didn't know where to turn. That was as comprehensive a defeat as could be imagined, and the feelings of hopelessness borne out of the previous loss to Tipperary, turned to despair.

Selector Pat Aylward admitted some time afterwards that that defeat in Limerick was as cruel a body-blow as he had ever suffered during his time in hurling. Still, by the finish of the competition in Ballycran, he was already beginning to regain some hope. Only some mind you. The Shamrocks man felt that against Down, the Leinster champions showed a bit of promise, and some of the players looked like they could slot into certain positions.

IT WAS A PAINFUL LEAGUE TO DIGEST!

By:
JOHN KNOX
"Kilkenny People"

Before Christmas, Kilkenny faced Laois and Tipperary. Manager Ollie Walsh, warned early on that the county could suffer post All-Ireland blues. He hadn't warned people that the pain would be as acute as it turned out. Simply, Kilkenny's hurling world seemed to be falling apart, and there were those who feared the All-Ireland defeat suffered at the hands of old foes, Tipperary had done irreparable damage.

Nothing went Kilkenny's way during the League. On the field the results were poor. Off it, there were injuries to Bill Hennessy (arm), Liam Walsh (back), Liam McCarthy (ankle) and Liam Fennelly that upset things badly. Manager Ollie Walsh was even struck down, and he spent over a week in hospital in late February and missed the home match against Offaly.

When the competition started with a home test against Laois, it appeared to be too early for both sides. Neither was able to field anything near a full strength side. For that reason, there was an unreal atmosphere at Nowlan Park, and the match lacked a true cutting edge.

SORRY STATE

Without players from the county champions, Shamrocks (Ballyhale), who were preparing for the Leinster championship, and Young Irelands (Cowran), who were involved in the intermediate final, the county team looked a sorry state.

Eamon Morrissey (St. Martin's) did his best to liven things up. He actually scored as much as the entire Laois team (1-9) as Kilkenny won by 2-18 to 1-9. The winners led by 1-9 to 0-6 at half-time. A 37th minute goal from Morrissey that left Laois 0-8 to 2-12 behind, knocked the visitors for six.

Next up came Tipperary, in the All-Ireland final repeat. The Leinster champions went in with eight of the players who did duty the previous September against Babs Keating's men. The visitors to Thurles were tossed around like a straw doll in a violent storm.

Tipp. won by 2-18 to 1-11. The contest was more one-sided than the scoreline suggests. A late Liam Fennelly goal took the awful look off things as far as Kilkenny were concerned. Simply, Kilkenny lacked a physical presence, with the likes of John Henderson, who hadn't at that time announced his retirement, Christy Hefferman and Eamon Morrissey missing.

Those looking deeper than the result, saw that a lot of the Noresiders reserve talent just wasn't up to it. That, at the time, was a chilling prospect.

The lashing handed out by Limerick only added to the concern expressed in all quarters during the Christmas recess. The rejuvenated Shannonsiders walked all over the opposition. Kilkenny looked out of place, out of their depth, totally inadequate.

The only worthwhile resistance was offered by John Power, but he alone couldn't turn the tide. Big hearted, defiant Power had a few able helpers in Pat Dwyer, Pat O'Neill at wingback and to a lesser extent Eamon Morrissey, but besides, no one looked capable of surviving at senior level, although it has to be admitted, Michael Phelan was played in a suffocating half-forward rôle.

WENT BACKWARDS

The experiment of playing D. J. Carey as a midfielder died a death that day too. This was the low point of the hurling year for the seniors. They stayed with Limerick for five minutes, but after that went backwards. They were 0-5 to 0-1 down after nine minutes. And 0-3 to 1-11 in arrears at the rest. Limerick, who eventually finished as League champions, pounded out a 1-18 to 0-7 win.

The acute disappointment felt by Kilkenny followers was reflected in the attendance for the next home game

against Offaly. Only 2,500 brave souls turned up. That would be about half the attendance expected, because usually Kilkenny are the best supported hurling team in the country.

Those who stayed away missed getting a bit of a lift. The home side showed a good spirit, and the match featured an exciting finish. Points during the closing three minutes by John Power and Adrian Ronan earned Kilkenny the verdict.

On a heavy pitch, Pat Hoban at full-forward, made a big impression and made a few sit up and take notice. Pat Dwyer looked better placed at fullback than in the corner. Pat O'Neill, Patsy Brophy, Adrian Ronan, Michael Phelan and Eamon Morrissey all looked more hungry, as did Christy Heffernan when used as a late substitute.

With D. J. Carey again available for the closing match against Down, there was, as Pat Aylward suggested, a better look about things. Down weren't the whipping boys many thought them to be, and it took a big effort to put them down. Carey weighed in with 1-6. Derek Gaffney, who was later to pick up an injury and fall from grace, helped himself to 1-5, which was good going for someone getting his first real trial with the seniors.

Under the old League format, which would have given each county more games, Kilkenny may have improved. They didn't get the opportunity. When they departed to leave the likes of Limerick, Tipperary and Cork fight out the closing stages, local followers looked towards the future more in fear than hope. They feared the worst!

Kilkenny's worst run in the National League in over a decade was painful to digest!

31 players were used

THE restructured National Hurling League led to Kilkenny playing fewer games than normal, but the demand on players was high and more were used than when the county won the title in 1990 when a massive 10 matches were played.

During the last League, Kilkenny played five games and used 31 players. The comparative figures for 1991 were 10 matches and 25 players.

Just seven players turned out in all matches. They were Adrian Ronan, Eddie O'Connor, Patsy Brophy, Pat Dwyer, Michael Phelan, John Power and Derek Gaffney.

The team changed every day, and the last match against Down turned out to be the first appearance for Tullaroan's Bill Hennessy. He had been sidelined after breaking a bone in his arm shortly after the All-Ireland final of 1991.

The players used, and number of games they played, read - Eddie O'Connor, Pat Dwyer, Adrian Ronan, Patsy Brophy, Michael Phelan, John Power, Derek Gaffney (5 each); Eamon Morrissey, Michael Walsh, Liam Simpson (4 each); D. J. Carey, Pat O'Neill, Christy Heffernan, Pat Hoban (3 each); Tom Murphy, Pat Ryan, Liam Fennelly, Liam McCarthy, Eamon Holland, Tommy Phelan, Paul Phelan, Tommy Fogarty, John McDonald; Michael Morrissey (2 each); Jim Dunphy, Dermot Fennelly, Johnny Holohan, Michael Cleere, Charlie Carter, Dermot Lawlor, Bill Hennessy (1 each).

Scoring returns were not good

KILKENNY'S scoring returns during the National League told an unhealthy story.

In all, they scored 6-62, while conceding 6-65. Scholars of the game will tell you the figures just can't be that close. The defensive record would have to be better with forward returns like that for a team hoping to achieve anything.

The highest scorer during the League was Eamon Morrissey, with 1-15 to his credit. He also had the biggest individual score, which was the 1-9 he shot against Laois in the opening match.

Interesting to note that Derek Gaffney, Tullaroan finished second in the scoring chart. In five outings, he helped himself to 1-8, a total enhanced by a fine individual score of 1-5 picked off against Down.

The scorers, and their totals were: Eamon Morrissey, St. Martin's 1-15 (9 points frees); Derek Gaffney, Tullaroan, 1-8; D. J. Carey, Young Irelands 1-6 (four points frees); John Power, John Lockes, 1-5; Adrian Ronan, Graigue-Ballycallan 0-7; Liam McCarthy, Piltown 0-6; Michael Phelan, Glenmore 0-5; Pat Hoban, Mullinavat, 1-2; Liam Fennelly, Shamrocks 1-1; Dermot Fennelly, Shamrocks; Pat Ryan, Emeralds; Charlie Carter, Young Irelands 0-2 each; Tommy Phelan, Shamrocks 0-1.

THE LEAGUE ROAD TO NOWHERE

OCTOBER 20 AT NOWLAN PARK

Kilkenny 2-18

Laois 1-9

Kilkenny scorers: Eamon Morrissey (1-9, five points frees); John Power (1-1); Dermot Fennelly, Liam McCarthy, Derek Gaffney (0-2 each); Pat Ryan, Liam Fennelly (0-1 each).

NOVEMBER 3 AT SEMPLE STADIUM, THURLES

Tipperary 2-18

Kilkenny 1-11

Kilkenny scorers: Liam McCarthy (0-4, one free); Liam Fennelly (1-0); Charlie Carter (0-2); Adrian Ronan (0-2, frees); Michael Phelan, Pat Ryan, Tommy Phelan (0-1 each).

FEBRUARY 16 AT GAELIC PARK, LIMERICK

Limerick 1-18

Kilkenny 0-7

Kilkenny scorers: Eamon Morrissey (0-4, three frees); John Power (0-2); Michael Phelan (0-1).

MARCH 1 AT NOWLAN PARK

Kilkenny 0-12

Offaly 0-10

Kilkenny scorers: Adrian Ronan (0-4, one free); Michael Phelan, John Power (0-2 each); Eamon Morrissey (0-2, one free); Derek Gaffney, Pat Hoban (0-1 each).

MARCH 22 AT BALLYCRAN

Down 2-10

Kilkenny 3-14

Kilkenny scorers: D. J. Carey (1-6, four points frees); Derek Gaffney (1-5); Pat Hoban (1-1); Adrian Ronan, Michael Phelan (0-1 each).

Heroes of 1960/'61/'62 have a happy re-union

While many of us can readily recall the many successes of Kilkenny senior hurling teams, how many can remember the great victories of our minor hurlers?

Kilkenny are level with Cork and Tipperary at the head of the role of honour with fifteen All-Ireland titles each. Kilkenny first tasted success in 1931 but the best period for minor hurling in Kilkenny was undoubtedly in the period 1960/'61/'62. How fitting therefore that the players from those championship winning sides should gather together for an enjoyable re-union in June this year. The hard working committee under the chairmanship of Joe Ayres put together a variety of events culminating in a Dinner/Dance on Sunday, June 28th.

An interesting statistic from the three games was the fact that Tipperary provided the opposition on each occasion. Perhaps from Kilkenny's point of view this makes those victories all the sweeter. The 1960 win was emphatic and comprehensive. The Black and Amber had a shaky start to the championship when they had a close call against neighbours Laois but thereafter the team's performances went from strength to strength. At the half way stage in the All-Ireland final the sides were level but in the end Kilkenny's 7-12 to 1-11 victory was long overdue by the Noreside, the county having waited ten years for success at minor level. The 1960 team and substitutes were as follows:

Pat Dempsey, Billy Grace, Pierce Brett, Noel Roughan, Sean O'Brien, Alex McGrath, Ollie Ryan, Tom Barry, Joe Ayres, Dick Walsh, Denis Kinsella, Pierce Freaney, Paddy Ryan, John Nyhan, Tommy Murphy, Patsy Foley, Jim Lynch, John Murphy, Mick Kelly, Seamus Coogan, Pat Delaney.

The 1961 All-Ireland minor final was a much closer game, viewed by many as one of the best minor hurling finals ever, with Kilkenny scoring a merited 3-13 to 0-15 victory. The game produced a classic display from both sides with great ground and over-head stick work from both sides. The vital score came when Tom Walsh blocked a clearance from the Tipperary goalie Peter O'Sullivan. A late Maurice Aylward goal wrapped up the game for

Kilkenny. The 1961 team and substitutes were as follows:

Patsy Foley, John Delaney, Tom Walsh, Maurice Aylward, Jim McGrath, Joe Dunphy, Philip Cullen, Denis Kinsella, Nicky Forristal, John Murphy, Pat Henderson, Seamus Hanrahan, Pierce Freaney, Tom Barry, Sean O'Brien, Paddy Dempsey, Pierce Brett, Mick Tennyson, Dick Walsh, Billy Watson.

Kilkenny achieved the magnificent treble in 1963, once again against the Premier County. The Noresiders had a dour struggle in the Leinster Final against Wexford when an inspired first half display from goalie Noel Skehan kept Kilkenny in touch. An improved second half performance from Kilkenny saw the Noresiders through by a narrow three point margin. The standard of play in the All-Ireland final never reached the same high standards as the previous year with perhaps the meeting of the sides for the fourth successive year not helping the situation. In the end Kilkenny had a nine point margin over their opponents. Kilkenny forward Joe Dunphy made hurling history when he captained a minor side for the second successive year, thus becoming the first Kilkenny player to achieve this distinction. It is noteworthy that Kilkenny conceded only one goal in the three All-Irelands. The 1962 team and substitutes were as follows:

Maurice Aylward, John Delaney, Sean Shortall, Senan Cooke, Joe Dunphy, Noel Skehan, Paddy Walsh, Shem Muldowney, Jimmy Byrne, Maurice Twomey, Tom Walsh, John Walsh, Sean Treacy, Pat Drennan, John Walsh, Seamus Hanrahan, Tom Phelan, Billy Bourke, John Joe Kinsella, Tom Ryan.

The Gala Dinner on the final night of the Re-Union was an outstanding success. Special presentations were made to all the players with a special presentation being made to Monsignor Tommy Murphy trainer of the treble championship winning sides.

The organising committee for the Re-Union was:

Joe Ayres (Chairman), Ollie Ryan (secretary), Billy Bourke and Seamus Coogan (joint treasurers), John Murphy (PRO), Denis Kinsella, Joe Dunphy and Shem Muldowney.

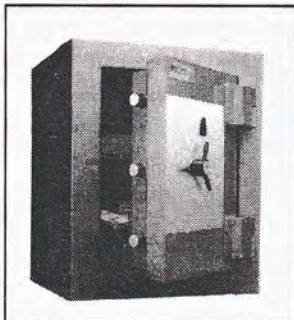


Back row: Tom Ryan, Seamus Hanrahan, Seamus Dunphy, Maurice Twomey, Paddy Dempsey, Alex McGrath, J. J. Kinsella, Mick Kelly. Middle row: P. J. Brett, Noel Roughan, Denis Kinsella, Shem Muldowney, Senan Cooke, Johnny Delaney, Johnny Walsh, Jim McGrath, Val Moylan, John O'Brien. Front row: Maurice Aylward, Tom Walsh, Billy Burke, John Murphy, Joe Ayres, Nicky Brennan, Ollie Ryan, Seamus Coogan, Joe Dunphy, Pierce Freaney. (Photo: Tom Brett)



Committee members and Co. Board Officers at the 1960/61/62 Minor Hurling Re-Union. (From left): Ollie Ryan, Billy Bourke, Joe Dunphy, Nickey Brennan (County Board Chairman), Ted Carroll (Co. Board secretary), Monsignor Thomas Maher (team coach), Denis Kinsella, Joe Ayres, John Murphy and Shem Muldowney. (Photo: Tom Brett)

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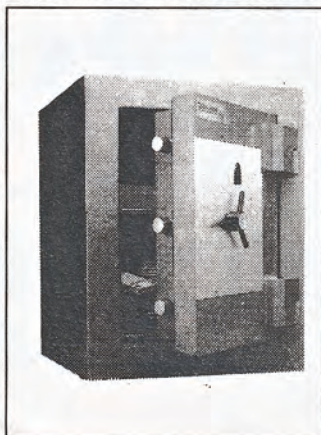
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*WISHES TO THANK HIS
CONSTITUENTS*

for their generous support
for the Fine Gael candidates
in the recent
General Election.

*Congratulations to Kilkenny in 1992
and Good Luck in 1993:*

McNamee comes to Kilkenny

In the salubrious surrounds of the exquisite Burlington Hotel, Kilkenny collected the McNamee award for the "Best County Publication for 1991", on Saturday, June 20.

This is the first time that any Kilkenny G.A.A. publication has achieved such an honour. It was a real gala evening with Master of Ceremonies, Danny Lynch (PRO, C.L.G.) regaling the assembled guests with his vast repertoire of G.A.A. anecdotes and "funnies", which he is extremely good at.

Barrie Henriques (Editor), in accepting the award – a beautiful hand-carved mahogany mantel clock – paid a glowing tribute to all the people who helped to produce the widely acclaimed Kilkenny G.A.A. Yearbook 1991.

"I accept this award," Barrie said, "on behalf of all the hurling, football, handball and camogie clubs in Co. Kilkenny; on behalf of all the schools, colleges and vocational schools in our county; on behalf of all the contributors, photographers, and our printers, I am delighted to collect the award."

In all there were eight awards presented by the President of the G.A.A., Mr. Peter Quinn.



At the McNamee Awards Presentation in the Burlington Hotel were: (L-R) Tommy Murphy, John Kerry-Keane, Barrie Henriques and Nicky Brennan.

(Photo: Jim Connolly)

At the Kilkenny table were Nicky Brennan (Chairman County Board) and his wife, Mairéad; Tommy Murphy (Chairman Yearbook Committee) and his wife, Marion; Barrie Henrique and

his wife, Kitty; Mr. John Kerry Keane, Prop. Kilkenny People Newspapers, and broadcaster Mick Dunne, who was the recipient of a special award for his services to G.A.A. broadcasting.



CUMANN LUTHCHLEAS GAEL

*The Central Council of the G.A.A.
wishes Kilkenny teams and their
supporters every success for 1993.*

The pain of defeat made hurling men of 'Ollie's Army'

By JOHN KNOX (Kilkenny People)

THE BAD times make the good times – when they come – all the more pleasurable! Wise words from the wise man or woman who penned them. Obviously someone well acquainted with the ups and downs of life.

YOU know, those sound thoughts could have been put together with Kilkenny hurling folk specifically in mind. And with 1992 top of the agenda, too.

This year we had a reawakening to the absolute pleasure sport can throw up. On a broader scale we can derive enjoyment from the exploits of Jack's Army. Michael Carruth's golden performance in the Olympic Games bloated us with pride, too.

But in this county, the sport that tops the lot for the greatest kick-back it gives in victory, is hurling. It is a personal thing. It is a sport that involves 'our own', the lad down the street, neighbours. We can all feel a part, be moved by the achievement.

The county's 24th All-Ireland senior hurling victory in September was a moving experience for Kilkenny. A reawakening to the pleasures we once took for granted, but which were brought into sharp focus by having to wait nine long, painful years between the latest and previous successes.

If anyone doubted the extent to which Ollie's Army won the appreciation of the populace, all they had to do was reflect on the near 30,000 crowd who packed the streets of the city for the greatest welcome home of all time the night after Cork were crushed.

'THANK YOU'

The players brought home the glittering new McCarthy Cup. Over a third of the population were moved enough to rush from their homes or workplaces to be present on the streets of the city. The people thereby imparted their own 'thank you' to the players, the lad down the street, neighbours.

Without a shadow of doubt, having to wait since 1983 – and with two All-Ireland final defeats in between – brought a new appreciation of what victory on the first Sunday in September really means. The county can enjoy and capture the riches at all other levels, but there is no real substitute for our dear friend, 'Liam'.

For a week after Kilkenny captain, Liam

Fennelly held the McCarthy Cup aloft in victory, the whole county celebrated. For a fortnight about half the county was still going strong. A month later people were still swelled with pride, waiting, at the drop of a hat, to talk about 'the game'. And anyone who wants to bring up the subject in Kilkenny between now and the start of the next championship will always find an ear.

Most definitely, the barren years, and the cruel times when All-Irelands were lost in 1987 and 1991, made the success in September all the more pleasurable.

Looking from our current comfortable position with 'Liam' tucked safely away, we can reflect on what was a magnificent campaign. Offaly, Wexford, Galway and Cork beaten. All big names. The latter two threw up particularly good opposition, and drew particularly good responses from the Noresiders.

Liam Fennelly led his merry men with more courage, grace and poise than possibly any captain before him. Mid-



The goal that helped win an All-Ireland! Liam Fennelly dives in between Christy Helebert and Sean Treacy (helmet) to get the all-important touch to Galway goalkeeper Richard Burke's attempted clearance. Liam McCarthy (out of shot) slapped home the loose ball.

Photo: Gerry Deegan

fielder Michael Phelan flourished through the disappointment of 12 months ago, to blossom so fiercely that he could yet end as one of the greatest performers of all time in that position. Hurling artist D.J. Carey has already attained greatness, but, with two more years' experience in the bag, people will then be watching a probable Ring, Keher or Mackey.

IN ACCORD

In the heat of battle, the main characters, the players, never disappointed once the championship began. In accord were manager, Ollie Walsh, and selectors Nickey Brennan (Conahy Shamrocks) and Pat Aylward (Shamrocks), who handled the players cleverly and in a manner that showed they knew the game and, more importantly, their men.

The use of the Glenmore 'giant', Christy Heffernan, as a reserve to be sprung from the bench was inspiring, to the team and supporters. The courage they showed when picking Jamsie Brennan ahead of Adrian Ronan for the final was an indication that they could be ruthless in pursuit of their objective. And the hauling of Richie Power out of retirement, and then back from injury for the All-Ireland final, showed a different side to their character entirely.

"When you win, everything you did is seen in a better light," Ollie Walsh observed. Perhaps, but the sideline trio always showed a willingness to tackle tough decisions head-on, and they had



It's Mine . . . Liam Walsh collects the sliothar, watched by Tony O'Sullivan.

Photo: Tom Brett

the courage of their convictions.

For the fifth time in the last six meetings in All-Ireland senior finals, Kilkenny beat Cork. Had the show been rehearsed, the latest victory couldn't have been accomplished fairer. During the opening half the backs dazzled and restricted inaccurate Cork to a slender 0-7 to 1-2 interval lead, after the latter played with the wind.

Thereafter the forwards, who left the first half scoring to D.J. Carey, took up the challenge and ran Ger Fitzgerald and his men out of it. Success was achieved through a delicate combination of good hurling, hard running – the team was flying fit thanks to trainer Mick O'Flynn, a Cork man, would you believe! – and a near consuming determination to atone for the loss to Tipperary 12 months earlier.

Four minutes into the second half John Power cut through the Cork defence to boot to the net (2-2 to 0-7) and give the Cats' a lead the never lost. Twice the winners built-up a five-point advantage, and once a six point lead. Five minutes off the finish a goal from Ger Manley threw the issue wide open again. The 'insurance' point – a real beauty from under the Cusack stand attacking the Railway End – was picked off by Adrian Ronan.

AUTHORITATIVE PERFORMANCE

There were plenty of heroes. Captain Fantastic, Liam Fennelly,

chased harder than anyone and scored one and made three more second half points. Pat Dwyer gave an authoritative performance at full-back – the sort that earns All-Star awards. D.J. Carey played with such belief that you had to remind yourself he is still only 21. Pat O'Neill, the same age, and in his first senior final, disguised a lack of fitness brought about by an injury problem and carried off the Bord Telecom 'man of the match' award.

John Power hurled and battered his way into the star category. If there is a tougher operator in the game at the minute, he wasn't in Croke Park in September. Michael Phelan, who moved to full-forward late in the game because he was tired, put an awful amount of hardship on the opposition, too.

It is unfair to single out individuals, because the 17 who carried the black and amber to victory all distinguished themselves. The up-beat mood that characterised Kilkenny's training in the weeks up to the big game was given free expression in Croke Park, and Cork just couldn't keep up.

The McCarthy winning performance, and the opening in the championship were worlds apart. At the kill, the Noresiders were confident, more together as a unit and downright cheeky. The players grew stronger as one during the campaign.

Opening against Offaly, there was a touch of unease, possibly a carry-over from a bad National League campaign. During the first half the defence simply wasn't with it, and Offaly were good value for their interval lead of 1-8 to 1-5.

For the new half, Richie Power, who had just come out of injury induced retirement, was in the fray. He lasted less than

We're on our way to glory . . . !



We're in the Final says Eddie O'Connor as he leaves the field after the All-Ireland semi-final victory over Galway. Photo: John McIlwaine

two minutes, before he was struck own by another injury. Enter Christy Heffernan. Exit Offaly. The star of All-Ireland battles way back in 1982 and '83 took the game by the scruff of the neck and, like flicking a switch, clicked everything into place for the defending Leinster champions.

SENT FLYING

Heffernan turned the whole game, and Offaly were sent flying. The difference at the finish was 2-15 to 1-12.

The first Leinster final between Kilkenny and Wexford since 1979 promised a lot more than it delivered. And the main reason was a man who wasn't even playing – Cyril Farrell. The former Galway supremo was part of the Slaney backroom team, and he attracted an enormous amount of publicity.

Farrell's presence in Wexford, and a feeling that they were being ignored, infuriated the Kilkenny players. They decided they would give their answer on the field. They literally played Wexford off the park. The best hurling performance of the year. The challengers were hammered by 11 points.

Eamon Morrissey 'went to town' and ripped Wexford apart on the right. Eddie O'Connor, Pat Dwyer, Bill Hennessy in a new midfield role, Fennelly, Liam McCarthy and Carey showed no mercy. The biggest attendance at the hurling final in over a decade, 41,097, saw Kilkenny collect their 54th title with ridiculous ease.

The All-Ireland semi-final against Galway, for me, made Kilkenny. The Tribesmen were good, eager and strong, physically more than mentally. But in time, that mental toughness will come, and Galway will take all the beating.

The first half, at the end of which the



A Happy Manager . . . Ollie displays his delight on Final day.

(Photo: Sportsfile)

losers led by 1-8 to 1-5, only gave a glimpse of the hunger and will that was consuming all the Kilkenny players. At one stage during the second half the Tribesmen got four points clear, which was a lot in an erupting duel.

THE CLIQUE

Then the Carey-Phelan clique took over. The Young Irelands' flyer was moved to full-forward, and Glenmore's Michael Phelan picked him out with long, accurate deliveries. On the way to getting their team back to terms, they treated fans to the score of the year.

Eddie O'Connor won a ball inside his own 21, to the right at the Canal End. He picked out Phelan and delivered a neat, short pass. The receiver boomed a 50-yarder up to Carey, who finished off a copy-book move with a point. Minutes later Kilkenny were back level at 1-10 each. Then Carey, Liam Fennelly and Liam McCarthy hounded the opposition into making an error, and the Piltown attacker nailed Galway with a goal (2-11 to 1-10).

That was the turning point. Those mentioned above played master roles in deciding as testing a

game as you might see. However, good and all as they were, they had to give best to a white hot Willie O'Connor, who at last found the form he wanted after fighting back after an injury that took nearly two years off his inter-county life.

Last year the Kilkenny players listened to the line as it was tossed out: "You have to lose a final to really appreciate winning." At the time the true meaning went over their heads, in the disappointment of an All-Ireland defeat.

When the championship set sail in June, the message hit home at last. The pain – or maybe it was the dread of that pain again – drove Michael Walsh, Liam Simpson, Liam Walsh, Adrian Ronan and the others on to mighty deeds. In defeat, they grew into tough, hurling men. And boy, did they give us reason to celebrate when they went out and put right the damage that had been inflicted on them exactly one year earlier!

The Kilkenny team in the All-Ireland was: Michael Walsh (Dicksboro), Eddie O'Connor (Glenmore), Pat Dwyer (Carrickshock), Liam Simpson (Bennettsbridge), Liam Walsh (Glenmore), Pat O'Neill (Young Irelands), Willie O'Connor (Glenmore), Michael Phelan (Glenmore), Bill Hennessy (Tullaroan), Liam McCarthy (Piltown), John Power (John Lockes), D.J. Carey (Young Irelands), Eamon Morrissey (St. Martin's), Liam Fennelly, capt. (Shamrocks), Jamsie Brennan (Erin's Own).

Subs: Christy Heffernan (Glenmore) and Adrian Ronan (Graigue-Ballycallan) used; Richard Power (Carrickshock), Tom Murphy (Mooncoin), Dermot Lawlor (St. Martin's), Michael Morrissey (Cuala), Paul Phelan (Shamrocks), Charlie Carter (Young Irelands), Joe Walsh (Mullinavat), Pat Hoban (Mullinavat).



Up You Get, Mickie! Referee Dickie Murphy (Wexford) gives Michael Phelan a hand-up after taking a tumble. Looking on is Christy Heffernan.

Photo: Gerry Deegan

The Path to Glory

JUNE 21 AT CROKE PARK – LEINSTER SEMI-FINAL

Kilkenny 2-15; Offaly 1-12

Kilkenny scorers: D.J. Carey (1-6, six points frees); James Brennan (1-0); Liam McCarthy (0-3); Michael Phelan, Eamon Morrissey (0-2 each); Christy Heffernan, Dermot Lawlor (0-1 each).

JULY 19 AT CROKE PARK – LEINSTER FINAL

Kilkenny 3-16; Wexford 2-9

Kilkenny scorers: D.J. Carey (1-6, six points frees); Eamon Morrissey (0-6); Liam Fennelly, Christy Heffernan (1-1 each); Adrian Ronan, Liam McCarthy (0-1 each).

AUGUST 9 AT CROKE PARK – ALL-IRELAND SEMI-FINAL

Kilkenny 2-13; Galway 1-12

Kilkenny scorers: D.J. Carey (0-7, four frees); Liam McCarthy (1-0); Liam Fennelly (1-1); Eamon Morrissey (0-2); Christy Heffernan, James Brennan (0-1 each); Paul Phelan (0-1, '65').

SEPTEMBER 6 AT CROKE PARK – ALL-IRELAND FINAL

Kilkenny 3-10; Cork 1-12

Kilkenny scorers: D.J. Carey (1-4, goal penalty, one free); Liam McCarthy (1-1); John Power (1-0); Michel Phelan (0-2); Liam Fennelly, Christy Heffernan, Adrian Ronan (0-1 each).



If you want it that bad I'll give it to you . . . action in the All-Ireland Final prior to Kilkenny's penalty. Left to right: Denis Mulcahy, Eamonn Morrissey, Denis Walsh, James "Shiner" Brennan, Sean O'Gorman, and Liam Fennelly.

Photo: Gerry Deegan

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WINNERS ALL THE WAY

TO THE victors go the spoils, the old saying goes. And it was very true of Kilkenny in the championship this year.

During the four-match run to All-Ireland victory, Kilkenny players carried off the 'man of the match' award on each occasion.

In the opening game against Offaly, Michael Phelan's all-action performance at midfield earned him the top accolade.

Eamon Morrissey 'went to town' on Wexford in the Leinster final, and his 6-point barrage earned him the Telecom Eireann honour.

On into the All-Ireland semi-final against Galway, and Willie O'Connor was lauded after a performance that was right out of the top drawer.

Then in the final against Cork, Pat O'Neill - complete with bandaged head - was judged to have no equal, and he completed the clean-sweep of honours for the county.

Not bad going, and two winners came from the Glenmore club.

D.J. was top of the charts

NOT ONLY was he Kilkenny's top scorer during the hurling championship, but D.J. Carey was also the leading scorer in the country.

The gifted Young Irealnds (Gowran) forward helped himself to 3-23 of Kilkenny's championship total of 10-54. Converted to points, dashing D.J. scored 32 points, which saw him pip Cork's Tony O'Sullivan by a single score in the national charts.

In the opening two engagements, against Offaly and Wexford, the Three Rivers Oil executive lashed home 1-6 on each occasion. Of his total score, 2-6 came from play. His third goal was a penalty against Cork in the All-Ireland final.

While on the subject of scores, and scoring, it was interesting to note how much Kilkenny conceded in each match. Would you believe, three times they conceded the same score, 1-12, against Offaly, Galway and Cork. Then there was a 2-9 against Wexford.

Spot the similarity? In all cases, the total pans out at 15 points. Most unusual, you must admit.

The 11 Kilkenny scorers in the championship were:



D.J. Scores.

Photo: Gerry Deegan

D.J. Carey (Young Irelands)	3-23
Liam McCarthy (Young Irelands)	2-5
Eamon Morrissey (St. Martin's)	0-10
Liam Fennelly (Shamrocks)	2-3
Christy Heffernan (Glenmore)	1-4
Michael Phelan (Glenmore)	0-4
Jamsie Brennan (Erin's Own)	1-1
John Power (John Lockes)	1-0
Adrian Ronan (Craigue-Ballycallan) ...	0-2
Dermot Lawlor (St. Martin's)	0-1
Paul Phelan (Shamrocks)	0-1



Kilkenny's Leinster Final team which defeated Wexford: Front (l-r): Eddie O'Connor, Willie O'Connor, D.J. Carey, Liam Fennelly, Michael Walsh, Liam Walsh, Bill Hennessy, Paul Phelan. Back (l-r): Michael Phelan, Liam Simpson, Pat Dwyer, John Power, Liam McCarthy, Eamon Morrissey, Adrian Ronan. Photo: Tom Brett

'CATS' BACK IN SECOND PLACE

KILKENNY'S 24th victory in the All-Ireland senior hurling championship brought them back into second place in the roll of honour.

The Noresiders are tied on the 24-mark with age-old rivals, Tipperary. Still leading the field are Cork, with 27 All-Ireland wins to their credit.

Title Rankings

- 27. **Cork:** 1890, 1892, 1893, 1894, 1902, 1903, 1919, 1926, 1928, 1929, 1931, 1941, 1942, 1943, 1944, 1946, 1952, 1953, 1954, 1966, 1970, 1976, 1987, 1978, 1984, 1986, 1990.
- 24. **Kilkenny:** 1904, 1905, 1907, 1909, 1911, 1912, 1913, 1922, 1932, 1933, 1935, 1939, 1947, 1957, 1963, 1967, 1979, 1972, 1974, 1975, 1979, 1982, 1983, 1992.
- 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.
- 7. **Limerick** 1997, 1918, 1921, 1934, 1936, 1940, 1973.
- 6. **Dublin** 1889, 1917, 1920, 1924, 1927, 1938.
- 5. **Wexford** 1910, 1955, 1956, 1960, 1968.
- 4. **Galway** 1923, 1980, 1987, 1988.
- 2. **Offaly** 1981, 1985.
Waterford 1948, 1959.
- 1. **Clare** 1914.
Laos 1915.
Kerry 1891.
London 1901.



To the Victor the spoils . . . Kilkenny players relax with "Liam Óg" in the Green Isle Hotel after the All-Ireland. (Left to right) D.J. Carey, John Power, Pat O'Neill, Pat Dwyer, Charlie Carter, Adrian Ronan, Eddie O'Connor. Photo: Tom Brett



Well-known Kilkenny supporter, Johnny Delaney, cheers on his favourites on All-Ireland Final day. Photo: Tom Brett



I'll have it in a second, Tomás . . . John Power watches Tomás Mulcahy as he solos his way towards the Kilkenny goal. This action took place just before Power's match-winning interception and lengthy clearance. Photo: Tom Brett

The Railway Cup

— a player's experience

At the present time, the Railway Cup competition looks in grave danger of going out of existence. This has been the case for quite a few years now, and as one who played in the competition for the best part of ten years, I find the possibility difficult to contemplate. My direct experience of playing the Railway Cup is confined to a period from the mid-sixties to the mid-seventies.

During this period, the competition enjoyed an enormous measure of support, and was a major event in the G.A.A.

calendar, with the finals transmitted live on television on St. Patrick's Day each year. The competition has been glamourised by the great games and players of the 'fifties, particularly the likes of Christy Ring, John Doyle, Jimmy Smith of Clare, Joe Salmon of Galway, Kilkenny 'greats' such as Paddy Buggy, John McGovern and Sean Clohosey, who combined with the three Rackards of Wexford and the stars of Dublin and Laois to provide the opposition in some great tussles between Leinster and Munster, attracting crowds in excess of



By PAT HENDERSON

40,000. Provincial representation at that time was the equivalent of the Bank of Ireland All-Stars Awards of today, and it afforded an opportunity for Provinces to honour their players regardless of county.

It was the dream of every player, having made the grade at inter-county level, to be selected to represent his Province. I was no exception, and was fortunate to have played during a period in which my Province, Leinster, enjoyed a relatively high degree of success. The All-Stars Awards, as we now know them, were not yet instituted, and this selection probably represented the highest honour at that time.

Having been selected, it was strange to find oneself in the same dressingroom with the great players from counties like Wexford and Dublin, our Leinster adversaries at the time. Intermingled with these was the odd player from counties like Wicklow, Westmeath, Offaly, Kildare, Carlow, and, on occasions, Meath or Longford. At that time, such players were virtually unknown to me. I recall being on the same side as Des Foley of Dublin, who



A beauty . . . officials of Iarnród Éireann, Kilkenny County Council and Kilkenny and Leinster senior hurlers with the beautiful Interprovincial Hurling Shield which was won by Kilkenny in 1908 at the Railways Cups banquet in Hotel Kilkenny. Included are Eddie O'Connor (Leinster Captain); Frank Hogan, Regional Development Executive, Irish Rail; Ted Carroll (Co. Secretary); Michael Walsh, Nickey Brennan (Co. Chairman), Tom Walsh (former chairman); Christy Heffernan; Gerry Mooney (Business Development Manager, Irish Rail); Dick Grainger, Irish Rail; Peter Roche, District Operations Manager, Irish Rail and J. J. Murphy, Station Master, Kilkenny. (Photo: Tom Brett)

had the honour of representing his Province in both football and hurling, and also Mick Birmingham of Dublin. I recall the Dorans of Wexford, Mick Jacob and other fine players from that county, but most vividly I remember players like Pat Dunny (Kildare), and Willie Walsh (Carlow), who would never have had the chance to display their talents at the highest level, but for this competition. It gave Pádraig Horan, in the early seventies, an opportunity to distinguish himself in the Leinster jersey prior to Offaly's rise to fame in the eighties. I recall his starting in the unusual position of full-back in a Railway cup final.

Having achieved the honour of being selected for his Province a player quickly becomes ambitious for success in the competition. I soon learned that such success did not come easily, particularly as players only came together on the day of the match, and heroic performances by individuals were not enough. At that time virtually every Leinster county was involved in the picking of the team, with

the chairman of the Leinster Council, perhaps, taking charge on the day. We were lucky that, at this time, Paddy Buggy became Kilkenny's Leinster Council rep. and although formal team management was not the order of the day, he saw the need for an organised approach, and began to build a team with which, over a six or seven year period, he succeeded in bringing a similar number of Provincial titles to Leinster.

The secret of his success was that, not alone did he achieved a selection drawn from the best skills, irrespective of county, but he also provided the type of motivation which created a team spirit usually found at club level. Having then enjoyed initial success, that spirit prevailed for a number of years. I think it was this experience, more than anything else, that taught me the value of proper organisation and motivation in successful team building. I also believe that Buggy, perhaps, having suffered a little at the hands of Munster during his own playing

days, felt that he had a score to settle, which he did in great measure during his tenure with Leinster.

In recent years the social aspect of the Railway Cup has come to the fore, as the competition, played over a week-end, brings the four Provincial contenders together in one venue, and I know that this is something greatly enjoyed by the players. I must confess that my fondest memories of the competition, apart from that of captaining a winning team, was the pleasure of meeting not only the many players from the other Leinster counties, but also those of Munster, Ulster and Connacht, and the resultant friendships that have endured over the years. I think that for this reason alone, players, in particular, would like to see the competition retained, grow in stature, and, perhaps, regain some of the glory of the past.

Pat Henderson



Liam O'Connor
Assistant Branch Manager,
Carlow.

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CAPTAIN – a head or chief officer . . . in the navy, an officer ranking with a colonel . . . the leader of a team or club – **v.t.** to lead.
CAPTAINSHIP – skill in commanding.

(Chambers Twentieth Century Dictionary)

LIAM

FENNELLY

– probably

the best

captain in

the world!

By: ENDA McEVOY



FAMILY AFFAIR Liam Fennelly celebrates with his greatest fan – his wife Joan.

(Photo: Tom Brett)

WHEN ALL the hype, hope and glory is stripped away, achievement in sport boils down to hard work and attention to detail every bit as much as it does to brilliance. Probably even more so.

For every artist on a team, no matter what the game, there's an artisan whose work is no less important. For every splash of primary colour there's an undercoat which has to come first. For every soaring arch or flying buttress, a laboriously-laid foundation.

Big events turn on little moments. While the moments themselves are commonly described as "flashes of genius" or "split-

seconds of madness", most of the time they're not about inspiration or desperation at all. The incident that wins a league or cup can as often be reduced to an instance of personal bravery, or even – hey, how unfashionable! – individual discipline in doing one's stuff without waver from start to finish. Grace under pressure doesn't necessarily have to catch the eye.

If one had to choose a single little moment on which the big event of Kilkenny's 24th All-Ireland title swung, this observer would go for a cameo that took place not on September 6th but on August 9th. The turning point of the semi-final clash with Galway, it was in large measure the fruit of one man's simple dedication to duty.

The man? Kilkenny's own Captain Marvel. Liam Fennelly. Leading from the front.

Eight minutes to go, the Black and Amber in front by a point and the All-Ireland semi-final on the most fragile of tightropes.

Kilkenny, who'd survived a bad scare moments earlier when Joe Cooney had got through only to be stopped by a powerhouse shoulder from Michael Phelan, needed to make assurance doubly sure. John Power's long handpass sent them attacking down the left, into the Railway End goal.

D. J. Carey gathered, twirled around his marker on the Hogan Stand side and cut in. Backhanded the most extravagant of passes inside.

The slotar hopped inside the 14-yard line, nearer to the Galway number four Christy Helebert than to Liam Fennelly. Helebert approached the ball, preparing to strike first time and right-handed. The Kilkenny captain charged in to block the clearance. The ball hit his left knee and squirted clear.

Richard Burke was out quickly from his goal. **But** – and this was the little moment which made the big event possible – **Liam Fennelly stayed going.** Kept his balance, brushed past Helebert and went after the slotar again. He, Burke and the covering Sean Treacy converged all at once.

With Burke drawing his stick back to clear, Fennelly dived in, hurl outstretched. Burke beat him to the pull, but only just. So much only just that the slotar, thanks to Fennelly's intervention, travelled no

further than the lurking Liam McCarthy, who promptly returned it to the empty net.

Freeze that moment. Keep it on video. Commit it to memory. Show it to the young players of today, stars of tomorrow.

Why? Not because Liam Fennelly's part in it was brilliantly stylish, but because – far more importantly – it was so simple. So single-minded. So determined. So illustrative of a resolve not to give up, to keep chasing for the cause till the death.

Kilkenny were home and hosed. So powerful was Richard Burke's attempted clearance, incidentally, Liam Fennelly's hurley ended up beyond the 21-yard line. He didn't need a replacement, though.

If the cult of the manager, why not the cult of the captain . . . ?

The exploits of Kerry and the Dubs in the 1970s, and the influence of Mick O'Dwyer and Kevin Heffernan on those triumphs which helped lift football to a new plane of glamour and popularity, are commonly cited as instrumental in making the team manager a Very Impotent Person indeed in the world of Gaelic games.

The cult of the captain, for want of a better phrase, has never got around to achieving the same status, nor attracting anything like the same number of proponents and opponents. Maybe that's the way it should be.

But then you look back at Liam Fennelly's captaincy of Kilkenny in 1992, and you simply have to conclude that just as a good manager can transform an under-achieving team into a successful one, so too exist degrees of on-field

leadership that can do likewise.

Captaining a winning side means more than leading the players out, calling heads or tails and accepting the silverware afterwards. At its most embracing it means leading from the front. Being first man out of the trenches. Acting as a father figure, if necessary, to the younger members of the line-up. Becoming a sort of auxiliary selector on the field of play when the need arises, with the confidence to call the shots yourself in a changing situation.

And after all that, being mature enough to give time to your own game also and not let the burden of the captaincy ruin your concentration!

All of which Liam Fennelly achieved in such style in 1992. Kilkenny's best captain ever, as so many people have been saying? Certainly the most obviously influential for quite some time, anyway, and far more of a significant figure than during his 1983 tenure. Not unnaturally, the Liam of 1992 was smarter, wiser, more experienced; an old soldier with much to impart, and one who approached his task with the gravity it deserved.

(The daft part is, of course, that he would never have been captain – and Kilkenny might well not be champions now – had Shamrocks not won the county title in 1991. While the good ended happily this time, it's an anomaly that surely requires some thought in future. Why should the best man for such a crucial job not be specifically chosen for it, irrespective of how successful or otherwise his club is?)

Pat Dwyer: "Liam was inspirational right



THE SKIPPER TAKES COMMAND Captain "Fantastic" Liam Fennelly scores against Galway in the All-Ireland semi-final. Galway full-back Sean Treacy makes a vain attempt to stop him.

(Photo: Tom Brett)



Liam Fennelly takes "Liam" to meet the boys and girls at the S.O.S. Workshop in Seville Lodge.

(Photo: Tom Brett)

through the season, was very good with all the players. If someone had a fault he'd try to improve them – regardless of whether it was their first year on the team or whether they'd been there for ages.

"He took his duties with him everywhere. Even when we'd be down in Langton's discussing things after training he'd be there lending his experience or giving advice. And on the field he's very shrewd, capable of seeing problems which need correcting or changes to be made. Sometimes he'd voice his opinions with the selectors, but not in a selfish kind of way. It was purely for the good of the team at all times."

What sort of advice did he pass on?

"You might be told to do something – say, play a man in a particular way – and Liam would tell you to do your own thing. Do the simple things well, he advocated. Don't always try to be spectacular or beat your marker to the ball.

"For me, the Leinster final typified Liam Fennelly. In the dressing room beforehand he was getting on to everyone to move the ball fast, make the quick delivery. Scoring may not have been his strongest suit during the year, but the work he put in – particularly in the Offaly game – meant so much. After achieving all he'd achieved, the hunger was still there. And away from hurling you couldn't meet a nicer chap. He'd talk to anybody."

Hurray for video. It's preserved the best of Liam Fennelly.

The Liam Fennelly of 1982, who retrieved that famous "was it in? was it out?" ball on Damien Martin's endline in the Leinster final, thus providing the little moment that the big event of Kilkenny's double double hinged on.

The Liam of 1983. The deadliest forward in the game, bar none.

The Liam of 1984. The Christian torn to pieces by the lions in the Wexford full-back line, but still able to take his defeat like a sportsman.

The Liam of 1986. Back to his best of 1983, hat-trick hero of the provincial decider against Offaly.

The Liam who had to endure the double disappointment of 1987 and 1991. The handpass he tossed **across** John Commins rather than at his near side, the letdown of digging out more than enough possession to put Tipperary to the sword yet, after an injury-seared season, not being able to apply the finishing touch. (Sceptical? Take a look at the video again. While Noel Sheehy played well, Fennelly was far more involved than his 0-1 tally would suggest. Nothing went right for him, simply.)

And then the Liam of 1992. The Liam entrusted with a big job, the Liam who carried it out with dignity and humour and grace. If the legs weren't as light as a decade previously, the brain was working overtime. And the scoring touch flooded back.

Thus came the early goals against Wexford and Galway, and that outrageous flick under his legs that sent D. J. Carey

through for a killer goal versus the Yellowbellies.

Even after his crucial intervention in the All-Ireland semi-final, he was still running around like a young lad in the closing minutes, harrying here and there, drifting out the field to close down the Galway man in possession.

And his second half against Cork. Unbelievable! Popping up in the right half forward position to dispossess Denis Walsh and land a point. Scavenging all across the attack, pouncing on loose balls and setting up Michael Phelan and Christy Heffernan for scores. Acting as the first line of defence by being a positive pain in the neck for Cork defenders trying to get their clearances in. And, as the game ticked into injury time, pulling down Ger Cunningham in his area to waste a few more valuable seconds and give Kilkenny the breathing space to regroup. Old soldiers never die – and some of them don't fade away, either.

BLAZE OF GLORY

Nothing in his career became him like the leaving it; so obviously the right move at the right time. He departed in a blaze of glory. No regrets, no might-have-beens, and no chance of falling into the old trap of going to the well once too often.

He couldn't be out of circulation for too long, however. Having seen Liam Fennelly the thinking man a captain, the prospect of Liam Fennelly the thinking man as selector is irresistible.

Give it a couple of years!



MULLINAVAT – Special Junior Roinn 'B' Hurling Champions 1992

Back row: Mossy Murphy, Paul Kenneally, Anthony Conway, Jimmy O'Keefe, Richard Aylward, Derek Butler, Joe Kelly, Francis Conway, Patrick Rohan, Liam Aylward, Dermot Carroll, Wally Walsh, Peter Raftice. Front row: John O'Keefe, John Joe Aylward, John Geary, Raymond Carroll, William Delahunty, Eamon Kelly, Derek Dungan, Pat Lannon, Andy Aylward (Captain), John Fitzgerald.

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Under-21 defeat a reminder that Offaly are here to stay

By: JOHN KNOX 'Kilkenny People'

THE say is you learn a lesson in times of defeat, it lessens the loss, and can stand to you in the future. Kilkenny would do well to remember that, and in the long term they will profit by it after grappling unsuccessfully with Offaly in the Leinster Under-21 hurling championship in July.

The big lesson to be learned . . . that Offaly are going to be around as real contenders at all levels for the foreseeable future. They might not be setting the world alight at minor level just now, but from the under-21 grade right through to senior, they will take beating.

It is hard to finger the reason, perhaps it is long gone decades of beating them at will, but somehow Kilkenny people never gave Offaly hurling the respect it truly deserved. Certainly, there was respect to a point, but not to the degree of that afforded Tipperary, Cork or even Wexford.

If ever Kilkenny people wanted a sharp reminder that Offaly hurlers are going to be a thorn in their side for the next few years, they got it when the Midlanders outclassed the Noresiders in the Leinster Under-21 final at Portlaoise.

The winners hurling was by far the better of the two teams that evening; much superior than the two points difference (1-15 to 2-10) at the finish might suggest. But the real lesson to be taken out of this defeat, as far as Kilkenny were concerned, was to be learned by delving into the Offaly personnel involved.

Nine of their players at Portlaoise won an All-Ireland at minor level three years previously. Ten of the team played in the losing All-Ireland Under-21 final of 1991. The point – they are digging good players out; they are keeping them together and they are climbing the hurling ladder step-by-step. In other words, they have continuity, and a system in place that is going to feed their senior side for a few years to come.

A BIT OF DOING

Now it is not realistic to expect that 9 or 10 Under-21 players from the same team will together, mature into senior Offaly stars, but even to have kept nine minors together through to Under-21 level takes a bit of doing, because the years in between are the ones when players are most likely to be lost.

This is not meant to be a back-handed put down of Kilkenny. Far from it, because this county has a good development system going right from schools level up to the very top. The point one wants to drive home forcefully is that contrary to a widely held belief, Offaly are not going to fade as a hurling power.

They arrived years ago and rang up two

senior All-Ireland wins, and the structures are in place to help them stay in among the real contenders for all the titles that are going.

For the second year running, Kilkenny fell to the Midlanders might in the Leinster Final. The previous year the Noresiders went into the game as defending provincial and All-Ireland champions.

That was courtesy of a somewhat unexpected all-Ireland victory in 1990, when D. J. Carey, Adrian Ronan, Pat O'Neill, Brian Ryan, Brian McGovern, Pat O'Grady, Jimmy Conroy and company arrived a year earlier than expected, in that they won the national title before it was felt they would do it. But the year they were expected to do it, in 1991, their colours were lowered by Offaly.

This time round the 'Cats' were sent home empty handed again. It wasn't a particularly encouraging experience.

TERRIBLE BEATING

One time during the opening half, Kilkenny were skating backwards, and looked to be in for a terrible beating when they trailed by 0-4 to 1-8. They somehow managed to take hold of the game, and thanks to a somewhat lucky goal from a free by Dermot Lawlor and then another from Sean Ryan, they retrieved the tie and went in for the rest on terms (2-5 to 1-8).

That hurling whirlwind blew itself out as quickly as it had gained force, and during the opening 10 minutes after the change, Offaly, against the breeze and all, slipped over four points without reply. The majestic hurling of the skilful Johnny Dooley, Brian Whelehan, Sean Og Farrell, Michael Hogan, Kevin Martin and Henry



Eyes on the ball . . . Patsy Brophy waits for the drop at Limerick.

Photo: Gerry Deegan

Kilmartin fused so wonderfully that the opposition simply couldn't cope.

As the eventful winners pounded away in unison, Kilkenny became fragmented, like any team would when beaten in too many individual tussles. Yet, by hurling on sheer instinct, and with plenty of guts, the Noresiders hung on, and hung on, even after losing senior star and centre-back, Pat O'Neill through injury.

Dan O'Neill, Sean Ryan and Dermot Lawlor shot valuable scores, so that four minutes off the finish the defending champions found themselves with just a single point in hand. Chances of an equaliser fell to Dermot Lawlor (free) and Shane Prendergast, from an awkward angle, but they were missed.

In the dying stages an awkward more than serious foul on Johnny Dooley offered him the chance to take the heat off. He duly did so, with a close in free.

In many ways the ending was contradictory. Kilkenny should have been well beaten. They weren't. They might even have sneaked a draw. As well, the losers looked to be facing terrible trouble when O'Neill departed the scene.

FUNNY OLD GAME

The opposite was the case. In the rearranged team, Patsy Brophy commanded in the centre of the defence. Dan O'Neill looked more assured at wing-back than at midfield. The arrival of reserve, Philip Larkin added handsomely to the sudden improvement in the general effectiveness of the team. Before that,

the only ones who were winning individual battles decisively were David Beirne and Sean Ryan.

It was a funny old game, with a not so funny ending for Kilkenny. The opposition eventually qualified for the All-Ireland final, but lost to Waterford after a thrilling draw and replay. Both these games were played at Nowlan Park.

Earlier in this championship Kilkenny beat Laois. This was some hurling show. Of their 24 points (0-24 to 3-8), the winners had only one via a free. Selectors Brendan O'Sullivan (Thomastown), Ger Henderson (Fenians), Bob Shortall (Clara), Denis Philpott (Dicksboro) and Johnny Prendergast (Graignamanagh), along with trainer Brendan Fennelly (Shamrocks), didn't over estimate the relevance of that effect as they laid their plans to try and capture the county's third Leinster title – the seniors and minors had won earlier.

In Charlie Carter, Patrick Farrell, Stephen Grehan and company they knew they had considerable talent. It didn't turn out to be

enough against fiercely determined opposition in the provincial final. As ever, the loss was hard to take, but if it serves to remind that Offaly are here to stay, then it will have done some good.

The Kilkenny team in the Leinster final was – James McGarry (Bennettsbridge); David Beirne (Dicksboro); P. J. O'Connor (Glenmore); Jimmy Carroll (Fenians); Patsy Brophy (Erin's Own); Pat O'Neill (Young Irelands); Canice Brennan (Conahy Shamrocks); Stephen Grehan (Fenians); Dan O'Neill (Dicksboro); Shane Prendergast (Dicksboro); Brian Barcoe (Clara); Patrick Farrell (Carrickshock); Charlie Carter (Young Irelands); Sean Ryan (Dunnamaggin); Dermot Lawlor (St. Martin's). Subs: Philip Larkin (James Stephens); Matty Walsh (Fenians); Brian Phelan (St. Patrick's); all used; Martin Carey (Young Irelands); Kevin Corbett (Graignamanagh); Mark Dowling (Dicksboro); Philip Maher (Barrow Rangers); John Shefflin (Shamrocks); Tomás Comerford (Graigue/Ballycallan).

THE SCORES THE SCORES THE SCORES . . . THE SCORES

LEINSTER SEMI-FINAL AT DR. CULLEN PARK, CARLOW ON JULY 1

Kilkenny 0-24

Laois 3-8

Kilkenny Scorers: Charlie Carter (0-8); Sean Ryan, Patrick Farrell (0-5 each); Dermot Lawlor (0-4, one free); Brendan Barcoe, Sean Grehan (0-1 each).

LEINSTER FINAL AT PORTLAOISE ON JULY 25

Offaly 1-15 (18)

Kilkenny 2-10 (16)

Kilkenny Scorers: Dermot Lawlor (1-4, goal and two points, frees); Sean Ryan (1-2); Charlie Carter (0-2); Dan O'Neill (0-1, 65); Patrick Farrell (0-1).

Well done, Lads!

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All mums and dads would have approved the young boy's choice



Richard Power

Age: 37.

Height: 6ft.

Weight: 12½st.

Occupation: Barry's Tea Sales Representative.

Married to: Ann.

Children: Jamie (11), Stephanie (10), Richie (5), John (4 months).

Birthday: April 8th.

Year born: 1955.

The memory is still as bright and warming as if it were only yesterday, and the blond-haired child was blurting excitedly to his dad: "I want to be like Richie Power when I grow up." A noble wish, be it expressed in relation to the hurler, or the man. One of life's gentlemen had won over another heart.

That young boy, aged no more than 5 or 6 it appeared, was high on emotion when leaving Croke Park after Kilkenny's mind-boggling win over Cork in the 1982 All-Ireland senior final. Power, the pride of Carrickshock, had just arrowed over four classy, long-range points from play that left us wondering had he some sophisticated guiding device in-built in his camán to shoot the sliothar to a direct hit.

The young boy was enthralled, even on a day when Christy Heffernan scored 2-3. Power, unselfish, honest and all-round nice guy, would have been chuffed had he been about.

That was Power's big moment with Kilkenny, when 'big moments' are gauged in terms of All-Ireland wins. He was back a year later, when his single score – a goal early in the second half – was crucial when Cork were conquered again.

Power returned as a winner again this year, not as a player, but as a sub. The personal joy wasn't the same, it never is for a reserve worth his salt who should want to be involved in the action.

But Kilkenny people appreciated Power being there and doing his bit for the Black and Amber. The night after the game and the greatest welcome home of all time, the 37-year-old dropped into a packed Delaney's pub in Patrick Street on his way home. As he appeared through the door, hurling people, the fans, got to their feet to give someone they regarded as a nice guy and great servant of the county a spontaneous ovation. A sort of 'we love you' gesture. As a player or sub., people appreciated his long and faithful efforts. And they let him know it.

By JOHN KNOX
("Kilkenny People")

HURLING OBITUARY

Power's third All-Ireland win might never have been. In April, with his full consent, I actually wrote his hurling obituary. As American writer Mark Twain once observed: "Reports of my death have been gravely exaggerated." So it was with Power's inter-county hurling life, much to his delight.

After a stirring All-Ireland showing against Tipperary last year, when he was on target for man of the match for a long time, he picked up a serious groin injury. Rest during the Winter didn't make any difference, and when Power resumed training with the county on January 6 he broke down within a matter of minutes. Nearly four months of rest and special exercises made no difference and in the *Kilkenny People* of April 24 Richard Power announced his retirement.

He went, feeling a bit cheated that what was to be his last championship was taken away from him. For no apparent reason, the injury came good weeks later and Power was brought back into the fold.

He was put in as a sub. at the start of the second half of the Leinster semi-final against Offaly. At the time the midlanders had the look of winners about them. No more than a minute later, Power was trooping off the field – injured. Not the old groin injury, but a muscle strain over the right knee.

"I knew straight away I was in trouble," the Barry's tea sales representative explained. "Going off, I just wished the ground would have opened up and swallowed me. But it was my own fault. I hadn't warmed up properly."

LUCKY BREAK

Honest as ever, Power saw his misfortune as Kilkenny's lucky break. His place was taken by Christy Heffernan who turned the match right around with a gutsy showing that lifted the whole team.

"Had I not been injured, we might not have won that game," Power insisted. "There is no way I would have changed the game the way Christy did."

Surely this was the end of the road! Power was out of contention during the remainder of the Leinster championship and for the All-Ireland semi-final against Galway. Four weeks before the All-Ireland final he was invited back into the squad. He wasn't excess to requirements. On the Croke Park pitch on All-Ireland day, Co. Board chairman and selector Nickey Brennan told Power to be ready because, depending on how the match went, he might be going in.

"I had soldiered the year before with all the lads, and I got on well with them," he said of his decision to return before the All-Ireland. "If I had been asked to do a job, I would have done my best. I tried to think back on my earlier All-Irelands and think of things to say that might help others cope and do better.

"On the day of the match I got talking to a few of the lads and I think I helped

SOME OF HIS MAJOR HONOURS

Leinster S.H.C. (6): 1982, 1983, 1986, 1987, 1991, 1992.

National Hurling League (4): 1982, 1983, 1986, 1990.

All-Ireland S.H.C. (4): 1982, 1983, 1992.

All-Star Awards (2): 1982, 1986.

All-Ireland M.H.C. (1): 1975.

All-Ireland Under-21 H.C.: 1977.

Oireachtas Tournament (1): 1984.

Kilkenny Under-14 H.C. (1): 1968.

Kilkenny Intermediate Hurler of Year: 1989.

Smithwick's Hurler of Year: 1991.

A.C.A. Man of the Match: 1986 (Leinster Final).

them put worrying thoughts into the back of their minds. I hope I was some help. I had hoped that I might get a run, but then so did everyone else on the bench.

I fully appreciate the job the selectors did. They made some very wise decisions during the year, ones that were not fully appreciated. I wanted Kilkenny to win the All-Ireland and if that meant I sat on the bench for 70 minutes, well, I was glad to do it."

He accepted there would be no further encore: "When I pulled out earlier, it tormented me. I am happy with myself now. I can stand on the bank, watch the action and enjoy it, and know that there is still a Carrickshock man (Pat Dwyer) on the team. And he will be there for a while. That will keep me happy."

CONTEMPORARIES

Inter-county hurling started for the hurling-mad lad when he was just 12. He played two years with the Kilkenny under-14 team. He played at corner-back on the minor side in the All-Ireland against Cork in 1975 when the Leesiders won.

In 1977 he played as a half-forward on the under-21 team that beat Cork in the All-Ireland final. Contemporaries included Paddy Prendergast, John Henderson, Dick O'Hara and Richie Reid, all of whom he played with in the senior grade later.

His first taste of senior inter-county competition came in 1981, at the request of then Co. Board chairman Mick O'Neill (Slieverue). The opposition was provided by Kerry, of all teams. Power was an instant hit. He scored 1-3.

Now five All-Irelands later, with three winner's medals, he steps off the stage. His pocket of riches also includes four National League winners medals, two All-Star awards, Kilkenny hurler of the year on two counts – from the County Board (1989) and Smithwick's (1991).

Power's achievement in 1986 when he was picked as an All-Star must be unique. For that year he combined the onerous duties of being chairman of Carrickshock with his inter-county work. No mean feat.

He was brought up in a household where hurling was the only thing. The five brothers – Maurice, Pat, Richie, William and John would play the game morning, noon and night.

"I reckon I was lucky to get the break with the county," Richie observed. "To me, Maurice and Pat were better hurlers. I always said that. If Maurice had been coming when I was, he would have made it – and easier than me. Maurice and Pat captained St. Kieran's College teams when at school and they both played in All-Ireland finals."

HAD TO WORK

Richie knew his limitations and accepted them. He had to work hard to keep up with the standard at inter-county level. Heavy work on his own in Jimmy Sheehan's 20-acre field in Stonecarthy, where Richie lived for a while, helped him Winter well in the early years.

"If you got round that field twice on a January night you would be doing well. Often I got round it once and left it at that," he laughed.

The Winter work, and other efforts alone, kept him at his best fighting weight of 11½ stone.

Ever understanding and supportive, always by his side, was his hurling-mad wife, Ann. One week before the All-Ireland final she gave birth to their fourth child, John, and she was unable to attend. But she was there in spirit. The first telegram of congratulations in the team's hotel afterwards had Ann Power's name at the bottom of it.

"Without Ann's constant support I would have been nothing as a hurler," he conceded. Time out of number she loaded the van or did some other work when Richie had to rush off to training.

Satisfied that he has taken his lot from the inter-county game, the big-hearted midfielder or forward had not diluted his strong desire to succeed further. He craves success for his beloved Carrickshock, a club that has always been good to him, he admitted.

FURTHER AMBITIONS

"I would love to win the intermediate championship with Carrickshock," he revealed. Semi-final appearances in the last two championships ended in disappointment.

"I hope we will be back knocking on the door next year, he continued. He will be there fighting the fight as usual, wholeheartedly and unselfishly. Beyond his own career, he has further ambitions.

"Some day I would like to train a team," Richie said. "I am not saying I would be any good, but I would like to give it a try. When I finish my career I will take a break, and maybe then."

One wondered whatever became of that young boy who marvelled at his hero in Croke Park in 1982. Did he become a hurler afterwards? Perhaps! His choice of hero was first class!

Schools Board continues to develop

COUNTRY CUP

1993 will be looked on as a year of consolidation and further development for the Kilkenny Primary Schools Board. The eleven-a-side competition introduced in 1992 was continued and the radio coverage of games and finals was again a prominent feature of the day. However, the dropping of *The World of Gaelic Games* in October has to be a disappointment.

During the Under-13 hurling league championship a "man of the match" was selected on the *World of Gaelic Games* from a featured match. Each winner received a kitbag sponsored by T.C. Tyres and presented by Liam Fennelly. The winners during the league were:

John Barron (Tullagher/Rosbercon), Paul Buggy (Conahy), John O'Neill (Callan), Eugene Kenneally (Kilmacow), Michael Hoyne (Kilmanagh), Stephen Murphy (C.B.S.), James Duggan (Newmarket), P. J. Fitzgerald (Clara), John Egan (St. Canice's), Chris Maher (Tullaroan), Oisín Breathnach (Gaelscoil), Niall Rohan (Carrickshock).

In the finals the winners were:

Michael Hoyne (Kilmanagh), David Dooley (St. Pat's), Kevin Shortall (Clara), Michael

Forrestal (Slieverue), Henry Shefflin (Ballyhale), Wayne McMahon (Thomastown), Niall Kiely (Glenmore), James Duggan (Newmarket), Richard Holland (Tullaroan), Conor Phelan (St. Canice's), Paul Sheehan (Rower-Inistioge), Robert Malone (Ballyragget).

The structure of the championship was altered in Roinn A with the division of the group in two, with four teams qualifying for the championship play-offs, introducing a new and exciting format in both hurling and football.

A special competition for Roinn A teams was introduced, called the "Country Cup". This division contains ten teams, St. Patrick's, C.B.S. and St. John's, are excluded from the competition, thus giving the smaller schools from rural areas a realistic chance of winning a competition.

As has been the norm for many years, there was a wide coverage of school games in all the local media, thanks to the efforts of the P.R.O.s in the schools. A special word of thanks to John Knox (*Kilkenny People*), Enda McEvoy and Pat Treacy.

The summer hurling camps organised by the Co. Development Committee proved very successful and the coaches were all members of the Schools' Board.



John Knox, N.T.

FOUNDER PASSES AWAY

ON A Saturday evening in May, a cloud of sadness passed over the county as news of the sudden death of Tom Waldron became known. Tom was a founder of the Schools Board in 1939 when with Brother James of the De La Salle and Joseph Dowling of Jenkinstown they met in the City Hall to discuss the promotion of games in schools.

From this meeting the present Schools Board has grown. Tom served as secretary from the 'Forties to the 'Seventies. He was responsible for many of the ideas which have stood the test of time, especially that the schools of a parish would form a unit for team purposes.

The structure of school games in Kilkenny is the envy of many other counties. Ever a visionary, Tom was instrumental in the formation of the All-Ireland Primary Schools Committee founded in 1971 and one of his proudest moments was when he was elected to serve as President.



GLENMORE N.S. - Runners-up Roinn E Under-13 Schools' Final

Front - Thomas Walsh, Mark Phelan, Luke Sinnott, Matthew Fitzgerald, Colin Lynch, Michael Ryan, Patrick Murphy, Richard Ryan, John Dollard, Donnie Aylward, Daniel Cody, Hugh Doran, Michael Phelan, Michael Barron, Eugene Griffin, Kevin Aylward, Michael Aylward, Alan Doran. Back - James Kelly, J. J. McDonald, Mark Kirwan, Michael Lynch N.T., James Kehoe, Michael Lynch, Leonard Garvey, Niall Mackey, Eoin Grenan, Tommy Jones. (Photo: Tom Brett)

Even after his retirement from teaching Tom continued his interest in schools' games. His wide knowledge of G.A.A. rules and procedures allied to his wealth of experience in schools' affairs meant that he was often called on for help and advice. He was delighted with the publication of *Caogo Bliain Óg*, the history of the Schools Board.

He was a long-serving member of the Kilkenny County Board and Oifigeach Gaelach as well as serving on the Year Book Committee. But much as he enjoyed his involvement in Gaelic game, he always got great pleasure from Schools' games.

A long-serving member of the I.N.T.O. and a former president of the organisation, Tom's work on behalf of the teachers and pupils of Ireland and in particular his county of Kilkenny will never be forgotten. Ar dheis Dé a anam.

I.N.T.O. Mini-Sevens

Once again this year the Mini-Sevens sponsored by the I.N.T.O. and organised by the National Cumann na mBunscoil was again organised in Kilkenny.

In the hurling St. Patrick's were the victors and at the Regional Sevens Karl Conroy was selected to play in Croke Park on All-Ireland final day and Shane Egan and John Cullen on All-Ireland semi-final day. The St. Patrick's panel was:

Karl Conroy, John Cullen, Shane Egan, Eoin O'Neill, Patrick O'Brien, David Delaney, John Morgan, Barry O'Neill, Richard Hayes, Ian Morrissey.

St. Lachtain's retained their camogie title and the panel was:

Breda Wall, Emma Fitzpatrick, Sinead Shortt, Marie Fitzpatrick, Julie Ryan, Claire Dermody, Mairead Costello, Sheila Dalton, Pauline Butler, Mary Ryan.

Gowran won out the local Sevens football competition and Brendan Hickey of Dungarvan played in Croke Park during the Dublin - Clare All-Ireland semi-final. The full Gowran panel was:

Stephen Nolan, John Paul Comerford, John Paul Carroll, Paul Hickey, Alan Power, James



GOWRAN - I.N.T.O. MINI-SEVENS FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS

Front - Brendan Hickey, Peter Gallagher, Colin Madden, David Carter, Tommy Doyle. **Back** - James Hickey, Alan Power, John Paul Comerford, John Paul Carroll, Stephen Nolan.

Hickey, Peter Gallagher, David Carter, Brendan Hickey, Tommy Doyle.

In ladies' football Piltown won the local football championship. The panel was:

F. MacSweeney, C. Grant, D. Kelly, L. Meade, A. O'Brien, D. O'Brien, J. Wall, M. Reid, J. Dalton, J. Foley.

SCHOOLS GAMES

KILKENNY UNBEATEN

The Kilkenny Under-12 county team travelled to Dublin for their annual inter-county tournament where they managed to retain their unbeaten record. They received the height of hospitality from their host club, St. Fintan's in Swords. In the afternoon Kilkenny defeated Kildare 3-9 to 0-3 and that night they defeated Dublin B team 5-6 to 1-1.

On the Sunday morning they had a tremendous tussle with the Dublin A side which ended in a draw - 3-6 to 4-3.

All the boys and their mentors were guests of the Leinster Council at the Leinster Hurling Final and ten of them were lucky to be chosen to play an

exhibition game during the interval. Mentors of the team were Mr. Billy Hoare, Chairman of the Primary Schools Board, Richie Tierney (Rower-Inistioge), John Bolger (Clara), Dermot Dunphy (C.B.S.). The panel was:

Richard Holland (Tullaroan), P. Dowling (Lisdowney), Paul Knox (Slieverue), Aidan Mackey (Windgap), Paul Shefflin (Ballyhale), Alan Barry (C.B.S.), Gearóid Cleere (Kilmanagh), Eddie Walsh (Graignamanagh), David Carter (Gowran), Daniel Hoyne (Carrickshock), Brian Phelan (Clara), Paul Sheehan (Rower-Inistioge), Stephen Rochford (St. Canice's), Kevin Power (Johnstown), Brian Minogue (Freshford), Wayne McMahon (Thomastown), D. Walsh (Kilmacow), Brian O'Connor (St. John's), B. Griffith (Conahy), M. Dowling (Coon-Muckalee), Eoin Henebery (Mooncoin), Niall Hickey (Dunnamaggin), James Norris (Piltown), P. Forrestal (Danesfort), Joey Gormley (Callan).

UNDER-13 HURLING

KILMANAGH continued one of the most successful runs ever in schools' hurling when they again contested the Roinn A final (their first appearance in this sequence was in 1984), defeating St. Patrick's 2-7 to 4-0, thanks to a great free from Michael Hoyne.

The Roinn B final saw the Rower-Inistioge outclass a very skilful Ballyragget side. St. Canice's took their first ever Roinn C title with a good victory over Tullaroan, who were unbeaten during the League: St. Canice's 3-5, Tullaroan 1-4.

In the Roinn D final Clara proved too strong for Slieverue on the night and won on the scores Clara 5-2, Slieverue 0-1.

In the eleven-a-side competition Newmarket successfully defended their title against Glenmore, 2-6 to 0-2. The Country Cup final proved to be a real thriller with Ballyhale dominating the first half: 1-5 to Thomastown's 0-0.

In the second half Thomastown reorganised and could have snatched victory in the end but Ballyhale recorded an historic victory by the narrowest of margins: Ballyhale 1-7, Thomastown 2-2.



KILKENNY UNDER-12 HURLING TEAM - 1992

Front - Alan Dobbyn, Eddie Walsh, Aidan Mackey, Brian Minogue, Gearóid Cleere, Paul Shefflin, David Carter, Stephen Rochford, David Dowling, Paul Knox, Wayne McMahon, James Norris. **Behind** - Alan Barry, Brian Phelan, Noel Hickey, Joey Gormley, Kevin Power, Paul Sheehan, Daniel Hoyne, Richard Holland, Brian O'Connor, Brian Griffin, P. Forrestal, Eoin Henebery. Mentors: Dermot Dunphy, John Bolger, Richie Tierney, Richie Tierney jnr.



KILMANAGH – Champions Roinn A Under-13 Primary Schools Hurling League

Seated (from left) – Sean Dooley, Paul Dermody, Robert Byrne, Joseph Brennan, Michael Hoyne, Michael Teehan, Anthony Drohan, Gearoid Cleere, Jimmy Lynch, John Dermody. Behind – Karl Keane, James Ryall, Declan Byrne, David Harrison, Brendan Hayes, Dermot Hoyne, Alan O'Shea, Tommy Butler, Brendan Marnell, Seamus Dooley.

(Photos: Tom Brett)

KILMANAGH TAKE TITLE

Kilmanagh 2-7; St. Patrick's 4-0

The Under-13 Roinn A Educational Supplies final proved to be an exciting game when Kilmanagh, the Roinn A specialists, beat St. Patrick's De La Salle, the reigning football champions, at Nowlan Park.

Both sides entered the fray undefeated. The city side swept into an early lead with two goals in the first ten minutes, but by half-time Kilmanagh had hauled back this lead and were ahead at the break, 2-3 to 2-0.

An impeccable display of free-taking from Michael Hoyne (Kilmanagh) stretched his side's lead to five points. But with time

running out, two great goals from Shane Egan and John Cullen, after astute switches by the St. Patrick's mentors, left only a point between the sides. But try as they might the city lads failed to get the all-important equaliser and Kilmanagh triumphed for a well-merited victory.

Michael Hoyne, the captain, has to be given pride of place in a great team effort, while Dermot Hoyne was very effective at midfield. The sweet-striking Jimmy Lynch was a joy to watch at centre-back as was the diminutive Paul Dermody up front.

For St. Patrick's John Cullen played a captain's part at midfield and was equally effective when moved to the forwards. The O'Neill brothers, Peter and Eoin, shone in

defence while Shane Egan was the pick of the forwards.

Kilmanagh – Joseph Brennan, Tommy Butler, Michael Teehan, Karl Keane, Anthony Drohan, Jimmy Lynch, Gearoid Cleere, Dermot Hoyne, Brendan Marnell, Alan O'Shea (1-0), Michael Hoyne (captain) (1-6), Robert Byrne (0-1), Brendan Hayes, James Ryall, Paul Dermody, Declan Byrne, John Dermody, Seamus Dooley, Sean Dooley, David Harrison.

St. Patrick's – Patrick Holden, Ian Morrissey, David Dooley, Peter O'Neill, David Delaney, Eoin O'Neill, Brian Power, John Morgan, Brian O'Dwyer, Liam O'Dwyer (1-0), John Cullen (captain), Barry O'Neill, Dermot Ryan, Shane Egan (2-0), Patrick O'Brien (1-0), David Hurley, Geoffrey Brennan, Richard Hayes, David Tyrrell, Brian Rodgers, Hugh Gannon, Patrick Hogan, Eoghan Walsh, Brian Holden.

Referee: Paschal Long.



ST. PATRICK'S BOYS NATIONAL SCHOOL – Runners-up Roinn A Primary Schools Hurling League

In front (from left) – Shane Egan, Brian O'Dwyer, Barry O'Neill, David Delaney, David Hurley, Dermot Ryan, Pa Holden, Patrick O'Brien, Jeffrey Brennan, Richard Hayes, Brian Rodgers, Eoin Walsh. Behind – David Tyrrell, Brian Power, Eoghan O'Neill, Brian Holden, John Cullen, David Dooley, John Morgan, Ian Morrissey, Hugh Gannon, Peter O'Neill, Karl Conroy, Liam Dwyer, Patrick Hogan.

(Photo: Tom Brett)



ROWER-INISTIOGE – Roinn B Under-13 Kilkenny Primary Schools' Hurling Champions

In front – John Kelly, Eamon Lyster, Sean Cashin, Mark Clifford, Shane Dunphy, Pat Malone, P. J. Wilmott, Joe Proctor. Middle – Dermot Brennan, Tom Doyle, Brian Murphy, Niall Lyng, Donal Brennan, Tom Cashin, Simon Langton, Tom Morrissey. Back – Pat Hackett, William Walsh, Michael Hackett, Nicholas Kenny, Paul Sheehan, Tomás Digby (capt.), Richard Tierney, Pat Clery, William Kennedy, Pat Minogue.

(Photos: Tom Brett)

SCHOOLS CROWN FOR ROWER-INISTIOGE

The Rower-Inistioge captured the Roinn B primary schools title when they overcame a determined challenge from a young and skilful Ballyragget in an exciting final. This game produced top-class hurling all through, with both sides displaying skill and determination in their pursuit of honours. In the end the physically stronger Rower-Inistioge won the title after a hard battle.

The first half was evenly contested with both sides creating chances but generally defences were on top. At the break the Rower led 1-3 to 1-1.

The early stages of the second half were dominated by the Southerners but as the

game wore on the Ballyragget boys got back into contention thanks to some fine hurling from Eamon McEvoy, Brian Phelan, Stephen Roberts and goalkeeper Robbie Malone who made many excellent saves.

However, the bigger and stronger Rower-Inistioge weathered the storm and in the end were back in control to run out winners, 2-7 to 1-3. The winners had fine players in goalkeeper Donal Brennan, Simon Langton, Thomas Cassin, Brian Murphy, Dermot Brennan and the outstanding Paul Sheehan. Thomas Digby, Niall Lyng and William Kennedy all had their moments.

Rower-Inistioge – Donal Brennan, Simon Langton, William Kennedy, Thomas Cassin, Nicholas Kenny, Tomás Digby (capt.), Thomas

Morrissey, Tom Doyle, Patrick Cleary, Brian Murphy (1-0), Dermot Brennan, Paul Sheehan (1-6), Niall Lyng, Richard Tierney, John Kelly, Eamon Lester, Pat Minogue, Shane Dunphy, Patrick Malone (0-1), Will Walsh, Sean Cassin, P. J. Willmot, Mick Hackett, Joe Proctor, Mark Clifford, Pat Hackett.

Ballyragget – Robert Malone, Paul Moran, James McCraith, Eamon Delaney, Brendan Dooley, Brian Phelan (capt.) (0-1), Eamon McEvoy, Pat Callinan, Stephen Roberts (0-1), Mark Phelan, David Kenny (1-0), Thomas Dunne, Eamon Cuggy, Brian Phelan (0-1), Kieran Delaney, Ross Phelan, Darren Holohan, Jonathan Brennan, Kevin Carroll, Matthew O'Donnell, Jimmy Lacey, Liam Gleeson, Kevin Staunton, Damien Foley, Kevin Holohan.

Referee: Podge Butler.



BALLYRAGGET N.S. – Runners-up Roinn B Under-13 Primary Schools' Hurling Championship

In front (from left) – Kevin Staunton, Matthew O'Donnell, Jimmy Lacey, Jonathan Brennan, Ross Phelan, Liam Gleeson. Middle – Darann Holohan, Brendan Dooley, Robert Malone, Eamonn McEvoy, Thomas Dunne, Brian Phelan, Stephen Roberts, Kieran Delaney, Kevin Carroll. Back – Damien Foley, Kevin Holohan, Pat Callinans, Eamonn Cuggy, Brian Phelan (capt.), Eamonn Delaney, David Kenny, James McCraith, Mark Phelan, Paul Moran.

(Photo: Tom Brett)



ST. CANICE'S CO-ED SCHOOL – Roinn C Under-13 Champions, 1992

Front (from left) – Ian Deegan, Stephen Connolly, Stephen Rochford, Michael Callanan (captain), Timmy Clifford, John Trait, Bobby Lawler. Behind – Jonathan Cullen, Steven Guidera, John Egan, Cathal O'Dowd, Conor Phelan, David Maher, Liam McCormack, Brendan Tobin.

(Photos: Tom Brett)

FIRST TITLE FOR ST. CANICE'S

This year St. Canice's took their first ever Roinn C title with a good victory over Tullaroan. The well-coached city side led from start to finish and thanks to some great goalkeeping from Conor Phelan and their full-back line led by full-back Cathal O'Dowd and they led 1-3 to 0-1 at the break.

In the second half the St. Canice's duo of Michael Callanan and Stephen Rochford gave a great display at midfield, while up front Jimmy Clifford and top scorer Jonathan Cullen were the pick of the forwards.

Tullaroan, who were unbeaten entering the final, never really did themselves justice in this decider, thanks to a fiercely determined display by the city side. They finished with a flourish with a great goal from Christopher Maher to leave the final score: St. Canice's 3-5, Tullaroan 1-4.

For the losers, John Crosby was great in defence and Patrick Campion shone at midfield.

St. Canice's – Conor Phelan, John Egan, Cathal O'Dowd, Ian Deegan, Liam McCormack, David Maher (0-1), Stephen Connolly, Stephen Rochford, Michael Callanan (capt.) (0-1), Jonathan Cullen (2-1), Timmy Clifford (0-2), John Ryan, Brendan Tobin (0-1), Steven Guidera

(0-1), Bobby Lawlor (1-0), Mark Sheridan, Michael Hanton, Shane McEvoy, John Trait (1-0), Brian McEvoy, Brian Callanan, Gerry Delaney, Darragh Murphy, Robbie Heffernan, Sean Butler.

Tullaroan – Richard Holland, Shane Ronan, James Cleere, John Crosby, Matthew Butler, Brian Doheny, John Paul Young, Patrick Campion, John Coogan (0-2), Richard Cleere, Christopher Maher (1-1), Martin Óg Kennedy, Paul Doheny, Thomas Fitzgerald, John Flynn, Shane Hennessy, Thomas Walsh, Edward Hoyne, Michael Maher, James Pollard, Joseph Crosby, Barry Ronan, James Cahill, Liam Brennan, Pierce Doheny, James Holland, Craig Sheehan.



TULLAROAN – Runners-up Roinn C Under-13 Primary League

In front (from left) – Paul Doheny, Patrick Campion, Thomas Fitzgerald, Richard Holland, Brian Doheny, John Crosby, Shane Ronan. Behind – Martin Óg Kennedy, Richard Cleere, John Coogan, James Cleere, Christopher Maher, Matthew Butler, John Paul Young, James Pollard, Joseph Crosby, Tommy Walsh.

(Photo: Tom Brett)



CLARA N.S. – Roinn D Under-13 Kilkeny Primary Schools Hurling Champions

In front – Michael Gibbons, Dermot Byrne, Noel Hoyne, Mark Shortall, Tadhg Corley, Gordon Byrne, Tommy Dowling, Martin Prendergast. Middle – Donald McDonald, Peter Roche, Martin Kealy, John Prendergast, John Bambrick, John Brennan, Emmet Corley, Raymond Aylward, Eamon Kealy, Trevor Murphy. Back – T. J. Fitzgerald, David Mulrooney, Jerry Byrne, Thomas Murphy, Ian Treacy, P. J. McDonald, Pat Langton, Brendan Nolan, Richard Nolan, Owen Dowling, Brian Phelan, Adrian Fitzpatrick.

(Photos: Tom Brett)

CLARA ON TOP

Clara 5-2; Slieverue 0-1

A MUCH stronger Clara side proved too much for Slieverue in the Roinn D final. Slieverue, who failed to score in the first half, did not avail of the few chances which came their way. However, Clara always looked like winning this final.

The winners began with a goal by Kevin Shortall after two minutes. This was followed by a point from a free by Brian Phelan. Clara kept up the pressure all through the first half. Slieverue goalkeeper John Paul Kelly made some great saves and prevented his team from falling too far behind.

After 15 minutes Clara centre-forward Brian Phelan scored a well-taken goal and

Kevin Shortall completed the scoring with another goal just before half-time: Clara 3-1; Slieverue 0-0.

In the second half full-forward Eoin Dowling had the sliothar in the Slieverue net after only two minutes. Slieverue opened their account one minute later with a point by Kevin Haberlin. Afterwards Slieverue exerted lots of pressure but the scores just didn't come. Clara completed the scoring with a point by Patrick Langton and a goal by John Prendergast.

Best for Clara were goalkeeper Martin Kealy, Brendan Nolan, Patrick Langton, Brian Phelan, Eoin Dowling and Kevin Shortall.

For Slieverue John Paul Kelly made some great saves in goal and Paul Knox, Kevin

Haberlin and Shane Bohill were best outfield.

Clara – Martin Kealy, Brendan Nolan, Thomas Murphy, Richard Nolan, P. J. McDonald, Patrick Langton (0-1), Adrian Fitzpatrick, Jerry Byrne, T. J. Fitzgerald (capt.), Ian Treacy, Brian Phelan (1-1), David Mulrooney, John Prendergast (1-0), Eoin Dowling (1-0), Kevin Shortall (2-0). Subs: Mark Shortall, Gordon Byrne, Peter Roche. Also: John Bambrick, Trevor Murphy, Martin Prendergast, Michael Gibbons, Tommy Dowling, Emmet Corley, Dermot Byrne, John Brennan, Donald McDonald, Raymond Aylward, Noel Hoyne, Eamon Kealy, Tadhg Corley (mascot).

Slieverue – John Paul Kelly, John Mooney, David O'Donovan (capt.), Denis Kehoe, Robert Freaney, Paul Knox, Michael Forristal, David Walsh, James Walsh, John Drennan, Kevin Haberlin (0-1), Tim Murphy, Eoin Dollard, Shane Bohill, Eoin Dunne. Subs: Trevor Cullen, Robert Drennan (both played). Also: Brian Kirwan, Brian Delahunty, Alan Atkins, Colin Haberlin, Pat Maher, Kieran Murphy.

Referee: Podge Butler.



SLIEVERUE – Runners-up Roinn D Under-13 Kilkeny Primary Schools Hurling Championship

Back row (left to right) – John Drennan, Eoin Dunne, Shane Bohill, David O'Donovan, Kevin Haberlin, James Walsh, Paul Knox, Brian Kirwan, Robert McDonald. Middle row (left to right) – John Paul Kelly, Eoin Dollard, John Mooney, Denis Keogh, Colm Haberlin, Robert Freaney, Timothy Murphy, Niall McDonald. Front row (left to right) – David Walsh, Robert Drennan, Alan Atkins, Michael Forristal, Kenneth Scannell, Brian Delahunty, Pat Maher.

(Photo: Tom Brett)



NEWMARKET N.S. – Roinn E Under-13 Kilkenny Primary Schools Hurling Champions

In front – Pat Dalton, Ger Murphy, John O'Shea, Niall Rohan, James Duggan, Daniel Hoyne, Pat Tennyson, William Carr, Gerry Mulcahy. Behind – Tom Duggan N.T. (coach), Liam Aylward, Eamon Kenneally, Richard Burke, Billy O'Meara, Liam Barron, Amy O'Carroll, Eimear O'Meara.

(Photos: Tom Brett)

CUP STAYS IN NEWMARKET

Newmarket retained the Roinn E championship with a very convincing win over Glenmore: 2-6 to 0-2. A great display was given by James Duggan who scored a goal in the first half and added three points in the second half (one from a "65").

For Glenmore captain Niall Mackey gave a great display in goal and narrowly failed to score a penalty for his side when his shot was brilliantly turned over the bar by 'keeper Richard Burke. The winners led 1-3 to Glenmore's 0-2 at half-time.

To their credit, Glenmore came out fighting in the second half but the Newmarket defence held firm. There was no getting past Niall Rohan and Pat Tennyson who were ably supported by Eamon Kenneally and John O'Shea. With James Duggan and Pat Dalton winning the midfield battle, Newmarket gradually asserted their superiority.

Daniel Hoyne tormented the Glenmore defence and the half-forwards and the half-forwards Amy O'Carroll, Liam Aylward and Billy O'Meara, who replaced the injured Gerard Murphy, never let Glenmore clear the ball with any ease.

Newmarket were worthy winners over a Glenmore team for whom goalkeeper Niall Mackey, Kevin Aylward, James Kehoe and Michael Phelan fought gallantly.

Newmarket – Richard Burke, Pat Tennyson, Eamon Kenneally, Niall Rohan, John O'Shea, James Duggan, Gerard Murphy, Liam Aylward, Pat Dalton, Amy O'Carroll, Daniel Hoyne. *Subs:* Billy O'Meara.

Glenmore – Niall Mackey, Kevin Aylward, Daniel Cody, Hugh Doran, James Kehoe, Eoin Grennan, Mark Kirwan, Michael Lynch, Eugene Griffin, Michael Phelan, Gerard Garvey. *Subs:* Donal Aylward, Nicholas Barron.

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BALLYHALE N.S. – Winners Roinn A "Country Cup" in Kilkenny Primary Schools Hurling Championship

In front – A. Walsh, J. Dermody, R. Aylward, J. O'Brien, L. Aylward, K. Murphy, J. Walsh, R. Fitzpatrick, W. Coogan, N. Fitzpatrick, E. Frisby. *Middle* – J. P. Fitzpatrick, B. Costelloe, S. O'Keefe, L. Grant, A. Cummins, P. Shefflin, P. Holohan, J. Healy, R. Connolly. *Back* – M. Fitzpatrick, R. Moran, S. Walsh, T. Fitzpatrick, H. Shefflin, G. Connolly, J. Dunphy N.T. (coach), T. Coogan, G. Treacy, S. O'Keefe, D. Holohan, P. Reid.

(Photos: Tom Brett)

BALLYHALE "COUNTRY CUP" CHAMPIONS

This final proved to be a real thriller. In the first half Ballyhale dominated affairs with Richard Shefflin and Aidan Cummins in great form and led Thomastown 1-5 to 0-0 at the break. Thomastown, somewhat overawed up to this, reorganised their side with Niall Kiely and Niall Cody moving to midfield and gave their supporters a great second half and could have snatched victory in the closing stages.

This was a great final by two fine teams. Ballyhale had a sound goalie in John Paul Fitzpatrick and he was fronted by excellent backs. Paul Holohan and Aidan Cummins laid the ground for victory at midfield in

the first half. Up front Henry Shefflin and the stylish Liam Grant were most prominent. Sean O'Keefe, Patrick Reid, Joseph Walsh and Brendan Costello also did well.

Thomastown had their heroes, none more so than goalie Paul Dempsey. All six backs played well and the forwards, led by Derek Lanigan, and Dessie Walsh, Oscar Ryan, Derek Brennan, Barry Hoyne and Niall Kiely showed good skill as did subs Mark Magnier and Brian Feeney.

Ballyhale – John Fitzpatrick, John Healy, Ger Connolly, Ross Connolly, Sean O'Keefe, Thomas Coogan, Paul Shefflin, Aidan Cummins, Paul Holohan, Brendan Costello, Liam Grant (capt.), Patrick Reid, Joseph Walsh, Sean

O'Keefe, Henry Shefflin. *Subs* – Terence Fitzpatrick, Niall Fitzpatrick, Richard Moran, Michael Fitzpatrick, Richard Fitzpatrick, John Dermody, Seamus Walsh, Ger Treacy, Larry Aylward, Keith Murphy, Eamon Frisby, Johnny O'Brien, Robert Aylward, William Coogan, David Holohan, Anthony Walsh.

Thomastown – Paul Dempsey, Patrick Whitty, Michael Denieffe, John O'Donoghue, Wayne McMahon, Eoin Hanrahan, Niall Cody, David Walsh, Timothy O'Mahony, Oscar Ryan, Derek Lanigan, Derek Brennan, Barry Hoyne, Niall Kiely, Des Walsh. *Subs*: Brian Feeney, J. J. Roche, Darragh O'Connor, Thomas Kelly, Paul Dunne, Mark Magnier, Paul Doyle, John Mullally, Keith Lannon, Stephen Roche.

Referee: Podge Butler.



THOMASTOWN B.N.S. – Runners-up Roinn A "Country Cup" Hurling Championship

In front – Paul Doyle, J. J. Roche, Thomas Kelly, Darragh O'Connor. *Middle* – Tim O'Mahony, Paul Doyle, Mark Magnier, Dessie Walsh, Paul Dempsey, Derek Brennan, Derek Lanigan, Wayne McMahon, David Walsh. *Back* – Keith Lannon, Niall Cody, Eoin Hanrahan, Pat Whitty, Brian Feeney, Niall Kiely, Oscar Ryan, John Mullally, Michael Denieffe, Barry Hoyne, John O'Donoghue.

(Photo: Tom Brett)



ST. CANICE'S – Under-13 Roinn A Football Champions

Back row (left to right) – Robert Bowles, Brendan Tobin, Jonathan Cullen, Patrick Kiely, Pat McLoughlin, Michael Hanton, Derek O'Gorman, Stephen Rochford, Eoin Mulhern, Brian O'Keefe, John Egan, Conor Loughlin. Front row – Michael Nicholson, Stephen Connolly, Shane McEvoy, Mark Sheridan, Timmy Clifford, Bobby Lawlor, John Ryan, Niall Andrews, Brian Shields, Eoghan O'Mahony, John Trait. (Missing from photo: Darragh Murphy). (Photo: Tom Brett)

FOOTBALL

INTER-SCHOOLS football got a great boost this year when the County Development Committee arranged for Colm Brady to visit the county. Each school in the football competitions had two visits from the Meath star, who not only proved to be an excellent coach but a great ambassador for Gaelic games on his visit.

In the Roinn A championship St. Canice's Co-Ed completed a great double when they gained their first ever title in this grade with a win over city rivals St. Patrick's: 1-8 to 2-3. St. Patrick's, who

dominated this competition in the 'Eighties, were defeated by a magnificent team effort from St. Canice's.

The winners won Roinn B in 1988 and have been knocking on the door for the past few seasons, but they made no mistake on this, their first appearance in the final.

Clara captured their first schools' football title by defeating Mooncoin in the Toymaster final.

ST. CANICE'S COMPLETE DOUBLE

St. Canice's made history when on their first appearance in the Roinn A final they captured the Bertie O'Callaghan Cup, the prized trophy for Under-13 football. In the

league only a single point had separated the sides. St. Canice's, favoured by a cross-wind, dominated the first half thanks to a great display by a wide-ranging Timmy Clifford. They failed, however to register this on the scoreboard and seemed to have lost their chance when St. Pat's led 0-3 to 0-2 at the break, thanks to points from Paddy O'Brien (0-2) and Brian Rodgers. A feature of the half was the many wides from frees and play but Timmy Clifford kept his side in it with two points.

St. Pat's looked to have sealed victory when Paddy O'Brien had a great goal within minutes of the restart. Their defence



ST. PATRICK'S N.S. – Under-13 Roinn A Football Finalists

Front – Brian Skehan, Padraig Murphy, Brian Mulhall, Tony Woodcock, Patrick O'Brien, Barry O'Neill, David Delaney, Brian Rodgers, Niall O'Brien, Nigel Skehan, Brian Tyrell. Back – Barry O'Shea, Stephen Cahill, Martin Leahy, Dermot Ryan, Ian Morrissey, Niall Grogan, Karl Conroy, Hugh Gannon, Peter O'Neill, Alan Dunne, James Murphy, Patrick Hogan. (Photo: Tom Brett)



CLARA — Toymaster Under-13 Football Champions 1992

Back — John Bolger (trainer), Peter Roche, John Bambrick, David Mulrooney, Michael Gibbons, Patrick Langton, John Prendergast (captain), Jerry Byrne, Brian Phelan, Thomas Bryan, Richard Nolan, Keith O'Dwyer, Martin Prendergast, Trevor Murphy, Michael Prendergast (Club Chairman). **Front** — John Nolan, Fintan Treacy, Michael Barcoe, James Tobin, Tommy Dowling, Raymond Aylward, Mark Shortall, Emmet Corley, John Brennan, Dermot Byrne, Martin Kealy, Jack O'Keefe, Fergus Knox, Declan Meany, Ger Prendergast, Thomas Brennan, Eamon Kealy.

(Photos: Tom Brett)

played particularly well with Peter O'Neill and Tony Woodcock always in command. St. Canice's, however, seemed to lift their game and thanks to a great team effort came right back into the match.

A goal from Clifford levelled the match and they went further ahead with points from Clifford and Eoin O'Mahony. A great goal from Paddy Kiely seemed to put the issue beyond doubt. However, Brian Rodgers goaled for Pat's but, try as they might, they failed to score again and St. Canice's won 1-8 to 2-3.

St. Canice's had 16 heroes on the day. Mark Sheridan was brilliant in goal, Jonathan Cullen very solid at full-back

and Stephen Rochford was dangerous throughout.

St. Pat's had class performances from goalkeeper Niall Grogan, Niall O'Brien, Rory Woodcock, Paddy O'Brien and Brian Rodgers and Ian Morrissey tried hard.

St. Canice's — Mark Sheridan, Conor O'Loughlin, Jonathan Cullen, Derek O'Gorman, Bobby Lawlor, Stephen Connolly, Brian O'Keefe, Stephen Rochford (0-1), Timmy Clifford (1-5), Eoghan O'Mahony (0-1), Pat McLoughlin, Patrick Kiely (1-1), Shane McEvoy, Michael Hanton, John Ryan, Robert Bowles.

St. Patrick's — Niall Grogan, David Delaney, N. O'Brien, Alan Dunne, Tony Woodcock, Peter O'Neill, Hugh Gannon, Barry O'Neill, Dermot Ryan, Karl Conroy, Martin Leahy (0-1), Brian Skehan, Ian Morrissey, Paddy O'Brien (1-1), Brian Rodgers.

CLARA TAKE FIRST TITLE

Clara 0-5, Mooncoin 1-1

WINNING their first Under-13 Roinn B Toymaster championship, Clara have to thank goalkeeper Raymond Aylward for two fine saves — one just before the break, the other right after half-time when he saved a point-blank shot from full-forward Barry Hearne.

This was a very closely-fought game with both defences on top form for most of the game. Clara enjoyed the greater amount of possession but thanks to great defensive play by Mooncoin, where left corner-back Nially Mackey was absolutely



MOONCOIN — Under-13 Roinn B Finalists 1992

Front — John O'Hanlon, Richard Kinsella, Niall Mackey, John Phelan, Brendan Mackey, Liam Tyler, Barry Hearne. **Behind** — Eoin Henebery, Michael Frisby, Richard Mackey, Jimmy Quirke, Ciaran Reid, Brian Nolan (capt.), Karl Conway, Robert Cody.

(Photo: Tom Brett)

brilliant, they found scores hard to come by. Mooncoin were always dangerous on the attack and often put together some of the best moves of the match, but again the Clara defence, with Trevor Murphy, Martin Kealy and centre-back Patrick Langton outstanding, gave away only one score in each half, and midfielder David Mulrooney helped out cleverly in defence.

With points from Emmet Corley, John Prendergast, Brian Phelan (0-2), Clara led 0-4 to Mooncoin's 0-1 at half-time.

Mooncoin opened very brightly in the second half and within minutes Michael Frisby laid a great ball to Barry Hearne who shot from close range and Michael Gibbons extended the Clara lead by a point. Mooncoin soon replied with a well worked goal from Karl Conway to leave a single point between the sides - Clara 0-5, Mooncoin 1-1.

Mooncoin then enjoyed their best spell of the match but could find no way through the Clara defence. Clara finished with a flourish of attacking play but failed to add to their score and their supporters were most relieved to hear the final whistle.

It was a great team display for the victors, who were great at the back with Richard Nolan, Jerry Byrne and Peter Roche very close markers. Up front, captain John Prendergast showed the way and received great help from Michael



McCARTHY CUP IN MONROE SCHOOL

Left to right - Mrs. Cantwell (Principal), Richie Power, Mrs. Dalton, Pat Dwyer, Liam Fennelly, Paul Phelan.

Barcoe, Mark Shortall and Michael Gibbons.

Mooncoin had heroes in full-back Richard Mackey, Ciaran Reid, Eoin Henebry and Robert Cody. Brendan Mackey did well at midfield while John O'Hanlon, Richard Kinsella and Barry Hearne also did well. Mooncoin were unlucky to lose two of their best players during the second half but substitutes Jamie Rochford and Ger Foran tried their best.

Clara - Raymond Aylward, Richard Nolan, Jerry Byrne, Martin Kealy, Trevor Murphy, Pat Langton, Peter Roche, Brian Phelan (0-2), David Mulrooney, Michael Barcoe, John Prendergast

(0-1), Michael Gibbons (0-1), Emmet Corley (0-1), Mark Shortall, Martin Prendergast, John Bambrick, Tommy Dowling, Tommy Brennan, John Nolan, Ger Prendergast, Martin O'Dwyer, John Bambrick, Eamon Kiely, Dermot Byrne, Fintan Treacy, Declan Meany, Thomas Bryan, John Brennan, Fergus Knox, Jack O'Keefe.

Mooncoin - Jimmy Quirke, Liam Tyler, Richard Mackey, Niall Mackey, Ciaran Reid, Eoin Henebry, Robert Cody, Brian Nolan (capt.) (0-1), Brendan Mackey, John O'Hanlon, Richard Kinsella, Barry Hearne, Karl Conway (1-0), Gerard Foran, Jamie Rochford, Shane Kinsella, John Henebry, Mark Quinn, Vincent Power, Peter Ryan, Stephen Duggan, Gary Power, Colm O'Keefe, David Walsh, Brian Dobbyn, Jamie

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PILTOWN TAKE FIRST U-16 'A' HURLING TITLE

OCTOBER 3rd, 1992 was a red letter day for Piltown Juvenile Hurling when they won the Under-16 'A' Hurling title for the very first time, defeating James Stephens in the final in Ballyhale by a single point, on a scoreline of 1-13 to 4-3.

Having won the Roinn 'B' Championship in 1991, Piltown had nine of that team and thirteen of the panel available for this year's competition, but, as in 1991, did not figure in the shake up of the Under-16 League. They overcame Graianamanagh/Blacks & Whites rather convincingly at Thomastown in the championship, but it was in the drawn Southern Final with League Champions, Mooncoin, that they first showed their true merit, although relinquishing a substantial lead in the second half. They made no mistake, however, in the replay, winning by 2-9 to 1-6 to qualify for the County Final.

Piltown began the final with the aid of a strong wind, and led at half time 1-12 to 2-1, the scorers in this half being:

Piltown: James Connolly 0-5, Brian Walsh 1-4, Shay Reid 0-1, Michael Brennan 0-2. **James Stephens:** Mark Campion 1-0, Eoin Delaney 0-1, Liam O'Brien 1-0.

Within three minutes of the resumption, Piltown's eight points lead was reduced to the minimum by two Paddy Crotty goals for James Stephens, who now had the aid of the strong breeze. Two points from Eoin Delaney saw the sides level after 53 minutes, but it was now that the real character of this Piltown team emerged. The switching of James Connolly to centre-back and Michael Brennan to centrefield, strengthened the team, and with great defensive hurling from Robert Walsh, Mark Long, Brian Farrell, Richie Connolly, Ger Maher and goalkeeper, Michael Long, they weathered the storm, and took control again.

Good committed play from the youthful Michael Gordon, won the all important free which was pointed by James Connolly to restore the lead; and when James Stephens had a '65 narrowly wide, Paschal Long's final whistle sounded on a final scoreline of 1-13 to 4-3. Joe Pyke, chairman Bord na nOg presented the cup to Piltown captain, James Connolly, amid scenes of great jubilation. The teams were:

Piltown: Michael Long, Mark Long, Brian Farrell, Paul Butler, Gerard Maher, Richard Connolly, Robert Walsh, James Connolly, Michael Gordon, Leo Cummins, Michael O'Dwyer, Michael Brennan, Trevor Grace, Shay Reid, Brian Walsh. **Subs:** John Falconer (played

second half), Barry Walsh, Paul O'Hara, Liam Knox, Tommy Falconer, Andrew Norris.

James Stephens: Ray Kennedy, Dermot Grogan, Ashley O'Keefe, John Murphy, James Kelly, Pádraig Ryan, Peter Collins, Eoin Campbell, Jackie Mulcahy, Mark Campion, Pádraig Hehir, Eoin Delaney, Liam O'Brien, Paddy Crotty, Michael Leahy.

MOONCOIN WIN ROINN 'A' HURLING LEAGUE FINAL

One of the biggest crowds of the year turned up to see the Under-16 'A' League Final in Piltown between Múoncoin and Dunamaggin. Played on a lovely evening, the game produced a high standard of hurling. It was a remarkable match, in that Dunamaggin looked all over winners for three quarters of the game, at which stage they led by 1-8 to 0-5. At this point, Mooncoin had a player sent off, and their cause looked hopeless.

However, inspired by Trevor Cody, Ger Kirwan, Liam Sutton, Michael Purcell and Billy Quinn, they hurled like boys inspired. They wiped out the six point deficit and went on to win by seven, 3-9 to 1-8, in a tour de force they will surely savour for many years to come. The losers were dumbfounded, but it was not the fault of Tom McCormack, Andrew Hickey, Michael O'Neill or Ken O'Shea that they lost. The teams and scorers were:-

Mooncoin: James Power, Trevor Cody, Eoin Dúnpny, Barry Purcell, David Cody, Billy Quinn (1-1), Richard Delahunty, William Walsh (0-2), Des McCarthy (0-2), Ger Kirwan (1-2), Liam Sutton (0-1), Brendan Tobin (1-1), Wesley Synott, Michael Purcell, Colm Doyle. **Subs:** Billy Ryan, Paul Walsh.

Dunamaggin: Anthony McCormack, Willie Kearney, Tom McCormack, John Hickey, Shane Ragget, Philip O'Shea, Andrew Hickey, Michael O'Neill (0-1), Noel Lahart (0-1), Ramie Cahill (0-4), Ken O'Shea (1-1), Brian O'Shea, J. P. O'Neill (0-1), Paul Moore, Matty Enright. **Sub:** Fergal O'Shea.

ROINN B - CLEAN SWEEP FOR GLENMORE

Glenmore are on the crest of a wave at Under-16 B level. They have already taken the hurling League and Championship, while their footballers have secured League honours and are favourites to win the Championship. In fact, many people felt that they should have opted for the Roinn A grade. They won their games so easily in Roinn B, as they did in the Under-14 Roinn C, that there can have been little satisfaction in scorelines of such disparity.

In the League Final, they beat Shamrocks by 3-19 to



PILTOWN UNDER-16 HURLING CHAMPIONSHIP ROINN A WINNERS

Back (left to right) - Pat Kirby (trainer/selector), Barry Walsh, Michael Gordon, Trevor Grace, Richie Connolly, Michael Dwyer, Brian Walsh, Brian Farrell, Michael Brennan, Leo Cummins, Paul Butler, Paul O'Hara, Stephen O'Brien (selector). Front (left to right) - John Falconer, Liam Knox, Tommy Falconer, Mark Long, Andrew Norris, Ger Maher, Alan Walsh, James Connolly (captain), Shay Reid, Robert Walsh, Michael Long, Eddie Blackmore (selector).

0-2 in the final. It must be said that they had only two points to spare over St. Lachtains in the semi-final, but this would seem to have been a complete off day for them. In the Hurling Championship final, they saw off the challenge of Young Irelands (Gowran) by 5-15 to 1-6. Young Irelands had beaten St. Lachtains in the Northern final, making the closeness of the St. Lachtain's/Glenmore result even more inexplicable.

The Championship final, played in Thomastown, was even enough for the first twenty minutes. A Noel Doherty goal gave Glenmore an interval lead of 1-9 to 0-3. Goals early in the second half by John Phelan and Fergal Freyne saw the South Kilkenny side run out easy winners. Teams and scorers were:-

Glenmore: Willie Fitzgerald, Raymond Culleton, Ciaran Lynch, Declan Cotterell, Tommy Griffin, Paddy Mullally, Richie Mullally, Paul Fitzgerald, Mark Mullally (0-5), Noel Doherty (1-2), John Phelan (2-6), Fintan Walsh (0-1), Donal Dowling, Declan Cody, Fergal Freyne (2-1). **Subs:** D. Mernagh, S. Aylward, S. Hartley, D. Barry, Niall Mackey.

Young Irelands: Billy Doherty, Shane Power, Brian Byrne, Aidan Drennan, Barry O'Donnell, Alan O'Neill, Richard Kennedy, Darragh Hunt, Brian Middleton, Ciaran Carroll, P. J. Hickey, Francis Kennedy, Dick Carroll, Peter Carroll, Eoin Drea. **Subs:** Jimmy Curran, Martin Carter.

ROINN C – A CARRICKSHOCK DOUBLE



Carrickshock Under-16 Roinn C Champions, League and Championship. Front Row (left to right): N. Maher, A. Hudson, J. Cuddihy, J. Raggett, C. Cuddihy, N. O'Grady, N. Phelan, J. Hoyne, O. Barron, P. Aylward, L. O'Shea. Back Row (left to right): P. O'Shea, P. J. Ronan (Mentor), M. Cuddihy, E. Murphy, A. Burke, B. Fennelly, D. O'Grady, J. Nolan, D. Murphy, D. Sheridan, M. Murphy, G. Butler, Sean Raggett (Mentor).

It was a great year for Carrickshock in the Under-16 Roinn C grade. They brought off a great double, winning both the Championship and League. Both these finals were cliff hanger affairs. Carrickshock's opponents in the Championship were Bennettsbridge, and both sides served up a great final, played in Callan. The result was in doubt right up to six minutes from the end when Brendan Fennelly shot the "insurance point".

Defences were on top in this game, and Carrickshock had the star player on view, in fullback and captain, Cleeve Cuddihy. Carrickshock also won because, in Adrian Hudson, they had a forward way ahead of any other on the field. He scored 0-6 of his side's total of 0-8. The final score 0-8 to 0-3.

The Bennettsbridge midfielders, John Drea and Donal Cahalane took command early in the second half, but their forwards were unable to capitalise. They were awarded a penalty, with Carrickshock leading by 0-5 to 0-2, but Seamus Dobbyn's effort went over the bar.

In addition to Cleeve Cuddihy, and Adrian Hudson, the winners had good players in Declan Sheridan, Derek O'Grady, Jason Cuddihy, Michael Murphy and John Raggett. For Bennettsbridge, John Drea and Donal Cahalane got most support from Bobby Griffin, Seamus Dobbyn, Tom Hanrahan, Pdraig Lalor and Dean Denieffe. Teams and scorers were:-

Carrickshock: Derek O'Grady, Gearoid Butler, Cleeve Cuddihy, Larry O'Shea, Joe Nolan, Michael Murphy, Jason Cuddihy, Daithi Murphy, Declan Sheridan (0-1), John Raggett, Brendan Fennelly (0-1), Eamon Murphy, M. Cuddihy, Adrian Hudson (0-6), Adrian Burke.

Bennettsbridge: Bobby Griffin, James Treacy, Tom Hanrahan, Dean Denieffe, Ger Treacy, Ciaran Mulhall, Seamus Dobbyn (0-2), John Drea (0-1), Donal Cahalane, Brendan Cleere, Pdraig Lalor, Wayne Dowling, Roan O'Brien, Tony McGuinness, Richard McEvoy. **Subs:** Adrian

Walpole.

Carrickshock and Tullaroan served up two very exciting games in the Roinn C Hurling League final, Carrickshock eventually coming through by 3-8 to 3-5, after the sides had played a draw, Carrickshock 2-2, Tullaroan 1-5. In the drawn game, Carrickshock led at half time 1-0 to 0-2. Barry Teehan pointed a penalty to level and scores, and a David Glennon point had the North Kilkenny side ahead for the first time. A goal by Paddy O'Shea put Carrickshock back in the lead until an Adrian O'Dea goal, in the 49th minute, restored the lead to Tullaroan, but a point by Adrian Burke levelled the game just on full time.

The replay produced an equally thrilling contest, with the outcome in doubt right to the final whistle. Carrickshock had first use of the strong breeze, and opened the scoring with two points. A purple patch in which Tullaroan's Adrian O'Dea scored 1-1 had his side ahead by a goal, but a brilliant goal by Adrian Burke, and another by Brendan Fennelly, saw the Southern side ahead by 2-5 to 1-2 at the interval. This lead did not look so commanding, considering the strength of the breeze, but with Derek O'Grady in goal pulling off a magnificent save, and Cleeve Cuddihy starring at full back, Carrickshock held out for a 3-8 to 3-5 victory. Teams and scorers were:-

Carrickshock: Derek O'Grady, Gearoid Butler, Cleeve Cuddihy, Larry O'Shea, Joey Nolan, Michael Murphy, Jason Cuddihy, Declan Sheridan, Daithi Murphy, Eamon Murphy, Adrian Hudson (1-6), John Raggett (0-1), P. O'Shea, Brendan Fennelly (1-1), Adrian Burke (1-0). **Sub:** N. O'Grady.

Tullaroan: Eoin Hall, David Millea, Michael Kennedy, Niall Keogh, Eamon Delaney, Michael Maher (0-1), John Breen, James Coogan (0-1), Lory Holland, John Delaney, David Glennon, Barry Teehan (1-0), Adrian O'Dea (2-3), Brendan Maher, Milo Cleere. **Sub:** Mark Holmes.

UNDER-16 FOOTBALL

ROINN A FINAL – James Stephens 1-7, Piltown 0-7

James Stephens won the Roinn A Under-16 Football League when they had a hard earned victory over Piltown in Palmerstown. A goal by Shane Harkin, at the start of the second half was the vital score, as the city boys won by 1-7 to 0-7. James Stephens had to withstand great pressure in the last quarter to hold on to their title. The sides were level at the interval on 0-4 each. Teams and scorers:-

James Stephens: P. Brennan, Noel McGuire, Ashley O'Keeffe, Dermot Grogan, James Kelly, Pdraig Ryan, Peter Collins, Martin Phelan, Eoin Campbell, Eoin Delaney, capt. (0-3), Pat Crotty (0-1), Mark Campion (0-1), Shane Harkin (1-1), Pdraig Hehir, Michael Leahy (0-1). **Sub:** Shane Daly.

Piltown: Andrew Norris, Gerard Maher, Brian Farrell, Mark Long, Richard Connolly, James Connolly, Aubrey Storey, Michael O'Dwyer (0-3), Brian Walsh, Barry Walsh, Robert Walsh, Trevor Grace, Michael Brennan (0-1), Michael Gordon (0-2), Leo Cummins (0-1).

Referee: Christy Whelan.

ROINN B FINAL – Glenmore 1-15, Thomastown 2-3

Glenmore were by far the stronger team here, but goals by the losers in the 13th and 50th minutes kept them in the game. Glenmore scored their goal in the 56th minute, when Declan Cody netted. The switch of Ciaran Lynch to midfield gave Glenmore the advantage, and they led at the interval by 0-11 to 1-1, the Thomastown goal coming from Johnny Maher. Their second half goal came from John Lancashire. Best for the winners were Ciaran Lynch, John Phelan, Paddy Mullally, Mark Mullally and Paul Fitzgerald. Thomastown had good players in Brian Dempsey, who had a great game, Alan Lonergan, Johnny Maher and Derek Wemyss. The teams were:-

Glenmore: Declan Cotterell, Tommy Griffin, Ciaran Lynch, Raymond Culleton, Richard Mullally, Patrick Mullally, Fergal Freyne, Paul Fitzgerald, Donal Dowling, Fintan Walsh, John Phelan, Mark Mullally, Noel Doherty, Declan Cody, Willie Fitzgerald.

Thomastown: Brian Blanchfield, Ger Hughes, Henry McEntee, Niall Nevin, Timmy Maher, Alan Lonergan, Bernard Nevin, Shane Lonergan, Derek Wemyss, Brian Dempsey, Richie Fennelly, Ger Morrissey, Johnny Maher, John Lancashire, John Smith. **Subs:** Paul Ryan, Michael Cullen.

NENAGH CO-OP UNDER-16 HURLING TOURNAMENT – Kilkenny 4-10, Tipperary 4-9

Kilkenny, taking part in this tournament for the first time, won the competition when they beat Tipperary in a thrilling final in Semple Stadium, Thurles, on 14th November. On their way to the final, the Noresiders beat Wexford and Waterford, but they lost to Tipperary 3-8 to 1-9, at a stage when both teams were already through to the semi-finals. Kilkenny beat Clare in the semi-final by 4-19 to 1-9, while Tipperary had an easy win over Limerick.

The final produced one of the finest games of hurling ever seen at famed Semple Stadium, as both sides fought out a thrilling final. Tipperary opened the scoring with a goal, and, after twelve minutes, were ahead by 1-3 to 0-2. Kilkenny then had a glorious six minute spell during which they scored 2-3 and now led by 2-5 to 2-3. A Tipperary goal, right on the stroke of half time, left the Black and Amber 2-5 to 2-3 ahead at the interval.

An explosive start to the second half saw three goals scored in the opening five minutes. Michael Purcell, Ken O'Shea and Adrian Hudson combined to score a goal for Kilkenny, who were then hit for two goals and two points within four minutes, to go behind 4-5 to 3-5. The introduction of David Carroll, at corner back, tightened the defence and the Noresiders fought back with two points. Tipperary however, replied with two points to lead 4-7 to 3-7, with thirteen minutes left to play.

Excitement reached fever pitch as Kilkenny fought back with a point by Ken O'Shea, a smashing goal by Damien Cleere from a great pass from Adrian Hudson, and a pointed free from Michael O'Neill. The Tipperary boys reduced the lead to a single point, but Damien Cleere replied with a wonderful point from out the field to put his side ahead 4-10 to 4-8. Sub. Seamus Maher had a Tipperary point and they had a chance to level just on the final whistle, but their final effort went wide, and Kilkenny had scored a great victory.

Joe Ryan kept a safe goal for the winners, Ciaran Lynch was terrier like and had a great second half. Billy Quinn was a sound full back. Liam Sutton made some fine clearances, and David Carroll was very sound when he came on in the last twenty minutes. Aidan Begley stood out on the half back line, his strength proving invaluable. Paddy Mullally was solid at centre while Alan Hearn also did well.

James Connolly played a real captain's part at midfield and his ground hurling was a feature of the game. His partner Michael Brennan tried hard, while his replacement, Sean Kealy, made a difference in the second half. The Dunamaggin duo of Michael O'Neill and Ken O'Shea were particularly effective in attack, Adrian Hudson really came into his own when moved to the left corner, and was top scorer for Kilkenny with 2-1.

Damien Cleere had a great second half, scoring the vital goal and point in the closing stages. Michael Purcell was always dangerous at full forward, and John Phelan got a valuable point as well as making one for Damien Cleere. Eoin Behan, who came on in the closing minutes, did not have enough time to stamp his impression. The team and scorers were:-

Kilkenny: Joe Ryan (St. Lachtain's), Ciaran Lynch (Glenmore), Billy Quinn (Mooncoin), Liam Sutton (Mooncoin), Alan Hearne (Windgap), Paddy Mullally (Glenmore), Aidan Begley (Dicksboro), James Connolly, captain (Piltown) 0-1, Michael Brennan (Piltown), Ken O'Shea (Dunamaggin) 0-2, John Phelan (Glenmore) 0-1, Michael O'Neill (Dunamaggin) 0-3, Adrian Hudson (Carrickshock) 2-1, Michael Purcell (Mooncoin) 1-0, Damien Cleere (Graigue/Ballycallan) 1-2.

Subs: Sean Kealy (Blacks & Whites), David Carroll (Dicksboro), Eoin Behan (Fenians), Mark Mullally (Glenmore), Brian Kelly (O'Loughlin-Gaels), Paul Cotterell (Rower Inistioge), Dermot Beirne (Dicksboro), Ashley O'Keefe (James Stephens), Brian Byrne (Young Irelands), Dermot Grogan (James Stephens).

LEINSTER UNDER-16 HURLING BLITZ

The foundations for victory in the Nenagh Co-op Tournament were laid in the Leinster Under-16 Blitz held in Kilkenny this year. Both Kilkenny teams qualified for the final, with South Kilkenny running out winners by 1-7 to 2-1. The southern selection had previously beaten Dublin B by 0-10 to 1-0, Wicklow by 7-7 to 1-3, and Wexford in the semi-final by 2-5 to 1-2. North Kilkenny scored a couple of goals in the first half, which gave them an interval lead, but, with Glenmore's John Phelan prominent in the closing stages, they scored the vital points which put them in front at the finish. The teams were:

South Kilkenny: Brian O'Callaghan (Kilmacow), Ciaran Lynch (Glenmore), Alan Lonergan (Thomastown), Billy Quinn (Mooncoin), Alan Hearne (Windgap), Paddy Mullally (Glenmore), Paul Cotterell (Rower Inistioge), Sean Kealy (Graignamanagh Blacks & Whites), James Connolly (Piltown), Michael O'Neill (Dunamaggin), John Phelan (Glenmore), Mark Mullally (Glenmore), Ken O'Shea (Dunamaggin), Michael Purcell (Mooncoin), Adrian Hudson (Carrickshock).

Subs: (all of whom played at some stage): Liam Sutton (Mooncoin), Tom McCormack (Dunamaggin), James Power (Mooncoin), Brendan Tobin (Mooncoin), Tobbie Walsh (Piltown), Michael Kennedy (Shamrocks).

North Kilkenny: Joe Ryan (St. Lachtain's), Dermot Grogan (James Stephens), Ashley O'Keefe (James Stephens), Mark Dunphy (Lisdowney), Dermot Beirne (Dicksboro), Alan Hoyne (Graigue/Ballycallan), David Carroll (Dicksboro), Martin Phelan (James Stephens), Patrick Hickey (St. Lachtain's), Damien Cleere (G/Ballycallan), Brian Kelly, (O'Loughlin Gaels), Michael Gannon (Dicksboro), John Drea (Bennettsbridge), Eoin Behan (Fenians), Aidan Begley (Dicksboro).



Kilkenny Under-16 Hurlers who won Nenagh Co-Op Tournament. Back Row (left to right): Joe Pyke, Joe Phelan, John Phelan, Mark Mullally, Billy Quinn, Aidan Begley, Ken O'Shea, David Carroll, Sean Kealy, Michael Brennan, Ashley O'Keefe, Paul Cottrell, Dermot Beirne, Brian Kelly, Michael Purcell, Jim Delahunty, Brendan O'Sullivan. Front row (from left): Eddie Blackmore, Dermot Grogan, Michael O'Neill, Paddy Mullally, Ciaran Lynch, Liam Sutton, James Connolly (capt.), Alan Hearne, Joe Ryan, Adrian Hudson, Damien Cleere, Eoin Behan, Brian Byrne, John Comerford.

WHO'S A PRETTY BABY THEN?

Here's the Baby . . .



A



B



C



D



E



F



G



H

Where is the Adult? . . .



1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8

Answers on Page 215



KILKENNY G.A.A. YEARBOOK COMMITTEE

Back row (l.-r.): Barrie Henriques, Barry Hickey, Tommy Murphy, John Knox (N.T.). Front row (l.-r.): Nickey Brennan, Ann Downey, Brendan O'Sullivan, Gerry O'Neill. Missing from photo: John Cahill, Ned Kennedy, Tom Ryall, Ted Carroll.

(Photo: Gerry Deegan)



Pictured at the launching of the sponsorship of the 1992 Kilkenny Senior Hurling League and Championship (from left): Jack O'Shea (Credit Union), Nickey Brennan (Chairman Co. Board), Joe Doyle (President St. Canice's Credit Union), Ted Carroll (Secretary Co. Board).

(Photo: Tom Brett)

The birth of Liam Óg

DURING the postal strike, on the 22nd of June, I received a fax from Croke Park, informing me that my tender for the manufacture of the new Liam McCarthy Cup had been accepted. The message was short and sweet: so was the time span, as the trophy had to be ready for a photo call in early August. I spent the next few days re-examining my plans as to how I was going to make the new trophy, as I had become familiar with the old cup during the 1982/83 campaign.

I was able to make some recommendations on how to improve the strength of the new trophy e.g. heavier gauge in cup, reinforced contact where the handles joined the cup, the result being a heavier trophy weighing just under 4 kg. The old trophy weighed 2.6 kg.

My main task, now, was to make a template for the body of the cup. The unusual shape of the Liam McCarthy trophy presents special difficulties in this regard. The top of the cup consists of a square with rounded corners, while the bottom is a plain circle. This made it very



Main body being hammered with old McCarthy in background.

difficult to estimate the amount of silver needed, and though I checked and rechecked my figures, I still had nightmares in which Liam Og did not match his illustrious father in size or shape! Time constraints dictated that I would only have one shot at it.

A further problem arose when I had

worked out my template for the cup. I discovered that the standard silver sheet would not be large enough, and a special size would have to be ordered. Normally, there is an eight week delivery on special sizes. However, with the help of Kieran Eustace of Johnson Matthey, the bullion people, supplying the silver, I was able to obtain a special size in no time at all.

The manufacturing of the cup went ahead and everything turned out according to plan. We then applied the designs to the outside of the cup using a process called repousse, in which the relief pattern is hammered through from the underside. All went smoothly until we started to solder the handles on to the cup. I should explain that silver solder is not anything like lead solder. Silver solder melts at a very high temperature, only slightly below the melting point of silver itself, so you can imagine the sort of heat that was required. Two large soldering guns roared away into the early hours of the morning, as the cup had to be in Dublin the following day for the official photo-call in Croke Park. I should say at this point, that the Liam McCarthy Cup, without the handles, does not look at all like the original trophy. Anyway, with the help of a few prayers, we finally attached the handles. I then immersed the cup in sulphuric acid for the remainder of the night. This ensured that only a small amount of cleaning up had to be done the following morning, to remove the flux and oxide caused by the soldering. After approximately 400 hours work, Liam Og was ready to face the world, and wasn't it great to see him back in Kilkenny so soon again!

Incidentally, I arrived in Croke Park, the following day, having had the cup hallmarked at the Assay Office in Dublin Castle, with about ten minutes to spare.

James Mary Kelly



James Mary Kelly silver soldering base into cup.



Preparing top-wire for "Liam Óg".



Assey Master manager hall marking "Liam Óg".

No recession for Kieran's as they set a record and equal another

By JOHN KNOX, "Kilkenny People"

ST. KIERAN'S COLLEGE have earned many a complimentary headline in their time, and you would, at this point in their long and proud involvement in sport, think they had achieved it all. Not so. Their daring performers of today are every bit as eager to push back the boundaries of achievement as were the pioneers who captured the school's first All-Ireland way back in 1948.

When it comes to hurling achievements, and records, there is simply no holding St. Kieran's. The school has a healthy tradition in the game, and the current guardians of that sacred heritage have proved most worthy trustees indeed.

Recession there may be, but as far as St. Kieran's are concerned, the good hurling times just keep on rolling. During the season they created a new record, and went to the top of the class as far as overall honours were concerned. To use examinations' terminology, these guys don't bother with passes, it's honours all the way.

An unprecedented six in a row in Leinster and a record-equalling eleventh success at All-Ireland level were the haughty achievements during 1992. The only accomplishment at colleges' hurling level that has eluded St. Kieran's has been the four All-Ireland wins together, chalked up by St. Flannan's College, Ennis, at the start of the senior championship in 1944.

That good opening by Flannan's between 1944 and 1947 gave them a sprint start on all the rest, but in the long haul St. Kieran's caught up. Now the two

schools share top spot with eleven All-Ireland wins each. Of course, in the championship of 1991 the Kilkenny college had a crack at the four-in-a-row, but plucky St. Flannan's deprived them in the final.

INNER STRENGTH

Remarkably, St. Kieran's were back in their sixth successive final this April. For the fourth time in those deciders they took home the Croke Cup. Some going!

While scoring in the final against a very good St. Colman's College (Cork) was low (1-7 to 0-8), the hurling was of a high standard. The weather was terrible, and driving wind and rain turned the Semple Stadium (Thurles) pitch into a clinging morass, something akin to a cross-country course.

Top-of-the-ground hurling was out, completely, and the inner strength that brings out that something in players whereby they refuse to accept anything but victory, flooded from within the St. Kieran's lads. It wasn't the prettiest All-Ireland final that was ever played, but good hurling doesn't always demand fancy play. This was a final of the other sort, where individuals had to flog themselves to make things happen for their team. The sort that requires real character.

And St. Kieran's showed they had it in abundance. Perky St. Colman's often outplayed their wind-assisted opponents during the opening period and were well placed when a mere 0-5 to 1-4 down at half-time. Early second-half scores from



Martin Carey points a free for St. Kieran's
(Photo: Gerry Deegan)

Willie Hegarty and Kieran Morrison levelled the match, and the Leesiders looked sure to succeed. However, during the closing 18 minutes St. Kieran's were superb. Goalie Martin Carey, a surprise choice between the posts after spending most of the campaign out the field, brought off two brilliant saves. Centre-back and captain, Ciaran Connery defied St. Colman's every effort and they were many and varied.

At midfield the big and strong Michael Owens opened his broad shoulders and pounded all opposition into submission. When he was joined in the middle by Clive Kenny the Noresiders actually succeeded in taking the game to their opponents again – against the elements.

CALLAN C.B.S. – LEINSTER SENIOR COLLEGES FINALISTS



FRONT ROW (left to right) – John Manogue, Paul Kearney, Damien Cleere, Denis Byrne, Sean Byrne, Philip Butler, Pat O'Brien. BACK (left to right) – Michael O'Neill, Alan Fox, Tom Hickey, Declan Keogh, David Cahill, Paul Cahill, Noel Dargan, Eamon Marnell.
(Photo: Tom Brett)

FIVE WIDES

St. Kieran's won back the initiative and slipped 1-6 to 0-7 in front, but then they enjoyed a bit of luck. Their opponents hit five wides in a row, to spurn a gilt-edged opportunity to win the match. They did succeed later and Aidan O'Brien had a point from a free.

During a nerve-tingling closing few minutes, Ken Hughes had a St. Kieran's point to wrap up a win that was earned with much more than mere hurling prowess involved. Courage, commitment and raw energy were vital ingredients too.

Connery, Carey, Owens and Kenny were magnificent, but the wheel wasn't turned by them alone, and Joseph Philpott, Michael Fitzgerald, Chris Foley, Shane Doyle and Nicky Lacey had strong shoulders too when a big push was needed.

It would have been interesting to have been a fly on the wall in the St. Kieran's dressing-room at half-time when coach Tommy Lanigan and assistants Art Anglin and Tom Hogan were delivering their "pep talk." They guided the team with a smooth hand all season and, when one or two were off-colour in the decider, they extracted greater deeds than ever before from a few others.

In a strictly hurling sense, St. Kieran's played better in the All-Ireland semi-final against St. Raphael's College (Galway). First-half goals from Brendan Dalton, Ciaran Connery ("65") and Michael Owens looked to have the game won when St. Kieran's led by 3-9 to 0-2 at the break.

St. Raphael's were awarded two penalties and scored two goals during the opening eight minutes of the new half. Unruffled, the Leinster champions won a good puck-out near midfield and Liam Smith raced on a 40-yard solo run before pointing. That piece of utter defiance kicked St. Raphael's back down the hill they had just climbed, and they hadn't the heart to muster another meaningful challenge.

Smith will rarely score another point



Action from St. Kieran's College versus Kilkenny C.B.S. in the Leinster Colleges' senior hurling championship. (Photo: Gerry Deegan)

that will have such an important bearing on any game. He did very well, as did Justin Hanrahan, Brendan Dalton (who scored 1-2) and Michael Fitzgerald. St. Kieran's won by 4-13 to 3-3.

ALL-KILKENNY AFFAIR

Earlier, the Leinster final had been an all-Kilkenny affair against Coláiste Éamann Rís, Callan, the All-Ireland (Roinn B) champions of 1991. Getting to the final had been a wonderful achievement for the Callan boys, who received terrific service all season from Denis Byrne, David Cahill, Declan Kehoe, Alan Foxe, Damien Cleere and Paul Kearney, who was their most accomplished performer the day they bid adieu to the championship.

Callan really stirred up a hornet's nest when Mick O'Neill goaled after only 20 seconds. Self-assured St. Kieran's just kept hurling and were quickly back on terms. Then bang! St. Kieran's conceded another goal, this time to Seán Byrne.

That was the end of the fireworks. At half-time Callan were 2-0 to 1-8 down and despite their wholehearted approach were booked for just one fate – defeat.

The losers' performance of the year was their semi-final win over St. Peter's College (Wexford) on St. Patrick's Day. They had

been eleven points down at one stage of the second half, but a barrage from Denis Byrne that realised 1-6 saw them pull off a breathtaking 2-10 to 1-10 win. During the closing minutes Eamon Marnell hit 1-1 to clinch a victory that will forever be remembered in Coláiste Rís.

The Callan team in the Leinster final was: Philip Butler (Graigue-Ballycallan), Pat O'Brien (John Lockes), Noel Dargan (do.), Tom Hickey (Dunnamaggin), Paul Cahill (do.), David Cahill (John Lockes), Alan Foxe (Mullinahone), Declan Kehoe (Danesfort), John Manogue (Graigue-Ballycallan), Eamon Marnell (do.), Denis Byrne (do.), Paul Kearney (Dunnamaggin), M. O'Neill (do.), Sean Byrne (Graigue-Ballycallan), Damien Cleere (do.). Subs: Adrian Moran (Dunnamaggin) (used), William Walsh (Windgap), Martin Roughan (Carrickshock), P. J. Cuddihy (do.), Sean Walsh (John Lockes), N. O'Donnell (do.), Raymond Kearney (do.), Niall O'Sullivan (do.), Ken Kennedy (do.), Tom McCarthy (Grange), Michael Quirke (Graigue-Ballycallan), Alan Mackey (Dunnamaggin), Patrick O'Dwyer (Graigue-Ballycallan), Philip Cody (do.).

Team handlers Tom Walsh and Bro. Liam Burke had every reason to be proud of their charges.

ENCOURAGING

From a Kilkenny point of view, it was encouraging that three teams qualified for the Leinster semi-finals. The third was Kilkenny C.B.S. who were beaten 1-11 to 1-5 by St. Kieran's. This wasn't a meaningful contest because the winners were simply too strong.

Thanks to a goal from Clive Kenny, St. Kieran's led by 1-3 to 0-1 after only twelve minutes. The half-time score was 1-6 to 0-3. Despite good work by Francis Cantwell, Sam Morrissey, John Ayres and James Phelan, the C.B.S. team were beaten by 1-11 to 1-5.

The C.B.S. team was: Francis Cantwell, P. Henderson, M. Bolger, D. Phelan, A. Begley, J. Ayres, M. Ryan, J. O'Dwyer, R. Mackey, B. Kennedy, J. Phelan, K. Grogan, S. Morrissey, Fergal Cantwell, E. Begley.



Nicholas Lacey clears his lines for St. Kieran's despite the challenge of Callan's Damien Cleere.

(Photo: Gerry Deegan)

The start of the campaign was low-key as far as St. Kieran's College were concerned, and early victims were St. Peter's (Wexford) and Castlecomer Community School. With each step along the way, St. Kieran's grew more powerful as a team, and stronger in desire. By the time they faced St. Colman's they were ready to take on and beat anyone.

The St. Kieran's team in the All-Ireland final was: Martin Carey (Young Irelands), Chris Foley (Drangan), Shane Doyle (James Stephens), Nickey Lacey (Ballinakill), Michael Fitzgerald (Clara), Ciaran Connery (capt.) (Conahy Shamrocks), Joseph Philpott (Dicksboro), Michael Owens (Erin's Own), Justin Hanrahan (Clara), Clive Kenny (James Stephens), Liam Smith (James Stephens), Richie Kelly (Rower-Inistioge), Brendan Dalton (Dicksboro), Ciaran Muldowney (Conahy Shamrocks), Peter Barry (James Stephens). Subs.: Ken Hughes (Emeralds), Kyran Vaughan (Mullinahone) (used), Sean Foley (Ballyragget), Eugene Somers (James Stephens), Brian Cahill (St. Lachtain's), Lorcan Carroll (St. Lachtain's), Vincent O'Brien (James Stephens), James Young (Graigue-Ballycallan), Damien Hurley (St. Lachtain's), Ollie Blanchfield (Lisdowney), Alan Forde (Bennettsbridge).

St. Kieran's and St. Flannan's well clear of field

IT WOULD appear St. Kieran's College and St. Flannan's College (Ennis) are determined to keep in step in the title race in the All-Ireland senior hurling championship.

Since 1987 the pair have dominated the competition and have shared the six titles between them – four wins for St. Kieran's.

This modern-day rush of wins has swept both schools clear of the field in the roll of honour. They shared top spot with eleven successes each. Their nearest rivals are St. Finbarr's (Farranferris, Cork), who have won the championship five times.

- (11) St. Kieran's College, Kilkenny: 1948, 1957, 1959, 1961, 1965, 1971, 1975, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1992.
- (11) St. Flannan's College, Ennis: 1944, 1945, 1946, 1947, 1958, 1976, 1979, 1982, 1983, 1987, 1991.
- (5) St. Finbarr's, Farranferris, Cork: 1963, 1969, 1972, 1974, 1984.
- (4) St. Peter's College (Wexford): 1962, 1967, 1968, 1973.
- (4) North Monastery, Cork: 1960, 1970, 1980, 1985.
- (2) Limerick C.B.S.: 1964, 1966.
- (1) Kilkenny C.B.S.: 1981.
- (1) St. Colman's, Fermoy: 1977.
- (1) Templemore C.B.S.: 1978.
- (1) Birr Community School: 1986.

Up the ladder – step by step

FEBRUARY 23, AT BALLYRAGGET:

St. Kieran's College 2-11; St. Peter' College 0-6

St. Kieran's scorers: P. Barry, R. Kelly (1-2 each), M. Carey (0-2, frees), C. Kenny, K. Hughes (0-2 each), L. Smith (0-1).

MARCH 4, AT BALLYRAGGET:

St. Kieran's College 4-7; Castlecomer C.S. 0-5

St. Kieran's scorers: M. Carey (1-3, two points frees), J. Young, (0-2), D. Hurley, B. Dalton, C. Muldowney (1-0 each), J. Hanrahan, C. Foley (0-1 each). Castlecomer C.S. : D. Buggy (0-5).

MARCH 22, AT NOWLAN PARK – LEINSTER SEMI-FINAL:

St. Kieran's College 1-11; Kilkenny C.B.S. 1-5

St. Kieran's scorers: C. Kenny (1-3, point free), B. Dalton (0-2), R. Kelly (0-2, one free), J. Philpott, M. Owens, L. Smith, K. Hughes (0-1 each). Kilkenny C.B.S.: Fergal Cantwell (1-4, three points frees), S. Morrissey (0-1).

MARCH 29, AT NOWLAN PARK – LEINSTER FINAL

St. Kieran's College 2-13 Callan C.B.S. 2-2

St. Kieran's scorers: M. Carey (0-5, two frees), C. Kenny (1-1), R. Kelly (0-3), B. Dalton (1-0), P. Barry (0-2), L. Smith, M. Owens (0-1 each). Callan C.B.S.: M. O'Neill, S. Byrne (1-0 each), E. Marnell, P. Kearney (0-1 each).

APRIL 11, AT TULLAMORE – ALL-IRELAND SEMI-FINAL:

St. Kieran's College 4-13; St. Raphael's College 3-3

St. Kieran's College scorers: B. Dalton (1-2), J. Hanrahan (1-1), C. Muldowney (0-4, frees), C. Connery (1-0, "65"), M. Owens (1-0), P. Barry, L. Smith (0-2 each), R. Kelly, C. Kenny (0-1 each).

APRIL 26, AT THURLES – ALL-IRELAND FINAL:

St. Kieran's College 1-7; St. Colman's College 0-8

St. Kieran's scorers: C. Muldowney (1-0), L. Smith (0-2), C. Kenny (0-2, one free), J. Philpott, J. Hanrahan, K. Hughes (0-1 each).



Goal for St. Kieran's! ... Callan C.B.S. goalkeeper Philip Butler looks back as St. Kieran's College score a goal. Looking on in disgust is Callan's David Cahill. (Photo: Tom Brett)

JAMES STEPHENS – Winners of the Special Junior "A" League Final over O'Loughlin Gaels.



Front: Jimmy Drennan, Liam Hennessy, Michael Power, Brendan Lee, Vincent O'Brien, Ronan O'Shea, Derek Kerwick, Paul Brennan, Stephen Drennan, Patsy Kelly (capt.). Back: Paul O'Sullivan, Anthony Brannigan, Dean Smithwick, Brian Hayes, Brian McGrath, Paul Cody, John Joe Cullen, Conor O'Dwyer, Billy Ayres, Brian Dooley, Kevin Grogan, Michael Moore, John Moloney, Wayne Kelly.

OBITUARIES

Tomás De Bhaldráithe R.I.P.



KILKENNY G.A.A. this year lost one of its longest serving and ablest members with the sad and unexpected passing of Tom Waldron. To me and to most people who knew him Tomás was a colossus – a big man in every sense of the term. He was a man with many strings to his bow, a man of great and varied talents. Apart from his lengthy and active connection with C.I.C.G. Tom was a well known figure in local politics, a life long member and servant in his teaching union the I.N.T.O. where he reached the highest honour in serving as National President and a man involved in various aspects of parish life.

Ba mhúinteoir de'n chéad scoth é, rud a chruthaigh sé ina thréimhse fada mar Phríomh Oide in Achadh Úr. Bhí an suim sa Ghaeilge aige agus chaith sé roinnt mhaith de bhlianta ag múineadh ar na Cúrsaí Samhraidh i gColaiste na Rinne. B'é Tomás a thug mise go dtí an Rinn céad uair agus beidh mé fíor bhuíoch dó i gcónaí d'á chineáltas agus d'á chabhair.

But it was in Cumann na mBunscoileanna that we knew Tomás best. He was one of its three founding members back in 1939. That was when Joe Dowling, Brother James and himself – three men of vision – saw the need to organise and promote our Gaelic games in our Primary Schools. Tom, a native of Kilkenny city, saw the need for this as a boy. He recalls in an article in Caoga Blián Óg the state of juvenile hurling in his childhood. As a

teacher he spent a lifetime promoting juvenile and club hurling not alone in Freshford but indeed throughout the county and later at national level. He was a Co. Board member for many years and up to the time of his untimely death he served as Oifigeach na Gaeilge.

Under his guidance Scoil Lachtain won many honours down through the years and indeed many of the boys he moulded became Kilkenny stars at all levels. From 1939 to 1971 Tom was an ever present officer of Cumann na mBunscoileanna and later served the county well, when, together with Paul Kinsella, he represented Cill Chainnigh on Cumann Bunscoileanna na h-Eireann. Here again the extent to which he was respected is evidenced in the fact that he served a few terms as National President. I was therefore particularly pleased that the history of our Schools' Board, Caoga Blián Óg, was published in his lifetime and I know he was justifiably proud of the Board's achievements.

Nuair a scaip droch scéal a bháis ar fud na tíre chonachtas go scoiléir an t-árd mheas a bhí air. Bhí Achadh Úr plódaithe le cáirde leis a tháinig ó chian is ó chomhgar do'n adhlacdh. Is iomaí deor a sileadh agus ní raibh deor bréige ina measc. Bhí Tomás bocht ar lár. Ní bheadh a leithéid arís ann. Bhí an t-ádh linn uile a bhuaill leis agus a chuir aithne air.

Déanaimid combhrón lena bhean Máirín, lena chlann, Áine, Saerbhreachach, Maedhbh, Fionnuala agus Brian, lena dheartháireacha agus lena dheirfiúracha.

Go dtuga Dia leaba i measc na naomh dó.

Joe Dunphy

Jim Brophy

JIM BROPHY regretfully informed the packed Kilkenny G.A.A. Convention in O'Loughlin Gaels last January that he was calling it a day, and resigning his position as Trustee of the County Board. So ended a 38 year association with an organisation that he had served so faithfully, and so long.



Little did delegates know that within 24 hours of the announcement that Jim would have passed away. Jim was 79 years young, and he had lived in Fiddown for a long number of years where he had a thriving business as Post Master cum Newsagent. Jim was born in Gortrush, Piltown where he assisted his mother to run the family business. He built his own premises in Fiddown, and married Maggie Brown who pre-deceased Jim by three years.

Jim was a "dyed in the mould" G.A.A. man. He won an All-Ireland Minor medal with Kilkenny in 1933. He then progressed to win a Senior Championship medal with Mooncoin in 1936. He followed that up with another Senior medal in 1938, this time with Carrickshock. He was on the Leinster Railway Cup team in 1938 with whom he won a medal. In his day, Jim was a dashing wing or corner forward.

Jim was very instrumental in forming the Piltown Club in 1953, and he served the club as Secretary for many years. He was a member of the Southern Board for a goodly number of years, and then he progressed to the Trusteeship of the Kilkenny County Board, a position he held until Convention as already outlined above.

During his years Jim Brophy was an able representative of both the Piltown club and the County Board. He was a strenuous campaigner for the introduction of the "Parish Rule". He made many friends both on and off the field, which was attested to by the huge numbers that attended his obsequies. His passing will be a sad loss to his friends, his Club and his County.

Billy Costigan



IT was with great regret that the people of Tullaroan received the news that Billy Costigan had died in early June last. Billy was synonymous with Tullaroan hurling. Although a native of Galmoy, Billy hurled with Tullaroan in the late forties and early fifties. This was at a time when the three parish rule was in vogue. Billy also played for Kilkenny between 1949 and 1952. He played against Tipperary in the All-Ireland Final of 1950.

With his native Galmoy he won a County Junior Championship in 1966. He was also a great lover of traditional music, winning an All-Ireland medal for the violin in 1986. He always made a point of attending as many Tullaroan matches as he could. Billy was interred in his native Galmoy. May he rest in Peace.

Jimmy Murphy



JIMMY MURPHY passed to his eternal reward on February 21st last. He had reached the grand old age of 78 years. He was a publican and farmer all his life. He was a dedicated supporter of Tullaroan hurling club all his life, having first donned the famous "green and white" way back in the "thirties". In fact he won a senior championship medal with the club in 1934, where he was a forward and a prolific score taker. He also played on numerous Kilkenny teams during that era. Jimmy was a "true blue" G.A.A. man all his life. Go ndeanna Dia trócaire ar a anam dílis.

John Joe Hennebery



MOONCOIN was in a state of deep shock following the tragic death of John Joe Hennebery. The 32 year old died while working on the new Regional Hospital at Ardkeen, Waterford. A wall collapsed on him while he was down a manhole. He was pronounced dead at the site.

An All-Ireland minor medal holder, he was an immensely popular figure in the villages of Mooncoin and Carrigeen. His coffin was draped with the Kilkenny, Mooncoin, Carrigeen and New Jersey colours as his remains were brought to the Church of the Assumption on Sunday evening.

Former hurling colleagues, present Mooncoin team members formed a guard of honour with representatives from Kilkenny County Board, Mahon & McPhillips and all sections of the local community.

John Joe won honours with St. Kieran's College, Kilkenny, and was also a member of the Kilkenny Under-21 team. He played with Mooncoin and Carrigeen before emigrating. He spent six years in Westwood, New Jersey where he was deeply involved with the local hurling club.

While there he held many club positions and was trainer and coach. One of the highlights of his time in the U.S. was when he played with the Kilkenny exiles against the Kilkenny senior county team two years ago.

On his return he immediately became involved in the Mooncoin hurling club. He was trainer of the Under-21 team as well as playing with the Mooncoin Intermediate team.

He was buried in Mooncoin cemetery following requiem mass at the Church of the Assumption.

Timmy Kelly



THE dedicated family man, the stylish hurler supreme, and one of nature's gentlemen that was Timmy Kelly, who passed to his eternal reward during the year.

He came from traditional hurling stock. His father before him captained the famous Killarney team of the 1930's. Timmy himself played his Primary School hurling with Thomastown, and he also hurled minor for Gowran, as Bennettsbridge had no minor team at the time. He graduated to the Senior ranks, and it was with his beloved Bennettsbridge that Timmy cut his own niche in hurling folklore.

He played on four senior championship winning teams – 1959, '60, '62, '64. he played on the Kilkenny All-Ireland teams of 1959 and 1963. He was directly opposed by the legendary Tom Cheasty (Waterford) in the 1959 Final. He won his Oireachtas medal against Galway in 1959.

At a time when it was claimed that there were more suit lengths in Bennettsbridge than in the Monster House, Timmy was playing in tournaments all over Ireland – and winning most of them. With Bennettsbridge he won tournaments in Dunhill, the Cork Church Building Fund, the Black Abbey Development Fund etc., etc. In fact it was claimed at the time that because of their drawing power and popularity, the 'Bridge team of the time "built" more Churches than the Hierarchy of Ireland.

Timmy Kelly, like his teammates of the day, gave of his time copiously and generously – he was that kind of man. He was also a very accomplished footballer in his day. His brothers Mick and Liam also wore the Black and Amber of Kilkenny. Micky in fact cap-

tained the team to win the All-Ireland in 1957 against Waterford. His other brothers Ted and Tony played for Dublin, while his sister Margaret was a very good camogie player.

Outside of hurling, Timmy was a very caring and devoted family man. He immersed himself in Parish Development work, helping out any local deserving cause. He played a little golf at the Callan Golf Club, of which he was a member for years. His passing will be sadly missed by an army of friends, but especially his wife and his family.

Mark Marnell



MARK MARNELL had died as he had lived – fighting the good fight. In the company of his wife and his dearest family, the blonde-haired defender passed to his eternal reward at his home in Bennettsbridge on Thursday, July 9th. Just a "puff of breath" prior to his death this blonde adonis was his usual effervescent self as he regaled his numerous C.A.A. friends at the launch of the Lory Maher Museum in the Newpark Hotel.

How Mark laughed and joked with his former playing colleagues: men like former Taoiseach, Jack Lynch, Martin White, Tom Walton and Billy Cahill. Of course Mark Marnell knew all these men intimately; sure he played with and against most of them in his time. He was a regular member of the Kilkenny Senior team for nine years.

One of Kilkenny's finest corner backs, Mark Marnell's style was often described as "dashing". Mark made some great friendships during his playing years. He hurled with Tullaroan before the three Parish rule dictated that he threw in his lot with his native parish.

Sadly injury plagued his playing days and he was

forced to retire far too early. He won senior championship medals with Tullaroan, and he also won a Junior All-Ireland medal in 1946.

As his cortege passed through famed Bennettsbridge, the crowds were testament to the great regard the people had for Mark Marnell. His untimely passing and his loss will be felt by many, but most especially by his adoring wife, Bernadette, his daughters Tiona and Bernadette, his sons Fr. Richard, Mark and Tom, his sisters Kitty, Brigid and Nellie, his brothers Canon Tommy Marnell, P.P. (Durrow-retired), Stephen, Dixie, Jimmy and Sean. Go ndéana Dia trócaire ar a anam.

Tommy Walsh



ON the 19th of November, one of Tullaroan's favourite sons died. Tommy Walsh was surely one of the greatest servants the Tullaroan club ever had. A gentleman to his finger tips, Tommy was involved in almost all of the parish activities. A kindly neighbour, his friendship was worth winning, and valued. As a young man he served his time to the licensed trade in Dublin. He returned to his roots and with his brother, Chris, they started a very successful auctioneering and victualler trade.

He was the epitome of everything that is good in a successful club. Whenever there was work to be done, Tommy Walsh was always a willing helper.

He was thrilled to see Tullaroan back in a Senior County Final this year after a lapse of over 30 years. The fact that two of his sons were playing was an extra delight. Unfortunately due to his illness he was not able to be in attendance on the day.

Michael, one of his sons played at corner-back, while Dick, his other son played at

half-forward. All the Walsh talents were not confined to the masculine side of the family. Tommy also has a daughter whose talents on the basketball courts have won rave notices. Mary Walsh donned the green singlet of her Country in many international basketball tournaments. Ad dheis De go raibh a anam dílis.

Joe Sweeney



JOE SWEENEY died on April 1st. In his time, Joe was one of the stalwarts that made Tullaroan the club that it was in the forties. He was on the team that was beaten by Graigue in the Senior Final in 1949. He went to live in Ballycallan with whom he played for a number of years. He was an ardent follower of our games, and he seldom missed a Tullaroan match, or for that matter a Graig-Ballycallan match. His greatest interest would have been this year's saga between these near neighbours. One would wonder what team he would be supporting. May Heaven be his bed.

Johnny Power



DURING 1992, the death took place of Johnny Power of Mylerstown, Hugginstown. A noted hurler, he won a Junior County Championship medal with Carrickshock in 1954. He played at centre-forward on that team. He was a member of the team that won the Mount Carmel Cup in Knocktopher that same year. He played with Harristown in

1951, 1952 and 1953.

The 69-year-old was very well known in the south of the county and he died at his home after a long illness which was borne with great bravery. Many of his former team mates provided a guard of honour at the obsequies. He is survived by his wife Bridie (nee Cotterell), son Maurice, daughter Marie, brothers, sisters, brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, nieces, nephews and friends.

Dick Teehan



ONE of the great servants of Tullaroan hurling club sadly passed away on October 25th last. In his time he was an excellent hurler for Tullaroan and Kilkenny from the mid-thirties to the mid-forties. This was an era when success for both his beloved Tullaroan and Kilkenny was of the scarce variety. For Tullaroan he manned the centreback position with great distinction. With Kilkenny he won a Leinster Senior Medal in 1940, and an Oireachtas medal in the same year. He won a County Senior title with Tullaroan in 1936. He also played on the Kilkenny Minor teams of 1932, '33, and 1934, winning a Leinster Title in 1933.

Dick Teehan was Tullaroan through and through. Although he moved residence to Muckalee in 1947, Dick Teehan's roots were buried in Tullaroan country. He never missed an opportunity to come back to Tullaroan, whether it be a funeral, a match, or even a get together with a returned hurler home for the holidays.

He farmed extensively in Bullock Hill, Muckalee, from 1947 to the day he went to his creator. A very friendly, courteous and deeply religious man, Dick Teehan was immersed in the ideology of the G.A.A.

His father Ned was reputed to have been with Henry Meagher – one of the men

who founded the G.A.A. in Thurles in 1884 – on the first night that that historic meeting took place.

Dick Teehan was involved in a near fatal accident some four years ago, which severely handicapped his movement for a long time. He recovered somewhat, and he continued to visit friends and neighbours in Tullaroan whenever he could.

His passing will have caused great grief to many people, not least of which will be his wife Maureen, his sons, Edward, Tony and Raymond, his daughters Breda Comerford (Coolgreaney) and Bernadette Keogh (Athy), and his brothers Toddy and Paddy. Go ndéana Dia trócaire ar a anam.

Kevin Fennelly



KILKENNY was shocked and saddened when it was learned that Kevin Fennelly had died last May. The name Fennelly means many things to many people.

To others it means captains of the victory ship named "Kilkenny" in 1979, again in 1983, and yet again in 1992. Yet to others it means the figurehead of a hurling family whose records will doubtfully be equalled, and never surpassed. Closer to home – and home means Shamrocks country – it meant being all things to the most important limb of our great Association – the Parish team.

From its embryonic state in 1972, Kevin was trainer, treasurer, Chairman, coach and selector over many years to his beloved Shamrocks. Himself and a few honourable men, like John Fitzpatrick, Patrick O'Keefe, Patrick Walsh, Fr. Heaslip, O.F.M., Michael Hoyne, Francis Holohan and Bob Aylward saw in their

wisdom, that a parish divided was counterproductive, and so they took the necessary steps to rectify the situation.

Under the then County Chairman, Mick O'Neill, the areas known as Knockmoylan, Knocktopher and Ballyhale were brought under the one "umbrella", and were "christened" Ballyhale Shamrocks. The same Ballyhale Shamrocks who have "burned the grass" in playing fields the length and breadth of Ireland.

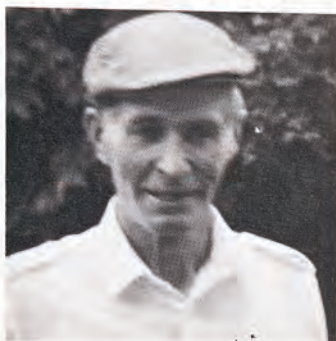
In addition to their chronicle of playing successes, they purchased and developed their own pitches, which were officially opened by Uachtaran C.L.C.G. Peader Ó Cuinn on May 17th last.

In view of his "Parish paranoia", it is not surprising that Kevin Fennelly was so much an integral part of the success gambit what was and still is the "Shamrock's story". He also had time to work for his County with equal aplomb and dedication. He was on numerous County Board committees, and represented his County on the Leinster Council in 1985 and 1986.

To some people he could have at times appeared obstinate or argumentative, but he was never either for their own sakes. Kevin was a man who had the courage of his own convictions, and was never afraid to express them, because courage, both physical and moral was a huge commodity in his metabolism. A God-fearing man, he was a man in whom you could place your absolute trust and confidence, and neither were ever misplaced or abused.

Kevin Fennelly was the "stuff" of rural Ireland, an inter-county hurler of no little prowess in his own right. He was born with G.A.A. blood in his veins. Together with his six brothers, they were as successful, relatively speaking, as the present "crop". To many he was a highly-principled and true friend. He was formidable, courteous and courageous to all that had the honour of knowing him. For many of us who knew him as a friend, his passing was a heavy blow. For his wife, Teresa and his boys and girls his demise was and always will be a heart-wrenching "wallop". Ar dheis De go raibh a anam dílis.

Jack Lyons



JACK LYONS died in September, in the presence of his family, after a long illness. For as long as people can remember, Jack Lyons had been at the head of community work in the parish of Callan. Jack was a talented man with great ideas and a great zest for work. He worked very closely with Canon Jack Kennedy, R.I.P., who instigated the purchase and development of John Locke Park way back in the late 'Seventies.

The work involved at the time saw the "Park" established as the Secondary County Ground at a cost of near £170,000 is now legendary. Foremost in that great achievement was one Jack Lyons. He was one of its three Trustees along with Paddy Ryan and Paddy Meagher of Newtown. Jack was stoically involved with every form of fund-raising that involved John Locke Park. He was later to become a Vice-President and subsequently President of the club.

Jack had a great *grá* for all things Gaelic. He was frequently involved with the club's efforts in the Scór competitions. He followed "the Lockes" through good and not so good times. He played hurling for the club for years. He also played football for both Coolagh and Cotters-town clubs.

He was involved with many other Parish enterprises, particularly the Camphill Community, and the annual Kilbride Mass. But above all else he will be remembered for the trojan work he put into John Locke Park, which, in retrospect, may not have happened without his efforts. He is a sad loss to the club and, of course, to his family.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dílis.

Andy Egan



KILKENNY and James Stephens lost one of its favourite sons last November when Andy Egan died tragically in a road accident.

Andy, "Dudley" to his friends, was a larger than life character imbued as he was with a great personality. No matter how much he argued his point of view he still came across as totally sincere. A great neighbour, he couldn't bear to see anyone in trouble. When he bought a small truck a few years ago he often used it to help out those "who needed a job done in a hurry."

A native of Wallslough on

the outskirts of the city, Andy, from his earliest days in St. Patrick's De La Salle school, made hurling his one great love. He won an Under-14 Championship with the school in 1966 and then in the famed green and red of his beloved James Stephens he won Under-16 championships in hurling and football in 1968, followed by minor hurling and football medals in 1970 when he also won an under-21 hurling championship. Andy then decided to give hurling a rest and concentrated on his work in the building trade.

Following a successful and enjoyable tour to New York with the club in 1978 he again renewed his interest in hurling, winning his way onto the senior team for the 1981 county championships. During this campaign he starred in every game and when he won the coveted county championship medal he said that it was the highlight of his career.

He then went on to a successful campaign in the club championship, climaxed

in April 1982 in Semple Stadium in Thurles when James Stephens defeated Mount Sion in the All-Ireland final. Two losing senior finals against Ballyhale Shamrocks in 1982 and 1983 did not dampen his enthusiasm and he won a Centenary Year Byrne Cup medal in 1984. He continued to hurl with the juniors when he left the senior ranks, giving the benefit of his vast experience to the younger players.

When he eventually retired from the playing scene he took his place on the James Stephens Committee, where his great repartee was eagerly looked forward to each Monday night. Andy's motto was if something had to be done, get on and do it and don't talk about it.. He was a great sportsman, strong as a horse, hard but always fair. His loss to the James Stephens Club is immense, but the loss to his wife Marian and his three young children is immeasurable in every sense. May the sod of Foulkstown lie gently on you, Andy.

VINCENT MORRISSEY

On March 10 we bade farewell to Vinnie. The sense of numbness which pervaded our parish was palpable as one of our finest young sporting prospects was laid to rest in St. Kieran's cemetery. Two days earlier Vinnie had died suddenly while playing a soccer match. He was 16 years old.

He had come through the ranks of St. Patrick's school, James Stephen's and Kilkenny C.B.S. as a hurler and footballer



of exceptional skill. At under-14 level he had won every honour available including an All-Ireland Féile na Gael medal in 1989. As a speedy, free scoring wing forward he helped James Stephens to a clean sweep of titles, hurling and football at under-16 level and had been due to collect these medals from G.A.A. president Peter Quinn, only a week after his untimely death.

With his parents and family we mourn his loss.

Ar dheis De a Anam.

PAT SHORTALL

People throughout the parish were saddened by the sudden and untimely death in April of this year of Pat Shortall, Kellymount, Paulstown.

He was an outstanding member of the community in the area who was always willing to give his services for the good of the local community. Whether it was to collect on gates or any other task, his help was always available.

In latter years nothing gave



him greater pleasure than to see the development of the sportsfield and to watch the young schoolboys practice and develop their skills.

His friendly welcome to everyone he met in the course of his activities will be sadly missed by his wife, family and many friends.

He was father of Bob (Secretary) and Michael (P.R.O.) of the Club.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam.

CLUBS

ROUND - UP

BENNETTSBRIDGE

Nineteen-ninety-two would not be classified as a very rewarding one as far as Bennettsbridge was concerned, especially at adult level. Having been beaten last year at the quarter-final stages by eventual champions, Dicksboro, hopes were high for a good 1992. Alas such was not the case. Due to a plethora of injuries and early retirements, our panel was badly decimated as we opened our League campaign. We only managed to win two of our League games, which saw us drawn against the Rower/Inistioge in the first round of the Championship.

After a Titanic battle which saw our lads match the "Rower" with determination and effort, we did, however, pay the price of not being able to convert our superiority into scores – losing by three points. Relegation was now staring us in the face, and things did not improve with a heavy defeat inflicted by Thomastown in the first relegation battle.

So, it was down to a "do or die" scrap with Piltown to decide who would play in Junior competition next season. Our lads, to their eternal credit, certainly did not want the dubious honour of taking the club back to Junior ranks – a place it had not been in since 1951. Down in Thomastown they played their best hurling of the year. They hammered Piltown into submission, winning by 2-17 to 1-6.

On the football front we had an exciting win over Blacks and Whites in the first round. In the second round, however, we paid the price against Gowran, when a loss of concentration in the final five minutes cost us a match we should have won comfortably.

What modicum of success we had arrived compliments of our Juvenile teams. The under-14's fought their way to the final of the 11-a-side championship only to be beaten by Tullogher-Rosbercon in a thrilling final. Then they fought their way to the Roinn C championship final only to be thwarted once more by Tullogher/Rosbercon. Although beaten, the boys showed commendable spirit, skill and courage, and indications are that they will graduate to better things in future years.



Brendan Walpole, Killane, All-Ireland under-17 handball champion and voted Kilkenny Juvenile Player of the Year.

Hopes were high that our under-16 lads would "do" something. Training under Jim Treacy, Gerry Freyne and Martin Furlong, the lads showed terrific interest and dedication. They won all their matches convincingly to win the Northern Final. In the County Final they came up against a

very good skilful Carrickshock outfit who deservedly won the day in an exciting game.

Carrickshock, too, had a big physical advantage over our lads.

In handball, our sister club, Kilfane, produced winners, too. Pride of place must go to Brendan Walpole, who captured the under-17 All-Ireland title when he beat a Cork opponent. He was rated Juvenile Player of the Year in Kilkenny. Other handballers who won County handball titles were Tom Hanrahan, Perry Holden, and Adrian Walpole. The highlight of the year was surely Liam Simpson winning his first Senior All-Ireland medal against Cork in September. His exploits during the whole campaign filled the hearts of Bennettsbridge people with pride and admiration.

Other clubmen who figured on Inter-County teams were Richie Moran (Junior) and James McGarry (Junior and Under-21). Finally, thanks to all our loyal supporters and sponsors for their interest.

BLACK & WHITES



Back row (l.-r.): Martin Farrell, Tommy Farrell, Denis Carroll, John Byrne, Mick O'Brien, Seamie Carroll, Mick Kelly, Mickie Doyle, John McDonnell, Seamus Murphy. Front row (l.-r.): Declan Connolly, John Barcoe, Jim Kennedy, Andy Barcoe, Michael Ryan, Alan Byrne, Pat O'Grady, Pat O'Grady (Curragh), Ned Kelly, M. J. Doherty. Kneeling in front: James Dean, John O'Neill, Shane Murphy, Niall Kennedy, Sean Barcoe.

In the proud history of this 67-year-old club, 1992 will go down as one of its most successful. The memory of Andy Barcoe collecting the Northern Junior Cup will live for many years in the minds of the small Skeaughvosteen community. We started our campaign against Cloneen. This match will go down as the "Denis

Carroll" match. We won on a score of 1-11 to 1-7. And so we faced Lisdowney in the next round.

The Lisdowney lads were formidable and worthy opponents. In an extraordinary encounter, our men held out by a goal (2-8 to 1-8). Blacks & Whites Alan Byrne was the man who set us on our way in this

match with a two-goal scoring spree. The northern semi-final produced the best performance from our men during the whole campaign. Our opponents were the emeralds from Urlingford. We won very convincingly by 1-21' to 1-7. The highlight of this match was the unerring accuracy of John Byrne who "bagged" 11 points in total.

The Northern final was against Three-castles, who themselves were trying to bridge a 42-year gap. The Threecastles men opened brilliantly and led our lads all the way to the break. However, they did not reckon on the silken skills of "man of the match" Tommy Farrell, who shot a magnificent score of 2-6. Tommy's contribution helped in no small way to the overall effort in taking the cup down "Skeagh" side. The final score was: Skeaghvosteen 2-17, Threecastles 1-12.

In the County final against Tullogher/Rosberson, our victory trail, that blazed so fiercely heretofore, was snuffed out by a team with vastly more experience. However, the lads brought great pride and credit to our "neck of the woods". They should be proud of themselves, because the "Skeagh" people were proud of them.

The same team won 4 out of 5 of their matches in the league, but the Fenians from Johnstown beat them in the semi-final.

Our Special Junior team also acquitted themselves well, when they fought their way to the Division 3 semi-final, only to be beaten by the eventual winners, James Stephens.

In the "Special" championship the "Skeagh" men had an easy 2-12 to 1-8 win over Dicksboro in the first round. However, Paulstown, with two goals in the dying seconds, put paid to any further advancement on a score of 2-11 to 2-8.

For the fourth year running our footballers failed at the first hurdle, this time to Bennettsbridge. This was rather disappointing, considering the amount of football the club played in the 80's.

At minor level, the combined resources of Gaignamanagh and Blacks and Whites had a terrific year. They fought their way

to the Roinn "A" County Final for the third year in succession, only to be beaten by James Stephens after a replay. The Blacks and Whites members of the team were David O'Neill, Sean Kealy, Michael Ryan, Barry Ryan, Noel Kealy, Edward Doyle, and Rory Murphy. Sean Kealy was a member of the South Kilkenny under-16 team that won the South Leinster League.

It is also worthy of note to record the magnificent work being done for hurling in Skeaghvosteen National School by Tony Dalton.

Our off-field activities has included

completion work on our dressing-room facilities, which should be available this coming season.

A special word of thanks to our main sponsor, Eamonn O'Rourke, who presented the club with a new playing strip for the County Final.

At this point we would like to remember the supporters and friends who have gone to their Eternal Reward over the past twelve months. In particular we remember John Carroll, John Dowling and Michael O'Grady, and we extend the club's condolences to their families.

BARROW RANGERS

WHILE no major title came to the club in 1992, it was nevertheless quite a successful year. Teams representing the club gave some excellent performances, reaching a County Final (Special Junior) and League Semi-Final (Intermediate). With a little luck and without the loss of a couple of key players through serious injuries a major title could have made its way to the Parish.

The Intermediate team made its best start for a good number of years losing only one game throughout the League campaign. They started with a good win over Glenmore. Then they suffered their only reverse when going under to Rower Inistioge having been in a good position at half-time.

Then followed convincing victories over Thomastown and Conahy Shamrocks. These results meant that a draw against Mooncoin in the final game would assure them of a place in the League Semi-Final and more importantly get them away from the dreaded relegation zone. This they duly achieved with a late score from ace forward Dermot Maher.

This semi-final proved to be a bit of a disaster in more ways than one. Pat Drea and Michael Doyle took no part in the proceedings due to injuries received on the day and the team was overrun by a well drilled Young Irelands' outfit.

Pride of place this season must go to the Special Junior Hurling team that reached the County Final and were beaten by a last minute score by Mullinavat. They started their campaign with a win over Clara. Then followed a local derby game against Black & Whites with victory achieved with a goal in the dying minutes. It was a similar story in the next game against James Stephens when Michael Doyle blasted a 25 metre free to the net with the last puck of the ball to secure victory. The Northern Final victory was achieved over Conahy Shamrocks by 9 points but the luck finally ran out in the County Final where despite the best efforts of heroic defender Seamus Brennan and Michael Doyle in attack - he got all his side's scores - victory eluded them by the narrowest of margins. Seamus had some compensation when he was awarded man-of-the-match trophy for his display in that final.

The under-age squads were badly hit by injuries during the season. The Under-21 team went under narrowly to Erin's Own, Castlecomer, in a replay. The minor team after putting up a great display against St. Patrick's, Ballyragget, were forced to withdraw from the competition as they were unable to field a team for the replay due to injuries to a number of players.

What can one say about the football team without being too uncharitable. Well beaten in their first and second matches, they failed to field a team for their final game. They now face relegation. The attitude and commitment of the players to football must be seriously questioned.

The underage teams made very little impression during the year. This is one area that needs to be attended to if the future of the club is to be secured.

Once again the Club had representations at Inter County level. Ed Drea played for the minors throughout the campaign and turned in some excellent performances, none more so than in the replay against Galway. Dermot Maher was unlucky to get injured midway through the season that promised so much for him following his scintillating display in the first round against Dublin. David Holmes was a member of the Junior Panel that lost out to Wexford.

The club staged two tournaments during the year. The Mick Brophy Memorial tournament produced excellent fare with Cloughbawn of Wexford defeating St. Martins (Muckalee) in the final. This was Cloughbawn's first victory in the Tournament having also played in the final for the previous two years losing narrowly each time.

The "Diamond" Hayden Memorial Tournament was won by neighbours Young Irelands (Gowran) who defeated Rangers in the final. Congratulations to Young Irelands on achieving senior status.

Club Officers: Chairman, S. Brennan; Vice-Chairman, M. Medlar; Secretary, B. Shortall; Assistant Secretary: P. Maher; Treasurer, L. Doyle; P.R.O., M. Shortall; Selectors (Adult): J. Doyle, J. Wall and M. Medlar. (Under-Age): B. Shortall, L. Doyle and T. Staunton.

CARRICKSHOCK

Our Under-21 team started off the year with a great display of hurling in beating Slieverue in a preliminary round of the Under-21 championship. Newmarket School repeated its feat of last year by winning the 11-a-side Under-13 Roinn E competition after a great game with Glenmore and, in doing so, reversed an earlier defeat by Glenmore in the same competition. Great credit is due to the schoolteacher, Tom Duggan, and Tommy Hoyne who helped to bring about this success.

The Under-16 team had a marvellous year by completing the double of League and Championship. In the League they drew with Tullaroan after a great hour's hurling by both teams. The replay surpassed the drawn game and a brilliant display of hurling was given by Carrickshock with Tullaroan only a little behind. Carrickshock emerged winners by 3-8 to 3-5 after a thriller. In the final of the Championship, Carrickshock were faced by Bennettsbridge. In difficult conditions for both teams, Carrickshock emerged victorious by 0-8 to 0-4, after an exciting game. The result was in the balance up to the final five minutes though Carrickshock led all through. This win augers well for the future of the club and team mentors Sean Raggett and P.J. Rohan are to be congratulated on their success.

At Intermediate grade the club once again performed well, reaching the semi-final of the championship. Some very good performances were given during the year and there were some great matches, notably against Piltown in Windgap and John Lockes, in Piltown, in the quarter-final. The semi-final against Young Irelands, Gowran, in Nowlan Park, was a great game with hurling of the highest quality being the order of the day. After a great opening quarter by Carrickshock, Young Irelands fought back to be level at half-time. In the second half, playing with the wind, Young Irelands appeared to be heading for victory when they went three points ahead midway through the second half, but Carrickshock fought back and in a pulsating last five minutes, the 'Shocks levelled and drove three agonising wides in this period, one in particularly barely missing the target. So the game ended in stalemate.

In the replay in Thomastown, before a big crowd, Young Irelands emerged clear victors in a disappointing game. Carrickshock never got into the game and everybody involved in the club were deeply disappointed that the players did not do themselves justice on the day. This

was the second year to be beaten at the same stage of the championship, and by the same team, so everybody was glad to see our conquerors win the final. We look forward with optimism to next year. All involved with the team deserve thanks for their efforts during the year, especially team coach, Paddy Johnston. His dedication and commitment were outstanding.

Everyone in the club were thrilled on the first Sunday in September when Kilkenny beat Cork in the All-Ireland final. It was great to see Pat Dwyer turn in a five-star performance in a Kilkenny team of stars and win his first All-Ireland medal. It was a pity that injury curtailed Richie Power's contribution, but congratulations to both players.

The club would like to thank Pat Dwyer for his wonderful dedication and contribution to Kilkenny hurling for the last twelve years. We look forward to seeing Pat Dwyer help Kilkenny retain their All-Ireland in the coming year.

On the Tuesday morning after the All-Ireland, Moonroe school had the distinction of being the first school to have the new McCarthy cup brought there by Kilkenny captain, Liam Fennelly. It was a marvellous occasion for the schoolchildren and all the people present.

The club is once again involved in the Fás scheme jointly with the Parish. This scheme has proved of tremendous benefit to the club in the maintenance of the club grounds and great credit is due to the two employees for their dedication in having the playing pitch in such beautiful condition all year. The club purchased a small tractor to help in the preparation.

As the season is nearing the end, our

Under-21 team has continued to progress in the championship. After an exciting game of hurling, Carrickshock and Mullinavat ended all-square in the first game. In the replay, Carrickshock emerged victorious by 2-10 to 1-5, after a tough encounter.

At present the club are making preparations for their annual Xmas draw. The cost of running a club at present is enormous.

During the year a number of players represented the club at Inter-county level. The club wishes to thank them all for their efforts. At junior level Pat Farrell and Pat Fennelly were the club reps. while at Under-21 it was Pat Farrell again. At under-16 Adrian Nudson is involved while Daniel Hoyne travelled with the under-14 panel to Dublin. Thanks to T. Hoyne for acting as selector with the Kilkenny Juniors.

During the past year a number of Carrickshock hurlers passed away to their eternal reward. The club extends sincere sympathy to the families of the following: Johnny Power, Mick Hudson, Mick Walsh and Tom Dalton, R.I.P.

During the year our President, Rev. J. Gallavan, retired as P.P. of Aghavillar. The club are deeply indebted to him for all the

help and advice he gave us during his stay. He was of tremendous help in the purchase and development of the playing pitch, dressing-rooms and covered stand. The club wishes to thank him and hope he has many years of happy retirement.

We would like also to welcome our new P.P., V. Rev. P. Hoyne, to the Parish and wish him well for the future.

CLARA

FOR the Clara Hurling Club 1992 was one of those up and down years. The Senior Hurling team started out with great expectations under new trainer Martin Coogan. In the early months of the year they trained very hard and it was hoped that they would do very well in the league. This was not the case however as defeat followed defeat with Johnstown being the first to sweep us aside. This was a game which Clara should have won. They were hurling well until they lost Harry Ryan midway through the second half. When Harry was sent off the team seemed to lose heart and were beaten by a couple of points.

Glenmore were next in line and again there was not much between them but at the end of the day Clara were left without any points and the pressure was building on them to produce a good result.

Clara trained very hard for the match with Dicksboro and it was expected that it would be one of the easier matches during the campaign but things did not work out that way as Dicksboro produced one of their best performances of the Season to win rather easily.

This brought us to the fourth match of the league and still pointless. Our opponents on this occasion were the Shamrocks from Ballyhale. This was a

tremendous game with Clara producing some great hurling to build up a big lead in the first half. They came out in the second half determined to pick up their first brace of points and lessen the chance of having to fight relegation as they had in 1991. Things were going great with Clara ten points ahead with fifteen minutes to go. This is when everything just fell apart. Shamrocks had two players sent off and from that moment on, Clara could do nothing right and the Shamrocks cut roads through our back line to steal the game in injury time. This left the club wondering just what had happened.

Next in line were the Village and Clara had their last chance to salvage something from the year. In true Clara tradition, they produced the goods when their back was to the wall turning in a tremendous performance to score a great victory to lift the prospect of relegation.

This brought us to the Championship proper where the club were drawn against James Stephens. This was the big one as far as the Club were concerned as most neutrals expected the Village to exact sweet revenge for their League defeat at the hands of the same opposition. Clara with renewed confidence came out and again had a good win to enter the Quarter Final where they were taking on Shamrocks.

At this stage the club were hurling very well and were not afraid of anybody. They were looking forward to getting a second chance to show what they could do

against the Champions as they knew deep down that they had let it slip the first day. Again they pulled out all the stops when required and scored a tremendous victory over their Ballyhale rivals to get through to the Co. Semi-Final in which they would meet Glenmore.

This match was a hard fought affair with Clara giving their most illustrious rivals a hard time of it in the first half. Lester Ryan, Joe Casey and Anthony Prendergast were hurling like their lives depended on it. Things were looking good at half time in an effort to consolidate their position but it worked in reverse order with Ray Heffernan in tremendous form they plugged away and slowly but surely they got the upper hand to slip through to the County Final in which they were to prove successful.

Looking back at the situation from 1991 it was not such a bad year as the team had been fighting relegation last year and got to the Semi-Final this year, and could have won it with a little bit of luck.

On the Football front the club are going very strong and have reached the County Final in which they meet Piltown. Expectations are high that before the year is out, a

County Championship will have come to the Parish.

In the Under-21 Hurling Championship, the club were expected to do very well, but never got going against a good Castlecomer team. The better team won rather easily on the day.

The Under-21 football team had better luck when they faced Paulstown in the championship. After a hard fought game the Clara team ran out winners by a point.

At School level, the club can look forward to healthier times ahead as the Under-12 hurling team went all the way to win out the Roinn D Championship,

beating Slieverue in the final. This augers well for the future.

The School Under-13 football team were not to be outdone by the hurlers and swept all before them to win out the Toymaster Football Championship, winning eight matches in the process. They beat Mooncoin in a very exciting final by a single point.

The club building programme is very near completion and it is hoped to have the official opening some time in May or June.

CLONEEN

It was a poor year by any standards for Cloneen Hurling Club. Who would have thought that the northernmost club in the County, which had brought such excitement to the Junior scene not so long ago, could have seen such a decline in fortunes in such a short time.

Maybe success came too quickly for a club just nine seasons in existence. The club careered through Junior "B" ('87), Junior "A" ('88) and Northern Junior Final in 1989. At the time, it had a tremendous following, but the interest has been eroded gradually, hence the present impasse.

With little or no tradition in hurling, the

parish of Clogh has few hurlers in the twenties age bracket. We now have to await the present crop of under-16 players who incidentally have acquitted themselves admirably this season. Another problem for the club is that it has no playing pitch of its own, although appeals to various farmers for help in this regard have up to now fallen on deaf ears. To rectify the present problem, much soul searching is expected at the up-coming A.G.M. There are some excellent workers in the club, but an increase in support from players and public alike is a must if this club is to survive.

CONAHY SHAMROCKS

While many clubs would have been delighted to have contested three County Finals in a year, Conahy Shamrocks will look back on 1992 with immense disappointment. Failure at the final hurdle in the Intermediate hurling, Intermediate football and Minor hurling (Roinn B) County Finals left the club with nothing to show for a long year of honest endeavour.

The club began the year with the usual air of optimism present and this was further enhanced when the Intermediate team scored impressive wins over Mooncoin in the opening round of the league and Glenmore in the second round. From this point on Conahy's form went downhill. The Rower-Inistioge proved tough opponents in the third round, defeating Conahy by five points, while Barrow Rangers were the masters over a disjointed Conahy outfit in the fourth round. Conahy's prospects of reaching the knock-out stages of the league were almost decided at this stage, with the team

looking for a big win over Thomastown in the last round. A last minute point gave Thomastown victory.

The new knock-out Intermediate championship was eagerly awaited by all clubs. Remarkably Conahy came out of the hat against their conquerors in the final round of the league, Thomastown. In an outstanding game of hurling, Conahy showed they had learned the most from their earlier game scoring an impressive win and a date in the second round against Barrow Rangers, another of their league opponents. Despite a clear dominance throughout the field, Conahy found it hard to edge ahead of their hard-trying opponents. A late scoring spree saw Conahy through to the County semi-final where the Rower-Inistioge provided the opposition. The Southerners were most people's fancy to reach the Intermediate decider but Conahy, giving their best display for many years, were very impressive winners.

The County Final against Young Irelands proved a big disappointment for all

CLUBS

ROUND - UP



CONAHY SHAMROCKS – Intermediate Hurling Finalists 1992

Back row (from left): Geoff O'Shea, Philip Carroll, Eoin Murphy, Paudie Brennan, Canice Brennan, Eamonn Delaney, Pat Gunner, Kieran Brennan. Front row (from left): Tom Brennan, Sean Cahill, Ciaran Muldowney, John Feehan (Captain), Paul Brennan, Seanie Mahony, Gearóid Brennan. Mascot: Karl Gunner.

(Photo: Tom Brett)

Conahy supporters with the side never displaying their semi-final form. The absent Ciaran Connery was sorely missed. With eight minutes remaining in the game only two points separated the sides. It was anyone's game at this stage but a goal by Young Ireland's proved the crucial score. For Conahy it was a case of waiting for another day.

The early rounds of the Intermediate Football Championship were anything but satisfactory with Conahy receiving two walk-overs. In the other game Conahy defeated Tullagher-Rosbercon. A semi-final game against Kilmacow saw Conahy secure an impressive win and a second County Final appearance in a row. As in 1991, defeat was to be Conahy's lot when they had to give way to a more eager and physically stronger Ballyhale Shamrocks outfit. Once again the unavoidable absence of key players, some with injuries, badly hampered the local side but on the day the accomplished Ballyhale side were worthy winners.

Perhaps the unluckiest side this year was the Minor team. Impressive through the year, they entered the County Final against a fancied if young Glenmore side. Without key players, Ciaran Connery, Kenny Dooley and John Hurley, the team were given little chance of victory. It took a late goal for Glenmore to see the Southerners secure a shaky win. The huge disappointment in the team's dressing-room afterwards summarised the feeling of all Conahy's players and officials.

The Under-21 hurling team made their exit in the first round going under to neighbours, St. Lachtain's, by one point after a highly entertaining game.

The club's Under-16 teams had a difficult year while both the Under-14 and 13 sides gave many fine displays without reaching the concluding stages of their respective championships.

If the Conahy club did not have much success on the field of play, two of the younger players had a memorable year when helping St. Kieran's College to All-Ireland success. Ciaran Connery became the third Conahy player to take the Croke Cup and proved an inspirational Captain, while Ciaran Muldowney was an opportunist forward all through the tough campaign.

On the inter-county scene, Conahy were represented by Ciaran Connery on the Kilkenny minor hurling team and Canice Brennan on the Under-21 hurling team. Canice also received a call-up to the Kilkenny senior panel for the early round of the league but injury curtailed his involvement. He also represented the county at Under-21 and Senior football. Shane Mulhall was a valuable member of the Kilkenny Vocational Schools' side which lost the All-Ireland Final to Galway in Limerick. Kilkenny's success in the All-Ireland senior hurling final also had a Conahy involvement with Nickey Brennan, one of the selectors.

On a sad note, Conahy lost two of its greatest supporters during the year with the departure of Bill and Joe Phelan to their eternal reward. Bill was, in fact, a trustee of the club at the time of his death. Although both were unable to attend games in recent times, the Phelan brothers nevertheless maintained a keen interest in the fortunes of all Conahy teams. In their earlier days both wore the Conahy colours with pride and distinction and many a tale they told of games and characters they encountered. The Conahy club never had such loyal supporters. First to the

appointed venue for all games, they took up their usual position on the twenty-one yard line lying against the barrier surrounding the field. Both would become totally immersed in any game they were attending and woe be any supporter of the opposition who would be critical of a Conahy player. As far as Joe and Bill were concerned, Conahy players were never wrong. The attendance of many Conahy players, both past and present, at both funerals during the year was testimony to the huge respect and fondness Joe and Bill enjoyed in Conahy parish.

One of the highlights of the year for the club was the visit in November of the new McCarthy Cup to Jenkinstown, accompanied by Kilkenny players Liam Fennelly, Michael Walsh and Jamsie Brennan. A big crowd turned out to greet the players with many a photograph taken for the family albums.

DANESFORT



DANESFORT JUVENILE TRAINING

Front row (kneeling, l. to r.): Aisling Treacy, Sharon Coady, Sarah Coady, Jason Coady, Robert Walsh, Philip Walsh, Eoin Carey, Michael Saunders, Dwayne Martin, Shane Kelly, Robert Murphy, Eoin Dalton, Louis Kelly, Vivian Walsh. Middle row (seated, l. to r.): Thomas Ryan, Nigel O'Hara, James Mullins, Derek Kearney, Shane Coady, Mark Coady, Martin Dunphy, Padraig Treacy. Back row (standing, l. to r.): Brian Drennan, Patrick O'Neill, Kieran Walsh, Peter Mulhall, Brian Manogue, Deirdre Treacy, Ger Dooley, Corina Saunders, John Dunphy, Nicola Murphy, Barry Hoyne, John Dooley, Philip O'Shea, Michael Coady, Orla Saunders, Yvonne Martin, Aoile Treacy, Mark Dowling, Marion Walsh, Emer Rowan.

(Photo: Gerry Deegan)

LIKE all other clubs, Danesfort started 1992 with the hope of winning some honours but, unlike most other clubs, success eluded them at every level. The junior hurling team tried hard early in the year and began most of their Northern League games well, only to fade away and be well beaten in the end. In the championship, however, they played much better and were unlucky not to achieve a draw when narrowly beaten by Emeralds. Nevertheless, the hard work of trainer George Leahy and the selectors provide good grounds for optimism. Due to emigration over the past few years, and injuries during 1992, it has not been easy to produce a settled team.

The juvenile side of the club is going very well, as the photo taken at training shows. With so many eager young players, Danesfort's future must be secure. A great debt of gratitude is owed to the dedicated people who, each Sunday morning and Wednesday evening, got them together for training and coaching.

The club suffered a great loss during the year with the tragic death of Adrian Moyles. Adrian was a very dedicated young player and his death was a great shock to the whole parish. Mark Marnell, a native of the parish who played his early hurling with Danesfort, before moving to Tullaroan, also died during the year. Mark was well known and respected all over Ireland. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a n-anamnacha.

Passers-by on the Waterford Road will see that our new clubrooms, which were begun earlier in the year, have made great progress, and should be completed early in 1993. These will put Danesfort on a par with any club in the county for playing facilities and our club members look forward to using their new dressing rooms next season. This project would not have been possible were it not for the

generosity of so many farmers in the parish who reared and fattened cattle (bought by the club) at their own expense to raise much of the necessary finance. Danesfort G.A.A. club are very grateful to all concerned for their efforts.

So, as we reflect on 1992, the club has set solid foundations for the future in many areas and we look forward in hope to 1993 and beyond.

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DICKSBORO



DICKSBORO – WINNERS CONFEDERATION HURLING GAME 1992

Back row (from left): Vinny Byrne, Stephen Kennedy, Tom Maher, Martin Hanrick, Paul Martin, Jim McGarry, Donal Carroll, Sean Moore, Shane Prendergast, Pat Carroll, Tim Butler, David Beirne, Niall Lacey. Front row (from left): Martin Treacy, James Phelan, John Cahill, Sam Morrissey, Tommy O'Neill, Niall Morrissey, Brian Fitzpatrick, Paddy Grace, Brian Delaney, Tom Henderson, Dan O'Neill. (Photo: Tom Brett)

WHILE the past year could not be expected to compare with 1991 in terms of championships won, it was, nevertheless, a great year for Dicksboro. For the first time in thirty-three years the 'Boro were back playing senior championship hurling and, on the whole, acquitted themselves very well. Despite the huge step up in class from intermediate to senior hurling, our young team performed with distinction, gaining victories over The Fenians and Clara and losing narrowly to both Glenmore and The Shamrocks. In the only other League game, against city rivals James Stephens, before a huge crowd in Nowlan Park, Dicksboro, sadly, never got a grip on the game and were well held.

The championship saw Dicksboro drawn against St. Martin's and, although leading by seven points early in the second half, we were eventually held to a draw, and in the replay the 'Boro had to give best to a more experienced side. In the relegation battle with Erin's Own we proved too strong in the closing stages and finished good winners to ensure that the maroon and white remained in the senior ranks in 1993.

At the time of writing, we have won one County Final – the under-14 football championship – and have reached the



CONFEDERATION HURLING MATCH 1992

From left to right: Paddy Grace (Dicksboro Captain), Phil Larkin (referee) and Paddy Neary (James Stephens Captain). (Photo: Tom Brett)

CLUBS

R O U N D - U P

Northern Final of the under-21 hurling championship. Despite the lack of large-scale success in 1992, the club supplied the captains of the under-21 hurling and football county teams and also the captain of the junior hurling team.

A matter of further pride for Dicksboro was club member Mickey Walsh's achievement in becoming the first 'Boro player since Paddy Grace, in 1947, to win an All-Ireland senior hurling medal on the field of play. John Marnell and P. J. Garvan having won medals as substitutes during that period. Dicksboro also supplied selectors to the following county teams – junior hurling, under-21 hurling and football and under-16 Northern and county hurling teams.

As always, the very active juvenile section of the club ran the very successful Billy Hogan – Tommy Martin under-14 hurling tournament, the premier trophy being won by the host team, beating Mooncoin in the final while Tullaroan defeated Gowran to take the shield.

As with the senior hurling team, the 'Boro camogie team found the transition from junior to-senior ranks a difficult one but, nevertheless, manager Tom O'Donoghue was well pleased with his team's performances and is already looking forward confidently to 1993.

On March 16th, Dicksboro celebrated its 1992 successes with a highly enjoyable and well organised Dinner Dance in the Springhill Hotel, at which the rich harvest of the previous year was distributed in the form of 175 county medals.

Go bhfeicimid a leithéad arís!



John Marnell clearing his lines for Dicksboro in the Senior League game against Shamrocks.

EMERALDS

Despite the fact that the club brought home no silver this year, this was a satisfactory year for our juvenile teams. Our Under-16 team qualified out of their section and were beaten by Ballyhale in the League semi-final and by Freshford in the championship. This was a young team competing in Roinn B for the first time.

The team was John Guilfoyle, Damien Dollard, Denis Tobin, Michael Byron, Thomas Delaney, Niall Minogue, John Power, Pat Doyle, James Burke, Richard Norton, Ted Clohosey, David Guilfoyle, Shane Cahill, Mark Moore, Adrian Cleere, Martin Costello, Thomas Manton, Derek Lyng.

Our minor team were defeated in the League semi-final by Tullogher by four

points. Our team conceded at least two easy goals, yet this was a very even contest for the hour.

The minor panel was - Dan Holohan, Niall Minogue, Liam Tobin, Damien Tobin, Ken Hughes, John Ryan, Kevin Joyce, Ollie Bergin, Thomas Delaney, Richard Norton, Brendan Joyce, Michael Doyle, David Phelan, Donal Webster, Patrick Doyle, John Guilfoyle, Michael Tobin, Shane Ahearne, Declan Hickey, John Power and Martin Costello.

On a sadder note, our club lost three staunch supporters during the year.

John Henneberry of Ardreigh, Urlingford, died during the year. He was a great supporter of the Urlingford hurling club. He played in the 1939 Minor County Final and also won a Junior County medal in

1947 with the club. He spent many hours levelling the present pitch and cutting grass in the early years of the club.

Nicholas Queally also died during the year. Nicholas was President of the Club for the last five years. He was also a very loyal and dedicated supporter of club and county down the years. Nicholas also kept his own record of scores at all matches. His advice and help around the club are dearly missed. Joan Tobin died during the year. Married to Paddy Tobin and mother of Declan and P.J., Joan was a loyal fan down the years. For many a year in her own quiet way she washed the jerseys. Her passing at such a young age robs our club of a very dedicated worker and fan – Ar dheis Dé go raibh a n-anamnacha díle.

ERIN'S OWN

The past year promised more than it delivered for the Erin's Own club with no titles coming to the parish. At senior level the team suffered a number of narrow defeats in the early rounds of the league but with nothing at stake in the last game they came good against neighbours, St. Martin's, winning an exciting game by two points. However, next time out it was back to the same old ways when the team lost by 11 points to the eventual county finalists, Tullaroan. This defeat left the team in relegation trouble where they came up against city side, Dicksboro. Again defeat was to be their lot but one final chance remained for the team to retain their senior status when they met Graignamanagh in the Relegation final.

In the lead-up to this game the tension and pressure on the players was overpowering. It showed in the first few minutes of the game when they ran up an early four points lead only to give away a penalty to let their opponents back into the game. However, the entire side lifted their game after this score and eventually came through by 11 points. In spite of the traumas of the year, the club retained its senior status.

In tournaments, the senior side reached the semi-final of the Gowran tournament, which has still to be finished. They won the Blacks & Whites sponsored tournament for the second year in a row and went out at the semi-final stages of the Threecastles tournament.

At Junior level Erin's Own had a good run in the league, beating Tullaroan and Craigue-Ballycallan before going out to St. Martin's at the semi-final stages. In the championship proper the team performed above themselves against the eventual Northern finalists, Threecastles. In a first class game in Ballyragget, the teams played an exciting draw with Threecastles just prevailing in the replay by a single point. Erin's own were defeated in the Junior hurling open draw competition by a youthful Galmoy side.

The club's minor team had little luck in either the league or championship, going out in the latter competition to St. Lachtain's. Michael Holden continues to put a lot of work into their age group.

The under-16 hurlers had a fair degree of success in the league and this group of young players look to have tremendous potential. The excellent work being carried out by Dick Mullins and Paddy Phelan is undoubtedly benefiting the players.

Erin's Own Under-14 hurlers made little impression in the championship but they nevertheless had reason to celebrate

during the year when they won the Leinster Mini Féile na nGael competition, defeating Cuala from Dublin the final, in Jenkinstown. Teams from all over Leinster competed and grateful thanks is due to team mentors Christy Hughes, Sean Smith and Maurice Shortall for their efforts with the team.

In the Lisdowney 7-a-side tournament, Erin's Own progressed to the quarter-finals, having won their Group games.

The Under-13 footballers, under the control of Vincent Brannelly, again showed good form this year and qualified for the knock-out stages.

James 'Shiner' Brennan joined the ranks of All-Ireland medal winners from the parish when he was a member of the side, playing at corner forward, which defeated Cork in the final in September. Michael Owens, playing at left half-back, collected his first Leinster minor medal when Kilkenny defeated Wexford after a close contest.

Adrian O'Neill, who lines out at Minor level with Erin's Own, made his name in a different code when he brought home a bronze medal from the European Youths' Boxing Championships, which were held in Italy. Well done to Adrian and best wishes to the future.

Off the field, the Erin's Own committee, under chairman Martin Fogarty, had a busy year. The commencement of the Social Employment Scheme by the club had the playing field at the Prince Grounds in great shape. Further work is planned for 1993 but already the ground is looking better than it did for years.

During the year an inter-county tournament for the Willie Brennan Fund was played at the Prince Grounds between Laois and Kilkenny. Although the inclement weather made it difficult to work on

the playing area, the general opinion of supporters was that the club had coped well with the organisation of the event.

The semi-finals of the Michael Kelly Memorial tournament saw Threecastles and Cloneen making it through to the final at the expense of St. Martin's and Erin's Own. At the time of writing, the final was not played.

Erin's Own organised a street league for all players down to Minor grade this year. The league is run in two stages. Stage 1 had already been completed with Barrack Street on 4 points. The Square have 4 points, Chatsworth Street have 2 points and Kilkenny Street have 2 points. The second round of the league will be played during the winter months and if the games are as competitive as in the earlier rounds, then they should not be missed.

Congratulations to former club treasurer, Brian Young, who was married during the year. Best wishes to Brian and Helen for the future.

Sympathy is extended to the Coady family on the death of Michael Coady. Michael was a loyal supporter of the club and the game of hurling in particular; to the Dormer family of Deerpark on the death of their mother. James Dormer is a committee member of the club and Michael, who is now residing in America, played with Erin's Own for many years; to the Coogan family of Firoda on the death of Tom Coogan. The late Mr. Coogan was a regular Erin's Own supporter and is father of current player, Eamonn, and former players Seamus and Tom; to the Fogarty family on the death of Tommy Fogarty, who is father of the present club chairman, Martin Fogarty; to the O'Brien family on the death of John O'Brien, father of former club stalwarts Ber, Paddy and Jim O'Brien. May they all rest in peace.

FENIANS

Nineteen ninety-two was a year of mixed luck for the club. Winning the Special Junior A County Final and thus achieving Junior status for the coming year was a major highlight. Indeed, the same team was unlucky not to lift the League title, having beaten several Junior teams on the way to the final. If the same effort is produced next year, this team need fear no other, especially when we recall their brilliant first half display in the County Final against the Shamrocks.

Our senior team suffered from a major

bout of inconsistency, which was not helped by a long period of inactivity during the peak hurling season. A good run in the league brought the team to the semi-final against Mullinavat, but a poor second half performance saw them bow out when a victory seemed easier. The same team, having reached the championship semi-final, did not play up to form, and suffered a disappointing defeat at the hands of Tullaroan. It was a day when nothing went right, a day of near misses, bad breaks and hard luck.

The club's Under-21's, of whom a great deal was expected, lost out to Graigue/Ballycallan at the second round stage. As things turned out, the loss of a number of key players through injury proved too great a burden for the team.

While both these losses were disappointing, the scene is not all doom and gloom. There was a much improved atmosphere about the club, especially towards training, and each evening saw large and enthusiastic attendances at training sessions. The general feeling in the club is that we have learned from our mistakes of the past year, and that, come next season, the will and determination to go all the way will be even greater. It must also be remembered that our 1992 senior team included eight under-21 players – are

we asking too much, too soon?

An Under-14 Féile Laighean victory provided the only underage trophy to come to the club in 1992. This, however, does not reflect the great work being done by a number of dedicated individuals. It is very important that this work should continue, and that assistance be provided by parents, teachers and club members wherever possible. Our underage teams have enjoyed considerable success in recent years, and occasional barren spells are inevitable.

Turning to off-the-field activities, the club participated very successfully in the Piltown/County Board Draw, securing over 11 prizes, including two cars, a £1,000 prize, and several minor, but worthwhile,

prizes. It is hoped that next year will be just as successful.

In 1993, the Fenians Hurling Club will be celebrating the 25th anniversary of its foundation. To mark this occasion, and to commemorate the first County title (Junior, 1968), a celebration dance and presentation is being held on Friday, January 29th, 1993. Details are available from any club official.

During the past year, the club lost two great Gaels, Jimmy Ryan, who was a founder member, and a selector of that historic '68 team, and Maurice Walsh, who trained the 1970 senior team.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a n-anamacha.

GALMOY

The past year saw the emergence of many young players in the Galmoy club, replacing some loyal servants on the playing field. This was most obvious in the first round of the Junior Hurling Championship, when Galmoy fielded eight players of 18 years and younger. The investment in youth almost paid dividends when the team was narrowly defeated by Lisdowney in a close finish.

Despite this early exit from the championship, training continued throughout the summer as the club minors and Under-21 side kept up the effort. It was heartening to see so many young players, both boys and girls, in the local field as the Minor hurlers marched to the Roinn C county final. After a great battle, Galmoy just lost out to Tullagher-Rosbercon by a one point margin. The most encouraging aspect of the final was the way the team fought back to within one point of their rivals, having been seven points in arrears at one stage. It is encouraging that eleven of the side are again underage for the 1993 minor hurling championship.

The Under-14 team participated in the 11-a-side league where they gave some creditable performances despite having to give way to some physically stronger sides. A point of interest here was the participation of some girls on the team in an effort to maintain interest in the competition.

The Under-21 team were entered in the Special 11-a-side competition after an absence of 5 years from the Under-21 grade and defeated neighbours the Emeralds in the semi-final, qualifying to meet Windgap in the county final. Galmoy were impressive winners in this game.

The Junior hurlers continued to hurl after June, reaching the final of the Galmoy tournament, in which they played a draw against St. Lachtain's. The replay is likely to take place in the Spring. The team also participated in the Paddy Cahill Cup competition, defeating Erin's Own and holders, Cloneen, to qualify for the final in which they played St. Lachtain's. The club also entered the County Junior Open Draw competition.

The club ran two very successful tournaments during the year, a Junior hurling tournament in which the host club participated, and a senior hurling tournament which saw Laois sides Camross and Errill contest the final. Camross were convincing winners. The club is grateful to everyone who assisted in making both tournaments such a great success.

Off the field, the revival of the Club Dinner Dance – after a lapse of a number of years – was a wonderful success, celebrating the 25th anniversary of the club's last success in the Junior championship. It is hoped to continue the function on an annual basis.

The Galmoy club once again participated in the County Board/Hurlers' Co-op. draw and gracious thanks is due to club secretary, Sean Doherty, who was almost entirely responsible for the success of the venture in the local parish. It was pleasing to see so many from the parish and club, particularly juveniles, in Croke Park, during the year supporting Kilkenny teams.

In our excellent pavilion the games of squash, racquetball and handball provided great entertainment throughout the winter months with the successful running of

various leagues and it is hoped these will continue with increased numbers.

Galmoy players contributed significantly to the school teams during the past year. Philip Brennan, Declan Fitzpatrick and John Phelan were members of the victorious St. Fergal's College, Rathdowney, while Kevin Lonergan and Brendan Ryan won Junior medals with the Johnstown Vocational school side. Galmoy minor captain Brian Lonergan played at corner back on the Kilkenny Vocational school senior team which lost to Galway in the All-Ireland final. Paul Morrissey was involved with the Kilkenny under-16 team. Daniel Delaney participated creditably with the Kilkenny Under-14 team, while the club was represented by Michael Brennan in the Long Puck competition.

When the call came from the Co. Board for stewards for the All-Ireland Under-21 final between Waterford and Offaly, the Galmoy club answered the call with six club officials acting as stewards on the day.

On the issue of sponsorship, the club wishes to thank Arcon for providing a set of jerseys; Billy McEvoy of Oldtown Construction for buying Kit Bags, and to many other sponsors who supported the club during the past year.

During the years, a number of prominent former players passed to their eternal reward. Billy Costigan played with Galmoy and Tullaroan and also played in the 1950 All-Ireland hurling final. Brother Jim Cleere was a great Galmoy and Kilkenny supporter, while Joseph Lennon was a great half-back with the club for many years.

GRAIGUE-BALLYCALLAN

THE highlight of the year was the winning of an All-Ireland senior hurling medal by Adrian Ronan, the first to come to the parish since Joe Millea won his in 1969. Everyone was disappointed when Adrian was dropped for the final for the second successive year. However, he came on for the final thirteen minutes and did extremely well. He scored the best point of the game and, from a Kilkenny point of view, the most important one as it put the game out of the reach of Cork. Adrian has now won All-Ireland medals in four grades – Colleges, Minor, Under-21 and Senior.

Denis Byrne, Eddie Dwyer and Ger Ronan each collected their second successive Leinster minor hurling medal when Kilkenny defeated Wexford in the Leinster Final. However, the team went down badly to the eventual All-Ireland champions Galway in the All-Ireland semi-final replay. From the club's point of view, it was a disastrous day with Eddie Dwyer suffering a serious knee injury that will keep him out of the game for a long time. The previous Sunday Eddie had made his first appearance with the Graigue-Ballycallan senior team as a substitute against Tullaroan and looked to have a bright future ahead of him. Hopefully he will make a full recovery.

Noel Maher and Tomás Comerford were members of the Kilkenny under-21 team. Noel had to opt out of the vital game against Offaly as he could not be released from Army duty. Tomás Comerford was a substitute for that game.

Damien Cleere and Alan Hoyne were members of the North Kilkenny under-16 team which lost the Leinster Blitz to the South Kilkenny team.

Michael Hoyne and John Hoyne were members of the Kilkenny under-14 hurling team which reached the final of the Tony Forristal Memorial Tournament. Kilkenny lost to Galway.

John Caldbeck continues to be a great servant of the Kilkenny football team and was a member of the team which lost to Westmeath in this year's Leinster junior football championship following a replay. He is also figuring on the Kilkenny football team in the current National Football League. John Teehan has also returned to the panel and came on as a substitute in the recent game against Mayo.

James Young collected an All-Ireland colleges' medal as a member of St. Kieran's College panel. He has returned to repeat his Leaving Certificate and on his present form with Graigue-Ballycallan should make

the team this year. Pat Comerford is also a member of the 1992/93 St. Kieran's panel.

The club has again maintained its record of winning a county title in some grade every year since 1984. This year the under-13 hurlers swept to victory in the



Michael Hoyne (Graigue-Ballycallan) who created a record by playing in his fifth successive under-13 hurling final. He also won the Kilkenny Long Puck competition.

Roinn A championship, beating St. Patrick's De La Salle by 2-7 to 4-0.

The minor hurlers won the Roinn A hurling league for the fifth time in six years with a sensational win over Graigue-namanagh/Blacks & Whites, despite playing with fourteen players for fifty-two minutes.

The senior hurlers made progress in the Credit Union senior hurling championship when they qualified for the quarter-finals for the first time since they returned to the senior grade in 1988. By finishing second in their group, they automatically qualified for the quarter-final of the championship and the semi-final of the league. The Ballyhale Shamrocks proved too strong for the locals, winning by 1-14 to 1-11 while Tullaroan reversed a previous league section defeat to oust the side from the championship on a 1-11 to 1-10 scoreline before a large attendance.

The special junior hurlers also went out of the championship by a one-point

margin to Young Irelands (Gowran) on a 2-7 to 1-9 scoreline.

The under-21 hurlers, after defeating a fancied Fenians side by 0-11 to 0-9, flopped in the Northern semi-final when they were no match for the reigning champions Dicksboro who beat them by 3-11 to 0-5.

The minor hurlers, who sadly missed the injured Sean Byrne, just failed to the eventual champions James Stephens. The final score was 1-12 to 1-10.

The under-16 hurlers made little progress in either the league or championship while the under-14 hurlers qualified for their third successive final but went down to a far better Mooncoin side by 4-6 to 0-3. They later won the Coolagh Patterni tournament and the Diarmuid Shortall memorial tournament run by the O'Loughlin Gaels G.A.A. club. The side also won the Paddy Grace memorial tournament and qualified to represent the county at Féile na nGael in Galway. They were the only team to take a point from the eventual champions, Ballyboden St. Enda's from Dublin, with whom they played a draw. They lost to Athenry but defeated Castlegar.

The senior footballers did not win any game, losing to Glenmore (3-7 to 1-4), James Stephens (2-9 to 0-6) and Muckalee (1-11 to 0-4). The under-16 footballers lost out to Young Irelands (Gowran) in a vital league game.

Michael Hoyne created a record when he played in the under-13 hurling final. It was his fifth final appearance in this grade. This is a record not likely to be equalled. He also won the long puck competition and represented Kilkenny in the Leinster competition where he was unlucky. Michael also won a competition in conjunction with the Artane Boys' Band and had the honour of being the flag bearer with the band at the All-Ireland senior hurling final. The previous year Michael was a member of the I.N.T.O. skills team which played during the interval. Undoubtedly a great double for Michael.

John Hoyne captained Kilkenny C.B.S. to win the long delayed Rice Cup final. James Cullinane from the Graigue-Ballycallan club was a team mate of John's on the Kilkenny C.B.S. side. Graigue-Ballycallan players on the opposing side, Callan C.B.S., were Martin Bourke, Sean Millea, John Kenny and Patrick Nugent.

Joseph Young was goalkeeper on the St.

Kieran's team which lost the Leinster Colleges' juvenile hurling final to Good Counsel (New Ross). He is substitute goalkeeper on the St. Kieran's team which has reached the 1992/93 Junior Colleges' final. Alan Hoyne won a Leinster Colleges Roinn C junior football medal when he helped Kilkenny C.B.S. to win their first ever title in this grade.

Jimmy Neary was a selector for the third successive year with the Kilkenny minor hurling team. Noel Maher won the 'man of the match' award in the annual Army v. Banks tournament game. His opponent was none other than Peter Finnerty (Galway).

The club ran a very successful cabaret for Eddie Dwyer which was well supported. During the year also the club ran a monster raffle which was a great success, netting a profit of £29,000. They purchased land from Avonmore Creameries with a view to developing a new playing pitch.

Club member Pat Hayes refereed the intermediate county final between Young Irelands (Gowran) and Conahy Shamrocks.

The under-21 footballers have qualified for the Northern final, Roinn B, in which they will meet Clara.

The under-14 footballers lost out to John Lockes in the Roinn B county final. This was the first time the club reached this

particular final. The final score was John Lockes 3-4, Graigue-Ballycallan 1-4.

Damien Cleere starred with the Kilkenny under-16 team which won the Nenagh Cop. sponsored inter-county tournament. Damien scored 2-4 in the semi-final against Clare and 1-2 in the final against Tipperary. His goal and a point in the closing stages were the vital scores.

Paul Hoyne, who could not play because of injury, and John Hoyne won Leinster Colleges' junior hurling medals 1992/93 as members of the Kilkenny C.B.S. team which beat St. Kieran's.

GLENMORE



Glenmore under-16 hurling Roinn B championship and league winners and under-16 football Roinn B championship winners. Back: Fergal Freyne, Niall Mackey, Fintan Walshe, Ciaran Lynch, John Phelan, Raymond Culleton, Paul Fitzgerald, Dermot Mernagh, Sean Aylward, Shane Hartley, Donie Dowling, Declan Cody, Richard Mullally. Front: Thomas Barry, Tommy Griffin, Declan Cottrell, Paddy Mullally, Mark Mullally, Willie Fitzgerald and Noel Doherty.

What an exciting year it was for the Glenmore glen across the whole gambit of club activities.

Our senior hurlers regained the senior championship, our club men collected All-Ireland medals, and numerous awards all over the place, our under-16 lads have won everything in Roinn "B" competition that had to be won. Our club has the distinction of being the first club to compete in senior and intermediate championships simultaneously. Our minor hurlers won the Roinn "B" championship. Our under-14 lads competed in a mini-Féile and came through to beat Windgap in the final. Our schoolboys, competing in the under-13 11-a-side succeeded in reaching the final but unfortunately we were beaten by Newmarket. It was glory, glory all the way for Glenmore and Eddie O'Connor, Willie O'Connor, Liam Walsh, Michael Phelan and Christy Heffernan on the first Sunday in September in Croke Park. Hopefully, Eddie will be collecting the "Liam Óg" next September, to be the first man from Glenmore to do so.

Our path to the "Tom Walsh Cup" is outlined elsewhere in this publication. Additionally, we won no fewer than four tournaments in Dicksboro, Mullinavat, Kill and Butlerstown. In all, our senior players played 24 matches so far.

Our intermediate team had a long season. They played 19 competitive games. The combination of losing key players to the senior team and injuries, it looked for a time that relegation to junior ranks was a distinct possibility. However, our lads came really good with a good win over Piltown to avoid the inevitable. Our special junior team also played well throughout the season, reaching the South semi-final. Mullinavat beat us, and went on to win the county title. This team played 10 games in all. In the senior football championship we were depleted in the semi-final against the Railyard. Defeat was our fate by the "Northerners" who went on to win the county final.

Our under-21 footballers reached the 1991 county final, only to be beaten by Dicksboro in a good final. The 1992

championship has not yet started, and as most of this team are still under-age, we should have a good chance of taking the title.

One aspect of our minor team is that 11 of the players are eligible for minor competition for the next two years. The brothers, Eddie and Willie O'Connor were chosen on the Smithwicks/Sunday Independent team of the championship. They received their awards at a function in the Burlington Hotel.

We had four players from the club on the South Kilkenny under-16 team. They were Ciaran Lynch, Paddy and Mark Mullally and John Phelan. Richard Mullally captained the Good Council Colleges team that won the Leinster under-14 championship, beating St. Kieran's in the final.

During the year the club was saddened to lose two of its greatest servants, Tommy Fitzgerald and John Synnott. Tommy, who won 7 senior football titles was chairman of the Football Board.

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*Kilkenny Intermediate
Football Finalists 1992*



BACK ROW (l.-r.): Geoff O'Shea, Seamus Dooley, Paudie Brennan, Kieran Brennan, Canice Brennan, Nickey Brennan, John Feehan, Pat Gunner. FRONT ROW (l.-r.): Tom Brennan, Eoin Murphy, Seanie Mahony, Padraig Downey, Paul Brennan, Brian Lacey, Eamonn Delaney. Inset: Gearóid Brennan.

Well done Kilkenny!



After the match
drop in for a pint
and a bit of "craic"
to

"CHRISTY'S"

**Patrick Street,
Kilkenny**

JOHN LOCKES/COOLAGH

ANY club that is in competition throughout the season could be considered to have had an interesting and fruitful season. So it was with the John Lockes Hurling Club and Coolagh Football Club. Even though the sideboard is not exactly laden with silverware, the clubs did have a modicum of success on a number of fronts.

At the very commencement of the year, our local Secondary School blazed a winning trail all the way to the all-Kilkenny Leinster Colleges' senior hurling final. This saga had the townspeople and its hinterland travelling to Thomastown, New Ross, Carlow and Nowlan Park as the unfancied Coláiste Eamon Rís conquered everything, that is until it ran headlong into the might of St. Kieran's College – eventual All-Ireland Colleges' champions – where the Callan lads had to give second best. Nevertheless, these boys gave a terrific account of themselves in a competition that at the outset they would have entertained slim hopes of winning, having been upgraded to the Roinn "A" grade.

A reflected glory on the club came in the McNamee Award early in the year. Club P.R.O. Barry Henriques was the Editor of the Kilkenny Yearbook which won the prestigious award for G.A.A. publications, the first time a Kilkenny publication had ever won such an award.

Due to the unavailability of manpower our under-14 hurlers did not get the adult input it deserved, and consequently their achievements suffered. They incurred two early defeats and consequently their interest was short-lived. However, later in the year the same bunch of young lads brought the only county title to the club with a magnificent win in their under-14 football campaign, beating Graigue-Ballycallan in a terrific win. Great credit must go to mentors Tom Ryan, Tom Walsh and John Murphy. Maybe there is a lesson to be gleaned here.

Our under-16 our team played a number of matches against some stiff opposition. They won two of their League matches but, unfortunately, failed to make the "cut". In the championship our lads walked headlong into all-conquering Glenmore.

Our minor team did not have the best of luck in their outings. They won two of their League outings but failed to get through in a tough division. In the first round of their championship they met – you guessed it! – Glenmore. Unfortunately, our lads were no match for the far South lads and they made an early exit from the fray.

At under-21 the lads put in a supreme effort and expectations were high. We had a very convincing win over a fancied Tullogher side and it was thought that we

had a reasonable chance of winning something. The boys put a very committed effort into their training for their South semi-final outing against Kilmacow. Unfortunately, the team was afflicted by the same malady that seems to have afflicted all Callan adult teams all year – a poor start. We gave Kilmacow a head start of 13 points and then tried to catch them. It just couldn't be done, and so we bowed out of a championship that we could have won.

Great expectations were on the cards for our intermediate hurlers. They had a good league campaign, winning two matches and drawing one. However, we failed to get into the league quarter-finals so it was on to the championship proper. We were drawn against Piltown in the first round which was fixed for Hugginstown. However, due to a major problem regarding the replay date, we were awarded the match by the Co. Board.

Again the old malady of giving the opposition a start proved our undoing. We let the 'Shock men off with a six points' lead and paid the price, losing by two points.

Another highlight of the year was John Power bringing an All-Ireland senior medal back to Callan for the first time since 1957. The club and the whole town were ecstatic about his achievement and his contribution to the "cause".



JOHN BRINGS HOME LIAM! – John Power surrounded by happy John Lockes team-mates and club members

GRAIGNAMANAGH

FOLLOWING long years of protracted negotiations, just a few loose ends need to be tidied up before the playing pitch at Harristown passes into the hands of the club. Originally purchased and developed as a Town Park under the guidance of a Board of Trustees, the way is now clear for the G.A.A. club to take control of the area known as the 'Hurling Field' and proceed with the plans to provide the facilities so necessary for modern sporting pastimes.

A fund has been set up to build new dressing rooms and it is hoped that work in this department will commence during 1994. The Board of Trustees were most helpful in smoothing the way and when all the legal issues are finalised Graignamanagh will join the ever increasing number of clubs in Kilkenny with its own pitch and facilities.

It is a pity that this landmark in the club's history should come to fruition in the same year that the Senior Hurling team made the drop to the Intermediate grade. Following last year's encouraging results when they narrowly failed to qualify for the quarter-final stages there was a great air of optimism at the beginning of the season.

Early results didn't give rise for any alarm bells to start ringing and after a sound beating from St. Martin's, the team bounced back with a deserved win over Craigue/Ballycallan.

From there on though it was all downhill with comprehensive defeats by Glenmore, James Stephens and Erin's Own, thus making relegation a disappointing reality.

Life in the Intermediate grade will not be easy for the club, and with three Intermediate titles to our credit we are only too aware of how difficult our task is, if we are to take our place in the premier grade again.

The Special Junior hurlers made a great effort in reaching the Southern Final. Despite missing a few key players they put up a great display against a slick Ballyhale Shamrocks team before finally losing a thrilling game by five points. The team was mainly made of up under-21 and minor players and undoubtedly has a bright future.

The Minor hurling team once again marched through the South scoring emphatic wins over all opposition only to fall for the third successive year at the final hurdle. City team James Stephens again pulled something special out of the bag on the big day, leaving the united parish team (Graignamanagh/Blacks & Whites) still

seeking a first title in the Roinn A Championship.

It took two epic games to decide a winner from two evenly matched sides but Graignamanagh's best chance came in the drawn tie when they led from the start, only to be caught at the final whistle. An injury to star defender Sean Kealy upset the balance of the team as James Stephens scored the only goal of the game after he was forced to leave the field.

Sean's absence from the side for the replay was a decided blow to Graignamanagh. The team's valiant fightback in the final ten minutes of the replay had the huge crowd enthralled but the one goal needed just didn't materialise and so once again it was a case of what might have been.

The selection of Frank Doyle as 'Man of the Match' was a popular choice and was well deserved for his overall contribution to both club and county during a memorable year.

In a year when Graignamanagh made the drop back to the Intermediate grade, one of the club's former stars, Michael Morrissey, was adding another medal to his already impressive collection. Michael, who transferred to Cuala (Dublin) in 1987, was a substitute on the victorious Kilkenny Senior team and so completed the grand slam of the All-Ireland medals at Minor, Junior, Under-21 and Senior levels. He thus joins a unique band of hurlers who have won medals at all four grades.

JAMES STEPHEN'S - THE VILLAGE

One hundred and thirty games played from under-14 to senior and some people still suggest "sure there's no problem to running a club!" To list all the events which took place in this short space is impossible but here goes!

The club began with the election of former chairman Bill Cody to the post of President in succession to the late Seamus Fry.

Our senior hurlers began their campaign with much hope. An excellent win over eventual champions Glenmore and Dicksboro but lost narrowly to the Fenians, Shamrocks and Clara in the league. In the championship proper, Clara defeated us again by 5-9 to 1-14. This left us with a relegation play-off game against Graignamanagh which we duly won by 3-17 to 2-7.

January and February saw us compete successfully in the most enjoyable winter football league in which we defeated Railyard in the final by 3-11 to 3-7 at wet and windy Ballyragget. However, the men from the Railyard reversed this result in a top class county final in July winning by the narrowest of margins. Tommy Fogarty captained the Kilkenny junior football team in the championship v Westmeath and played excellently for Kilkenny throughout the National League.

With a mixture of youth and experience our junior hurlers, trained by Mick Crotty, promised much with a first class win over

St. Patrick's, Ballyragget in the first round. However Emeralds halted us in round 2 with the narrowest of wins 1-11 to 1-10 after a tremendous game in Tullaroan.

Much credit however must go to the Junior III team, twelve of them minors, who won the Junior III league against O'Loughlin's by 3-10 to 4-6 and who put up an excellent performance against Barrow Rangers in the Northern Final going down by a point. Team captain was Patsy Kelly.

In fact the club went out of six championships by one point during the season - a rather frustrating record! There is no doubt that the policy of introducing players in the 17-18 age range to adult hurling grades paid dividends both for our junior teams and the players' development as hurlers.

Our minors began the year well by winning the 1991 county minor football championship defeating Kilmoganny in Bennettsbridge. It was a pulsating game and it took a brilliant last minute save by Francis Cantwell to ensure victory. Team captain was Eamon Daly. That was our eleventh county title of 1991 - surely a record in county Kilkenny.

Again the club policy of fielding two minor hurling teams during the season

paid rich dividends with the "A" team retaining their county title after two titanic struggles against Graignamanagh/Black and Whites. Our "B" team reached the Northern Final with a good win over

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Hurling "1642 Style" – James Stephens prior to their historic meeting with Dicksboro during "Confederation Week"

Back row (l.-r.): Davy Brennan, Michael Slattery, Derek Kerwick, Brian Dooley, Seamus McGuire, John Joe Cullen, Malcolm Murphy, Declan Forristal, Niall Lahart, John Grace. Front row (l.-r.): Brian McEvoy, Brian McGrath, Tommy Fogarty, Jimmy Drennan, Brian Leahy, Fergal Cantwell, Liam Hennessy, Martin Ryan, Leo Hennessy.

Bennettsbridge in the semi. However, on the day, Galmoy proved too strong and won convincingly in the end. At the time of writing our footballers have not yet set out to defend their title.

Brian McEvoy captained Kilkenny minor hurlers to victory in the Leinster Final. Panel members from the club included Clive Kenny, Liam Smith, Shane Doyle, Francis Cantwell and Peter Barry.

Our annual Peter Conroy/Paddy Mullen minor hurling blitz in June was won by Glen Rovers (Cork) who defeated Graignamagh/Black and Whites in the final by 2-12 to 1-7 after extra time.

The under-16 footballers began the year well by defeating Piltown 1-7 to 0-7 in the league final. However, Dunnamaggin ended their interest in the hurling league at the semi-final stage. Close victories over Craig-Ballycallan and O'Loughlin's led to a thrilling county final against Piltown. But the Southerners proved too strong at the final whistle – but only by that frustrating one point margin again 1-13 to 4-3. Well done to mentors Sean Doyle, Willie Smith, Michael Tyrrell, Sean O'Keefe, Seamus Kennedy and Timmy Grogan for managing two under-16 teams.

Our under-14 team reached the Féile na Gael final only to be beaten by Craig-Ballycallan who proved to be our bogey team at this grade. Our second under-14 team hosted Crumlin, Dublin, for the Leinster Féile and played in 15-a-side and 11-a-side championships going to the county semi-final against Tullogher-Rosbercon but losing 3-7 to 2-4. Craig-

Ballycallan again finished our interest in the championship Roinn A by 2-10 to 2-5 after a good run in the league.

Congratulations to Shane Doyle, Liam Smith, Clive Kenny, Vincent O'Brien, Peter Barry, Eugene Somers in winning All-Ireland Colleges senior medals with St. Kieran's.

A major development in our club this year was the extensive refurbishment of our members bar and social club. The project was managed by the bar treasurer and bar manager (Matt Kelly and Michael Leahy respectively) and involved a complete redesign and development undertaken during Lent 1992! This provides brand new facilities for our members who give great support to our club both on and off the field.

Confederation Hurling

Dicksboro 0-24; James Stephens 0-6

One of the most appreciative and biggest crowds of the hurling season turned out at the Castle Yard on 14th June, 1992, to see a most unusual challenge – James Stephens played Dicksboro under the earliest rules of hurling. Over 8,000 people saw the game which was sponsored by McCorry Construction as part of the Kilkenny Federation Festival. Both sides entered into the spirit of the occasion, sporting long baggy togs and peaked caps (turned backwards of course). All players carried 42 inch hurleys, generously sponsored by Mick Neary. The ball used was of "enormous" proportions, rather like a small football,

which made striking it long distances nigh on impossible. Side posts, like Australian Rules football, were used for scoring points, while a goal was worth six points. Obviously the team that manager to score goals would win, and so it proved, with Dicksboro winning well. Dicksboro wore the Blue and Gold of Tipperary while Jas Stephens wore the Black and Amber. In the tradition of the times a most enjoyable evening, presided over by the man with the "feadóg" Phil 'Fan' Larkin – a most impartial referee.

Presidents visit to James Stephen's

On 16th March last Mr. Peter Quinn, President of G.A.A., honoured our club by presenting county championship medals for 1991 to our successful minors and under-16's.

Our Ladies' Committee provided an excellent meal for our members and guests and Peter Quinn enthralled us. In a stirring address he urged our young players to play Gaelic Games in true sporting fashion. Rarely indeed has a group of sixty players and a hundred adults listened so intently and finally cheered so appreciatively.

Afterwards he entertained many of us with anecdotes and stories about his G.A.A. experiences, preferring to remain in our club than return to a formal reception in the city.

We thank him for his time with us and wish him well in his presidency.

KILMACOW

The hurling activity started way back in the dreary month of February under the expert guidance of Noel Skehan. We faced Dunnamaggin in the semi-final of the Piltown (1991) tournament, but defeat was our lot on that occasion, on a score of 2-6 to 1-10. After a series of good challenge matches, expectations for an impressive championship campaign were high. We met Windgap in the first round in Piltown on April 19th. To the delight of our supporters, we won by a goal and two points (2-9 to 1-7). Our next outing was a daunting encounter against Tullogher-Rosbercon. The Tullogher lads had been relegated from the Intermediate grade the previous season. Our men really couldn't get going, and so we came out on the wrong end of a 3-12 to 1-10 scoreline.

We accounted for Thomastown in our final championship match which pitted us against Tullogher in the South semi-final in Mullinavat. Our hopes were high that we would "take" the "Rosbercon men" on this occasion. Playing with the wind in the first half, our lads were very slow to settle down. That and the shooting of very bad wides saw us leading at half-time by 1-6 to 0-3. One felt that this would not have been sufficient to gain victory. Dermot Haberlin scored our first-half goal. Our first score in that second-half arrived in the 13th minute and we could only muster two more points for a final score of 1-9 to Tullogher's 1-11. Our stars on the day were Ned Gahan in goal, Gerry Mulligan at full-back, Tommy Quinlan – until injured – and Andy Egan. Others who tried hard were Declan Gahan, Jim Kinsella, Denis Scully, John Dalton and Paddy Gahan. The team was N. Gahan, T. Quinlan, A. Egan, G. Mulligan, D. Gahan, J. Kinsella (0-1), D. Scully, J. Dalton (0-1), S. Caulfield (captain), D. Tierney (0-3), P. Gahan (0-1), R. Dalton (0-1), J. Forristal (0-1), D. Haberlin (1-0), P. Long.

Subs: T. Sutton (0-1), G. Power, S. Ryan, P. Ryan, G. O'Neill, T. Vereker.

All was not lost however for our junior team as we had a very creditable and hard-earned win in the Carrigeen Tournament. We beat our ould "enemies" Dunnamaggin by 3 points (4-7 to 2-10). The winning team was N. Gahan, S. Ryan, G. Mulligan, J. Phelan, D. Scully, A. Ryan, S. Caulfield, P. Ryan, P. Long, T. Sutton, J. Forristal, J. O'Neill, R. Ryan, D. Haberlin, G. Power.

Subs: D. Tierney, B. Walsh.

However, we failed to Windgap to retain the Carrick Davin's Tournament, losing by six points.



The Kilmacow junior team defeated by Tullogher in the Souther Semi-Final.

Back row (l.-r.): Denis Scully, Thomas Quinlan, Andy Ryan, Declan Gahan, Paddy Gahan, John Forristal, John Dalton, Jim Kinsella. Front row (l.-r.): Gerry Mulligan, Dermot Tierney, Paul Long, Jimmy Walsh (Mascot), Eamon Gahan, Sean Caulfield (Captain), Dermot Haberlin, Robert Dalton.

In the special junior Roinn 'B' championship, Kilmacow had their best "run" for ages. After an unbeaten campaign, they faced Dunnamaggin in the South semi-final in a tough, uncompromising, encounter they eventually won by a single point (0-10 to 0-9). The final against Mullinavat in Mooncoin was a bit of an anti-climax. Our lads were no match for Mullinavat and were subsequently beaten by 2-9 to 0-4. We did however have sterling performers in Ian O'Callaghan at full-back, Liam Rockett at midfield and Toby Vereker. The team was:

P. Walsh, L. Vereker, I. O'Callaghan, E. Reddy, T. Vereker (captain), J. Phelan, T. Reddy, L. Rockett, T. Kennedy, J. O'Neill, N. Grace, H. Walsh, G. O'Neill, A. Long, D. McNamara.

Subs: P. Phelan, S. Ryan, B. Walsh.

In minor hurling our lads had mixed fortunes. They beat Graignamanagh/Black and Whites in the League quite comprehensively by 1-11 to 2-2. This was an excellent performance by our very young team. They followed this victory up with a championship/league double over Dunnamaggin. We faced Mooncoin in Mullinavat in the second round of the championship. A combination of atrocious conditions, and the loss of five regular players took their toll, and Mooncoin ran out easy winners on a score of 3-10 to 0-5. Unfortunately our team were beaten in the semi-final of the league by Graig-Ballycallan (2-15 to 1-8). Our team was: B. O'Callaghan, K. Dollard, I. O'Callaghan, P. Fleming, E. Gahan, T. Reddy, P. Ryan, T. Sutton, D. Tierney, B. Walsh, P. Gahan, N. Walsh, D. Sutton, M. Sweeney, M. Ryan.

Subs: A. Allen, D. Laffan, D. Drennan, R. Walsh, R. Holden, B. Gaule.

In intermediate football we won our way to the county semi-final only to be beaten by Conahy Shamrocks (3-9 to 0-7). Our footballers were:

D. Lowe, T. Quinlan, G. Mulligan, S. Purcell, J. Kinsella, A. Ryan, S. Caulfield, J.

Dalton, N. Walsh, P. Grace, T. Sutton, R. Ryan, J. Forristal, N. Gahan.

Subs: D. Gahan, S. Ryan, F. Walsh.

On the inter-county scene the club provided representatives for various teams and they each in turn did their club proud. Peter Mullally played on the under-14 team that was beaten in the Tony Forristal Tournament in Waterford. Peter played in goal.

Brian O'Callaghan also played in goal for the county under-16 team, while Paddy Gahan won a Leinster medal with the minor team. Five players: Brian O'Callaghan, Dermot Tierney, Peter Ryan, Trevor Sutton, Tomás Reddy and Paddy Gahan were on the South Kilkenny team, while Peter Ryan and Eamon Gahan were on the Kilkenny minor football team that won the international football tournament in Clare during the summer.

Tomás Reddy was on the Kilkenny Vocational team that was beaten in the All-Ireland final. Declan and Paddy Gahan were on the senior football team and Sean Caulfield again played on the county junior hurling team.



Sean Caulfield, Captain of Kilmacow Junior Hurling team 1992.

LISDOWNEY

The year started in a celebratory mood, as the club toasted the successes of the junior, minor and under-16 teams from last year's exploits.

On the hurling front the under-13 team was unbeaten in the Roinn 'D' northern section, but failed at the penultimate hurdle to Slieverue. Our under-14 lads had a very impressive first outing against Cloneen, winning quite handsomely, but failed at the next "flight" to a strong Bennettsbridge outfit. The under-16 team really set the place on fire with good wins over Clara and James Stephens second string. Unfortunately it all came to a rather unsatisfactory end when Tullaroan were awarded a match in controversial circumstances. After last year's double of Minor League and Championship we had to campaign in a higher grade. In the Roinn "B" championship we had a stirring victory over neighbours Ballyragget, but the bubble burst when we failed by 5 points to account for Conahy. Our lads suffered a complete loss of form in this encounter.

In junior hurling we had a mixed bag of success. We had to play second fiddle to Black and Whites at the semi-final stages of the Northern Championship. In the junior league however the story was quite different. It was in this competition that a little bit of silverware appeared on the Lisdowney sideboard. We beat neighbours, Ballyragget, in the play-off stage by two points in an absolute thriller. We then hammered St. Lachtain's in the semi-final by 10 points and in a closely fought final the Fenians were accounted for by a margin of three points.

The Lisdowney/Coca Cola sevens was a tremendous winner again this year with



LISDOWNEY – Northern Junior Hurling League Winners 1992

Front row (l.-r.): Paul Grogan, Michael Downey, Lar McEvoy, Tom Carroll, Billy McEvoy, Ollie Blanchfield, Michael Carroll, Shay Downey, Mick Campion, John Carroll, Canice Mackey. Back row (l.-r.): Mick Henderson, Richie Mackey, P. J. Kenny, Gerry Henderson, Mick Gorman, Mark Tallis, John Kennedy, Mick Fitzpatrick, Kevin Wall, Garry Tallis, Tony Thornton.



BALLYHALE – Lisdowney/Coca-Cola Sevens Winners 1992.

Photographed is the team plus L. Hamilton (Organiser), Joe Dunphy (Ballyhale), Eamonn Dunne (Organiser), Eamon Nolan (Coca-Cola), Kieran Costelloe (Chairman) and Tommy Maher (Organiser).

teams from Kilkenny, Laois, Carlow, Kildare, Dublin, Tipperary and Cork taking part – 36 teams overall. Ballyhale Shamrocks were the supreme champions winning the Sweeney Cup, while St. Lactain's won the "plate" competition

and the Kilkenny Supporters' Club Trophy. The winners and runners-up in each competition received Coca-Cola trophies.

Club officers: chairman: Kieran Costello; secretary: Canice Mackey; treasurer: Lar Carroll; P.R.O.: Eamonn Dunne.

MOONCOIN

The highlight of the year for Mooncoin G.A.A. club was undoubtedly the winning of the Intermediate hurling league. The team gave a great display in the final against Gowran, which featured some lovely flowing hurling and fine individual scores.

Our special junior 'A' team reached the southern semi-final, and our under-21 hurlers reached the Southern Final. Club and parish are especially proud that our own Tom Murphy won an All-Ireland medal with Kilkenny this year.

Ned Quinn was elected chairman of the Southern Board, while Dick Dunphy was

elected trustee to the Kilkenny Co. Board. Another Mooncoin clubman, Tom Delahunty, is vice-chairman of Bórd na nÓg and was also a county minor selector. Tom O'Hanlon is a Kilkenny county senior, Under-21, Minor and Under-14 football selector, and Billy O'Keefe is vice-chairman of the Football County Board.

Clubmen Liam Purcell and Joe Murphy are members of the Kilkenny football team, while Pat Hogan was a member of the Kilkenny under-21 hurling panel.

The club was shocked and saddened during 1992 by the death of John Joe Henneby, who lost his life in a tragic

accident on the building site at Waterford Regional Hospital.

Juvenile section

Our minors reached the Southern Final only to lose to Graignamanagh Black and Whites.

At under-16 level, our hurlers were victorious in the League by virtue of their defeat of Dunnamaggin in the final, and also reached the Southern Final but had to give best to eventual county champions, Piltown, after a replay. Our under-14 hurlers were successful in the Leinster Féile, with victory over Craobh Chiaráin in

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the final. The team also won the county 'A' hurling championship and also reached the Under-14 'A' football final in which they were beaten by Dicksboro.

Our under-13 primary school hurling team reached the county final, but were defeated by Clara by a single point.

Eamonn Mackey represented Mooncoin on the county minor hurling team, while Eoin Hennegan, Brian Conway and Mark Tyler featured on the Kilkenny team which made history by winning the first underage International football championship, which took place at Ennis, and involved teams from London, New York and Clare.

Billy Quinn, Liam Sutton and Michael Purcell were key players on the Kilkenny team which won the Nenagh Co-Op hurling tournament. Willie Walsh, Jason McCarthy and Mark Dobbyn wore the Black and Amber in the very successful Leinster under-16 blitz. Willie John Kinsella, Mark Tyler and Oliver Dunphy played major roles on the Kilkenny Vocational Schools team which was defeated in the All-Ireland final.

Liam Walsh, Eddie Mackey, Ger Kirwan and Diarmuid Mackey formed the backbone of the Kilkenny team which was narrowly defeated in the final of the Tony Forristal Memorial hurling tournament held at Waterford. The same players, along with clubmate, Lee Kelly, also performed with distinction and success in the Leinster under-14 football blitz.

Eoin Hennebery was the club representative on the Kilkenny under-12 selection which took part in a tournament organised over Leinster Final weekend.

Tragedy also befell a member of our juvenile club, when James Tobin R.I.P., lost his life in a motorcycle accident. The late James' father, Eddie, is a long-serving member of the juvenile section, and is also a selector.



MOONCOIN – Under-16 League Champions.

Back row (l.-r.): T. Coady, L. Sutton, W. Walsh, J. McCarthy, O. Dunphy, M. Purcell, B. Quinn. Front row (l.-r.): B. Purcell, G. Kirwan, R. Delahunty, C. Doyle, J. Power, B. Tobin, W. Sinnott, D. Coady.



MOONCOIN – Under-14 Roinn 'A' Hurling Champions

Back row (l.-r.): S. Tyler, P. Fewer, E. Mackey, P. Delahunty, K. Phelan, R. Roche, N. Synnott, L. Walsh. Front row (l.-r.): L. Kelly, G. Moran, G. Kirwan, E. Doyle, D. Mackey, T. Walsh, L. Dunphy.

MULLINAVAT

It was indeed a very good year for our club, with success for teams and individuals the order of the day. Firstly our seniors hammered their way to the first League Final in sunny Páirc an Seamroga, Ballyhale. Our opponents were the Ballyhale Shamrocks. Our lads put in a very creditable performance, but having conceded two soft goals very early in the game it was an uphill battle to the finish. The final score was Shamrocks 2-11, Mullinavat 0-11.

Our special juniors had a tremendous year. They had a few close shaves on the way to their title, not least of which was the South semi-final, where we only had a

point to spare at the finish. Kilmacow in the South Final were a little less troublesome. We beat Barrow Rangers in an exciting county final. The men who brought that honour to the parish were:

M. Murphy, J. Kelly, A. Aylward, E. Kelly, D. Carroll, D. Butler, J. J. Aylward, P. Rohan, L. Aylward, J. O'Keefe, W. Delahunty, P. Kenneally, R. Carroll, J. Fitzgerald, R. Aylward.

Subs: Jack O'Keefe, B. Conway, W. Walsh, P. Dungan, P. Raftice, A. Conway, F. Conway, P. Lannon, J. Geary.

Our minors too had a very rewarding year. They won the county Roinn "C" League beating minor champions, Tullo-

gher/Rosbercon in a terrific final in Piltown. This was a great game in conditions that were not conducive to good hurling. This was a game that was won in a torrid first half. Playing against the wind our lads never gave the Tullogher men an inch of breathing space. There were heroics needed and performed by our defending sextet. Brian Conway and David Dungan were a terrible thorn in the Tullogher side. But in the opinion of most neutrals, the outstanding player on the field was Oliver Aylward, playing at corner forward. His goal in the first half was probably the most vital score of the game. Our heroes in Piltown were: B. Conway, E. Aylward, J.



Andy Aylward, Captain Mullinavat Special Junior hurling team after receiving the cup.



MULLINAVAT – Minor Hurling Team – Winners of Roinn 'C' League.

Back row: John Butler, Eamon Aylward, Raymond Carroll, John O'Keefe, Patrick Rohan (Captain), John Geary, William Atkins, Patrick Aylward. Front row: Raymond Walsh, Brendan Conway, Derek Dungan, Brian Conway, Oliver Aylward, Maurice Holden, Maurice Murphy.

Butler, P. Aylward, M. Murphy, P. Rohan (captain), M. Holden, Jack O'Keefe, W. Atkins, B. Conway, R. Walsh, D. Dungan, O. Aylward, J. Geary, R. Carroll.

Subs: T. Walsh, L. Murphy, J. O'Keefe, R. Kenneally, P. Delahunty, M. Aylward, T. Cleere and D. Wall.

Our under-21 team were most unfortunate to "pull" Carrickshock in their first round outing. It took two great games of hurling to sort out the outcome of this one. Our lads gave everything that was in them on both occasion, but alas, Carrickshock were victorious at the finish.

Our junior footballers reached the South Final only to be beaten by a good Piltown team by a single point.

The juvenile teams crowned themselves with honour and credit. Both the under-14 and under-16 teams took a lot of "scalps" in a very full and rewarding season. The under-14s in particular had a great season which saw them reaching the county semi-final. They had to give best to a terrific Lisdowney outfit, but only after two magnificent games.

The club owes a great debt of gratitude to Maurice Mason who, as trainer of the senior team, restored a lot of pride and enthusiasm in our club. His experience was of immense value to our young players.

There was great joy and excitement in the club when two of our players were on the Kilkenny team that brought the Liam McCarthy Cup, back to the Nore. Congratulations are rightfully accorded to Joe Walsh and Pat Hoban on their All-Ireland success.



MULLINAVAT – Under-13 Semi-Finalists Roinn 'B'. With Pat Bacon and Liam Kenneally.

O'LOUGHLIN GAELS

THE fact that key players were missing for most of the year prevented a settled side lining out in either the league or championship. We eventually bowed out of the intermediate championship, compliments of Young Irelanders from Gowran, who eventually went on to win the Intermediate championship.

Our Special Juniors had two tremendous battles with city rivals James Stephens before we were beaten by the minimum of scores.

Due to the efforts of our hard-working Juvenile Committee a huge interest was generated in under-age hurling and foot-

ball. Regular coaching sessions were conducted in St. John's Park every Sunday morning for upwards of 80 youngsters. As a result of such sessions, our youth had an extended and interesting season. St. John's under-13 team reached the Roinn "A" semi-final, and were unlucky to be beaten by St. Patrick's by a single point.

Having been beaten twice in the championship, our under-14 hurlers faced Craigue-Ballycallan in a do-or-die match in Shipton. Hurling with great pride, our lads won by two points. So it was down to a three-way play-off with ourselves, Craigue-Ballycallan and James Stephens. "Craigue"



O'LOUGHLIN GAELS – Special Junior Hurling Finalists

Back row (l.-r.): Simon Brennan, Michael Barcoe, Brian Deegan, John Grant, Kieran Hoban, Joe Daly, Barry Daly. Front row (l.-r.): Ger Lanigan, Owen Dowling, Kieran Hoban, Pat Ward, Michael Devaney, Tom Doyle, Keith McCormack, Paul Murphy.

defeated James Stephens, so a re-match, this time in Nowlan Park between Graigue-Ballycallan and ourselves. Unfortunately, it was not to be our day as the fortunes of the day swung "Graigue's" way.

Our under-16 lads could be considered the club's stars of the year. In their first outing they faced a very fancied Dicksboro outfit. The boys really turned on the

style and came away with a deserving win under their belts.

Into the Northern Final they marched against the Village. This was their finest hour. They hurled with great power and enthusiasm, but on the day the final whistle saw our boys behind by just one point.

Our minor hurlers had a good innings

but came a "cropper" against a better Conahy Shamrocks team in the Northern semi-final.

Looking back on our year we achieved more than a modicum of success. The work put in at youth level will certainly pay dividends in the long run. Here's to a more fruitful 1993.

PILTOWN



Jimmy Bergin – caretaker in Nowlan Park.

IT WAS a year of mixed fortunes for Piltown G.A.A. club with some high points and some low points. One of the main highlights of the year was the winning of an All-Ireland medal by Liam McCarthy, the first one to come to the parish since John Power in 1913. Liam made significant contributions in the Leinster Final against Wexford (1-2), against Galway (1-2) and the All-Ireland Final against Cork (1-1). The club honoured Liam with a beautiful Waterford Crystal ornament at the local G.A.A. centre, where several of the All-Ireland winning team members along with team captain Liam Fennelly attended a hectic night. The Liam McCarthy Cup was taken to the three national schools in the parish – Templeorum, Owing and Piltown.

Our under-16 hurlers had a tremendous year when winning the county Roinn A final. These lads opened their campaign

with a convincing win over Graigue-namagh on a score of 5-16 to 1-2. It was Mooncoin in the South Final. At half-time we led by ten points and we were looking good. However, we seemed to lose our concentration a little in the second half and slowly but surely the Mooncoin lads took control and fought their way back for a very deserved draw.

The replay was sited in Mullinavat and this time our lads made no mistake, winning by 2-9 to 1-6 in a very exciting game. The county final was played in Ballyhale where our opponents were James Stephens. This final was one of two halves. Piltown, playing superbly, could have collected the cup at half-time, so commanding was their performance. Our lads led by eight points at the break.

However, the Village were a different outfit in the second half. They went on a scoring spree after the restart and pegged

back our lads to level terms with five minutes remaining on the clock. It was then that our lads really showed their metal, finishing the stronger to win by the slenderest of margins. Many of last year's Roinn B winners were on this year's team, and great credit must be accorded to trainer Pat Kirby and selectors Eddie Blackmore and Stephen O'Brien.

The club was also very proud of its under-16 footballers who qualified for the County League Final. On their way to the final they beat James Stephens, Dicksboro, Mooncoin and drew with O'Loughlin's. Ironically, they had to face James Stephens in the final who won by four points.

Our under-14 hurlers also had a very rewarding year. They qualified for the Roinn B semi-final against Clara. These youngsters had a great campaign, beating Glenmore, Callan and Ballyhale, but, alas, Clara proved a little too strong for our men and we were beaten by 6-5 to 3-3.

Our junior footballers have had a terrific season, having already qualified for the county final. Again the opponents are Clara. The team beat Callan, Rower-Inistioge and Mullinavat on their way to the final.

The biggest disappointment of the year was the relegation of our intermediate team to junior ranks. In the league section we had a very poor run, being beaten by Callan, Carrickshock, Gowran and O'Loughlin's. The only team we beat was Bennettsbridge. In the championship, Piltown failed to fulfil a fixture – due to injury – against Callan the week after the Leinster Final. We appealed to the County Board and were subsequently thrown out of the championship. In the relegation play-off, Piltown played Glenmore and Bennettsbridge but were well beaten on both occasions.

Our club representation on Kilkenny county teams brought further glory to our club. Pat Davis won a Leinster minor medal against Wexford. In the inter-county under-16 Nenagh Co-op tournament James Connolly captained the victorious Kilkenny team, beating Tipperary in the final (4-10 to 4-9). Michael Brennan also played on the winning team.

Michael O'Shea and Liam Kenny played on the Kilkenny junior football team. Michael Gordon and Mark Long played on the county under-14 hurling team while Paul O'Hara, Tommy Falconer, Michael Gordon and Mark Long played on the county under-14 football teams. In the South Leinster under-16 hurling league, James Connolly and Robert Walsh played for South Kilkenny. Paudie O'Gorman

played on the Kilkenny minor football team.

The club suffered sad losses during the year with the untimely deaths of Edward Maher (Oldcourt) and Dick Dalton of Templeorum. These men were great servants of Piltown, who gave many long

years of dedication and hard work in making the Piltown club what it is today – the envy of all who visit us. Their loss will leave a void in the hearts of all in the club. Their memories will live forever in the annals of Piltown Club. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a h-ainmneacha.

ROWER-INISTIOGE

THE year 1992 was a busy and successful year for the Rower-Inistioge club, both on and off the playing field. The big highlights of the year were achieved by our younger players. Our under-13 lads "crushed" all before them in a brilliant march to the county final. Not to be upstaged in any way, our young girls matched the boys with an equally scintillating assault on the under-13 Roinn "B" camogie championship, which they won in excellent style. Reports of both these championships appear elsewhere. Our Intermediate hurlers reached the county semi-final only to be beaten by a good Conahy Shamrocks team.

Our Minor hurlers reached the Southern Roinn "B" final only to be beaten by an excellent Glenmore outfit. Potentially this is a very good Minor team of whom much

is expected. At the time of going to press they have reached the League semi-final.

Off the field the Club had a very busy season. Our playing complex in the Rower together with dressing-room facilities were completed. The year also saw the completion of the playing pitch in picturesque Inistioge village and is now available for games. It is hoped that the Kilkenny County Board will see fit to avail of these facilities, as they are very central for many southern fixtures.

The club congratulates Kilkenny on winning the All-Ireland title. Congratulations are also in order for Richard Kelly who brought home an All-Ireland Senior Colleges medal, won with St. Kieran's College. The club would like to express its appreciation to all officials and members who contributed to make the year such a successful one.

RAILYARD FOOTBALL CLUB

FOR chairman Kieran Meally, secretary Charlie McCarthy, selectors Tom Brennan and Noel Geoghegan, as well as many others, it has been a long wait. Six times since 1979 we have been to Nowlan Park for county senior football finals, and six times we have travelled back the 'Comer Road empty-handed and disappointed.

At long last the time has turned in our favour, but not before a few frights on the way. As usual with Railyard teams, an air of expectancy sweeps the club at annual general meeting time. The optimism expressed at such august gatherings has not manifested itself on the playing fields, certainly not over the past six years. However, all that is now history as our lads put in the supreme effort to recapture the football title that was considered the "property" of the Railyard Club for so many years.

This year's championship started very early, which culminated in the county final being played in the month of July, never before achieved. In the league section we accounted for Barrow Rangers, Dicksboro and Mooncoin to qualify for a semi-final spot against Glenmore. The "Southerners"

were overcome, and so it was all systems "go" for the final.

Under the expert eye of our trainer Pat McNally, training was intensified because our men knew that the losing sequence had to be halted. This time for sure it had to "happen" for the Railyard. There were going to be no excuses given or taken. As the old saying goes "it was every kick to the goal."

The final against our masters of the previous year, The Village, was going to be no pushover. They had already beaten us in the league final, so our lads approached the final with some trepidation. The game was a terrific spectacle of everything that is good in the game of football. At the end of a very exciting and sporting game victory was ours.

The excitement at the end of the game as the cup was destined for the Railyard was euphoric. The cup was coming home to where it had been a resident for 17 years in the past. Having spent around £80,000 on a new dressing-room complex and made improvements to our playing pitch, this win was a major boost to morale in the parish.

SHAMROCKS



Back row (l.-r.): Thomas Coogan, Ger Connolly, Aidan Cummins, David Walsh, Henry Shefflin, Sean O'Keefe. Front row: Robert Aylward, Paul Holohan, Shane Aylward, Liam Grant and Paul Shefflin.

(Photo: Michael Brophy)

It was a very successful year for the Shamrocks hurling and football club in 1992. It was a year where the club and its various representatives reached the dizzy heights of absolute euphoria, and the depths of abject depression. It was the year the club realised a life-long ambition, when on May 17th. Peadar Ó Cuinn officially opened Páirc na Seamróg. On an evening full of atmosphere and pride, the first inter-county game between Kilkenny and Cork provided ample value for a fine crowd. Part of the excitement for some of the crowd was the arrival of Peadar Ó Cuinn in the "Radio 2" helicopter – probably the first time many people had been so close to a "chopper".

The club, through Liam Fennelly, captained Kilkenny to their 24th All-Ireland hurling title, thus becoming only the 4th Kilkenny player in history to captain two All-Ireland winning teams. Liam also stands alone as the only man to collect both the old and new McCarthy cups – a distinction that will never be equalled. Another Shamrocks player, Paul Phelan, was also a member of the winning panel, while Pat Aylward represented the club as a selector.

Shamrocks became the first team in 1992 to win the new senior hurling league. This was the inaugural running of the competition, the Shamrocks defeated neighbours Mullinavat in the final. On the football scene the Shamrocks having won the Junior football championship in 1991 followed up this year by winning the

Intermediate Championship by defeating Conahy Shamrocks in the final.

Our Special Juniors won the Southern Championship before being defeated in the County Final by the Fenians. Our Under-21 hurlers were defeated in the first round by Mooncoin. Our Minor and Under-16 teams gave great value for money. Whilst not getting any silverware for the sideboard, they acquitted themselves excellently.

Sadly the club suffered an irreparable loss when the "Patriarch" of Shamrocks, Kevin Fennelly, passed to his eternal reward on June 7th at St. Luke's Hospital. Kevin had taken ill at a hurling match the previous week in Thomastown. Kevin had many loves in his life, not least of which was the game of hurling. Testament to his dedication to hurling and the Shamrocks is outlined on other pages of this book. He held every position in the club since it's birth. He fulfilled his greatest ambition

when that "chopper" arrived on Páirc na Seamróg on May 17th, 1992. Ar dheis Dé go raib a anam.

BALLYHALE SCHOOL TEAM

Ballyhale school team enjoyed one of its best years. Back in Roinn A since last year, we acquitted ourselves very well and easily qualified for the knockout stages. Unfortu-

nately injuries to one of our stars Aidan Cummins and key player Ger Connolly at fullback deprived us of their services for the quarter final and we went down to an excellent St. John's team by the narrowest of margins.

However, there was still the Country Cup to look forward to – a new Roinn A competition. Ballyhale became the first holders of the trophy when we beat old rivals Thomastown in a thrilling final that was a credit to teams. The winning team was J. P. Fitzpatrick, J. Healy, G. Connolly, R. Connolly, S. O'Keefe (Ballyboden), T. Coogan, P. Shefflin, A. Cummins, P. Holohan, B. Costelloe, L. Grant, P. Reid, J. Walsh, S. O'Keefe (Kiltorcan), H. Shefflin.

Stars of the victory were Henry Shefflin, Ger Connolly, Tom Coogan, Paul Shefflin, both Seán O'Keeffes, Aidan Cummins, Paul Holohan, John Paul Fitzpatrick (on goal) and captain Liam Grant.

In September, some of these lads really claimed stardom when they captured the prestigious Lisdowney 7-a-side. Teams from seven counties took part including all the top Kilkenny clubs and having disposed of James Stephens 2, Dicksboro, Emeralds and Gowran on the way to the final, we won a great game to take the title from Ballingarry, Tipperary having been 6 points down at half time. The final score was 3-6 to Ballyhale Shamrocks to Ballingarry's 2-5.

The winning panel was: Shane Aylward (goal), Ger Connolly, Thomas Coogan, Seán O'Keefe, Paul Holohan, Paul Shefflin, Henry Shefflin, Aidan Cummins, David Walsh and Liam Grant who was captain once again. Henry Shefflin who scored 7-12 in the three final games was also nominated "Player of the Tournament".

ST. LACHTAINS



ST. LACHTAIN'S – County Under-21 Roinn 'B' Finalists 1992

Back row: Martin Maher, John Costelloe, Owen Dalton, Lorcan Carroll, Bobby Dillon, Damien Anderson, Pat Doyle, William Walsh, Sean Hickey (Captain), Ian Colclough, Damien Hurley, Kevin Gibbons, T. J. Kelly, Pat Connolly. Front row: Eamonn Ryan, David Martin, Paul Phelan, Tommy Dowling, Noel Dalton, Joe Dermody, Peter Hennessy, Oliver O'Connor, Mervyn Queally, Brian Cahill, George O'Shea.

THE Dinner Dance to honour the 1959/63 panel opened the year on the 25th January, 1992. It was a successful and enjoyable occasion that seemed to bode well for the new year.

Only four months later St. Lachtains mourned the passing of two club members involved in that celebration, club vice-president Tomás de Bhaldraithe and Bill Crosby. Two days before Tom died he led the guard of honour at Bill's funeral. Both men will be missed by club members. Go ndéana Dia Trócaire ar an mbeirt acu.

Tom Waldron, in many respects, was looked on as a father-figure of our club. St. Lachtains was founded three years after his arrival in Freshford. In a variety of rôles, his commitment to his adopted parish and club was unsurpassed over forty years.

On the hurling front our Junior hurlers disappointed by bowing out of the championship at the first hurdle. They came good, however, at the close of the year and qualified for the finals of the Paddy Cahill Cup and Junior Open Draw competitions. St. Lachtains hosted the

Kevin Lynch Hurling Club from Dungiven for the Anne Hayes Memorial game in November.

The Special Junior hurlers failed to make the closing stages of their championship but their endeavours may have helped the Under-21 side who started training early in the year but were then forced to wait until November before qualifying for the County Final.

Our Minors were upgraded to Roinn A at the beginning of the year and justified the rating by qualifying for the Northern Final against James Stephens, the club's first since 1977. Hard earned victories over the Fenians and Erins Own in the championship brought many admirers but the physically stronger city team pulled away in the last five minutes of a very entertaining final.

The minors travelled to the Leinster Final this year and rounded the year off with a memorable trip to the Glens of Antrim to play Loughgiel Shamrocks in a challenge game and also to attend the Kilkenny v. Antrim National Hurling League tie in Casement Park the following day. The minor team reached the quarter-final of the league, but bowed out to Craigue/Ballycallan.

The Under-16 hurlers qualified for the semi-final of the league with wins over the Emeralds, St. Martin's and Young Irelands. The opposition was provided by a star-studded Glenmore team who went into the game with a reputation second-to-none. It was unquestionably the underage



ST. LACHTAIN'S UNDER-14 TEAM

– qualified for the Roinn 'B' final, losing 1-6 to 1-3 to Young Irelands.

Back row: Darren Burke, Colin McGree, Brian Butler, John Butler, Niall Phelan, Noel Hickey, Roy Kavanagh, Liam Cahill, John Joe Burke, Michael Kavanagh, Brian Duignan. Front row: Conor Britton, Alan Bowden, Paul Costelloe, John Flynn, Shane McGree, Brian Minogue, David Burke, Richard Teehan, Gerard Dalton, Pat Morrissey.

game of the year at this level. The Southerners had built up an eight point lead by the interval, but St. Lachtain's camped in their opponents half for the second period. The hurling was hectic for thirty minutes with Glenmore just holding on for a two points winning margin.

In the championship, the Under-16 hurlers beat Emeralds and the Fenians before failing to Young Irelands in the Northern Final following a series of postponements and re-fixtures which did not help their cause. Club officials also took the Under-16's to Croke Park to a number of games during the year.

The Under-14 hurling team were the only side to make it all the way to a county final. Wins over Erins Own and Tullaroan, while losing to Young Irelands were enough to see St. Lachtains into a quarter-final against the Fenians. A great draw in Johnstown brought the Fenians back to Páirc Lachtaín for the replay. An exciting one point victory meant the side were the third St. Lachtain's team to end the Fenians interest in this year's championships, a notable achievement in itself. The Fenians had earlier in the year defeated St. Lachtains in the area final of the Leinster Féile na nGael.

In the county final, St. Lachtain's once again clashed with Young Irelands. If ever a goalkeeper won a game for his side, the Young Irelands guardian did so on this occasion as time after time he foiled the St. Lachtain's forwards. The final score was 1-6 to 1-3 in favour of Young Irelands.

The Scoil Lachtaín team continue to survive in Roinn A with some brave performances. They qualified for the semi-final of the Country Cup competition where they were defeated by the Ballyhale Shamrocks.

Our Under-13 hurlers are the first holders of the beautiful Lisdowney Shield. In the final of that competition which was part of the Lisdowney Coca Cola 7-a-side tournament they defeated Naas from Kildare on a score of 1-3 to 1-1. Colin McGree's team became the eighth winners of the annual Philip Kinnane tournament which was staged in October.

Club members who wore the Black and Amber of Kilkenny during the year were Brian Minogue (Under-13 Leinster Blitz), Liam Cahill and Noel Hickey (Under-14 team which lost the Tony Forristal Tournament), Joe Ryan and Patrick Hickey (North Kilkenny Under-16 side defeated by South Kilkenny in Leinster Blitz).

On the colleges front St. Lachtains were well represented on local sides. Brian Cahill, Damien Hurley and Lorcan Carroll won All-Ireland medals with St. Kieran's College, Brian Duignan and John Joe Burke won Rice Cup medals with Kilkenny CBS while John Costello was on the Kilkenny



ST. LACHTAIN'S MINOR HURLERS

Played Loughgiel Shamrocks from Antrim in a challenge match at Loughgiel in October. - Back row: Patrick Walsh, Walter Kelly, Neil O'Connor, Brendan Cleere, Richard Dawson, Lorcan Carroll, John Costelloe, Damien Hurley, Oliver O'Connor. Front row: Damien Barnaville, Patrick Hickey, David Martin (Captain), Brian Cahill, Joe Ryan, James Kavanagh, Noel Walsh, Mark Butler, Liam McGree.

Vocational Schools side beaten by Galway in the All-Ireland Final in Limerick.

For county inter-provincial honours for St. Lachtains, we must look to Britain! Playing for Hertfordshire, James Burke, formerly of Woodview, Freshford, scored 1-6 in the final of the British Junior Hurling Championship against London. In helping Herts to win the final, James also took the 'Man of the Match' award. He repeated that feat in the All-Ireland quarter final when he returned 1-4 for Herts who lost by a point to Down.

James left Freshford in 1989. He has now four senior championship medals with the Eoghan Ruadh of London. This achievement equals his father Mick's total of four championship medals also won with Eoghan Ruadh.

The development of Páirc Lachtaín

slowed down while finance was gathered. The coming months should see electricity installed which will be a big advantage towards completing essential work.

Sympathy is extended to the families of the following players and supporters who died during the year:

Paddy Butler, Coolehall, who played with Wellbrook in the 1928 County Junior Final; Paud O'Donnell, Bohergloss who won a Northern Junior Medal with Freshford in 1939; Bill Crosby, Cascade, who won a Northern Junior Hurling medal in 1959; Alan Colclough, Barna, who played in the Shinty/Hurling games in Scotland in 1983 and supporters Bill Wilson, and Paddy Hayes.

Our thanks to our officials, selectors players and supporters for all the hard work done in 1992..

Rath Dé oraibh go léir.

ST. MARTIN'S

NINETEEN NINETY TWO was a disappointing year for St. Martin's Hurling Club as no team in the Club succeeded in winning a County Championship or qualifying for a County Final. At the beginning of the year expectations were high that the Senior team would improve on their performance of 1991 and make a bold bid to capture the championship.

However, it became obvious from the beginning that the team was facing difficulties as many players were sustaining injuries and as soon as they recovered, other casualties occurred. This was to be the story of the team for the entire championship, as there was never a full panel available for any game.

While not advancing this as an excuse for failing to make greater progress in the championship, it certainly made the jobs of the coach and selectors more difficult,

as an unsettled team is not the ideal situation for a Championship match. Following a good display against Dicksboro in the replay of the first round, hopes were high that the Fenians could be beaten in the quarter final, however, our championship aspirations ended in Ballyragget.

Our Special Junior team improved on their performances of recent years and qualified for the Northern League Final. The U-21 team put up a very creditable performance against Gowran and were quite unlucky to lose by a narrow margin. The effort put in by this team to prepare for the Championship gives hope for the future of the club.

Our Juvenile teams performed up to their capabilities and won many of their games, without being strong enough to qualify for the final stages of any competition. This problem will be there



ST. MARTIN'S – Under-10 Clara Tournament Winners 1992

Back row: Pat Quirke, Laurence Comerford, James Holohan, Patrick Byrne, Seamus Kelly, Donal Kelly, John Buggy. Front row: Christopher Dowling, Declan Holohan, Michael Walsh, Brendan Maher, Derek Mahony, Tom Kinsella, Kieran Kelly, Damien Maher. Inset: Stephen Murphy, Michael Mulhall.

for the foreseeable future as there is a scarcity of players in some of the age groups.

However, the victory of our Under-10s in the Clara Tournament gives grounds for some degree of optimism, and their fine display in the final delighted all who saw them.

The highlight of the year was the contribution made by Eamon Morrissey and Diarmuid Lawlor towards Kilkenny's All-Ireland victory. Their achievements will no doubt set the standards for the youth of the parish and the Club will inevitably

benefit in the long term. All Club members were proud of their achievements and wish to congratulate both players.

The year saw the continuing development of the facilities at the G.A.A. fields in Coon and Muckalee. The work on the fields, dressingrooms and dugouts is now almost complete and will be finished in early 1993. We would like to thank all those who have supported the fund raising for these ventures not alone in 1992, but for the last number of years. We would also like to acknowledge the work done by

those men who have taken part in the FÁS Employment Schemes of the last few years – both St. Martin's and Muckalee Clubs have benefitted greatly.

During the year the parish lost two great supporters of hurling and two very loyal clubmen – Dick Teehan, who had learned his hurling with Tullaroan, and Tommy Dooley who played for the parish teams, acted as selector and trained Muckalee/Ballyfoyle to championship success. Their support and advice will be greatly missed and we extend sincere sympathy to both their families.

ST. PATRICK'S (BALLYRAGGET)

A YEAR that began with high hopes for the junior hurlers ended in bitter disappointment when they crashed out of the championship at the first hurdle. In a thrilling opening round game James Stephens edged out the Ballyragget men on the score 2-14 to 4-4. The result was all the more disappointing as St. Patrick's had a good league campaign, barely missing out on a semi-final place after a play-off with neighbours Lisdowney.

In the earlier rounds of the league they beat Clara, Danesfort, Blacks and Whites and played a draw with Lisdowney. Ironically, their only loss in the league was to the "Village" men. A number of that James Stephens team went on to play at senior level for their club later in the year.

In the Paddy Cahill Cup competition, played over two months after their championship exit, St. Patrick's gave a

lacklustre display when going down to Danesfort. It was obvious in this game that with the long gap between competitive matches, interest had waned.

The U-21 hurlers also made their exit in the first round. They were beaten by Lisdowney after a hard-fought game at Freshford.

At under-age level the minor hurlers (of whom much was expected) were knocked out in the Northern semi-final by Lisdowney. This was another well contested "local derby" with Lisdowney finishing stronger to win on the score 2-10 to 1-10.

The U-16s had a good run in the league reaching the knock-out stages. In the championship they lost out to county finalists Bennettsbridge.

Highlight of the year for the U-14 hurlers was the Leinster Féile. In this tournament a young St. Patrick's team who lined out

without players involved in the U-13 county final reached the knock-out stages after victories over Raheny and Conahy Shamrocks. Their final group game against Cuala (Dublin) will long be remembered by those present. The Dublin lads emerged rather lucky winners after extra time in an outstanding game.

In the U-14 eleven-a-side championship Ballyragget had good wins over Clara, Barrow Rangers (Paulstown) and James Stephens before losing to Lisdowney in the quarter-finals. In the 15-a-side championship James Stephens reversed the earlier result after an exciting match. The Ballyragget lads also performed well in the "Lisdowney Sevens" and the Dicksboro Blitz.

The U-13 school team gave the club hope for the future by reaching the county final. They beat Mullinavat in the semi-final in a thriller before losing out to the Rower-



ST. PATRICK'S (Ballyragget) – Under-14 Hurlers.

Back row: Mark Phelan, J. P. Comerford, Shane Phelan, Robert Lyttle, Shane McGrath, Brian Phelan, Donal McGrath, Paul Moran, Tony Stapleton. Front row: Matt O'Donnell, Billy Irwin, Stephen Roberts, Pat Callinan, Robbie Malone, Brian Phelan, Richard Stone, Brendan Dooley, David Kenny.

Inistioge in the final after another exciting game.

Great credit is due to Pat O'Neill and his staff for their time and effort with this team. An U-13 title would be due reward for their efforts.

Although the club does not have a Camogie section a number of local girls were very successful during the year.

Sandra Gleeson was one of the stars of the Kilkenny minor Camogie team that won the Leinster final. Ann and Angela Downey were members of the highly successful Lisdowney team while Elaine Moylan, Sandra Gleeson, Martina McGrath and Lorna Callinan won minor championship medals with Castlecomer.

The club's footballers fared no better than the hurlers when it came to winning titles. However, the U-16s had a couple of notable victories in the league, beating Railyard and Muckalee before losing out to a well-prepared Young Irelands (Gowran) in the quarter-final. The junior footballers also lost to Young Irelands in the championship.

For the first time ever an U-10 team from the club played a number of challenge games. The club also ran an U-10 league which was highly successful.

The boys' school league was also a huge success. Stephen Roberts captained his team to victory in this league. Stephen is son of Tommy, a former St. Patrick's player.

At inter-county level a number of Ballyragget players were to the fore. Joe Dowling was a member of the Kilkenny minor team that won the Leinster final. He was also on the North Minor team, winners of the Leinster League.

Adrian Stone played with the North minors early in the season. Unfortunately,

a broken leg put him out of action for the best part of the year. Brian Phelan helped Kilkenny's U-21s reach the Leinster-final while John Lacey was a member of the Kilkenny "Masters" panel that reached the All-Ireland final. Sean Foley was part of the St. Kieran's panel that won the senior Colleges' All-Ireland.



ST. PATRICK'S (Ballyragget) – Under-13 Roinn 'B' County Finalists 1992

Back row: Pat Callinan, Eamonn Cuggy, Brian Phelan, Eamonn Delaney, David Kenny, James McCraith, Mark Phelan, Paul Moran. Front row: Brendan Dooley, Robbie Malone, Eamonn McEvoy, Thomas Dunne, Brian Phelan, Stephen Roberts, Ciaran Delaney.



ST. PATRICK'S (Ballyragget) – Under-14 Footballers 1992

Back row: Richard Stone (Selector), Mark Phelan, J. P. Comerford, James McCraith, Shane Phelan, Robert Lyttle, Shane McGrath, Brian Phelan, Donal McCraith, Paul Moran, Tony Stapleton, Tommy Phelan (Selector). Front row: Matt O'Donnell, Billy Irwin, Stephen Roberts, Pat Callinan, Robert Malone, Brian Phelan, Richard Stone, Brendan Dooley, David Kenny.

Away from the field of play the club's restructured Bord na nÓg section organised trips to Croke Park for all of Kilkenny's games. Over sixty youngsters travelled to the Leinster semi-finals and finals. Unfortunately, due to the scarcity of passes it was not possible to facilitate large numbers for the All-Ireland semi-finals and finals.

The visit of Colm Brady, the Leinster football field officer, was another highlight for the younger players while the Liam McCarthy Cup was welcomed by young and old alike when it visited the parish in October.

The local park was the venue for many important championship games including a number of inter-county games.

A match programme was produced by the club for all major games played in Ballyragget. The programmes were produced without sponsorship of any kind and proved to be very popular with patrons at the venue.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all clubs who co-operated with us in the production of these programmes.

Club president Lar Carroll was honoured by the County Board during the year. Lar was a member of the Éire Óg team of the 'Forties who were the Board's guests at this year's senior county final. They each received a presentation of Kilkenny Heritage Crystal at a function in a city hotel on the evening of the final. Congratulations, Lar.

The past year also saw the retirement from business of former Kilkenny "great" Shem Downey. An All-Ireland medal winner with Kilkenny in 1947, Shem played with Ballyragget in the 'Fifties. He is father of the famous camogie twins Angela and Ann. He carried on his butchery business in the town for 47 years. We wish him well in his retirement.

Although, at the time of writing, success had eluded our teams, a number of underage competitions had still to be completed. St. Patrick's were still involved in the U-14, U-16 and minor football championships as well as the minor hurling league.

In conclusion, we would like to thank Pat Treacy (Radio Kilkenny), John Knox

(Kilkenny People) and Enda McEvoy for their continuing help in publicising our games.

St. Patrick's hurling club lost a great friend and supporter in 1992 with the death of Mrs. Doreen Carroll (Finnan), wife of the club's president Lar Carroll.

Doreen took a great interest in all club activities. Her five sons all played for the club. Two of them, Michael and Kieran, played at minor level for Kilkenny. Her passing will be mourned by all who knew her. The club has lost a valued friend and her family have lost a devoted wife and mother. To her husband, sons and relatives we extend our condolences. May she rest in peace.

TULLAROAN

This will go down as a year to remember in the annals of Tullaroan hurling club. It was the year when Tullaroan witnessed a re-birth of their fortunes after a lapse of 34 years. We finally got to play for the Tom Walsh Cup after all those years. Over the past number of years we have slowly but surely been building our team from the base of some very promising juvenile players. Although our league campaign was less than inspiring, with successive defeats by Mullinavat and Graigue/Ballycallan, we

did however come "on stream" for the Championship.

In the first round we had a terrific victory to turn the scales on our near neighbours. We took Castlecomer quite comfortably in the quarter-final and then it was time to put our wits and our pride on the line against the men from Johnstown – The Fenians. For one very important man in our club, it was a time that stretched his loyalty in two differing directions. I speak, of course, of our trainer, Martin Fitzpatrick. Against the Fenians our defence withstood

a tremendous late onslaught on our goal, but our defence, ably led by our captain, and man-of-the-match, Liam Keown, stood firmly and victory was ours. Against Glenmore in the final we had a very good opening 30 minutes but the accuracy of Ray Heffernan in the middle of the field put paid to our chances.

Two aspects of the whole campaign would give great hope for next year: firstly, the young players that were introduced have proved themselves and will be much the better for the experience; and secondly, Martin Fitzpatrick has agreed to continue his role as trainer for next year.

Our Special Junior team started the season in high hopes, but as the year progressed, and the demands of the senior

team became more acute, the Juniors were gradually decimated, so that eventually they were beaten by James Stephens in the Northern semi-final.

Our under-21 team, while beating Bennettsbridge in the first round, failed badly to Lisdowney in the next round.

Our Juvenile teams performed very well, winning some of their games, but not winning championships. However, there was great enthusiasm and determination in these young Tullaroan lads, of whom much will be heard of in the very near future. Our under-14 lads won the Dicksboro tournament, while our under-13 team reached the County Final.

An All-Ireland senior medal came back to the parish after many a long wait,

compliments of Bill Hennessy. Bill brought great honour and reflected glory to our club and we thank him for that. What a game he had in the Final! It was undoubtedly his greatest hour in the Black and Amber colours. It was also a day where "our Bill" was man-of-the-match in the opinions of many, including Radio Kilkenny commentators Joe Hennessy and Barry Henriques. Bill was superb for the entire hour.

On the management side of our club, we installed shower units in the dressing rooms, and hopefully further progress will be made in this direction.

TULLOGHER-ROSBERCON

It was a drenched disappointed group of Tullagher-Rosbercon players, officials and supporters who stood in a sodden Pairc Na Seamroige in Ballyhale on a Sunday last May. For they had just witnessed the junior hurling team from the parish receive a comprehensive drubbing from in form Dunnamaggin.

The final score of 4-12 to 1-5 tells its own story. It was certainly hard to believe then that we were looking at the Kilkenny Junior Hurling Champions of 1992. For Tullagher-Rosbercon hauled themselves up from the pits that day and slowly but surely gained the momentum that would eventually bring big rewards.

A win over Thomastown gave hope and another victory over Kilmacow looked promising. An unexpected defeat by

Windgap followed but a fine display against Slieverue in the Glenmore Gaelic Field was enough to qualify for the Southern Semi-Final. Here we again clashed with Kilmacow whom we had defeated earlier in the Championship.

It was expected to be a very close hard fought tie. This it duly turned out to be and a brilliant goal by veteran forward Jimmy Heffernan set Tullagher-Rosbercon up for a 1-11 to 1-9 victory. So the scene was set for the Southern final and what a game that turned out to be.

The Slieverue v. Tullagher-Rosbercon clash was one of the finest games of hurling seen in Mullinavat for a number of years. Tullagher-Rosbercon made the early running and were well ahead midway through the second half. Then Slieverue

made their match saving surge. Slowly but surely they cut the lead and a super goal by Michael Walsh gave them a well deserved draw, Slieverue 3-8, Tullagher-Rosbercon 0-17.

As with most replays, the fare the second time did not reach the heights of the drawn game. Tullagher-Rosbercon took the game by the scruff of the neck from the throw-in and were never in danger of losing the match.

Now into the County Final for the first time since 1989, a concentrated effort was made in preparation for the final. Our opponents were Black and Whites, the Northern Champions. It was a first time meeting of the clubs in adult competition they did clash at under age level. However the clubs did meet in the Kilkenny Senior Football Final of 1936 won by Tullagher 1-5 to 1-3 at Thomastown before a record attendance.

Nowlan Park on Sunday, 13th September was a special place to be. Our heroes took the game to Black & Whites from the word go and were full value for their 2-13 to 1-11 win. It was a proud captain Tommy Morrissey who received the cup from County Board chairman Nicky Brennan in the presence of 25,000 spectators.

The reason for the huge attendance was that the Tullagher-Rosbercon - Black & Whites game was played as a curtain raiser to the All-Ireland Under-21 Final between Waterford and Offaly. The third Kilkenny Junior Hurling title had come home to our small rural parish situated in the south eastern end of Kilkenny, close to the Wexford border. All credit to our panel of players without whom triumph would not have been possible.

The backroom team of John Healy, Paddy Gaule and Mick Rellis as selectors



Nicky Brennan (Chairman) presenting the Junior County Final Cup to Tom Morrissey, Captain of Tullagher-Rosbercon.

CLUBS R O U N D - U P

at times took unpopular decisions but their shrewd judgement was vindicated by the championship success. Hard working chairman Joe Conway did trojan work for the club throughout the year. Our trainer Pat Ronan did a superb job in preparing the team mentally and physically for the championship. His part cannot but be given the plaudits and gratitude of all in the Tullogher-Rosbercon club. There is no doubt that but for his expertise the victory run would not have been achieved.

Our Intermediate footballers got their campaign away to a flying start against St. Lachtain's scoring a comprehensive victory. In the next round came the game of the championship. Conahy Shamrocks edged out Tullogher-Rosbercon by a single point 0-6 to 0-5 after an excellent

game at Danesfort. However a sterling display against Graignamanagh where Tullogher-Rosbercon came from the dead in the second half and in a thrilling finish won by 1-9 to 0-8.

Then in the County semi-final at Mullinavat our opponents were the Ballyhale Shamrocks. Tullogher-Rosbercon were away to a flyer and had 0-5 on the scoreboard before the Shamrocks struck with a vengeance midway through the first half to turn the game on its head. Two goals labelled "gift variety" put a different complexion on the contest as the Shamrocks, growing in confidence and stature, went on to record a 3-8 to 0-11 victory. The lapses of concentration by some of the Tullogher-Rosbercon defenders probably cost our team the match.

In Under-21 football we were beaten at home by Kilmacow. Our junior football team were beaten by eventual County Champions, Thomastown 2-7 to 1-5. In the Special J.H. C'Ship, Mullinavat had a huge win-over Tullogher-Rosbercon in the initial round. Whilst we did beat Carrigeen and Mooncoin, defeat by Kilmacow finished our interest for 1992.

The year 1992 was one of the most successful at under-age level. It is surely building for the future and great credit must go to Frank Madigan N.T., Patrick Bookle, Paddy Grennan, Dick Gaule and Richard Young for all their time and effort with the juveniles. The Under-13 National School team reached the County Semi-Final against eventual champions St. Canice's who went on to beat Tullaroan in the County Final.



TULLOGHER/ROSBERCON – Junior Hurling County Champions

Back row (l.-r.): John Murphy, Robby Hennessy, Seamus Bookle, Edward Walsh, John Ryan, Tom Murphy, John Murphy, Eddie O'Sullivan, Eamon Phelan, Shem Cummins, Paddy Heffernan, Seamus Phelan, Sean Kennedy, Joe Murphy, Tommy Bookle. Front row (l.-r.): Shemmy Murphy, Eamon Bookle, James Lyng, Mark Malone, Martin Bookle, Liam Heffernan, Tommy Morrissey (Captain), Michael Bookle, Darragh Moore, Jimmy Heffernan, John Murphy.



TULLOGHER/ROSBERCON – Under-14 Roinn 'C' Hurling County Champions

Front row (l.-r.): Sean Healy, Patrick Green, Brian Morrissey, John Barron, Brian Barron, Brian Walsh, David Mullaly, Kevin Murphy, Johnny Barron (Captain), Richard Lanigan, James Kennedy, P. J. Rigley, John Gaule, J. Purcell. Back row (l.-r.): Ted Culleton, Luke Grennan, Richard Walsh, Ray Culleton, Martin Nolan, Wally Ryan, Alan Long, John Paul Phelan, Colm Prendergast, Canice Grennan. Missing from photograph are John Dowling and Fergus O'Leary.



Enda Cummins (Tullogher/Rosbercon) with his 'Man of the Match' award after the Minor Hurling Final sponsored by Iannród Éireann.

Our Under-14 team created their own bit of history winning both Championship and League Finals. It was all the more pleasing because they beat the legendary stronghold of hurling – Bennettsbridge in both finals.

At Under-16 level it was exit at semi-final stages both in the Championship and League, losing to Tullaroan in the League and to Carrickshock in the championship.

The stars of underage hurling were the Under-14 11-a-side team. They proved great little battlers however, and victories over Windgap, Slieverue and Carrickshock saw a final date with Bennettsbridge in the League Final.

THREecastLES

A fantastic game with a high degree of skilful hurling saw Tullagher-Rosbercon victorious on a 2-4 to 1-5 scoreline with Brian Walsh scoring two great goals and Richard Walsh 0-3 and Richard Lanigan 0-1 completing the tally.

A great double was completed when the U-14 15-a-side team again beat Bennettsbridge in the championship final in Nowlan Park.

To crown a fantastic year for the club the minor hurlers put the icing on the cake when they captured the Roinn C County Final beating Galmoy by a single point.

Some fine displays from Thomas Healy who was a sound custodian, Enda Cummins, Johnny Ryan, Mark Malone, Raymond Roche, John Foley, captain Martin Bookle, Edmond Hanrahan, Eamon Ryan, James Lyng and super sub Colm O'Leary who scored an extremely valuable 1-1 when he came on did much to fashion a splendid victory.

Even though this minor team failed to Mullinavat 1-9 to 0-9 in the League Final they had already achieved their main goal for the year. Credit must be given to team trainer Anthony Cotterell who did marvellous work with the squad and had them in excellent form for the final.

The selectors Phil Murphy, Ollie Ryan and Jimmy Mullally played a big part in the team's victory. So after what was probably the greatest year in the history of our club, founded in 1888, it is with confidence that we face into the future.



Martin Bookle, Tullagher/Rosbercon Minor Hurling Captain, photographed with Tony Cottrell (Selector).



Threecastles in Ballycastle - 1989.

Left to right: Dinny Butler (Threecastles), Sean Power (Clomantagh), Dessie Donnelly (Ballycastle), Danny McEvoy (Michael Stret).

THE club took over the management of the local hall from the now disbanded Macra na Feirme. This guarantees the future of the hall for the foreseeable future.

Our club had its most successful season since its re-affiliation in 1985. In the Northern League the club found it fairly difficult to make any progress, due in the main to lack of interest, and difficulty in fielding teams.

Come knockout time however, things were a little different. The training tempo was increased, and big numbers were in the field for the collective training. Our first round draw was not too simple. Erins Own provided the opposition – an intimidating opener in any man's language. We were coasting to an easy victory with five minutes to go, and a five point lead. However the 'Comer lads put in such a storming finish that we were lucky to get a second bit at the cherry.

The replay was no less exciting with our lads coming out on top by the minimum margin. The result threw us into a quarter-final against our neighbours – St. Lachtains. Billed as a "David and Goliath" confrontation, all roads led to Ballyragget. Threecastles showing a fierce commitment, and a "suicidal" will to win, our lads sent the fans home in ecstasy – winning by four points. The celebrations

that followed would have to be witnessed to be believed.

So it was Clara in the semi-final. After a slow opening half, the boys came good in the second half to run out very convincing winners. With interest now at "ionosphere" level locally, training was a sight to behold. There were some 30 young men down in Denis Lennon's field training, a sight not seen for many a day.

It was Nowlan Park and the Blacks and Whites in the Northern Final. Excitement was skyhigh, and the expectancy of supporters was no less so. Morale was terrific even up to half time as our lads went in two points to the good. However we conceded a couple of "softish" goals in an exciting second half which handed the initiative to the Blacks and Whites. They availed of our generosity and won – as simple as that. Nonetheless our lads covered themselves in great honour and pride. The march of our men has cemented the security of our club well into the next century.

The Festival Week was a tremendous success, although "mother nature" frowned on our efforts somewhat.

The Rock Cup tournament produced the customary excitement synonymous with our tournaments over the years.

CLUBS ROUND-UP



THRECASTLES – Northern Junior Hurling Finalists 1992.

Back row: Martin O'Donnell, Shem O'Donnell, Mick Doheny, Gay Rafter, Bill Mullan, Vincent Bolger, Eamon Hennessy, Ger Campion. Front row: James Campion, Dick Dalton, Mick Dermody, Ger Mullan (Captain), Peter Hennessy, Mick Manogue, Lorcan Carroll.

However failure by finalists to honour their commitments has left the club holding two sets of trophies for the '91 and '92 finals.

The club also had its annual outing to Killarney this year. A great time was had by all.

The club annual dinner dance last February was again another highlight of a very full and exciting year.

Photographed in Belfast – October 1992 – (left to right): Billy Sullivan, John Street, Kilkenny; Jimmy Murphy, Belfast (Jimmy captained the Antrim team which beat Kilkenny in the 1943 All-Ireland semi-final); and Rab Coyles, Ballycastle (Rab is team manager of Antrim under-21 team).



THOMASTOWN

THE year 1992 for our club, while not particularly successful in terms of winning, was a year which saw plenty of activity. Our sole championship success was at special junior football level with an excellent win over the Railyard in the final.

At intermediate hurling our hopes took an unexpected nosedive when we were beaten by the eventual county finalists, Conahy Shamrocks, whom we had beaten in the league the previous week.

Our minor and under-21 hurlers gave good accounts of themselves, although beaten by Graiguenamanagh/Blacks &

Whites and the Rower respectively. Full credit must be accorded to selectors Joe Hayes, Tom McMahon and Joe Prendergast who did trojan work with these two teams. No doubt their efforts will be of great benefit to our intermediate team in the future.

The Juvenile Committee continued with their work and while it did not bring home any trophies their dedication is appreciated by all. These unsung heroes are doing great work for our parish – work that is not always appreciated by everyone. Our thanks, therefore, to John Minogue, Ben Walsh, Michael Cullen, Willie Dempsey,

John O'Keeffe, P. J. O'Neill and Eamon Dempsey. Gracious thanks also is accorded to P. J. Phelan for his work with the under-age footballers.

At schools level the under-13 hurlers contested the County Cup Final, and were brilliant, but unfortunately they were just pipped on the line by a fine Ballyhale team – losing by a miserable two points. Our under-13 footballers were beaten in the county quarter-final by St. Patrick's. For the work done by Brendan O'Sullivan and Eddie Kennedy the club is eternally grateful.

Leinster football coach Colm Brady

CLUBS

R O U N D - U P

(Meath) visited the school and his sessions were a great joy to all the lads. The McCarthy Cup came too, with Ollie and Michael Walsh, Pat Dwyer, D. J. Carey and Liam Fennelly, and what scenes of jubilation there were when it appeared. It subsequently found its way to the Vocational School and the Convent of Mercy.

Our playing complex is progressing with great alacrity and enthusiasm. With the debt at very manageable proportions, we are currently drawing up plans for a training field with floodlights and also a full-size athletic track. The hard-working Development Committee, under chairman Richard Murphy, are presently extending the car-parking facility. This whole development will give our parish an invaluable complex in a location unrivalled for its scenic beauty. A special word of appreciation to Bobby Maher for his work in keeping the grounds in such exquisite shape throughout the year.

At inter-county level we were represented by Tom O'Keeffe and Paul Treacy at Junior level. Alan Lonergan (under-16 hurling) and Brian Blanchfield (under-14 hurling) also wore the county colours.



Thomastown – Byrne Cup Winners

Back row: John Lanigan, John Galway, Michael O'Keeffe, Pat Delaney, Richard Galway, Damien Walsh, Noel Holden, Brendan Treacy, Ger Walsh, Billy O'Keeffe, Melvin Holden. Front row: Alan Hoyne, Paul Treacy, Kevin Treacy, Tom O'Keeffe, Cathal Fitzgerald, Willie Holden.

Selectors Paddy O'Keeffe (junior hurling) and Brendan O'Sullivan (under-21 hurling) kept the flag flying with distinction, but pride of place must go to the trainer of the All-Ireland champions, Thomastown man Ollie Walsh.

We look forward to the year ahead with

renewed optimism. Our intermediate hurlers finished the year with a great victory over Bennettsbridge in the Byrne Cup final after earlier victories over Mooncoin, Shamrocks and Castlecomer and have now laid a good foundation for 1993.

WINDGAP



Windgap "record breakers"

Double father and son act (left to right): Bobby Jackman, Robert Jackman, Tommy Hearne, Alan Hearne.

FOR a year that at the outset didn't look too promising, 1992 turned out to be a memorable one overall. Between our hurlers and handballers we collected All-Ireland titles, county titles, tournament titles, etc., etc. Pride of place must go to our handballer, Alan Hawe, who collected his All-Ireland singles title. But first things come first.

Our Junior hurlers had an exciting season. A little inconsistency cost us some matches that, maybe, we should have won. We lost two matches by the minimum of margins – one match in particular against neighbours Dunnamaggin was a particular classic.

Having failed to make the semi-finals, our efforts were concentrated on winning tournaments. Win them we did, in great style. We had a terrific win in the Carrigeen Tournament over our near-neighbours Piltown. Fresh with that good win we fought our way to the final of the Carrick-on-Suir Tournament, having beaten Carrick Davins on the way. We "took" Kilmacow in a magnificent final.

In under-21 hurling we had a county final appearance to our credit. This was the year that saw the introduction of the eleven-a-side competition for small clubs

CLUBS

ROUND - UP



Congrats Alan . . . Alan Hawe, Windgap, a student at the Christian Brothers Secondary School in Callan, who won the Leinster Junior Colleges Handball Championship is congratulated by D. J. Carey and John Power (former student) when they brought the McCarthy Cup to the school. Also in the picture are (from left): Frank McKenna and Tim Kennedy, teachers at the C.B.S. (Photo: Tom Brett)

in Kilkenny. The eleven-a-side was the concept of progressive South chairman Ned Quinn. We beat Slieverue in the South Final, but against a vastly superior Galmoy outfit we had no answers against a team that had nearly won a county minor title four weeks previously. Nevertheless, our youngsters acquitted themselves admirably.

There was terrific interest in the special junior Roinn "B" championship. We fulfilled all our fixtures, four fixtures in all. The enthusiasm among our players, whose ages ranged from fifteen years to fifty, was infectious and gave a lot of pleasure to many enthusiasts. This team created a record that will hardly be surpassed. We had two combinations of father and son playing on this team. Evergreen Bobby Jackman and Tommy Hearne lined out with their respective sons, Robert and Alan.

Our very young minor outfit was no match for Piltown in the minor championship.

In the under-16 league our lads had a very creditable innings. We beat Mullinavat, Slieverue and drew with Tullogher to qualify for the quarter-finals. Tullogher again were our opponents to whom we

failed by a single point. We failed to reproduce our form in the championship and paid the price when defeated by Tullogher again.

Our under-14 team qualified for the Leinster mini-Féile final. The group saw us bracketed with Glenmore, Oulart the Ballagh and our guests Lough Forbe Gaels from Longford. However, Glenmore reversed the league result to come out on top this time. In the county championship and league campaigns our lads had mixed fortunes. In the league we made the semi-finals but Bennettsbridge put paid to our aspirations in the county semi-final. Carrickshock beat us in the championship.

For the first time ever, we organised an under-10 blitz which saw us play two matches.

On the football side we competed in junior, under-16 and under-14. We were beaten by Slieverue, Graiguenamanagh and Kilmoganny respectively.

The Jimmy Butler Cup produced many outstanding and entertaining contests, with Piltown and Carrick Davins reaching the final.

Our representatives on the various Kilkenny teams brought much honour to our club. Paddy Walsh was on the Junior

team beaten by Wexford in the Leinster championship.

Alan Hearne was on the Kilkenny under-16 team that reached the Nenagh Co-op Inter-county Tournament.

Aidan Mackey played against Kildare for Kilkenny at under-12. Bobby Jackman, Joe O'Shea and Tommy Hearne played in the over-40s championship. Bobby and Joe for Kilkenny and Tommy for his native Waterford.

At Colleges' level, Noel Power (Carrick Vocational), Alan Hearne (Carrick C.B.S.) and Enda Hawe (Callan C.B.S.) all played with distinction for their respective "Alma Maters".

We also had our girls playing well for Piltown in the Camogie championship.

However, it was in handball that Windgap clubmen excelled. Having referred already to Alan Hawe, and which is more graphically covered elsewhere, as are the accomplishments of all our handballers. Titles were won by Stephen Hawe and Joe O'Shea, Michael O'Shea and P. J. Egan, P. J. Hawe and Owen Guinan, Aidan Mackey, Enda Hawe and Fintan Kenny.

The year would not have been so good without the backroom "staff" of Richie

CLUBS

R O U N D - U P

Windgap Hurling and Handball Committee. Left to right: Pat Moore, Richard Barry, Eamon Doyle, Tom Mackey, Simon Brophy, P. J. Egan, John Ryan, Jim Phelan, Jimmy Walsh. Inset: Nick Hawe.

Barry (chairman), Simon Brophy (secretary), Jimmy Walsh (P.R.O.), Sadie Bacon (Schools), Tom Mackey, Eamonn Doyle, Frank O'Brien, P. J. Egan, Pat Moore, Jim Phelan, Seamus Power, and not forgetting the compulsive contribution made by trainer selector and player Bobby Jackman.

1992 was one of the better years for our parish, hopefully it will improve more in 1993.



YOUNG IRELANDS, GOWRAN

The year 1992 can be recorded as one of the best years in the history of the Young Ireland's club of Gowran. The "icing" on the cake was the Intermediate teams winning the right to compete in the Kilkenny senior championship in 1993. We had been competing in the intermediate grade since 1976. Great credit must be accorded to Kevin Fennelly (trainer/coach) and his co-selectors Dick O'Neill and Michael Hayes. For their dedication, effort and expertise, their "portfolios" must be stamped "mission accomplished".

Our under-14 hurlers also crowned themselves in glory by winning the Roinn B championship, beating Freshford in the final. These young lads hurled with great

style and were a marvellous credit to themselves and the club. Credit must be awarded to their trainer, Tom Keogh, Ciaran Phelan, John Comerford and Cathal Fitzgerald. Despite the sterling efforts of Tom Keogh and his under-16 players they just could not overcome a Glenmore team that were surely Roinn A standard. Our special junior team reached the Northern League final only to be beaten by a strong Fenians outfit, who in turn won the county final.

The junior football team were beaten by a solitary point in the Northern final. D. J. Carey was a huge loss to this team, having been injured in the Intermediate final. Another major success during the year

was the organisation and playing of a minor hurling and football inter-club leagues. This is the kind of nursery that breeds the adult players of the future. Players ranged in age from 13 years to 18 years. The hurling league was kindly sponsored by Treacy's Garage of Gowran and local farmer Tommy Phelan. The football league was sponsored by Bolger Antiques and local referee Shem Gibbons.



YOUNG IRELANDS (Gowran) - Under-14 Roinn 'B' County Hurling Champions.

Back row (l-r.): Pdraig Bolger, Tom Drennan, Eoin Drea, Robert Simpson, Donal Twomey, Dick Carroll, Jim Dunphy (Selector), Aidan Drennan, James Comerford, Tom Keogh (Selector), Alan Power, Barry O'Donnell, Brian Whelan, Michael Mackey (Trainer), Ciaran Phelan (Selector), John Comerford (Chairman under-age committee). Front row (l-r.): David Carter, John Paul Comerford, Thomas Drennan, John Carter, Brendan Hickey, Alan Roche, Stephen Byrne, Cathal Fitzgerald (Selector).



Fergal Byrne, Captain 5-a-side League Hurling team, receiving the Cup from John Comerford.

Young Irelands (Gowran) – Under-16 County Finalists 1992

Back row (l.-r.): Brian Midleton, Barry O'Donnell, Darragh Hunt, Shane Power, Peter Carroll, Brian Byrne, Billy Doheny, Alan O'Neill, P. J. Hickey, David Kenny, Padraig Bolger, Jimmy Curran, Liam Kirk. Front row (l.-r.): James Comerford, Andrew Carter, Aidan Drennan, Eoin Drea, Dick Carroll, David Carter, Ciaran Carroll, Francis Kennedy, Richard Kennedy, Thomas Drennan, Robert Simpson, Martin Carter.



Hopefully their generosity will generate local support for them. James Fitzgerald's team beat Michael Barcoe's team in the football final while in the same competition Fergal's Byrne's team beat Martin Carey's team in the Plate final. Fergal Byrne's team won the hurling final beating Liam Phelan's team in an excellent game. Michael Barcoe's outfit took the Plate final against James Fitzgerald's lads.

On the inter-county scene our representatives heaped an abundance of honour on our club, Pride of place must go to D. J. Carey, Pat O'Neill and Charlie Carter who "came home" with Leinster and All-Ireland medals. These were the first senior medals ever brought to the club, although Pat "Diamond" Hayden won a senior All-Ireland medal in 1947, but he was a member of the Eire Óg team at the time. In addition "Man of the Match" awards were won by Pat O'Neill (R.T.E.)

and D. J. Carey (Radio Kilkenny). Martin Carey kept a good goal for the Kilkenny minor team that won the Leinster Final, but lost the All-Ireland semi-final to Galway in a replay. He did however win an All-Ireland Colleges medal with his alma-mater, St. Kieran's College. Dick Carroll and Owen Drea were on the county under-14 team that reached the Tony Forristal Tournament final in Waterford, but failed to the host county. The same two players together with Aidan Drennan played on the Kilkenny under-14 football team that took part in the Leinster football blitz.

On the administration side of our club, things were buzzing too. Martin Kealy, Noel Roche and John O'Neill planted over 100 ash trees around the field. Finance Chairman, Eddie Power, treasurer Willie Delaney and their committee performed miracles to generate much needed funds to service the club's heavy financial commitments. Finally Paddy Brennan, Neigham, completed his 40th year as treasurer – surely a record for any individual or club.



Football League Winners (Gowran Minor Street League) – Back row (l.-r.): Pat Kennedy (Manager), Francis Peters, Shane Power, Dermot Treacy, Liam Kirk, Darragh Hunt, Shem Gibbons (Manager). Front row (l.-r.): Thomas Kenny, Canice Bolger, James Fitzgerald, Justin Concannon, Alan O'Neill.



Hurling Street League Winners – Back row (l.-r.): Brian Treacy (Manager), Noel Concannon, Eoin Farrell, Fergal Byrne, Justin Concannon. Front row (l.-r.): James Comerford, Oliver Carter, Eoin Drea.

Love of "Mc" took Liam's breath away

By: JOHN KNOX ('Kilkenny People')

LIFE IS a voyage of discovery, a learning process, be it for the rich man, the poor man, the sportsman or fan, indeed for everyone. There is no one who has done or seen it all, and the wise man who once remarked 'the day you don't learn something, is a wasted day' was truly a knowledgeable fellow.

For over 20 years now, Kilkenny's Liam Fennelly has paraded his lush talents on hurling platforms, high and low. Some would have said he had seen and done it all. Not by a long stretch.

The 35-year-old stepped off the inter-county stage in September after captaining his beloved county to a second senior All-Ireland win. Only four locals have skippered more than one winning senior side. Fennelly is unique in that he is the only person ever to be presented with the new (1992) and old (1983) McCarthy Cup.

In many ways, Fennelly was richer for the hurling experience. His impressive cache of medals included three senior All-Irelands, four National Leagues, three All-Star awards and a bucketful of Leinster and county honours. He knew his hurling. He knew its people. But only after he retired did he learn the true depth of the devotion to the game on the Noreside.

"Thanks be to God I never fully appreciated the fulfilment and joy Kilkenny people would get from the county winning the All-Ireland again," he admitted in the wake of the 24th success. "If I had realised, and the other players had realised what winning truly meant to people, I don't think we would have been able to deliver. I never for a moment realised the All-Ireland meant so much. The reaction has been unbelievable."

Since the 9-year gap to the previous win was bridged in September, Fennelly and some colleagues threw themselves wholeheartedly into the effort to bring McCarthy to the people. By Christmas, every school in the county will have seen 'Liam' the trophy. By request, it has been paraded as far North as Antrim and Armagh, and as far South as Cork and Kerry.

IN ENGLAND TWICE

Since mid-November, Fennelly's diary for 'Mc' has been

LIAM FENNELLY

Age: 35.

Height: 6'.

Weight: 12 st.

Occupation: Flatley Engineering Sales Rep.

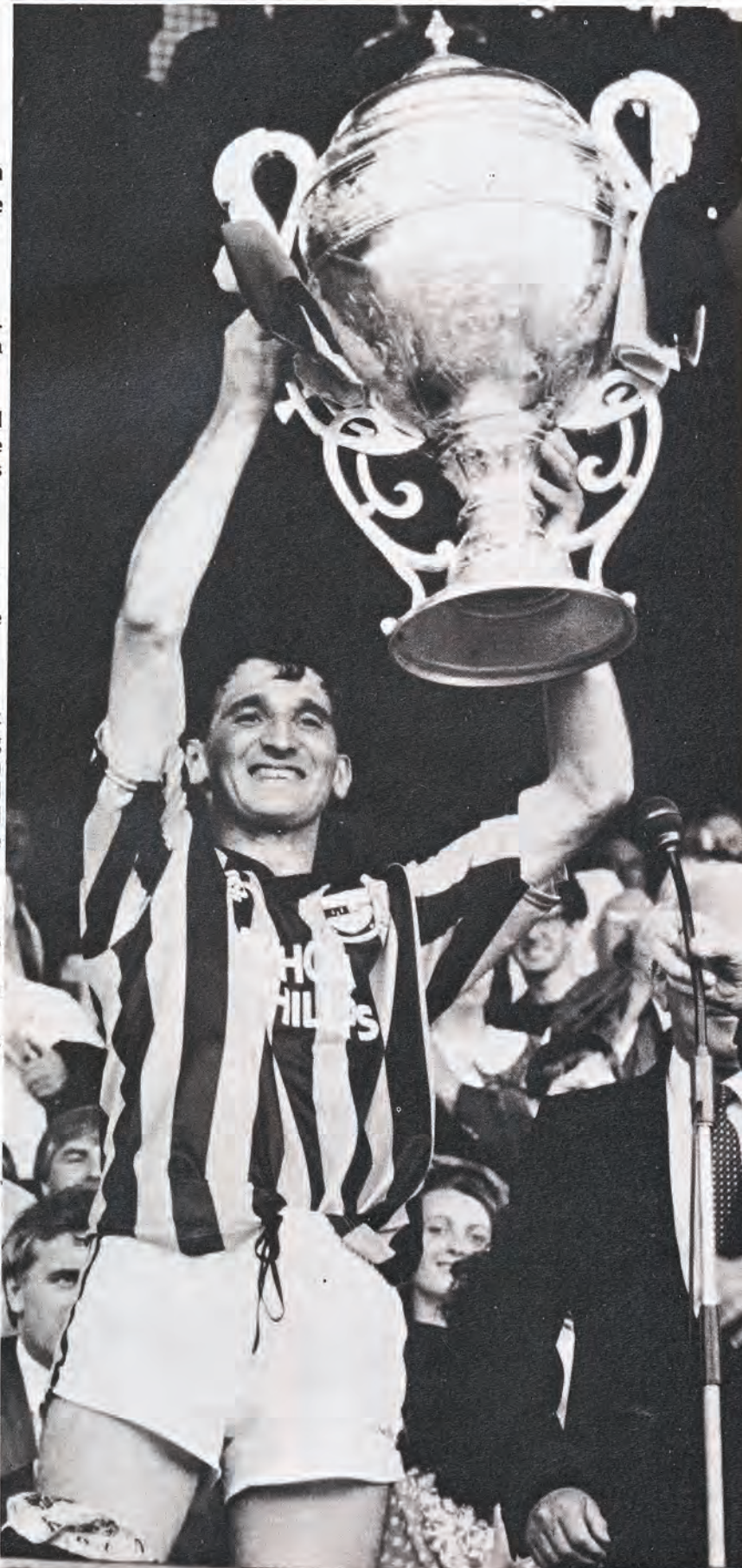
Married to: Joan (nee Holden).

Children: Jamie (6), Lorraine (5), Leann (2), Joseph (1).

Birthday: January 3.

Born: 1958.

Liam Fennelly holds aloft the Bob O'Keefe Cup after Kilkenny defeated Wexford in this year's Leinster Final at Croke Park.



full every Thursday, Friday and Saturday right up to Christmas. The captain has been in England twice. This interview was on Sunday, November 22. The previous night he had been in New Ross and Olygate, Co. Wexford with every hurling man's friend. He didn't get home until 3 a.m.

The evening of the interview there were further obligations. First stop was the Rock Bar, Freshford road, favoured watering-hole of Kilkenny trainer, Mick O'Flynn. Then it was full speed ahead to the other end of the county to Mooncoin, the territory of panelist Tom Murphy.

It has been all go. Fennelly the great hurler and captain, by extension has become the great ambassador. Hurling duties these times are different. Oh boy, the expense of it all. He shudders to think.

"It is just as well I have retired," the father of four went on to explain. "I would be unable to do all this going and play at the same time. It wouldn't be possible, because it can be draining. If I was still playing, there would be many disappointed people.

"It is enjoyable, nice to be able to do it. When I get tired I think of the horrible feeling of losing last year's final, and that gives me the strength to keep going."

During the General Election, Liam was on-the campaign trail with his brother Kevin who ran on the Fianna Fáil ticket. The experience was eye opening. It even shocked him a little, in a nice sort of way:

SO HAPPY

"Just take one area like Galmoy, for instance," he said as an introduction to the point. "It appeared everyone recognised the players, particularly the older people. These people were so happy after the All-Ireland win it knocked me back a little. Politics and everything else was pushed way into the background.

"In every house people wanted to talk about hurling. The game is so strong in Kilkenny, I just didn't realise. Amazing, after 12 years of inter-county hurling I only learned that when I retired. I met more fans than I had ever met before. It was great."

The reaction to the cup was terrific in schools, especially in the girls schools. Although it was in Kilkenny 23 times, the McCarthy paid its first visit to the Convent of Mercy, Thomastown this year.

Liam had a gem of a story about his trip to Crosspatrick National School. That day, Galmoy, Urlingford and Crosspatrick schools were being visited. As the latter had the smallest number of pupils, it was felt that would be a good place to start.

It was! There were approximately 47 students. Each pupil had his picture taken individually with the cup, and the captain. Somewhere along the line the film in the



The winning of an All-Ireland is an exhausting experience . . . as Liam's wife Joan takes care of their daughter Lorraine.

Some of his major honours

County S.H.C. (9) – 1978, 1979, 1980, 1982, 1983, 1985, 1988, 1989, 1991.

Leinster S.H.C. (6) – 1982, 1983, 1986, 1987, 1991, 1992.

National Hurling Leagues (4) – 1982, 1983, 1986, 1990.

All-Ireland S.H.C. (3) – 1982, 1983, 1992.

All-Star (3) – 1983, 1985, 1987.

All-Ireland Club S.H.C. (3) – 1981, 1984, 1990.

County S.F.C. (3) – 1979, 1980, 1982.

All-Ireland Voc. Schools S.H. (1) – 1975.

Oireachtas Tournament (1) – 1984.

County I.H.C. (1) – 1974.

County J.H.C. (1) – 1973.

County Under-21 H.C. (1) – 1974.

camera ran out. A second camera was produced like a shot. Forty-seven smiles later, Fennelly had a pain in his face. Yet he was thrilled.

"That happening will stay with me, and amuse me for life," he smiled, still able to do it. "Where would you get enthusiasm like that? The children and teachers were lovely. Who knows, some day one of those youngsters may be a senior All-Ireland hurler with Kilkenny. I hope so."

ENTHUSIASM

The McCarthy has engendered such enthusiasm everywhere. One day Fennelly was stopped by hurling hero from the past Jim Treacy. The captain of the 1967 All-Ireland winning team had heard so much about this new cup, he had to see it for himself.

He was impressed, and mirrored the warm, satisfied smile Fennelly had come across all over the county. People had what they craved for years – victory, McCarthy . . . a place back at the top of the hurling world. Hurt pride has been mended.

"Things have changed since I was last captain in 1983," Liam assured. "I remember then I only missed about three days from work." He pleaded not to be asked how many he missed this time.

One of the most celebrated Kilkenny hurlers of all time first displayed what was to become a torturous – for all opponents – 'left over right' style at under-14 level. That county team included clubmate Watty Long, Ger Stapleton, Tommy Murphy, Paddy Prendergast, Paudie Holden, Tommy Lennon (Freshford) and Joe Wall. He progressed through the minor and under-21 ranks, but the ultimate victory eluded him until he became a senior.

By the time he finished last September, the averages were good. Five senior All-Irelands brought three victories. Four League finals earned four medals. Four All-Ireland club finals produced three wins. A dozen county finals had a successful conclusion nine times. Not bad going. And he got out at the very top, after captaining a second All-Ireland winning team.

In his first senior game against Limerick in February 1980, a promising youngster by the name of Liam Fennelly scored 1-1. He showed a knack of taking and creating goals that stayed with him to the end.

UNIFYING EFFECT

One of his most celebrated creative moments came in the Leinster Final of 1982 against Offaly. A cause that looked lost was turned by Fennelly. He chased a ball to the end line, and his cross was whipped to the net by Matt Ruth. Kilkenny won the match, and went on to complete the National League/All-Ireland double.

In three of Kilkenny's four championship matches this year, Fennelly figured among the scorers. What was even better, he had a unifying effect on the team. He got the best out of himself, and all around him. At the finish he was rated one of the best skippers of all time, Kilkenny's version of 'Captain Fantastic'.

"The entire championship campaign of 1992 was the high point of my career," the Shamrocks (Ballyhale) man insisted. "From the day we got over Offaly you could see things coming together. We played a different pattern of game than past Kilkenny teams. But that is the way the game has gone.

"The work-rate from the 15 players has to be high. You have to hunt for everything. That is what we did. We were probably the smallest team ever to win an All-Ireland, but we worked hard for it."

Long after the final whistle had blown to end his inter-county career, Liam Fennelly was still working hard, spreading the hurling gospel.

An All-Ireland experience



Where's the top of me flag gonell! . . . Brigid, William and Mary Barraghcore from Goresbridge after the All-Ireland. (Photo: Gerry Deegan)



Dressed to win! . . . John Holden (Gowran) and Eileen Mackler (Kilkenny) are dressed for the victory ball. (Photo: Gerry Deegan)



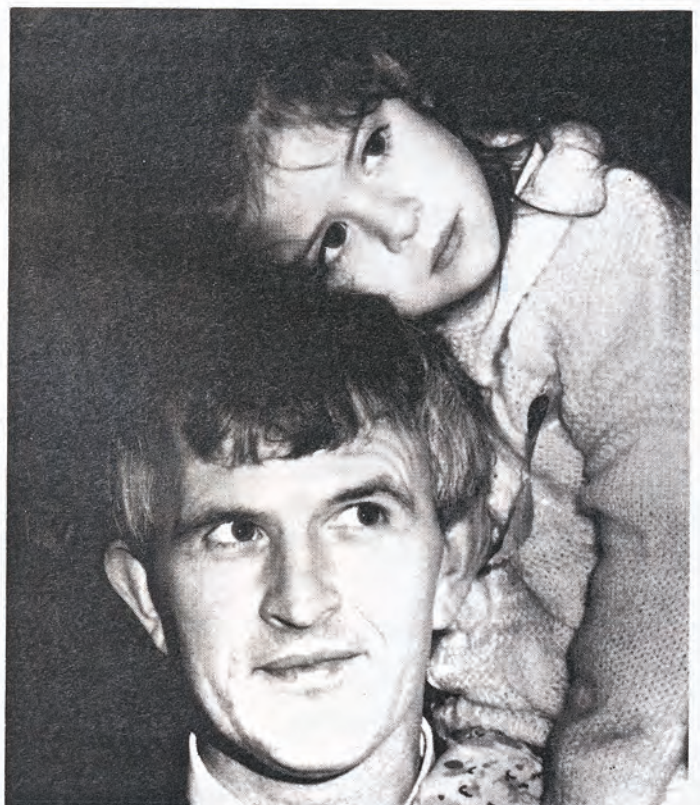
Caroline Brennan, Margaret Brennan and Angela Coogan, all from Crettyard, Castlecomer, enjoying themselves at the Banner Parade. (Photo: Tom Wemyss)

Happy Cats!!! . . . Larry O'Shea and Adrian Hudson from Carrickshock.



Come on Da Burrell! . . . Bridgie Malone with her usual warcyrl.

(Photo: Sportsfile)



Hey Da! are they ever goin' ta come? . . . Marty Butler (Freshford) and daughter Donna.

(Photo: Tom Wemyss)

Keeping the flag flying — in Korea

By ENDA McEVOY

Fr. John Nyhan could hardly have picked a better time of the year to come home to Kilkenny on his holidays. The South Korean-based priest got to see so many enjoyable games he scarcely had time to draw breath! Now that he's returned to his parish, he'll surely have plenty of happy memories to sustain him as he goes about his duties in the 70,000-strong city of Sokcho.

First and foremost was the All-Ireland hurling final, closely followed by the Black and Amber's semi-final win against Galway; the holiday would have been worthwhile for those two matches alone. But there was so much more besides, he smiles.

The Waterford/Offaly under-21 two-parter in Nowlan Park, for example. Young Ireland's feats in the county Intermediate semi-final and decider. The exciting fare served up by James Stephens and Craignamanagh/Blacks and Whites in the two instalments of the minor final. Added together, a delicious icing on a wonderfully satisfying cake.

For any exiled Cat, this sort of homecoming would have been hectic enough. For Fr. John Nyhan there was perhaps an extra edge of interest: not too many Kilkenny people abroad are the possessors of an All-Ireland medal in both colleges' and minor hurling.

"It was absolutely thrilling to see so many fine games," the city native agreed prior to his departure at the end of November. "I obviously chose a great year to come home!

"The county senior final excepted, every other match I saw was of a very high standard. Being in Croke Park on the first Sunday in September was a terrific experience — Kilkenny were so fit and eager and keyed-up they were a joy to behold.

"And even something as simple as attending a fixture in Nowlan Park was a pleasure. The pitch there is beautiful, the place has been upgraded nicely in recent years, while the crowds at the games were also impressive."

Of the scores of players the Circular road resident witnessed in action after arriving home in early August, one stood out as a genuine class act: D.J. Carey, a young man who reminded Fr. John of a similar star turn he's hurled with over 30 years ago.

"Yes, Eddie Keher was a classmate of mine in St. Kieran's. He was on the college

team from an early age, was a star from the beginning.

"At his peak, Eddie was miles ahead of everyone else in colleges' hurling. He was so much more advanced. He seemed bigger and stronger than the rest of us, and could — and would — win games on his own. The only surprise would have been if he *hadn't* gone on to make it big with Kilkenny at senior level."

Keher and John Nyhan, the latter wearing the number 14 shirt, were two of the stars of the 1959 All-Ireland colleges' final, hitting 0-7 and 1-3, respectively, as St. Kieran's disposed of Tipperary CBS in a splendid encounter on a score of 2-13 to 4-2. A few months later the pair were in striped, as opposed to hooped, jerseys when Kilkenny went down, unluckily, by a point (2-8 to 2-7) to the Premier County on minor championship big day. Happily for the team's full-forward, revenge was forthcoming the following year when Tipp. were crushed 7-12 to 1-11 as Kilkenny captured their fifth All-Ireland under-18 title.

The big wheel in St. Kieran's at the time was, of course, Fr. Tommy Maher, one of the truly giant figures on the landscape of Kilkenny hurling. What does Fr. Nyhan remember of the now Monsignor Maher's methods?

ATTENTION TO DETAIL

"Odd little things still stick in the mind. The corner forwards, for instance — Fr. Maher maintained their primary job was to prevent the ball going wide. Every time you allowed the sliotar cross the end line, he stressed, was as though you stopped it and pucked it 70 yards back the other way.

"He drummed it into the forwards to always face the opposing team's puckout. Now that might seem unimportant, but when you're playing game after game there's bound to be a bad puckout somewhere along the line — and if you're waiting for it, you've an almost certain score.

"Or when a half-forward was soloing through, the inside

forwards would always get out of the square in the hope that our markers would follow us and so open it up for the lad coming in. And free-taking was practiced endlessly by Eddie Keher. Often his training consisted solely of hitting the ball over the bar from different angles, with somebody behind the goal pucking the ball back."

The basic skills of hurling were already inherent in the better students, according to Fr. Nyhan. The inter-class leagues and other competitions at St. Kieran's, plus the fact that practically every minute of one's spare time was spent with a stick and sliotar, made sure of that.

"Most of the lads were boarders back then, and what else had they do on Saturdays and Sundays? Hurling was the only game in the school — which must have been tough on the lads who didn't play or weren't good at it. Every half-day or spare afternoon spent pucking a ball around meant the basic skills were being practised day in day out, often almost unconsciously.

One of the best hurlers when I was there was John Alley from Durrow, who would have walked onto any Kilkenny team.

"So Fr. Maher, who was a huge factor in the school's success, was able to concentrate on these little details. Watching games since, I've noticed his ideas being proved correct. Teams who don't do the simple thing properly usually suffer for it."

As a day boy at the college, John Nyhan carried his extramural hurling with a team called St. Canice's, who hung out in James's Park. Established by the late Mick Loughman, the side drew players from around the city.

"Mick was a tremendous character, a real hurling fanatic. We never won anything, but we had a lot of fun. And Mick played a big part in pushing my claims for the county minors in 1959 and 1960."

The 1960 All-Ireland minor

hurling final was John Nyhan's career highlight. A promising future had to be laid aside for the demands of the cloth. He was ordained a Columban Father at Christmastime 1965 and went to South Korea the following year.

A geographer writes: The Korean peninsula, a fat finger jabbed out by north-east China in the direction of Japan, is shared by hardline communist North Korea and western-orientated South Korea. The latter, a country not much bigger than Ireland, contains 40 million citizens, a quarter of them in Seoul, venue of the 1988 Olympics. Sokcho, Fr. John's parish, is five hours from the capital and situated in a scenic area by the sea. The summers are a little warmer than we have here, the winters cooler but drier.

"There are quite a few Irish people in Korea — business people, mostly — as well as an ambassador. Where I am there are no foreigners at all, but we get lots of tourists. Hurling, I'm afraid to say, is completely unknown there. . . .

Fr. Nyhan comes home very three or four years. In between, letters and newspapers keep him *au fait* with what's happening in Ireland. The BBC World Service is helpful, too.

"We get the All-Ireland result every year the following morning on the World Service at a minute to eight Korean time, which is 11.59 p.m. Sunday in London. They only give the score, so you have to be ready for it. One year, I remember, there was atmospheric interference; the phone was hopping for the rest of the morning with other priests ringing up asking 'Did you manage to get the result? Who won, Cork or Galway?'"

The 1992 trip to Kilkenny ended up one of the best holidays ever. Fr. John met old friends like Fr. Pat Duggan, who's currently based in Bennettsbridge, Fr. Dick Somers (Mississippi) and Joe Ayres, a colleague on the 1960 All-Ireland outfit. Unfortunately he wasn't back in time for the reunion of the treble-winning minors (1960-61-62), but seeing the Black and Amber capture the new McCarthy Cup more than compensated.

But he can't wait for his next trip home!

Spot a Face Spot a Face Spot a Face Spot a Face



MARTIN WHITE

By: BARRIE HENRIQUES

IT IS seldom one meets a living legend in his own time, but I had such an experience on a May day in 1992, when, a veritable "who's who" of G.A.A. personalities gathered to launch the Tullaroan inspired "Lory Maher Museum" in the Newpark Hotel. I spotted the demure and serene Martin White across a crowded room – as the song goes – surrounded by a litany of acquaintances and friends from another era, and taking my courage in my two "mits", I must talk to this Kilkenny hurling legend from a distant era.

Initially I was a little overawed by Martin White's hurling presence, stature, and reputation. With a benign smile and a stout handshake the ineluctable Martin White defrayed my innermost fears. "Sit down there sonny, and we'll chat for a while" says he. Over the following hour or so, Martin White, who was born in Lacken on July 31st, 1909, took me on a magic carpet ride through a G.A.A. wonderland spanning nine decades.

I wondered at the man's clarity of recollection and his enthusiasm. He was schooled at Bonnettstown N.S., James Street C.B.S., and finally at St. Kieran's College, where his President was a Glenmore man, Canon Aylward. His greatest prize, which he still possesses and treasures, is the first medal he won with the C.B.S. in 1922. They beat the Patrick Street C.B.S. that day, who were led by the legendary Paddy Larkin – Fan's father. He still remembers some of his team-mates on that team: Dan Dunne (James Street), Neddy O'Brien (near Callan), Jack Tunny (Cuffesgrange), Fr. Pat Bollard, Ned O'Neill (Kieran Street), the Rush brothers, Arthur and Gerry (the Chemist), and the goalie Jimmy (Pudgie) Malone.

Martin White is Tullaroan and Kilkenny through and through. Why Tullaroan you



might ask? Very simply, Tullaroan was, and always remained, the only club Martin White wielded his camán for in Kilkenny. As a sixteen year old, he played Junior hurling for Tullaroan until he was promoted to Senior status in 1929. Mooncoin beat them in the 1929 Championship by a solitary point, before going on to win the title.

He speaks of his team mates on that Tullaroan team with awe and profound respect. Martin refused to eulogise on his own achievements during his playing career – he is such a modest man. His only concession on that "tac" being that the record books were there for that purpose. However, he readily admitted that he deemed it a great honour to have won a championship medal with the immortal Dick Grace. He had tremendous regard for

Jim Dermody, Lory Meaghr and the greatest hurler he ever saw, Paddy Phelan. "Lory was a hard task-master, who demanded 100% and always led by example" he said. "Paddy Phelan had great hands, and seldom caught a ball in his hand" the wonderful Martin continued.

He had great regard for other Kilkenny hurlers of his day: "the Dunphys and Neddy Doyle were artists" he continued. "The Duggans too, were great men" he started. "Jack Duggan was the only man I ever saw master Lory Meagher, while his brother Larry came as close as anyone to being the master of Paddy Phelan". Martin spoke at length about a list of great men he played against and with, and has seen over the past nine decades.

Dick Morrissey – "if he was playing in the second match in 1931 we would never have had to play the third match": Paddy Larkin, Mick Mackey, John Quirke, George Garrett (Cork), Christy Ring, Jim Langton, Jack Mulcahy, Paddy Grace (a great friend and a player's friend), Fr. Joe Kelly (Cork), Sean Clohessy, Eddie Keher, the Hendersons, the Fennellys (especially Ger), Frank Cummins (I would love to have him on my team) Timmy Ryan, Jim Hurley, Ned Wade, Mick Daniels, Mick Gill, Joe Salmon, Wilkie Thorpe (Wexford) the Rackards, Wheeler, Kehoes, and Nick O'Donnell all from Wexford. All these names and more flipped off his tongue easily and each name was accompanied with an adjective of excellence that was complimentary to the point of wonderment.

I could have spent many more hours taxing the sinews of this most courteous and delightful of nature's gentlemen, but alas I could not detain the man further from his "real" friends who after all deserved "their" time with the "legend" that is, and will be for many years to come" le cúnamh De" – Martin White.



THE EIRE OG TEAM WHO WERE HONOURED BY THE COUNTY BOARD ON COUNTY FINAL SUNDAY

Back row (l.-r.): Matt Duggan, Ted Carroll (County Secretary), Jim Rice, Joe Gargan, Liam Brett, Kieran Carroll, Paddy Brett, Nickey Brennan (Chairman County Board), Billy Holohan, Mick Brett, John Maher (M.D. Kilkenny Heritage Crystal). Front row (l.-r.): Liam Reidy, Mick Neary, Kevin Shortall, Ramie Dowling, Johnny Power, John Maher, Pat Fahy, Dick Gorey.

(Photo: Tom Brett)



ACTION REPLAY . . . Action from the 1963 All-Ireland Final between Kilkenny and Waterford.
Left to right: Tom Cheasty, Ted Carroll, Frankie Walsh, Seamus Cleere and Ollie Walsh.



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PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT IN HURLING

The use of protective equipment, especially at under-age level, plays a very important part in curtailing injuries to players, who have not yet reached the skill level required to reduce the risk element to a minimum. Until that skill level is reached, it is the responsibility of parents, coaches and GAA administration to ensure that these players get maximum protection and use all protective equipment available.

Although the incidences of facial injuries in hurling are relatively low, if they do occur they can be serious. For any person involved in coaching or training under-age players they must recognise that they should do everything in their power to ensure that avoidable injuries do not occur. The wearing of helmets with full face visor is imperative. The visor is an excellent innovation, and causes only minimum visibility restriction; however, the advantages it offers far outweigh this minor drawback.

The main difficulty in introducing these helmets initially, to children, was that senior county hurlers were not wearing them and also a touch of the macho image ("you won't see me wearing one of those cages").

Fortunately the brilliant displays of individual hurling throughout the year by such players as Eamonn Morrissey, Brian Corcoran, and Eddie O'Connor – all of whom wore the full face visor, has given this form of protection a completely new image. Now all the children want to wear them.

Although our concentration is, and



Lester Ryan

should be, focused on the under-age players, adults should also seriously consider the "visor" concept. As the use of the visor slowly colates into senior level, it is ironic that it represents a hazard to other players. If an unprotected player collides with one wearing the helmet/visor, he may receive a nasty injury. For this reason it should be all or none, and hopefully the former wins out, sooner rather than later.

Consideration should also be given to the use of protective gear for hands and shins. The hand injury, although not as serious as facial, can still be enough to put a beginner off the game for life. A common enough sight on the hurling field (and we should be unwise not to admit it) are the scenes of skinned and bruised fingers. While this might be the norm at the moment, it is important – if we are to continue to attract young players to the

game – that it changes. Gloves, which provide protection to the back of the hand and fingers, should be developed and, like the helmets, under-age players should be "encouraged" to wear them. Shinguards are a common enough feature and that extra little push is all that is needed to ensure that children are aware of their value.

The last thing we want, or need, within the GAA is to have players taking the field dressed like American footballers with massive helmets, padded shoulders, padded hips, padded elbows, padded pads. But a happy medium must be reached between the need to avoid injury while maintaining the integrity of hurling as a fast, skilled, and tough contact sport. Imagine a coaching session, training session or game with all players wearing a helmet/visor, protective gloves and shinguards. While not being overly obtrusive, these three items would have a major impact on bringing the relatively small number of injuries which presently occur in hurling to a level (while not acceptable) which could be reasonably expected.

While coaching of the basic skills is one of the most effective ways of preventing injury, young players must be nursed, gradually, to the stage where they are in a position to recognise the inherent risks of the game and assess their own ability to deal with them. Therefore they are making an informed judgement about their participation. For parents, their concern for their offspring's welfare will be alleviated, as the game not only becomes safer, but is seen to be so.

Lester Ryan



For the first time ever the Kilkenny Minor Hurling League and Championship was sponsored. Pictured above at the launch of the sponsorship (from left): Frank Hogan (Marketing Manager, Iarnród Éireann), Joe Pyke (Chairman Kilkenny G.A.A. Bord na nÓg), Tom Delahunty (Vice-Chairman Kilkenny G.A.A. Bord na nÓg), Mary Holden (Iarnród Éireann), Ted Carroll (Kilkenny G.A.A. County Secretary) and Nickey Brennan (Kilkenny G.A.A. County Board Chairman).

(Photo: Tom Brett)

TOM RYALL

**a lifetime of service
to Cumann
Luthchleas Gael**

By:

NICKEY BRENNAN

EVERY county and indeed club can point to an individual or two who has contributed in a major way to the development of Cumann Luthchleas Gael. Here in Kilkenny we are fortunate to have many able G.A.A. administrators and officials who give freely of their time to ensure the success of our Association.

Tom Ryall has given a lifetime of service to the G.A.A. at both club and county level and still continues to maintain the same high standards he set himself from the earliest years of involvement with Gaelic Games. As a player, referee or official he gained the respect of all and is rightly regarded as one of the prime authorities on Gaelic Games facts and figures.

As a young player in the sixties, I myself retain vivid memories of Tom as an opportunist corner-forward with Graigue-Ballycallan. Little was I to know at that stage that Tom and myself would not just work together with Avonmore Foods, but would also have a responsibility towards the development and promotion of Gaelic Games here in Kilkenny. Everyone associated with the G.A.A. in Kilkenny and indeed further afield realise the important rôle Tom Ryall plays in the on-going development of our national games, but I thought readers of our Year Book would like to know more of Tom, his introduction to Gaelic Games, his playing heroes and his thoughts on great games of years gone by.

I recently spoke to Tom about his life long involvement with Cumann Luthchleas Gael. I hope you enjoy reading the article.

Summarise your career to date as an Administrator and Team Official.

County Board	P.R.O.	1980 - Present Day
County Board	Central Council Rep.	1985 - Present Day
Bord na nÓg	Secretary	1973 - Present Day
Factory League	Chairman or Sec Kilkenny	1969 - Present Day
	Leinster Secretary	1975 - Present Day
	All-Ireland P.R.O.	1975 - Present Day
Graigue/Ballycallan	Secretary	1955 - 1984
St. Brigid's Camogie	Chairperson	1989 - Present Day
Senior Co. Selector		1967 - 1969
U-21 Co. Selector		1964
Intermediate Co. Selector		1967
Football Co. Selector		1962.

Recall your introduction to Gaelic Games. Who were the big influences in the early years?

Surprisingly Tom came from a non hurling background, but on entering Kilmanagh National School he became friendly with



Date of Birth: 8th July, 1933

Occupation: Stores Supervisor with Avonmore Foods plc., Ballyragget.

Family: Married to Bridget.
Four daughters, Catherine, Mary, Orla and Ann-Marie

Nicholas Teehan. His friend was steeped in a strong hurling tradition with his uncles, the Graces, the winners of All-Ireland medals in both hurling and football. Nicholas Teehan's father and mother were regular attenders at G.A.A. games and this gave the young Tom Ryall his first opportunity to sample the thrills and excitement of a pastime that was to prove so much part of his later. Tom remembers the 1944 Leinster Final as the first inter-county game he attended, travelling on the bar of a bicycle owned by Paddy Walsh who now resides in Woodsgift. Another big influence on the young Tom Ryall was a school teacher Davy Maher, a fanatic on Gaelic Games. Maher himself trained the 1950 Kilkenny Minor team and the 1955 Kilkenny Senior team which lost to Wexford after a replay.

Tom, outline your own playing career.

With no formally organised Primary School competitions in the forties, Tom Ryall first wore the colours of his beloved parish in the Under-14 grade taking part in the 1946 and 1947 championships. His club lost out to Thomastown in the 1947 final with the current Kilkenny team manager Ollie Walsh, the Thomastown goalkeeper in that game. The famed Kilkenny Hurling nursery, St. Kieran's College, also helped to instil an increasing interest in Gaelic Games for Tom. He suffered the disappointment of missing out on a place on the Senior panel for the 1950/51 season because of mumps. In the same year he missed out on a Junior championship medal, being just three weeks overage. Further disappointment came the following year when as a member of the senior team, the side lost out to St. Joseph's, Roscrea.

Tom played with his club Graigue-Ballycallan in the Kilkenny Senior Hurling Championship from 1953 to 1961, losing three semi-finals, along the way to Mooncoin (1955), Bennettsbridge (1956) and John Lockes (1957). Graigue played in the Kilkenny Junior Championship from 1962 to 1987. Graigue-Ballycallan was formed in 1969, qualifying for the Junior County Final in 1970. Because of a dispute this final was never played. Tom recalls this as one of the biggest disappointments he has encountered.

In 1960 Tom played on the successful Graigue Junior Football side and the following year helped the side reach the senior final when they lost out to the Railyard on a score of 1-7 to 0-2.

I have listed earlier Tom's involvement as an Administrator with the Factory League. In fact it is fair to say that the success of the Factory Hurling League over the past twenty five years can be attributed directly to Tom Ryall's astute leadership. On the field of play Tom wore the Avonmore colours from 1969 to 1972, winning a Leinster Junior medal in 1971.

In April 1954, Tom made his inter-county debut with Kilkenny coming on as a sub goalie for the second half of the Dr. Kinnane Cup game against Wexford in Waterford. Tom lost out to Liam

Cleere (Bennettsbridge) for the sub goalie position for the National League Final against Tipperary which Kilkenny lost on a score of 3-10 to 1-4. He also recalls being asked to travel to a game in Cashel in 1957 as a forward but decided instead to play with his club the same evening in Wexford Park against Rathnure. Thus ended Tom's brief involvement as a Kilkenny player.

When did your interest in collecting match reports and newspaper cuttings begin?

The year 1944 saw the commencement of what is now surely one of the finest collection of G.A.A. match reports and photographs in the country. The 'Tom Ryall Collection' has been exhibited at many locations throughout Ireland, with the highlight being the Centenary celebrations in 1984. Tom regrets that he did not start collecting match reports until 1950. His vast knowledge of G.A.A. teams and scorers is unparalleled in Ireland, helped in no small way by the collection of every G.A.A. publication since the 1940's. Over the years Tom loaned some of his valuable collection to other G.A.A. enthusiasts but regretfully not all of the books were returned. Tom is currently attempting to re-build his collection by obtaining the missing books elsewhere.

Recall the names and the big games you first came across in club and county games.

The Brother Rice Centenary game in Callan in 1944 between Eire Og from Kilkenny and Thurles Sarsfields was the first big club game which the 11-year-old Tom Ryall attended. Big names who took part in that game were Jim Langton, Jack Mulcahy, Liam Reidy and Jack Gargan with Eire Og while Thurles Sarsfields had Ger Cornally, John Maher, Tommy Doyle, Eddie Gleeson and Tommy Ryan in their ranks. Mick Butler, Terry Leahy, Jim Donegan, Harry Grey, Frank White and Ned Wade with Dublin along with Nicky Rackard, Joe Bailey, Paddy Kehoe and the flamboyant Sam 'Wilkie' Thorpe were the names that spring to mind when Tom recollects the heroes of the 1944 Leinster Championship.

Recall the great games of hurling which you have seen?

Tom recalls the 1950 game between Kilkenny and Wexford as the first great Leinster Final he attended. It was Wexford's first occasion in a Leinster Final since 1918. He fondly cherished every final between the two great Leinster rivals ever since. Other great games which spring to mind were the Munster Final of 1956 (Cork v. Limerick), and the 1984 and 1987 (drawn) Munster Finals (Cork v. Tipperary). The best All-Ireland Finals Tom witnessed were 1956 (Cork v. Wexford), 1957 (Kilkenny v. Waterford), 1959 (drawn game Kilkenny v. Waterford), 1962 (Tipperary v. Wexford), 1967 (Kilkenny v. Tipperary, and particularly with Kilkenny defeating our great rivals for the first time in 45 years), 1972 (Kilkenny v. Cork) and 1990 (Cork v. Galway).

Who were the best hurlers you ever saw?

Christy Ring (Cork), Bobby Rackard (Wexford), Harry Grey (Dublin), Pat Stakelum (Tipperary), Joe Salmon (Galway) and Jimmy Doyle (Tipperary). From Kilkenny we have Jim Langton, Ollie Walsh, Frank Cummins, Pat Henderson and Eddie Keher.

As an astute follower of Gaelic Games, I asked Tom to select his all time Kilkenny team and his all time team excluding Kilkenny players.

Kilkenny: 1. Ollie Walsh; 2. Phil 'Fan' Larkin; 3. Brian Cody; 4. Jim Treacy; 5. Paddy Buggy; 6. Pat Henderson; 7. Martin Coogan; 8. Liam O'Brien; 9. Frank Cummins; 10. Jim Langton; 11. Sean Clohessy; 12. Billy Fitzpatrick; 13. Mick Brennan; 14. Kieran Purcell; 15. Eddie Keher. *Subs:* Noel Skehan, Ted Carroll, Ger Henderson, Bill Walsh, Terry Leahy, Tom Walsh, Pat Delaney.

All-Stars: 1. Tony Reddan (Tipperary); 2. Bobby Rackard (Wexford); 3. Nick O'Donnell (Wexford); 4. John Doyle

(Tipperary); 5. Matt Fouhy (Cork); 6. Pat Stakelum (Tipperary); 7. Martin Og Morrissey (Waterford); 8. Joe Salmon (Galway); 9. Phil Grimes (Waterford); 10. Jimmy Doyle (Tipperary); 11. Harry Grey (Dublin); 12. Josie Gallagher (Galway); 13. Jimmy Smyth (Clare); 14. Nicky Rackard (Wexford); 15. Christy Ring (Cork). *Subs:* Seanie Duggan (Galway); Tony O'Shaughnessy (Cork); Sean Herbert (Limerick); Des Foley (Dublin); Donie Nealon (Tipperary); Tim Flood (Wexford); Jimmy Barry Murphy (Cork); Eamonn Cregan (Limerick); Tom Cheasty (Waterford).

Tom found it almost impossible to decide between Ollie Walsh and Noel Skehan for the goalkeeping position. The three best goalkeeping displays he recalls were given by Ollie Walsh in the All-Ireland Finals of 1957, 1959 (drawn game) and 1967. A save Ollie Walsh made from Larry Guinan (Waterford) in the 1959 All-Ireland Final (Replay) is remembered by Tom as perhaps the best he has ever seen.

Another difficult choice was the centre half back position where the dynamic Henderson brothers, Pat and Ger, vied for the number 6 jersey. In the end Tom gave the nod to elder brother Pat. The number 5 position saw Tom give the nod to Paddy Buggy over Seamus Cleere, another extremely close decision as was the number 11 slot where Tullaroan's Sean Clohessy just edged out Pat Delaney.

Tom Ryall was a noted referee and I asked him to list the major games he covered.

Kilkenny Senior Hurling Final – 1962 and 1967.

Kilkenny Junior Hurling Final – 1960, 1962, 1963 (Replay), 1964, 1965, 1967 and 1969.

Minor Hurling Final – 1963, 1964, 1965, 1968 and 1970.

Minor Football Final – 1961, 1963 and 1968.

Also numerous Under-16 Hurling & Football Finals plus one Carlow Senior Hurling Final.

Although hurling has always been Tom Ryall's number one sport, he is also a great admirer of the skills of Gaelic Football and it's many great players. I asked Tom to recall some great games he witnessed and the players who caught the eye.

The 1956 Final between Galway and Cork is remembered by Tom as the greatest game he ever saw. In that encounter the great Galway duo of Sean Purcell and Frank Stockwell thrilled the huge attendance. Two great goals by the legendary Cork player 'Toots' Kelleher made that game an unforgettable occasion. First All-Ireland wins for Down (1960), Offaly (1971) and Donegal (1992) are remembered by Tom as great occasions when the three counties made the historic breakthrough. Like perhaps every other G.A.A. follower the meetings of the great Kerry and Dublin teams in the seventies are also listed, as is the 1973 Final (Cork v. Galway) and the 1989 Final (Cork v. Mayo).

Listing great players one has seen is almost impossible, but Tom stuck his neck out with the following.

Paddy O'Brien (Meath), Kevin Heffernan (Dublin), Sean Purcell (Galway), Frank Stockwell (Galway), Mattie McDonagh (Galway), Sean O'Neill (Down), James McCartan (Down), Paddy Doherty (Down), Sean Murphy (Kerry), Taghie Lyne (Kerry), Jack O'Shea (Kerry), John O'Keefe (Kerry), Mickey Sheehy (Kerry), Jimmy Keaveney (Dublin), Robbie Kelleher (Dublin), Colm O'Rourke (Meath), Robbie O'Malley (Meath), Larry Tompkins (Cork), Stephen White (Louth), Jim McKeever (Derry), and Gerry O'Malley (Roscommon).

Tom also recalls a number of other great players taking part in the Railway Cup Football competition. Among these were Gerry O'Reilly (Wicklow), Iggy Jones (Tyrone) and Packie McGarrity (Leitrim).

Footnote: During 1992 Tom underwent major surgery which curtailed his involvement in local affairs for a short period. Back to full health once again, he continues to play a major role in the administration of Gaelic Games here in Kilkenny. How fortunate we are to have men of Tom Ryall's calibre, energy and enthusiasm here in Kilkenny.

St. Lachtain's 30th Anniversary Celebrations

WHEN St. Lachtain's G.A.A. Club (Freshford) won its first Senior Hurling Championship in 1961, the quote from a national daily newspaper went as follows: "When Freshford hurl they throw everything they have into the spirit of the game and when they celebrate a victory, have no doubt about it, the word "half-measures" does not exist on any part of their programme."

The same words could easily be written about the 30th anniversary celebration of that victory which was held at the Urlingford Arms Hotel on January 25th 1992. The celebration consisted of a Dinner Dance and a commemorative presentation, made by Co. Board chairman

Nickey Brennan, to the entire panel of players from 1959 to 1963 which brought St. Lachtain's its first Junior title in 1959 and two Senior championships in '61 and '63. Twenty eight of that panel of thirty-three attended.

It was a night of champions. The modern-day equivalent in the form of the 1991 Senior 'B' and Under-21 Co. Camogie Champions received their medals first from Kilkenny's senior captain Angela Downey.

The 1991 Northern Junior Hurling Champions were next up. Ned Moran, chairman of the Northern Board, presented the medals.

The development of Páirc Lachtáin was

referred to during the night. The sixties' panel, of course, have vivid memories of the training they endured on Harrison's. These memories were rekindled with a special presentation to honour the contribution made by the Harrison family to Gaelic games over the last seventy years.

Jim Harrison, representing the family, received the Cumann Lachtáin trophy, St. Lachtain's Hall of Fame Award, from the late Tom Waldron. How timely the entire celebration was as Tom Waldron, who was such an integral part of the back-room team in the sixties, was called to his eternal reward exactly four months later. Go ndéana Dia trócaire ar a anam uasal.

Fran Mullan designed the trophy which was presented to the men of the sixties. The plaque features the Hand of Lachtáin in goldleaf on black marble and the dates of the championship victories.

Each individual on the panel was introduced by Paddy Butler with a short comment informing the young and unknowing of the feats of the men of yesteryear.

The panel: Jack Cahill, who distinguished himself by playing in goal in two county senior finals without letting in a goal; Din Maher; Pa Dillon, holder of four All-Ireland senior medals; Kevin Dalton; Seán O'Shea; Alfie Hickey, who captained Kilkenny to National League success in 1962; Jack Delaney; John Manogue; Martin Dalton; John Teehan, whose performance against Tipperary in the 1967 All-Ireland was recalled; Dinny Butler; Seán Rafferty, who, admonished once during a game by



ST. LACHTAIN'S PANEL OF PLAYERS (1959-1963) which celebrated the club's success of that era at a club function in January.

Front row (l.-r.): Tomás de Bhaldraithe (R.I.P.), Jim Ryan, Johnny Butler; Dick Keoghan, Mick Killeen, Sean Buckley, Jimmy Dooley, Jack Lacey (representing his brother Paddy). Middle row (l.-r.): Jimmy Cullinane, Nickey Brennan (Co. Board Chairman), Tommy Hickey (representing his brother Allie), Jack Cahill, Shem Costello (Club Chairman), Bill Crosby (R.I.P.), Jack Delaney, Michael Teehan, Din Maher, Michael Burke, Sean Rafferty, Martin Dalton, Pa Dillon, John Joe Cahill (representing his brother Seamus), John Teehan, Wally Cody. Back row (l.-r.): Tommy Butler, Sean O'Shea, Mick Maher, Dinny Lennon, John Manogue, Frank Cullinane, Denis Butler, Jim Delaney.

(Photo: Tom Brett)

the late Fr. Kearns to leave a certain fellow alone because he was only a chap, was heard to reply: 'Well, Father, this is no place for chaps!'; Jim Ryan, described in Jim Farrell's immortal words as "one of the holy men from the South"; Wally Coady; Jimmy Cullinane. The subs of 1961 followed: Tommy Butler, Seamus Cahill, Johnny Butler, Jimmy Dooley, Mick Killeen, Dick Keoghan, Michael Teehan, Dinny Lennon.

The additional players of 1963 were then introduced: Mick Burke, the original "Stoney"; Seán Buckley, who captained Kilkenny when they won the 1964 Leinster Senior Championship; Larry Carroll, to whom good wishes were extended; Paddy Lacey.

The proceedings were completed by the presentation to the remaining members of the 1959 panel who started it all: Jim Cahill, Jim Delaney, Frank Cullinane, Sean Flynn and Bill Crosby. Bill sadly passed away four months later. Leaba i measc na naomh go raibh aige.

Also remembered were Billy Dalton (R.I.P.) and Jimmy Dowling (R.I.P.); team trainer the late Jim Bergin; selectors Joe Mullan (R.I.P.); Kieran Dooley (R.I.P.); Jack Lalor (R.I.P.); and renowned club official the late Jim Farrell.

The gathering was also reminded of the part played by Fr. Holohan and Tom



The Short and the Tall . . . Former colleagues from the St. Lachtain's Club and Kilkenny enjoying the club re-union dinner in January – (from left): Pa Dillon, Sean Buckley and John Teehan.

(Photo: Tom Brett)

Waldron and selectors Mick Bergin and Mick Dowling in those history-making days.

The reply on behalf of the players was delivered by Seán Rafferty in a memorable speech during which he presented his three medals to the Club for display on completion of the clubrooms.

Club chairmen Shem Costelloe (G.A.A.) and Tommy Butler (Camogie), Fr. Henry P.P. and Nickey Brennan, Chairman Co. Board also spoke.

There was an array of trophies on

display including the Rafter Cup and the entire collection of trophies won by St. Lachtain's Camogie Club during 1991, the year of "the clean-sweep"; however, it was mainly a night of memories recalling the time when "We filled that Cup and it wasn't with tay!"

The night was brought to a close with a rousing rendition of *One Day in Kilkenny*, Tom Waldron's 1961 victory song, sung by Johnny Butler and Murty Kennedy.

E. Ó Cinnéide



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Ode to Liam Óg



By: Pat Shortall,
Kingsland, Cellarstown, Co. Kilkenny.

'92 brought delight – as “McCarthy’s” in sight, a vintage of nine weary years
The records will show – a great hurling blow, was struck, by Kilkenny’s skilled peers.
Ollie’s men vowed – to the roar of the crowd, as they witnessed the '91 cheer,
That mishap goal trip – when failing to Tipp, “we will win the All-Ireland, next year”.

The year quickly passed – optimism soon dashed, before they played their first game,
They wintered so poor – an injection or cure, they would need, before they take aim,
As an Offaly gent – Horan was sent, to trap, the vulnerable crew,
But to his dismay – discovered that day, that Ollie’s ideas, were new.

Then Wexford, the test – reputed the best, Leinster’s superior side,
With Cyril as coach – were now a new force, but soon, they too wilted, and died.
’Twas time to take stock – of this seasons crop, while Cork trimmed Tipp. with some ease.
Work out a good plan – ignite every man, September is more than a sneeze.

Then Galways fine squad – appeared on the sod, but enacted in error, a move,
Advantage to “Titch” – the forward line switch, “The Cats” were seen to improve.
The build-up advice – the tickets, the price, the graced Black ‘n Amber did soar,
Regarded as cream – was the spine of the team, the five mighty men, from Glenmore.

The day at last broke – for all hurling folk Cork had the headline award,
Dull morning was grey – obscured the sun’s ray, the teams soon entered the sward.
Hennessy unreined – from the shackles and chains as soon as the match did unfold.
Then gathered inside, with grace and with pride, a point, from D. J. the bold.

Against a great breeze – it was a tight squeeze, and D. J. again did prevail,
The edge of the square – as “Shiner” lay there, the penalty strike, did not fail.
After half-time – importance and prime, the game took on a new look,
Simpson, O’Neill – awake at the wheel, as they drove back Cunningham’s puck

When Christy came in – tumultuous din, and soon put to use his big frame,
Power in queue – funnelled straight through, for the goal that turned the game.
The rain pelted down – no preference for crown, as they charged Cork’s, porous defence,
Liam McCarthy was loose – a goal did produce, that ended the The Final suspense.

But to finish the match – a “Titch” purple patch, two points from out of the blue,
The Ronan arrived – with hurt dented pride, “you can Bank on me, till we’re through”,
The whistle then blew – for captain and crew, Fennelly’s high, on his throne,
As he speeched in his brogue – and hoisted Liam Óg, “at last, we’re bringing it home”.

So it you pick out the best – and leave all the rest, you’ll find, you’re in a wee muddle,
For each one did shine – unite and combine, if you don’t pick them all, you’re in trouble,
Vic’try was sweet – Kilkenny’s big treat, poor Cork alas couldn’t manage,
Throughout the Croke field – red shirts had to yield, to the purring young “Cats” and their challenge.

But surely in truth – a point perhaps moot, Corks problem, lay in, the dugout,
As out of the grass – the players with class, seemed anxious and always in doubt.
But nevertheless – Cork did impress, the match was never a bore,
But justice was done, when Kilkenny’s team won, hurling had settled its score.

“The whole thing is to keep the Bennettsbridge tradition alive – and we’re doing our best!”

By ENDA McEVOY

It was unthinkable. Yet for a while at Thomastown one Saturday afternoon last October the unthinkable was very much on the cards. Narrowly ahead of Piltown at the midpoint of their Vale Oil intermediate hurling relegation play-off, Bennettsbridge were just half an hour away from saying goodbye to the grade.

BENNETTSBRIDGE. One of Kilkenny's most famous clubs. Twelve times county senior champions. Suppliers of no fewer than five McCarthy Cup-accepting captains. And, in the year that was in it, honoured once more by way of Liam Simpson's All-Ireland success with Kilkenny.

Bennettsbridge dropping down to the obscurity of junior hurling? Unthinkable!

For once the unthinkable didn't take place. Happily for the supporters of the Green and Gold, Simpson and pals got their act together to such an extent in the second half that their opponents were wiped out. For the first time in what to their long-suffering followers seemed like ages; the 'Bridge hurled with heart and commitment and determination. Come the final whistle there was no doubt about their superiority.

Which isn't a bad way to finish a season, even if better ways – such as contesting a championship final, say – do spring to mind. At least Bennettsbridge can now approach 1993 in a positive frame of mind, heartened by the knowledge that the attitude and will to win they displayed when the chips were down should, if allied to a reasonable degree of consistency, suggest brighter times in store.

How the 'Bridge ever got themselves into a position where junior hurling was a distinct possibility is a good question anyway. An outfit that proves itself the best in the county eleven times in twenty years ought not to find itself slumping it in the intermediate ranks two decades later. What went wrong? And before that, how did things go so right?

To put the matter in perspective, it should perhaps be pointed out at this stage that Bennettsbridge, technically speaking, can't really be lumped in with the likes of Mooncoin and Tullaroan under the heading "traditional powers of Kilkenny hurling." The 1890 championship win apart, the club was more or less unmapped until the 1950s (although Killarney hurling and football club, the only G.A.A. outfit in the area, flourished in



THE RING DAZZLERS – 1955

The famed 'Ring Dazzlers' seven-a-side team which won many tournaments throughout Kilkenny in the 'Fifties. Back row – Dave DeLoughry, Frank Brady, Dick 'Stokes' Power, Jim 'Sam' Carroll, Paddy 'Galar' Kelly, James Hayes (coach). Front row – Seamus Cleere, Martin Treacy, Mick McCarthy, Larry Cleere.

the 1930s.

The situation changed significantly in the early 1940s with the arrival of Ned Lyng as principal of Bennettsbridge N.S. The ancient and noble art entered the school curriculum in a big way, exploiting the wave of interest created by the establishment of the Kilkenny Primary Schools Board – that wondrous institution so integral a part of the county's success this past half-century! – in 1939. The school playground and, after hours, O'Neill's field behind, rang to the sound of young lads flashing the ash.

Success came quickly; in 1944 the 'Bridge, captained by Dick Carroll and featuring future All-Ireland medallist Johnny McGovern, beat St. Kevin's of Ballyline (Ballycallan) 5-2 to 3-1 in the county Roinn A under-14 championship final at Nowlan Park. The club itself was re-formed soon afterwards.

HAD A HUGE INFLUENCE

Five years after Ned Lyng's arrival came

an arguably even more important outsider – new curate Fr. Patrick Nugent, a Laoisman and a hurling fanatic. By the time he left in 1960 his parishioners had added five county senior titles to their tally, and two of them had led Kilkenny to McCarthy Cup success.

"Growing up in Bennettsbridge, my introduction to the game was going over to Dan Kennedy's house in The Ring and seeing the McCarthy Cup," recalls Seamus Cleere. "This would have been the winter of 1947, I was eight at the time and it remains a vivid memory. It was such a great honour for the 'Bridge, such a great thing to have the cup there."

Two county junior titles were won in the late 1940s. The Ring Dazzlers were formed and proved unbeatable in seven-a-side competitions in Kilkenny. And Bennettsbridge, now beginning to clock up senior crowns, travelled to tournaments far and near.

Seamus Cleere: "The Ring Dazzlers took part religiously in the popular seven-a-side

tournaments in St. Canice's and the Fair Green at the time – Joe Hennessy's late father, Paddy, was very much involved there as one of the organisers. In the Bennettsbridge colours we did a lot of hurling for the Cork church building fund, and also in the Dunhill tournament and at Faughs in Dublin. Meeting teams like Thurles Sarsfields and Glen Rovers really 'made' us.

"It goes without saying that success was the result of a team effort, though if I had to pick out one man I'd say Johnny McGovern was particularly influential, both on and off the field. And Fr. Nugent was a great man to have on the sideline. He was a top-class motivator, had a fine hurling brain – and he used even drive his car onto the training field at night so we'd have lights to train by!"

Five county championships in the 1950s, five county championships in the 1960s. Something that couldn't last?

Probably, concurs Noel Skehan. "To have such a strong team from a small parish as Bennettsbridge was then unusual, to say the least. Hurling was the only sport played. Every night during the summer and every Sunday morning, lads would be out pucking a ball. Everything revolved around hurling."

A combination of factors led to a waning of the glory days, the decline and fall of the 'Bridge empire. New sports and pastimes. Emigration. Young players going off to college. Lack of success at under-age

level (the 1974 Kilkenny minor title won in a joint venture with Clara being the exception rather than the rule). Most inevitably of all, perhaps, the cycle running out; after twenty years at the top, a small population like that simply couldn't sustain such success.

The way back will come about if and when today's generation show more dedication, Noel Skehan reckons. "No longer does it happen automatically for the 'Bridge where once it may have. The players have to make it happen. Liam Simpson's role in Kilkenny's All-Ireland created huge interest at under-age level, and that's where the impetus for future success must come."

Current club vice-chairman Martin Treacy echoes this view. "If we could get the right spirit going, the sort of spirit that was in place when we were at it, Bennettsbridge would be going a long way towards winning something. Our juvenile committee has been doing great work in the past couple of years, as was shown recently by the under-14 and under-16 teams reaching the Roinn C county finals. They both lost, but it's a start."

"There are a few very good players who will come through in a year or two if they stick at it. A couple of nice new faces have been introduced to the intermediate side and have done well. The whole thing is to keep the Bennettsbridge tradition alive – and we're doing our best."

BENNETTSBRIDGE have 12 Kilkenny senior hurling titles to their credit. The first was won in 1890, with others coming in 1952-53, 1955-56, 1959-60, 1962, 1964, 1966-67 and 1971. The winning scorelines were as follows:

1890: Bennettsbridge 1-4, Callan 0-1.
 1952: Bennettsbridge 5-3, Tullaroan 4-5.
 1953: Bennettsbridge 3-11, Slieverue 3-6.
 1955: Bennettsbridge 6-6, Mooncoin 1-4.
 1956: Bennettsbridge 2-8, John Lockes 3-3.
 1959: Bennettsbridge 4-6, Erin's Own 1-4.
 1960: Bennettsbridge 4-6, Glenmore 3-4.
 1962: Bennettsbridge 5-7, Lisdowney 2-8.
 1964: Bennettsbridge 4-9, Glenmore 1-4.
 1966: Bennettsbridge 4-8, Mooncoin 2-4.
 1967: Bennettsbridge 3-10, Thomastown 1-4.
 1971: Bennettsbridge 3-10, Fenians 1-7.

The All-Ireland-winning captains the club provided Kilkenny with were:

* **Dan Kennedy**, who lined out at midfield on the 1947 side.

* **Mick Kelly**, left-half forward in 1957.

* **Seamus Cleere**, right-half back in 1963.

* **Jim Treacy**, left-corner back in 1967.

* **Noel Skehan**, who manned the goal in 1972.

Success is . . . the Woodlawn Estate in Bennettsbridge. Residents include Noel Skehan (nine All-Ireland senior hurling medals), Paddy Moran (four), Seamus Cleere (three), Pat Lawlor (three), John Kinsella (two) and Liam Cleere (one).

God forbid they ever think of putting all their Celtic crosses on the market in one go . . .!

Edamonn Langton



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**THE ALL-IRELAND WIN –
THE STORY MONTHS LATER**



JOHN POWER The flying Callan man.
(Photo: Sportsfile)

Starry-eyed youngster went through pain, but he is a hero now

By JOHN KNOX (Kilkenny People)

JOHN POWER relates the story with reverence and singular beauty! The starry-eyed youngster chased the visiting heroes to Nowlan Park, who included Jimmy Barry-Murphy and Ray Cummins of Cork. It was a huge thrill just to see them in the flesh. To get their autograph, too, well, that was out of this world. The young boy loved his hurling. His dreams were full of great deeds, magical victories. He wanted to be like Barry-Murphy, Cummins and any number of hurling heroes who wore the colours of Kilkenny.

This year he stepped over the line. After more than his share of heartbreak, he took his place on that great stage . . . the one reserved for winners, All-Ireland winners.

"With the same generosity of spirit he found in his day as an autograph hunter, Power greets the current starry-eyed youngsters. He is aware of the importance of signing, of the joy it might give."

"It was some feeling when the final whistle went, and delighted people charged in onto the field to congratulate us," said the one time autograph hunter now turned hero, John Power, when asked to throw his mind back to Kilkenny's much longed for All-Ireland senior hurling win. Over two months had passed since the cracking of Cork in September. Power was well back to normal, but he knew life had changed. He was different, as a hurler. Yet, as a person, he was the same, down-to-earth, honest to God, John Power.

"I wish everyone could experience the feeling after winning an All-Ireland," the centre-forward continued. "It was great."

AMONG THE POSSE

He always wanted to win a senior All-Ireland. When as a small boy he was brought to games by his brothers, he was often among the posse who surrounded big name players looking for autographs.

"As I looked up in their eyes, I wanted to be like them," the 26-year-old recalled. Those were the thoughts in his mind the day he first met Jimmy Barry-Murphy. He wanted to be as big as him, to play in All-Irelands like him.

JOHN POWER

Age:	26.
Height:	6'1".
Weight:	11 ½st.
Club:	John Lockes (Callan)
Occupation:	Farmer.
Birthday:	February 17.
Year born:	1966.

Now he meets the peerless R.T.E. match commentator (Barry-Murphy) after big games. Power at 6'1" overshadows one of his former heroes. He has gone some way towards being like Barry-Murphy the hurler, in that he is now an All-Ireland winner.

"I suppose it must be the same with the young lads who come into Nowlan Park to watch us training," the John Lockes (Callan) man continued. "I presume some of them would like to be in our position. Some day they probably will."

"Before Power tasted victory in September, he had grown through 7 All-Ireland defeats, a colleges', minor, under-21 and senior level. He was due the sweet taste of victory."

With the same generosity of spirit he found in his day as an autograph hunter, Power greets the current starry-eyed youngsters. He is aware of the importance of signing, of the joy it might give.

"I would never turn a young lad away," he insisted. "In another few years I will be gone, and it will be these youngsters who will take over. When I was young and I met a big name player, not that I am suggesting I am one, I would shake to the bones with excitement. I presume the youngsters of today are the same. Whether you play good or bad, they still want to meet you."

BEAUTY

"The older people discuss the technical points of the game. The younger ones want to meet you no matter what, on good days and bad. There is a beauty in that, and a need for us as players to understand what it all means to the youngsters."

While the 26-year-old would be too modest to even think – never mind suggest – that he might have a personal following, events in the wake of the All-Ireland would suggest as much. Three days after the All-Ireland Kilkenny played Tipperary in a charity game for GOAL at Nowlan Park.

Afterwards in the dressing-room, Power was besieged by adoring youngsters looking for souvenirs. His hurley went. His jersey went. So, too, did his socks, and shorts.

"I was lucky to save my trousers," he recalled, and laughed loudly. The opportunity to hold the GOAL jersey as a personal souvenir went. Power's reaction was typical: "Ah, sure, someone might get a bit of fun and enjoyment out of having it."

That is where John Power's hurling story is at now. Getting to this position of Joy was hard, cruel, punishing and testing of the character of the man.

Before Power tasted victory in September, he had grown through 7 All-Ireland defeats. Who can say but he was due the sweet taste of victory?

"This win will ease the pressure and give us all more confidence. We will be different hurling people from now on."

With Callan C.B.S. he figured on two colleges' (Roinn B) teams beaten in All-Irelands. The same fate followed with the Kilkenny minors in the 1984 All-Ireland against Limerick. That final actually went to a replay. The following year Tipperary beat Kilkenny in an under-21 All-Ireland in Walsh Park. But those losses were both by a single point.

OLD LOSING WAYS

The one break from that depressing run came in 1986 when as a wing-back he won a Junior All-Ireland. It was quickly back to the old losing ways as a member of the Kilkenny senior panel in the All-Ireland final of 1987 against Galway. There was no change of fortune in the final of 1991 against Tipperary.

"Definitely there were times when I wondered would I ever win a senior medal," John admitted. "But this year I felt all along we would do it. I said to a lot of people at the start of the Summer that

we would win, even after the bad showing in the National League. All the players were at the right age, and they were as good as what was around."

He prefaced his remarks with the rider, "If we get a break". He reckoned that came in the Leinster semi-final against Offaly. Kilkenny were lucky to survive. The self belief players garnered from that win carried them to victory over Wexford in the final. Against Galway in the All-Ireland semi-final he felt a bit of "cockiness" crept in, and the 'Cats' were a mite lucky. He never saw but one outcome in the final . . . Kilkenny's first win since 1983, and 24th in all.

"Even going up to Dublin on the train I knew we would win," he assured. "The maturity that was missing in our play in 1991 – an All-Ireland we would have won – was there and it made all the difference."

There were many heroes during the 3-10 to 1-12 win. Power, most definitely, was one. He had two outstanding moments. His goal in the 38th minute is a memory he will cherish forever. He recalled the moment vividly, and a warm, satisfying smile crept across this face.

Christy Heffernan broke a high ball. Power was onto it in a flash. We wriggled out of the clutches of Denis Walsh. Denis Mulcahy stubled across his path. He had the speed to carry him between the advancing Jim Cashman and Sean O'Gorman. Goalie Ger Cunningham didn't advance and Power booted to the net.

"The hard-going farmer proved a point in the All-Ireland. A few years ago he was shaping-up as one of the finest wing-backs. Something went wrong. He knows he could still make a good wing-back, and he is not a bad centre-forward either."

SUBTLE TOUCHES

If that was a deed that required heavy work, Power later showed he had the subtle touches too. Deep in the right corner at the Canal End, at a time he was playing at midfield, he traced Tomás Mulcahy for nearly 40 yards before robbing him of possession as he threw the ball up to strike. As the Callan man steadied to deliver, John Fitzgibbon arrived. Power lost him with a dainty side-step, the kind that would score heavily in a waltzing competition.

"I really savoured those moments," he admitted, almost apologetically.

The hard-going farmer proved a point in the All-Ireland. A few years ago he was shaping-up as one of the finest wing-backs in the county. A terrible day against Mark Corrigan in the Leinster championship left many asking questions. That was in 1990, only weeks after he won a national League, and after he had turned in 5-star performances against Wexford in the home final, and New York in the final proper.

The story behind that Championship failure was Power had been in bed with 'flu for four days during the week of the game. He got up on Friday, and played on Sunday. He learned long since it was a mistake, one he wouldn't make again.

"It was one of the worst things I ever did in hurling," the daring centre-forward of today insisted. "For a long time I was judged on that one bad game. All the good ones were forgotten. I know a lot of people maintain maybe I wasn't good enough. Before that they were all saying, 'John Power will come'. Many weren't sure afterwards."

"But I knew that sooner or later I would come good," he said without a hint of annoyance in his voice. "I wasn't sure how long it would take, but I could do it. I think I have proved myself now, that I have something worthwhile to offer."

REDEMPTION

It was in the Spring of 1991 that Kilkenny manager, Ollie Walsh, made the approach that offered Power the chance of redemption. He asked the John Lockes' man to have a 'go' at centre-forward. Power agreed. He knew the score. No matter how the team fared,

he knew the question would be asked after every game: 'Well, is John Power a centre-forward?'

"This year I finished some of that talk," he said. "I think myself I might be a better wing-back, because I like doing things like the side-step against Fitzgibbon in the All-Ireland, but I am not too bad at centre-forward either."

Two good All-Irelands back-to-back beef up that assertion. Now John is not the least bit worried about living up to the status of All-Ireland champions.

"My attitude, and the attitude of all the players who figured in the All-Ireland win, is different now," he went on to explain. "No longer have we to go out and prove ourselves every day. No

longer is there the fear that one bad performance might be held against us. The selectors know they can depend on us, that there is something there.

"This win will ease the pressure and give us more confidence. At the same time, it will bring the pressure that all champions have to live with. I think that will be easier to handle than the pressure of not being sure of being on the team, or having to prove yourself a winner."

When John returned to his native Callan after the All-Ireland, he was the first man since Mick Kenny to come back with a senior winner's medal. Callan waited 35 years for someone like Power. They have a man – and hero – of whom they can be very proud!



What we have . . . we hold! – At the All-Ireland celebrations in Dublin were (from left): Bill Deegan, Ollie Walsh, Pat O'Neill, Paul Barrett (M.D. Mahon McPhillips) and Liam Fennelly.

(Photo: Tom Brett)

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Supporting Their Heroes



A Cat or a Daddy Long Legs!! . . . Oisín Kelly, Circular Road, Kilkenny with his giant feline friend during the Banner Parade. (Photo: Tom Wemyss)



Vantage Point . . . Welcoming home the hurlers at the Courthouse, Kilkenny after the All-Ireland win. (Photo: Tom Wemyss)



Fifteen Cats a-purring . . . on the Parade with Christine and Valerie Poole, Hugginstown, during the Banner Parade held the day before the All-Ireland. (Photo: Tom Wemyss)



Manchester City supports Kilkenny! . . . Michael and Martin O'Connor, Old Trafford, Manchester, supporting Kilkenny during the Banner Parade. (Photo: Tom Wemyss)



O'Loughlin Gaels caretaker Peter Fitzpatrick greets President Peter Quinn prior to Kilkenny G.A.A. Convention. (Photo: Gerry Deegan)



LISDOWNEY – Roinn 'B' Minor League Winners

Back row (l.-r.): J. Dowling, D. Fitzpatrick, J. Nolan, Declan Fitzpatrick, R. Mackey, P. J. Kenny, D. Drennan, B. Blanchfield, C. Dunphy. Front row (l.-r.): M. Dunphy, V. Mullally, P. Phelan, T. Moore (Captain), O. Blanchfield, J. Dooley, N. Kennedy, E. Delahunty, J. Moore.



FOLLOWING THEIR FAVOURITES

The Jackman Family (Windgap) arrived early at Croke Park on All-Ireland Final day to get the best spot.

(Photo: Jim Connolly)

WHO'S A PRETTY BABY THEN? – RESULT

Did you get them right?

A – 6; B – 5; C – 3; D – 1; E – 4; F – 8; G – 2; H – 7

HURLING & FOOTBALL

COMPETITION

Credit Union Senior Hurling Championship
 Credit Union Senior Hurling League
 Vale Oil Intermediate Hurling Championship
 Vale Oil Intermediate Hurling League
 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"
 U-14 Hurling League Roinn C (11-1-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-aside)
 Country Cup (U-13) Hurling Final
 Under-13 Football Championship Roinn "A"
 Under-13 Football Championship Roinn "B"
 Northern Junior Hurling League-Division 1
 Northern Junior Hurling League-Division 2
 Northern Junior Hurling League-Division 3

Byrne Cup Open Hurling
 Junior Hurling Open Draw
 Paddy Cahill Cup (Hurling)
 Féile na nGael (U-14 Hurling)
 Special Under-21 Hurling (11-aside)
 Under-14 Football Championship Roinn "A"
 Under-14 Football Championship Roinn B
 Special Junior Football Final

COMPETITION

Senior "A" Championship
 Senior "B" 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 "C" Championship
 Primary Schools "B" Championship

WINNER/SCORE

Glenmore 1-14
 Shamrocks 2-11
 Young Irelands 2-12
 Mooncoin 2-10
 Tullogher-Rosbercon 2-13
 Railyard 0-11
 Shamrocks 1-11
 Clara 3-2
 Dicksboro 3-9

Fenians 5-7
 Mullinavat 0-6
 James Stephens 1-10
 Replay: James Stephens 2-9
 Glenmore 2-7
 Tullogher-Rosbercon 2-5
 Craigue-Ballycallan 3-5
 Lisdowney 2-4
 Mullinavat 1-9

Piltown 1-13
 Glenmore 5-15
 Carrickshock 0-8
 Mooncoin 3-9
 Glenmore 3-19
 Carrickshock 2-2
 (Replay) Carrickshock 3-8

James Stephens 1-7
 Glenmore 1-15
 Mooncoin 4-6
 Young Irelands 1-6
 Tullogher-Rosbercon 7-8
 Tullogher-Rosbercon 2-4
 Kilmanagh 2-7
 Rower-Inistioge 2-7
 St. Canice's 3-5
 Clara 5-2
 Newmarket 2-6
 Ballyhale 1-7
 St. Canice's Co-ed 1-8
 Clara 0-5
 Lisdowney 0-13
 Young Irelands w.o St. Martin's scr.
 James Stephens 0-7
 James Stephens 3-10
 Thomastown 1-12
 Dunnamaggin 3-10
 St. Lachtain's (Freshford) 2-8
 Craigue-Ballycallan 1-12
 Calmoy 8-10
 Dicksboro 4-3
 John Lockes 3-4
 Thomastown beat Railyard

RUNNER-UP/SCORE

Tullaroan 2-6
 Mullinavat 0-11
 Conahy Shamrocks 1-7
 Young Irelands 0-4
 Blacks & Whites 1-10
 James Stephens 0-8
 Conahy Shamrocks 0-7
 Piltown 0-2
 Craig/Blacks & Whites 1-4

Shamrocks 0-11
 Barrow Rangers 0-5
 Craignamanagh/Blacks & Whites 0-13
 Craignamanagh/Blacks & Whites 1-9
 Conahy Shamrocks 3-2
 Calmoy 1-7
 Craignamanagh/Blacks & Whites 1-5
 Glenmore 0-9
 Tullogher-Rosbercon 0-9

James Stephens 4-3
 Young Irelands 1-6
 Bennettsbridge 0-3
 Dunnamaggin 1-8
 Shamrocks 0-2
 Tullaroan 1-5
 Tullaroan 3-5

Piltown 0-7
 Thomastown 2-3
 Craigue-Ballycallan 0-3
 St. Lachtain's 1-3
 Bennettsbridge 2-5
 Bennettsbridge 1-5
 St. Patrick's D.L.S. 4-0
 Ballyhale 1-3
 Tullaroan 1-4
 Slieverue 0-1
 Glenmore 0-2
 Thomastown 2-2
 St. Patrick's D.L.S. 2-3
 Mooncoin 1-1
 Fenians 0-10

O'Loughlin Gaels 0-7
 O'Loughlin Gaels 4-6
 Bennettsbridge 2-4
 St. Lachtain's 1-5
 Calmoy 2-6
 James Stephens 2-2
 Windgap 2-3
 Mooncoin 1-5
 Craigue-Ballycallan 1-4

CAMOGIE

WINNER/SCORE

Lisdowney 5-9
 Tullaroan 2-11
 Glenmore 0-10

St. Lachtain's 5-7
 St. Lachtain's 1-2
 Castlecomer 4-3
 Replay: Castlecomer 6-6
 Clara
 Tullaroan 4-0
 Shamrocks beat Mooncoin
 St. Lachtain's beat Mullinavat
 Urlingford beat Piltown
 Rower-Inistioge beat Clara

RUNNER-UP/SCORE

St. Brigid's (Ballycallan) 3-4
 Blacks & Whites 1-7
 Lisdowney 1-4

Lisdowney 1-2
 Clara 0-2
 Shamrocks 3-6
 Shamrocks 0-3
 St. Lachtain's
 St. Brigid's 1-2